

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM  
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21, 2023  
EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M.  
REGULAR SESSION - 7:30 P.M.**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER** –Mayor Rubenstein called the meeting to order.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT**

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Both adequate and electronic notice of the meeting has been provided, specifying the time, place. In addition, a copy of this notice is available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk, posted on the main door, the bulletin board of the Municipal Building, on the Township website at: [https://www.byramtwp.org/index.php/town\\_hall/township\\_council](https://www.byramtwp.org/index.php/town_hall/township_council), and has been forwarded to those persons requesting notice.

**ROLL CALL OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL** – Councilman Bonker, here; Councilwoman Franco, here; Councilman Gallagher, here; Councilman Roseff, here; Mayor Rubenstein, here. Also present was Township Manager Joseph Sabatini, Attorney Tom Collins and Township Clerk, Cynthia Church

**RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Gallagher, to go into executive session and adopt the below resolution.

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P. L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

- a. Attorney Client Privilege Communication  
- Trails Advisory Committee
- b. Contract Negotiations  
- Lakeland Emergency Squad

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Byram, that the public shall be excluded from discussion of the following matters:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minutes will be kept on file in the Municipal Clerk’s office, and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes shall be made public.

**BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

Certification: I certify that the Byram Township Council adopted the above resolution on February 21, 2023.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION** - Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Gallagher to return to open session at 7:36 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilman Roseff to approve the agenda with the addition of the appointment of Scott Yappen to the Open Space Committee.

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2nd				x	
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR, AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Township Manager** – The budget introduction will take place at the March 7, 2023 Township Council meeting. The budget message is available to the public on the township website. Mr. Sabatini announced that they received the Recycling Tonnage grant for \$20,711.20.

**Mayor Rubenstein** - February 11<sup>th</sup> was Seniors Bingo which had a lot of positive feedback. At the last Planning Board meeting there were three residential hearings. This past weekend there was a community hike that was well attended as well as the Polar Plunge.

**Councilman Bonker** – There was a meeting of the Open Space Committee on Monday February 13<sup>th</sup>. The forest stand improvement activity by Glenside Woods was completed. The bid for the timber sale came in too low so the timber sale will be postponed to next winter. They discussed CO Johnson Park improvements, illegal activities on the NJ Conservation Foundation land within the Tamarack-CO Greenway, signage activity for trails, deer hunting, and the new Trails Committee, which now has 5 potential volunteers. They also discussed long-term financing for the CO Johnson Park redevelopment work, to include a combination of Open Space money, loans, bonds and grants. Is going to attend the Sussex County Open Space Committee meeting this Thursday night to advocate for a higher maximum grant amount for their upcoming 2023 trails grant program. They received \$5000 in the last round but believes it should be higher.

**Councilwoman Franco** – Nothing to report.

**Councilman Gallagher** – There was a Recreation Committee meeting held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, in which they discussed CO Johnson Park. The Recreation Committee is sponsoring a coat drive bringing in 130 coats. Senior Bingo went well. They are looking to get someone in to go over benefits for seniors. The Recreation Committee would like to attend the March 7<sup>th</sup> Township Council meeting to present the programs that they are proposing. There will be a move night this Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, and a game night March 10<sup>th</sup>. Spent time with the Historical Committee going over Byram Day 225<sup>th</sup>. Board of Education meeting was this past Wednesday. They had a presentation by the KIND Club. Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup> is the next Fire Department meeting.

**Councilman Roseff** – The Historical Society will be holding a Founders Day on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, it will be a social event at the meeting house in Waterloo Village. The event will cost \$45.00 per person. There will be appetizers and a cash bar.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I**

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilman Gallagher to open to the public.

Shawn Conner – There was an application for a member to join the recreation committee meeting. Jim had a conflict was not able to attend the last meeting. Would like to request meeting one on one with Jim as the Chair of the Recreation Committee.

Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Gallagher to amend the agenda to add the appointment of Jim McBain to the Recreation Committee

Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Gallagher to close to the public.

Appointment of Scott Yappen to the Open Space Committee

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2 <sup>nd</sup>				x	
Yes		x	x	x	
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

No Vote by Councilman Bonker and Mayor Rubenstein.

Appointment of Jim McBain to the Recreation Committee

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2 <sup>nd</sup>			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 7, 2023 Regular & Closed Session Minutes – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, seconded by Councilman Bonker to approve the minutes.

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	x				

Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

**CONSENT AGENDA** – All are considered to be routine by the Members of the Township Council and will be enacted on by one motion. Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilman Gallagher to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Approval to Release the 2022 Closed Session Township Council Minutes with Redactions
- B. Resolution No. 055-2023 – Resolution Authorizing 100% Disable Veteran Block 279, Lot 291.01 Refund of Taxes Paid from January 1, 2023 Thru March 31, 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023)
- C. Resolution No. 056-2023 – Resolution Authorizing 100% Disable Veteran Block 337.12, Lot 17 Refund of Taxes Paid from January 1, 2023 Thru March 31, 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023)
- D. Resolution No. 057-2023 – Resolution Authorizing 100% Disabled Veteran Block 355, Lot 1.05 Refund of Taxes Paid from January 1, 2023 Thru March 31, 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023)
- E. Resolution No. 058-2023 – Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, Sate of New Jersey “Authorizing A Refund for Duplicate Payment for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023” – Block 277 Lot 569.01, 14 Lake View Drive
- F. Resolution No. 059-2023 – Resolution Authorizing Byram Township Fire Department to Conduct a Bucket Drop – April 29<sup>th</sup> & April 30<sup>th</sup>
- G. Resolution No. 060-2023 – Resolution Authorizing Byram Township Fire Department to Conduct a Bucket Drop – October 28<sup>th</sup> & October 29<sup>th</sup>
- H. Resolution No. 061-2023 – A Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Byram Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Personal Property No Longer Needed for Public Use on an Online Auction Website
- I. Resolution No. 062-2023 – Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle FY2024
- J. Resolution No. 063-2023 – Resolution Granting North Jersey Auto Wreckers, Inc. a License for 2023 to Operate Facility Pursuant to Chapter 156 of the Township of Byram
- K. Resolution No. 064-2023 – Resolution Granting a License for 2023 to Raimo of Stanhope, Inc. to Operate Facility Pursuant to Chapter 156 of the Byram Township Code
- L. Resolution No. 065-2023 – Approval of Quarry License for Year 2023 for Tilcon New Jersey, a Division of Tilcon New York, Inc.

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

**BILL LIST** – February 21, 2023 – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilman Bonker to approve the bill list.

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	x				
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION** –

**Byram Day / Fest 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Subcommittee:**

The first subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Hudson Farm Club Kroghs Nest Building.

The committee members consist of the following: Joseph Sabatini, Phil Crosson, Catherine Biancone, Eric Dietz, Kelly Eller, Scott Yappen, Jack Gallagher, Harvey Roseff, Shawn Conner, Kathy Esposito, Suzanne VonLengerke & Lou Esposito.

The agenda consists of the following:

- **Date and Time:** Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 12pm-9pm
- **Food Trucks:** 12pm – 9pm
- **Fireworks**
- **Inflatables**
- **Beefsteak Dinner/Brownstone**
- **Beer Garden/High Grade**
- **Stage/Bands/DJ**
- **Hourly Game Events**

- **Fundraising**
- **Additional Discussion Needed for the following:**
  - Display of Township Emergency Vehicles
  - Fire hose prep
  - “Let’s put out the fire”
  - EMT Demos
  - LEAD
  - Tug Of War
  - Firetruck Water Cannon Demo
  - Smash A Car
  - Polaris Raffle

Councilman Roseff asked what the roll of the council will be on this committee. Mr. Sabatini said that he sees this as a town event and a celebration of Byram with the Historical Society participating in it. The council must authorize all added expenditures. This needs to be a collaborative process. Councilman Roseff expects approvals go through through for this event by the end of March as there are tight time constraints. Mr. Sabatini said there will be a meeting on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Councilman Bonker likes the idea of separating the Beef Stake out to the night before. Councilman Roseff questioned the utilization of the stage at the event, this needs to be discussed. This all requires the process to be moved along quickly. Shawn spoke on behalf of the recreation committee and the funds that they will be providing toward the event (\$19,000 going toward Byram Day). Councilman Roseff was asked to step down to co-sponsor a grant opportunity. Tom Collins said that Councilman Roseff should in fact step down during the voting.

**Lead Paint Ordinance:**

Mr. Collins drafted a lead paint ordinance. Mr. Sabatini explained the reason for the ordinance. Mr. Sabatini explained that they do not have the staff to provide the inspection services. He suggested to put the burden on the owner of the rental unit. There is a fee structure that can be established where a portion that would go into a trust account. This ordinance will be on for introduction at some point soon. The approach is not to make it a municipal imposed inspection, rather for the homeowner of the rental units to obtain. A letter would need to be sent out to the owners advising them of their potential future obligation. This would be for rentals that are extended longer than 6 months, not seasonal rentals.

Mary May – 19 Hunters Lane – stated that her understanding this that the township does not have to provide the inspection. Any unit upon turnover needs to be inspected. It is based on how many children in the town has been affected by this. It is the responsibility of the landlord to have the test done.

Mr. Sabatini will work with Mr. Collins to finalize the ordinance.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –**

None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II**

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilman Gallagher to open to the public.

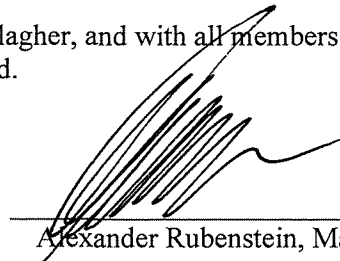
Annelise Tartel - said that they donated several bags of coats and food.

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilman Gallagher to close to the public.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Gallagher, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

  
Cynthia Church, RMC  
Township Clerk

  
Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor