

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 21, 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 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
 - General
 - 6 Richmond Road – Vacant Lot
 - Professionals

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 April 21, 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 arrived at 6:51 p.m.

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.

	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 –

Statewide Grant:

- 2026 Grant Application - \$3,285 has been approved.
- Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) - 3 additional units and cabinets.

PD Building:

- REQUESTED COST ESTIMATES: Preliminary Architectural Feasibility Report and Environmental Report
- will need to get a cost estimate from a estimator to complete feasibility report.
- The Design Flood Elevations will need to be raised above the FEMA firm elevations will be required.
 - Climate Change - adds 2 feet
 - Critical Infrastructure - adds an additional foot.
- Assessing the impact on the project - the building alterations may need to be designed and constructed with the methods, practices and materials to minimize flood damage.
- Met with the Community Programs Director for USDA Rural Development - before submitting the complete environmental report, we are going to share information on the building, flood plain and history to get some feedback.
- Will be holding off on feasibility and cost estimate until we have a better understanding on the flood plain issues.
- May have impact on design of building.

NJ Natural Gas/ETG:

- NJ Natural Gas - Lackawanna Drive
- ETG:
 - RT 206 DOT paving- Will be taking place in August, State asked that we get our work on 206 completed to meet a 90-day settlement period before August.
 - Schedule
 - State- Work to begin 4/27 at night with a duration of 15-20 days on Main pending ease of digging.
 - Work will begin at Tamarack Rd and work toward South Shore.
 - Town- Work to begin on or around 5/11 with a duration of 10-15 days on Main pending ease of digging.
 - Work will begin Birch Rd working away from the culd-e-sac.

Mayor Rubenstein – Nothing to report.

Councilman Esposito – the Byram Township Historical Society (BTHS) event at Wild West City on April 29th at 7:00 p.m. --- “The Forgotten Victory Trail” presented by Bob Gula.

Councilwoman Franco – The Recreation Committee has worked diligently over the past several meetings to plan Byram Fest 2026. Throughout this process, they have remained mindful of the budget while ensuring to continue to deliver a high-quality event for the residents. They are pleased to recommend the following plans for Byram Fest, scheduled for August 22, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The theme is the 250 Birthday of America.

1. **Fireworks**
They obtained three quotes for fireworks services and are pleased to once again recommend Serpico Pyrotechnics.
2. **DJ and Emcee Services**
After reviewing three quotes, they recommend selecting a new vendor, DJ Louie, at a significant savings of \$1,250.00. This was a difficult decision, while they greatly appreciate the contributions Magic Touch DJ's has made to this event over the years, budget considerations ultimately guided the choice.
3. **Inflatable Rides**
In keeping with this year's patriotic theme, they recommend using Fun Times that will provide rides featuring red, white, and blue themes to complement the overall event.
4. **Entertainment**
To provide a variety of engaging activities throughout the event, they propose the following:
 - o Face painting
 - o Petting zoo
 - o Patriotic Mickey and Minnie characters for photos
 - o Benjamin Franklin character reading sessions
 - o Uncle Sam stilt walker interacting with the crowd
 - o Photo booth with patriotic-themed photo strips
5. **Community Participation**
The Sussex County Library will be onsite with its Bookmobile at no cost. Additionally, the Historical Society will host a slideshow presentation highlighting the history of Byram and engage with residents.
6. **Local Organizations**
Byram-based nonprofit organizations will be invited to host tables featuring patriotic-themed giveaways. Participating groups include sports organizations, school groups, the Environmental Commission, the Health Department, Scouts, and the Waterloo Food Pantry.
7. **Food Vendors**
Mega Bite Events has secured 11 food trucks, offering a wide variety of options for attendees, including Greek cuisine, tacos, empanadas, desserts, Caribbean beverages, and more.
8. **Children's Activity**
The Recreation Department will distribute a coloring page in advance of the event. Children who bring their completed page to Byram Fest will receive a prize from our prize box.

To ensure a seamless experience, a schedule of events will be distributed and available onsite. Entertainment will be staggered throughout the evening to maintain consistent engagement and avoid downtime.

The ongoing goal is to keep Byram Fest fresh, exciting, and continually improving each year. This event is a celebration of our community, and we are committed to creating an experience that residents will enjoy and look forward to year after year.

Councilman Gallagher – Byram Township Board of Education Meeting Public Budget Presentation will be held on April 29th. Fire Department has their coin drive this weekend.

Councilman Proctor – Byram Township Planning Board Meeting will be held April 23rd.

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

April 7, 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					

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. 094-2026 – Resolution Authorizing 100% Disabled Veteran Exempt Status to Owner of Block 304 Lot 3.02 for Tax Year 2026 and the Partial Cancellation of Taxes for the First Half of 2026
- B. Resolution No. 095-2026 – Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not Exceeding \$1,701,600 Bond Anticipation Notes of the Township of Byram, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey.
- C. Resolution No. 096-2026 – Authorize the Purchase of one (1) 2026 Ford Maverick AWD Super Crew 4.5’ Box 121.1” WB XLT with Optional Equipment for the Township of Byram Department of Public Works – Not to Exceed \$37,628.80
- D. Resolution No. 097-2026 - Resolution Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State Contract Vendors for Contracting Units Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12 and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7-29
- E. Resolution No. 098-2026 – Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Byram Approving a License Agreement with Hudson Farm Holdings, LLC for the Use of Property for a Public Trail

	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 – April 21, 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	Recuse po# 30140	x	x	x	Recuse po# 32081
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

ORDINANCE – 2nd Reading / Public Hearing

ORDINANCE NO. 006-2026 - AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE A CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NEW EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE TOWNSHIP TO PROVIDE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000.00

Purpose Statement: Acquisition of new equipment for use by the Department of Public Works of the 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 Ordinance No. 006-2026 is passed on final reading and that a notice of final passage be published on the township website according to the law.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

CO Johnson Park Projects - CO Johnson Park Projects - The Council confirmed that they will not proceed with the dog park due to NJDEP requirements that necessitate identifying the property as a copperhead habitat. Additionally, they decided not to pursue the creation of a small parking area on the dog park side. Mr. Sabatini will collaborate with Dennis to relocate the impervious coverage to the field side. Furthermore, it was requested to relocate the trailhead on Roseville to be positioned across from the access to the upper parking lot on Roseville Road.

Mr. Sabatini informed the Council that the Township did not receive the Local Recreation Improvement Grant to replace the field lights on the existing field. Consequently, the Council authorized Mr. Sabatini to work with the Township Engineer, Cory Stoner, to proceed with bidding the project based on the scope outlined in the grant application. The project will be funded through the Open Space Trust.

The announcer booth is beyond its expected lifespan and requires an update. It is recommended to consider constructing a new structure with an upstairs for the announcer booth and possibly utilizing the downstairs for storage. Discussions were held about constructing a stick-built structure within the existing footprint of the announcer booth. Mr. Sabatini was directed to collaborate with Cory to present a plan and estimate for future discussion.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II


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

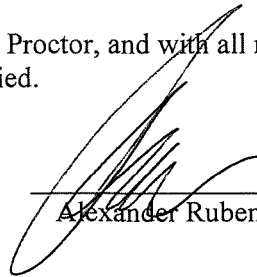
No Comments

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

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.


Cynthia Church, RMC
Township Clerk


Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor