

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 5, 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.byrampwp.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 Councilwoman Franco, 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
- b) Contract Negotiations
Joint Court

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 July 5, 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 Councilwoman Franco to return to open session at 7:30 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Councilwoman Franco second by Councilman Bonker to approve the agenda to add Resolution No.128-2023 for the hiring of a police officer.

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

Police Chief, Burk read aloud the following:

Kevin Garrity grew up in Byram township and attended Sussex County Vocational Technical School where he studies law and public safety. He Graduated in 2022 and at the time, he also had acquired 30 college credits for Sussex County

Community College. Kevin graduated Sussex County Community College in May of 2023 with an Associates Degree in criminal justice. Until his appointment, Kevin worked as a security guard at Panther Lake. Kevin will attend the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy basic course for Police Officers and is schedule to graduate in November 2023.

Swearing in of Kevin Garrity as Byram Township Police Officer – Officer Garrity was sworn in by Mayor Rubenstein with his mother holding the bible.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR, AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Township Manager – announced that defibrillators have been installed at three parks (Neil Gylling Park, Tamarack Park, and CO Johnson Park). Received notification of award for the 2023 statewide insurance grant to purchase temporary portable traffic control channeling devices to be used by the Department of Public Works for emergency situations. The basketball court bid documents and plan specs will be ready by July 12th. Bid advertisements will be put in the paper on July 16th. There will be a special meeting on August 1st for the municipal building bond ordinance introduction. The 2024 budget process was kicked off this week with the department heads.

Mayor Rubenstein – Nothing to Report

Councilman Bonker – Performed a marriage ceremony last Sunday. Tree king was removing dead trees in CO Johnson. There is a new water canyon in use. New kiosk at Tamarack Park.

Councilwoman Franco – Nothing to Report

Councilman Gallagher – There was a Recreation Committee meeting on the June 17th and a Board of Education meeting on June 9th.

Councilman Roseff – Historical Society Canal Day was held two weeks ago with a great turnout. July will be free admission at Wild West City for Byram families on Wednesday. There will be a beefsteak on the day before Byram Fest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilwoman Franco to open to the public.

No Comments.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 20, 2023 Regular & Closed Session Minutes – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilman Gallagher to approve the minutes.

| | Councilman Bonker | Councilwoman Franco | Councilman Gallagher | Councilman Roseff | Mayor Rubenstein |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Motion | | x | | | |
| 2 nd | | | 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 Councilwoman Franco, Second by Councilman Bonker to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Approval of 50/50 and Raffle Licenses for Byram Township Fire Department to be held 9/2/2023 at the Panther Lake Campgrounds
- B. Resolution No. 127-2023 – Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Liquor License to Plan Two LLC Valid from 07/01/2023 Through 06/30/2024

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

RESOLUTION NO. 128-2023 - Appointment of Byram Township Police Officer – Kevin Garrity

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, Second by Councilman Bonker to approve the resolution

| | Councilman Bonker | Councilwoman Franco | Councilman Gallagher | Councilman Roseff | Mayor Rubenstein |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Motion | | x | | | |
| 2 nd | x | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | x | x | x | x | x |
| No | | | | | |
| Abstain | | | | | |
| Absent | | | | | |

BILL LIST – July 5, 2023 – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilwoman Franco to approve the bill list.

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

- **ORDINANCE – 2nd Reading / Public Hearing**
 - **ORDINANCE NO. 012-2023 - BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$450,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$427,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION.**

Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilwoman Franco to Adopt Ordinance 012-2023.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance No. 012-2023 is passed on final reading and that a notice of final passage be published in the official designated newspaper according to the law.

ORDINANCE – Introduction/First Reading

- **AMENDED ORDINANCE FOR ADMINISTRATION & HOURLY POSITIONS SALARY AND WAGES FOR THE YEAR 2021-2026**

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher to introduce Ordinance.

| | Councilman Bonker | Councilwoman Franco | Councilman Gallagher | Councilman Roseff | Mayor Rubenstein |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Motion | | x | | | |
| 2 nd | | | 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 July 18, 2023 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.

- **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP TO AMEND ARTICLE XIV ENTITLED “RECREATION DEPARTMENT” AND ARTICLE XIV ENTITLED “RECREATION COMMITTEE”**
PURPOSE STATEMENT: The purpose of this Ordinance is to authorize the Mayor and Council of the Township of Byram to amend the Code sections regarding the Recreation Department and the Recreation Committee.

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Bonker to introduce Ordinance.

Councilman Roseff feels that it is very valuable for the Recreation Committee reporting to the Council. Does not see the purpose of the change without the plan being laid out.

Councilman Bonker believes this is an essential change that needs to be made following comments that were made by the previous recreation leader.

Mayor Rubenstein believes we are defining both the Recreation Director and Recreation Committee, and feels that it is best for the communication to go directly through the recreation director rather than the council. The Recreation Committee can still communicate further with the council if needed. This is an improvement on the current situation.

Mr. Sabatini believes this is vital for the future success of the Recreation Committee and the Township. This will be a positive and constructive collaboration for all parties involved to deliver recreation successfully.

Councilwoman Franco feels this will allow for a free flow of communication with all parties involved.

Councilman Roseff would like to revisit the plan, and asked when the plan can be expected.

Mr. Sabatini cannot give a definite date until after the Recreation Director is hired. The Recreation Director will be the one to provide that plan. Mr. Sabatini said on the record that it was discussed previously in public and was sent to the Township Council in a memo dated March 3, 2023.

| | Councilman Bonker | Councilwoman Franco | Councilman Gallagher | Councilman Roseff | Mayor Rubenstein |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Motion | | x | | | |
| 2 nd | x | | | | |
| Yes | x | x | x | | x |
| No | | | | x | |
| 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 July 18, 2023 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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilwoman Franco to open to the public.


Scott Yappen – Asked why this was just communicated with the Recreation Committee this week. Mayor Rubenstein said it was communicated over two weeks ago. Mr. Yappen said that it was unanimously opposed by the recreation committee. Asked if other towns were researched and asked what problems are being solved with the changes in the ordinance.

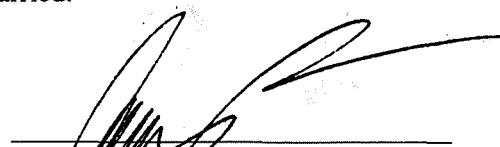
Danielle Conroy – Feels that the Recreation Committee has been successful. Asked if a council liaison will continue with the Recreation Committee. Mayor Rubenstein said it will continue. Asked about progress of the hiring of the Recreation Director. Mr. Sabatini provided the hiring status.

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilwoman Franco to close to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.


 Cynthia Church, RMC
 Township Clerk


 Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor