

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2026
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 and 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, and has been forwarded to those persons requesting notice.

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

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor, 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
 - General
 - CO Field 8

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 March 3, 2026.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

	Councilman Esposito	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion		x			
2nd				x	
Yes	x	x		x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent			x		

Councilman Gallagher joined the meeting at 6:35pm.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to return to open session at 7:30 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

FLAG SALUTE

CHANGE IN NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Please be advised that effective March 1, 2026, New Jersey law changes the way legal notices are published by public entities and applicants for development and approvals. Under this new law, legal notices that were previously published in printed newspapers will now be published on the official website of the Township of Byram. This change is intended to increase public access, transparency, and reduce publication costs.

What This Means for the Public:

1. Legal notices will be available online at no cost
2. Notices will be posted on the official website of the Township of Byram

3. Notices will remain accessible for the legally required time period and will be archived for future reference
4. During the transition period in 2026, notices directing the public to the website will also appear in online news publications

Where to Find Legal Notices:

Beginning March 1, 2026, all legal notices may be found at:

👉 <https://www.byramtwp.org> . In addition, the State of New Jersey will maintain a centralized online directory linking to all participating public entity legal notice pages.

For assistance accessing legal notices or for questions regarding this change, please contact:

Cynthia Church, Byram Township Clerk

Email: CChurch@byramtwp.org

This notice is provided in accordance with New Jersey law to inform the public of changes to legal notice publication requirements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to approve the agenda with addition of three discussion items.

	Councilman Esposito	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion		x			
2nd				x	
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

PROCLAMATION – 2026 MS AWARENESS WEEK - Tammy Quasius was in attendance and spoke on behalf of the MS Society and thanked the council for their support and help with spreading awareness.

	Councilman Esposito	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion		x			
2nd				x	
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR, AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Township Manager – Budget Adoption April 7th. Information on the budget is on the township website. Received approval from State Health Care Benefit for the HRA open enrollment with a start date of June 1, 2026. EPA activities about superfund site. The trail behind the facility has been closed until the project is completed. Construction on the well is expected once the weather breaks. Tree clearing in this area has begun. NJNG drilling has been completed. Final connections are expected to be complete by the end of the week. Stormwater permit compliance will be presented to the Highlands Council and anticipate further feedback on the grant.

Mayor Rubenstein – Saturday night was the fire department installation dinner.

Councilman Esposito – Historical Society is almost done with the rehab of the schoolhouse.

Councilwoman Franco – Recreation committee held the annual polar plunge, about 20 participants. The 2026 Spring Brochure is out. Recreation is discussing Byram Fest and incorporate the 250-year anniversary of the US

Councilman Gallagher – Thursday is the Byram Board of Education meeting on the budget.

Councilman Proctor – Thursday is the Planning Board meeting. The Environmental Commission meeting will be held on March 26, 2026.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I

Motion by Councilwoman Franco second by Councilman Proctor to open to the public. All members were in favor.

No comments.

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to close to the public. All members were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 3, 2026, Regular & Closed Session Meeting Minutes - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to approve minutes.

	Councilman Esposito	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion		x			

2nd				x	
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

RESOLUTION NO. 081-2026 – Authorize the Purchase of One (1) 2026 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD with Optional Equipment for the Township of Byram Police Department – Not to Exceed \$48,926.03

Chief Dellicker and Mr. Sabatini presented the need for a new police vehicle for the Police Department, adding a 6th vehicle. They have been having issues with the Tahoe’s and is in best interest to go with a Ford Explorer.

	Councilman Esposito	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion		x			
2nd				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. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a citizen or Council member requests in which event the item may be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A. Resolution No. 079-2026 – Resolution Approving the Execution of a Shared Service Agreement between Byram Township and Hardyston Township for Fire Prevention Services from April 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029
- B. Resolution No. 080-2026 – Resolution to Amend the 2026 Temporary Budget
- C. Resolution No. 082-2026 – Resolution Accepting the Issuance of a Used Watchguard Digital In-Car Video System from the Chester Township Police Department

	Councilman Esposito	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion		x			
2nd				x	
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

BILL LIST – March 17, 2026 – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to approve the bill list.

	Councilman Esposito	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion		x			
2nd				x	
Yes	PO 31865 31869 Recused	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

ORDINANCE – 2nd Reading / Public Hearing

ORDINANCE 004-2026 - An Ordinance of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey to Amend the Township Code by Repealing Chapter 3, “Administration of Government,” Article VII, “Municipal Court,” And Article VIII, “Municipal Court Prosecutor’ And Adding New Chapter 3, “Administration of Government,” Article VII, “Joint Municipal Court”

	Councilman Esposito	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion		x			
2nd				x	
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance No. 004-2026 is passed on final reading and that a notice of final passage be published on the township website according to the law.

ORDINANCE – 1st Reading / Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM AMENDING SECTION 133 ENTITLED "FIRE PREVENTION" TO AMEND AND REPLACE IT IN ITS ENTIRETY

Purpose Statement: The purpose of this ordinance is to update and amend Chapter 133 to amend it and replace it in its entirety to facilitate a shared service with Hardyston Township.

	Councilman Esposito	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion		x			
2nd				x	
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Byram on April 7, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 10 Mansfield Drive, Byram Township, at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Department Reports – Mr. Sabatini is looking for feedback on the existing reports. Wants to make sure the reports provide the information they are looking for. The council will provide comments if they feel necessary.

Dog Park – The area that it is proposed to be constructed is an endangered species area home to copperhead snakes. To build the park it would need to be built to protect the snakes and to be protected from the snakes with a 6-foot-tall wall. The same issue also exists on the CO Johnson Park side of the street. The concept behind building a dog park is not possible to pursue under these conditions. Councilman Proctor said that the Environmental Commission was interested in still placing a small parking area there to support those who use the trail. A decision on how to proceed will be decided later.

The mayor will be sending out a letter to the six applicants who applied for the vacant council seat.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to open to the public.

No comments.

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to close to the public.

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Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk


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Motion		x			
2nd				x	
Yes	x	x	x	x	x

No					
Abstain					
Absent					

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.


 Cynthia Church, RMC
 Township Clerk


 Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor