

Mayor and Council Newsletter

Borough of Island Heights
One Wanamaker Municipal Complex
Post Office Box 797
Island Heights, New Jersey 08732-0797
(732) 270-6415
www.islandheightsboro.com



Official Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Island Heights was called to order by Mayor Silver at 7pm. The meeting was held at the Island Heights Municipal Building, Wanamaker Complex, Island Heights, New Jersey.

Mayor Silver read the notice of the meeting in accordance with the OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT P.L. 1975 Chapter 231 (Section 10:4-10). Notice of the Meeting appeared in the Asbury Park Press on December 20, 2014 notice is also posted on the bulletin board and in the municipal building.

Pledge to the flag and a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Council President Asay	Present	Councilmember Pillion	Present
Councilmember Bendel	Present	Councilmember Snow	Present
Councilmember Berglund	Present	Councilmember Thompson	Present
		Mayor Silver	Present
		Attorney McGill	Present

Motion to appoint John Bendel as Class III Planning Board Member effective 1/1/15 to 12/31/17 was made by Council President Asay second by Mr. Berglund.

Roll Call:

Council President Asay	Yes	Councilmember Pillion	Yes
Councilmember Bendel	Abstain	Councilmember Snow	Yes
Councilmember Berglund	Yes	Councilmember Thompson	Yes
		Mayor Silver	Yes

Motion to approve obligations chargeable to the 2014 operating budget and 2015 temporary operating budget was made by Mr. Bendel second by Mr. Asay.

Roll Call:

Council President Asay	Yes	Councilmember Pillion	Yes
Councilmember Bendel	Yes	Councilmember Snow	Yes
Councilmember Berglund	Yes	Councilmember Thompson	Yes
		Mayor Silver	Yes

Motion to approve request from Barnegat Bay Partnership for the 18th Annual Barnegat Bay Festival date of events is Sunday June 7, 2015; with June 3, 2015 and June 4, 2015 as set up days along with the Barnegat Bay Foundation Gala on June 5, 2015 was made by Ms. Thompson second by Mr. Pillion.

Roll Call:

Council President Asay	Yes	Councilmember Pillion	Yes
Councilmember Bendel	Yes	Councilmember Snow	Yes
Councilmember Berglund	Yes	Councilmember Thompson	Yes
		Mayor Silver	Yes

Discussion was held on the Application for Social Affair Permit (ABC) from Shore Acres Yacht Club with a date of the event as April 26, 2015 4pm – 6:30pm with Pat Tomlinson and Tom Bundy, members of the yacht club. Concerns were raised with parking and if minors would be attending and mostly if the venue would be done with construction to have the event. Ms. Pendleton spoke and stated that the venue would not be done and would be glad to meet with the Shore Acres Yacht Club to view the construction. No action was taken on this matter.

Motion to approve Shared Service Agreement with Township of Toms River for Chief Financial Officer Position effective April 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 with an amendment that a maximum of 15 hours per week prior to adoption of the budget and after adoption a maximum of 5 hours per week unless authorization from Mayor was made by Mr. Bendel second by Mr. Asay.

Roll Call:

Council President Asay	Yes	Councilmember Pillion	Yes
Councilmember Bendel	Yes	Councilmember Snow	Yes
Councilmember Berglund	Yes	Councilmember Thompson	Yes
		Mayor Silver	Yes

Motion to approve the Use of Pavilion application for Kelly Mercurio for a wedding on Sept. 26, 2015, 3pm-5pm which included a certificate of insurance was made by Mr. Asay second by Mr. Berglund.

Roll Call:

Council President Asay	Yes	Councilmember Pillion	Yes
Councilmember Bendel	Yes	Councilmember Snow	Yes
Councilmember Berglund	Yes	Councilmember Thompson	Yes
		Mayor Silver	Yes

Motion to approve the minutes from February 24, 2015 was made by Mr. Bendel second by Ms. Snow.

Roll Call:

Council President Asay	Yes	Councilmember Pillion	Yes
Councilmember Bendel	Yes	Councilmember Snow	Yes
Councilmember Berglund	Yes	Councilmember Thompson	Yes
		Mayor Silver	Yes

Ms. Thompson reviewed the monthly report provided by the Tax Collector for revenue received during the month of February. Ms. Thompson also stated that she is working with staff and speaking to Council on ways to improve efficiency for the Borough such as bringing in more automated systems for the staff. This will help with efficiency, manage workload and track information more efficiently especially where it comes to purchasing.

Ms. Snow stated that she is continuing to work with the Environmental Committee to set up an event for Earth Day/Arbor Day. The last Environmental Committee meeting was canceled and the next one is scheduled for next week so hopefully we can shore up details of the event at that time.

Mr. Pillion reminded everyone that Councilmember Thompson re-circulated the email for the course that we can take for the Ocean County Joint Insurance Fund Risk Management Seminar. We now can get the \$250 credit per person if we take it online or in person. Mr. Pillion signed up for the March 18th in person class in Brick at their town hall in the evening. It is convenient to take it online in order to earn the Borough the \$250 credit.

Mr. Pillion also stated that we need to start thinking about the fees for the solicitors that we get in the summer. In talking to the Mayor I know we are losing revenue for the cell towers. Cell phone antenna's on the new water tower and with consolidation in the industry and new technology has changed and we are losing a lot of revenue in excess of \$50,000. Because some of these cell companies are no longer putting their antenna's up on our water tower. The fees that we charge these ice cream trucks that come through town is like \$10 a year. These trucks are taking business away from a fixed business on Central Ave., the Corner Deli, he pays taxes here and I think we should be encouraging use to his premises and if they still want to buy from the mobile vendors that drive down the streets mainly along the boardwalk, we should be getting more than \$10. I think it is way outdated and we should start thinking about that.

Mr. Bendel reported on an incident over the weekend with an injured and sick raccoon that was wandering through the western part of town. In spite of the Police Department's help in trying to deal with it we were not able to get A-Academy the company we deal with to take the raccoon. That is despite the fact that one of our residents that was involved is a veterinarian and said the animal was very sick and should not be wandering around the neighborhood and should be euthanized. They refused two more calls to come out and take care of it. We have two issues here one of which is we need a new animal control company to deal with and he understands that there is a company more local in Toms River. Mr. Bendel stated that if anyone has any ideas to please let him know. We can deal with someone else on a case by case basis without a contract. Mr. Bendel stated that his understanding of the rules for animal control within the Borough is that if we are talking about wild indigenous animals in people's yards that is not the Borough's responsibility it is the responsibility of the homeowner. On the other hand what animal control is responsible for is domestic pets or domestic stray animals and that is essentially all. What we have here in this particular instance we got involved mainly because that veterinarian called and it turned into an incident. We had other calls from people in the neighborhood and we had a seriously ill animal. Mr. Bendel said he does not know how the Borough can pass off something like that to the homeowner when you have so many homeowners involved and an animal that could be dangerous. Mr. Asay stated that he had a question about animal control tonight and he was advised that our contract with that company is only for domestic animals. Mr. Asay said that maybe it was not their failure to perform it may be the fact that they are not contracted for that service. It sounds like if there was a contract that it handled only domestic animals. Mr. Bendel said there is no contract and they have handled those things in the past and where I got involved with them is with a cat that was living under a rental house that the renters quite logically called the Borough and asked to please help get rid of this cat. Then the renters began calling A-Academy directly and they kept responding and the Borough got a bill for a lot of money so he contacted A-Academy owner and got that under control. Mr. Bendel stated that he wasn't

comfortable with A-Academy then and that he is not comfortable with them now. Further discussion held on how to obtain new options from other municipalities and to keep it under control by going through the police department such as it has been.

Mr. Berglund reported that the County is putting together a six year plan and they asked for input from the various governing bodies within the County. They offered each municipality to come and list the things we saw as needs that the County should be doing for us. We took a list of about a half dozen items that we got principally from the Public Works Department. For instance water backs up from a heavy rain, where it should be flowing from Orchard to this side of Maple and then across West End and then out to the river. De-snagging the flow channel should decrease flooding we are getting in town. For the County roads in town we suggested that they look at Ocean, from River to Central and to see if that would be in their program for resurfacing. There was no commitment, since this is going into their planning and like our five year plan it is budget constrained.

Mr. Berglund also stated that there is a program from NJ Tree Recovery Campaign Partners because so many trees were lost in the State due to Hurricane Sandy. This group of forestry people, nursery people, Soil Conservation districts, Sustainable NJ, Arbor Day Foundation, and commercial sponsors such as Brothers International, BJ's Wholesale, Wyndham Vacation Resorts and FedEx are making available free trees available to the town. They will give each homeowner 5 trees, a bundle of tree seedlings, bare root, 2'-4' high, that are available free of charge. There is no cost on our part but it sounded like something that would fit in nicely with Earth Day/Arbor Day activity. It may be something that fits under the Environmental Committee. Mary Judge said that this is fine and would help them come up with match for our Community Forestry Plan; every hour spent on a project like this can be counted and charged at \$22 per hour towards our required match. Lynn Pendleton asked how the Mayor and Council will be getting the word out about how to get the trees. Mayor Silver said it could go in the newsletter. Mr. Berglund said that the ordering deadline is March 13 so it needs to go faster than that. Discussion was held on how to distribute the word. Mary Judge asked if we can use the Reverse 911 to notify people of the town about events such as this. Mayor Silver said that he would need to reach out to Doug Platt about this. Maria Sessa from JCP&L said that when people are planting they should be mindful of power lines and certain distances from the power lines. Mr. Berglund said that part of the responsibility of the Environmental Committee is to provide planting guidance. Signs will be posted in the Post Office, Library and Municipal Offices with instructions to call or come into Borough Hall to sign up.

Mr. Berglund stated that they have updated the 5 year infrastructure plan and on March 24th is deadline to get any comments back to him. The comments that he has received up to date besides typo's is that now you can see the years for each one of the boxes, items that were scratched off have now been lined through. An example is third sheet, the water distribution system we have now added an X for the upgrade to the water distribution system for the 2015 repaving project. Mr. Berglund hand wrote the number in that we are estimating it will take \$30,000 to purchase piping materials. The list now includes shaded boxes which show which projects Public Works feels that they can handle themselves. Nothing is scheduled right now except the first one we see as most important is the Simpson Ave. one. Mayor Silver said that there is one error about shoring up East End Ave. and still have Adams listed and it should be Park. Mr. Berglund stated he will correct that.

Council President Asay mentioned that Metro PCS is terminating their lease with the Borough. Mr. Asay asked if they occupied the new water tower and Mayor Silver said yes. Mr. Asay asked if we knew the loss of revenue just for them. Mayor Silver said in the tens of thousands. Council President Asay also stated that he received a letter and spoke to Mr. Rominski, Superintendent of Ocean County Mosquito Commission about what is done in town to eliminate mosquitoes. Mr. Asay said the he was informed that they do come in town and spray for mosquito larvae especially in the swampy areas of town by setting traps and spraying. Mr. Asay said that Mr. Rominski's position is that most of the mosquitoes in your backyards are mosquitoes that are hatched there. That there are places with standing water and Mr. Rominski gave an example that if he placed a bottle cap of water outside that it would hatch mosquitoes because that is how much little standing water they need. Mr. Rominski is going to forward us some information on this that we can share with residents in the spring on how to keep the mosquito population under control. Mr. Asay said that Mr. Rominski even said they would come out and do inspections in resident's yard to try and help them get rid of breeding grounds. Mr. Asay said that Mr. Rominski stated that some towns such as Barnegat and Stafford do spray for adult mosquitoes in the residential areas. Mr. Rominski informed Mr. Asay that he does not recommend this unless it is absolutely necessary. Mr. Berglund stated that he has seen them spraying the standing water on Lake Ave. Betsy Hyle told Mr. Asay that as an FYI the Mosquito Commission will be at the Barnegat Bay Festival. Mr. Asay said Mr. Rominski was adamant that they are doing all they can and that there are over 40 variety of mosquitoes in New Jersey and that to try to control all of them is nearly impossible no

matter what you spray. Mr. Asay said that back 40 years ago we did not have all these varieties of mosquitoes because they have been imported over the years via fruit and other things. Ms. Thompson asked if there was any habitat measure that we can undertake to encourage bird populations or bat populations that feed on mosquitoes. Further discussion on the types of birds, etc.

Privilege of the Floor:

Mary Judge of the Environmental Committee reported that she is not available on Saturday, April 25th for Earth Day due to work commitment therefore she is asking if they can have the Earth Day/Arbor Day Event at Borough Hall on April 18th or Sunday April 26th and needs a decision on this to start advertising for the event. Ms. Snow asked which is going to be better and if you have more time to get the word out to the general population or is this something doable for the 18th. Ms. Judge said that it is doable for the 18th we generally do clean up and get a good solid 15 to 20 people out. She said that she and Ms. Hyle put on a bigger day extravaganza one time and it was very successful because it was a rainy day and the parents brought their children out for it. The next year they did another extravaganza and it was a sunny day and nobody really came. Mayor Silver asked if we usually provide you with the trash bags and gloves for this event. Ms. Judge said yes through the Clean Communities grant you do through arrangements with Public Works including them picking up the bags at designated sites throughout the Borough. Ms. Judge said that day would consist of distributing the trees and clean up and we can put out mosquito information as she already has Mr. Rominski's materials. Mayor Silver said that then the day would be April 18th? Ms. Judge said yes it would be since she feels that no one would really come out on a Sunday. Ms. Snow asked her if she needs access to the building. Ms. Judge said yes she would. Ms. Snow said do you have any plans to set up any tables? Ms. Judge said that no but she does have a beautiful sign for the Bioswale that she needs Public Works to put up so she can have a big reveal on Earth Day. Ms. Judge said she also has the art piece for the Bioswale project to reveal and information on the Bioswale that she will discuss that day. Ms. Snow said would you require a brochure for the planting of the trees? Ms. Judge said she has a lot of that stuff at Barnegat Bay.

Ms. Judge stated that the Bioswale Final Report has been submitted and the final check for \$10,000 should have been received by the Borough. Mayor Silver said he will have to look into that with the CFO.

Ms. Judge said that our Community Forestry Plan was distributed to everybody and she received comments from Mr. Asay and she apologized for not getting back to him with specific answers. Ms. Judge did talk to the Community Forestry Group that drafted it and asked him Mr. Asay's questions. Ms. Judge will let know Mr. Asay the answers at another time. Ms. Judge asked if anyone had any questions and that they were expected to read it and sign off on it. Ms. Thompson said she did not receive a copy it and Ms. Judge took down her email address to forward to Ms. Thompson. Ms. Judge said that after she addresses the questions and in case of any changes she will redistribute it. Ms. Judge said then she will need the Mayor's signature so that she send it to Trenton, to the NJDEP for their approval of the plan.

Mayor Silver asked if she could please send a copy to the attorney for whom Ms. Judge said she would and obtained the email address for Mr. McGill. Ms. Judge also requested that if they know of anyone who would like to volunteer for the Environmental Committee or the Green Team to please let her know. Ms. Thompson asked for a description of what is involved with the Green Team and Ms. Judge said she would email that to everyone. Ms. Snow asked Ms. Pendleton if she knew of anyone who would be interested and Ms. Pendleton said that she would ask around.

Maria Sessa from JCPL stated that on Wednesday March 25, 2015 at 5PM that an invitation will be sent to local governments that can be shared with emergency personnel in the town to tour the dispatch center in Red Bank to see what is done in storm events.

Betsy Hyle stated that the Ocean County Library system is celebrating its 90th Anniversary and on March 23, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Seven (7) of the previous librarians from the Island Heights Branch will be in attendance to mark the anniversary. She encourages those who have not been to the library in awhile to stop in and see all the changes and improvements to the facility.

Charles McBurnie – 36 Garden Ave. – stated that he was here previously and discussed the paving of Simpson Ave. which is to begin in April and the sleeving of the sewer but what happens if we cannot get the sewer done prior to paving. Mayor Silver replied that we have all intentions of taking care of our utilities prior to paving. Mr. McBurnie asked how they get the sleeves on and how do they run the lines to the homes after you sleeve a pipe and is it feasible to still do if we do not get this done prior to paving. Mr. Berglund said yes they have cut the holes for the inlets but we don't know at this time the status of the sewer on Simpson Ave. and we will have it videoed before we start our excavation over there to know if there is anything we need to do. Mr.

Berglund further stated that right now the work on Simpson Ave. that we know we are going to do is a full size main which is the same size that comes out of the tower to service the distribution of the east end of town.

Mr. McBurnie stated that in regards to the rabid raccoon that he does not feel these types of calls are a matter for the Police Department. Mayor Silver said that is why we changed it to strictly Domestic Animals. Mr. McBurnie feels the Police Department should only be involved when it is a matter of public safety.

Mr. McBurnie asked the status regarding the house on Garden Ave. and when will something be done. Mayor Silver responded that we are expediting the process as fast as we can. Mr. McBurnie asked who was responsible for the removal of the truck and Lt. Arnold stated that after the last Council Meeting his officers took care of the matter.

Terry Kempton – 76 River Ave. – asked in regards to dilapidated properties and people who are willing to pay the fines that maybe the fines are not high enough. Mayor Silver stated that all of this will be visited in the near future. Attorney McGill stated that the maximum fine is \$1,000 and everyday is another violation. Mr. Asay stated that when there is non-compliance you can keep citing them, that every day is a new violation. Attorney McGill explained that this is a Municipal Court Judge issue and the Council cannot instruct the Judge on how to impose fines. Further discussion was held on the issue of fines.

A discussion was held about unfinished building projects and how they are assessed for taxes and the Building Permit Extension Act.

Bob MacNeal – 237 Ocean Ave. – asked if the first item on the agenda to replace or in addition to the Construction Official. Mayor Silver stated that it was in addition to and that the Construction Official has had many hats to wear and will now strictly be building permits and new employee would handle Code Enforcement and Zoning.

Mr. MacNeal stated that he has read most the 5-year plan about the infrastructure. However in the past the town has had a Borough Administrator and that vacancy has never been filled. Mr. MacNeal said the role of Mayor and Council is a policy making body not as a line or directing employees, etc. Mr. MacNeal further stated that it seems we do not have someone who is in charge of all our departments and that the town needs someone the Council can hold responsible for things not getting done. Further discussion of the position of Borough Administrator was held. Mr. Asay stated that he does not feel the town has the money to pay a certified Administrator who pulls down a six figure salary nor does he feel there is enough work to support that position. Mr. Bendel feels with the new Mayor and the changes occurring that all we need is time and people will be able to see the differences. Ms. Thompson clarified that the five year plan is strictly the infrastructure not administration or a business plan for the town. Mr. MacNeal stated that maybe a five year business plan is something they should consider in the future.

Mayor Silver closed the public portion of the meeting.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2015 – 23, entitled, RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION was made by Mr. Asay second by Mr. Bendel.

Roll Call:

Council President Asay	Yes	Councilmember Pillion	Yes
Councilmember Bendel	Yes	Councilmember Snow	Yes
Councilmember Berglund	Yes	Councilmember Thompson	Yes
		Mayor Silver	Yes

Motion to adjourn the executive session was made by Mr. Asay second by Ms. Snow.
Unanimous Voice Vote.

Motion to return to the regular portion of the meeting was made by Mr. Bendel second by Mr. Asay.
Unanimous Voice Vote.

Motion to appoint Joe Cocco as Part Time Code Enforcer not to exceed 20 hours per week @ \$12.50 per hour which includes use of his vehicle for a probationary period of 180 days was made by Mr. Asay second by Ms. Thompson.

Roll Call:

Council President Asay	Yes	Councilmember Pillion	Yes
Councilmember Bendel	Yes	Councilmember Snow	Yes
Councilmember Berglund	Yes	Councilmember Thompson	Yes
		Mayor Silver	Yes

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm was made by Mr. Bendel second by Mr. Asay.
Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted by Wendy J. Prior

Items of Interest:

- ❑ The **Island Heights Board of Education** regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 6:15 PM held at the Island Heights Grade School, 115 Summit Avenue, Island Heights.
- ❑ **All borough offices** will be **closed** on Friday, April 3, 2015 in observance of Good Friday.
- ❑ The **Island Heights Planning Board** regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 has been **cancelled**.
- ❑ The **Island Heights Board of Health** regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 9:00 AM held at the borough hall.
- ❑ The **Island Heights Mayor and Council** regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 7:00 PM held at the borough hall.
- ❑ The **Island Heights Environmental Committee** regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 7:00 PM held at the borough hall.
- ❑ The **Island Heights Mayor and Council** regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 7:00 PM held at the borough hall.
- ❑ The **Central Regional School Board** regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 30, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Board of Education building, Forest Hills Parkway, Bayville.

DOG & CAT LICENSES ARE TO BE RENEWED JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR

*** Proof of Current Rabies Required, Spaying/Neutering Certificate to obtain \$3.00 discount**

Cat & Dog Fee: \$10.00 Proof Spayed/Neutered: \$7.00

In addition, a Late Fee of \$5.00 will be imposed February 1 and an additional \$1.00 each month late thereafter.

The Municipal Clerk's Office, Tax Collector & Water/Sewer Office, Finance & Purchasing, are open Monday – Friday 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM and Monday evening 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Building Department & Fire Official, Tax Assessor and Municipal Court are open Monday evening 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Please call the borough hall at (732) 270-6415 for days and times of offices not listed above.

mayorcouncil@islandheightsboro.com

Council Member John Bendel

April D. Elley, Newsletter Editor (732) 270-6415