

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 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
 - i. General
- b) Contract Negotiations - Labor
- c) Shared Services – Code Enforcement

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 September 15, 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		

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to return to open session at 7:34 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to approve the agenda for September 15, 2026.

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

TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR, AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Township Manager – Reported that Byram Fest was held on Sunday, September 6, 2026, and thanked the Recreation Director and staff, as well as the Recreation Committee, for their assistance with the event. He reported that a student completing a 120-hour internship with the Township prepared a video for the Township website highlighting the Township’s trails. He also attended a meeting with New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) and reported that the work at the school has been completed and crews have returned to Lackawanna Drive. A preconstruction meeting is being scheduled for Phase 4, which will begin in the Lackawanna community. He provided an update on the municipal budget and reported that meetings with department heads are scheduled over the next two weeks.

Mayor Rubenstein – Reported attending Byram Day on September 6, 2026, and stated that it was a great event with favorable weather. He also reported attending the ShopRite Bag for Hunger event.

Councilman Esposito – Reported that Sussex County Day will be held this Saturday. He also reported that the WWC will host a Charles Dickens speaker on November 4th.

Councilwoman Franco – Reported attending Byram Day on September 6, 2026, and stated that it was a wonderful event. She reported that all fall programming has begun and is going well. She also reported that the Recreation Department is advertising the Kickball Event scheduled for Sunday, September 27, and expressed hope that it would be a successful event featuring music and a food truck. She reported that Community Pass membership has reached 1,465 members.

Councilman Proctor – Reported that the next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for September 17, 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

September 1, 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
No					
Abstain					
Absent			x		

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. 175-2026 – Resolution of Acceptance of a Donation from Lenape Valley Blazers Softball Organization to the Township of Byram to Install an 8’x16’ Wooden Shed at the Byram Township Neil Gylling Field
- B. Resolution No. 176-2026 – Authorize Payments in Lieu of Health Benefits for Calendar Year 2027
- C. Resolution No. 177-2026 – Resolution Authorizing the Discharge of Public Fireworks at the Mount Allamuchy Scout Reservation, Camp Somers, on October 17, 2026

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

BILL LIST – September 15, 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	x	x		x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent			x		

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Reassessment – Funding - Mr. Sabatini read a memorandum from Ashleigh M. Frueholz, CMFO, dated September 9, 2026, regarding funding for the county board of taxation-mandated town-wide reassessment. The memorandum explained that the Township may authorize a special emergency appropriation, allowing the cost of the reassessment to be spread over five budget years and remain outside the Township’s appropriation and tax levy caps. The Township may fund the special emergency through fund balance or by issuing special emergency notes. Ms. Frueholz recommended utilizing fund balance, noting that the Township is in a stable financial position and that using available funds would avoid the additional costs and interest associated with borrowing. The memorandum further advised that Council would need to adopt an ordinance and resolution establishing the deferred charge and funding for the special emergency authorization.

The council agree with Ms. Frueholz’s recommendation.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilwoman Franco asked whether the mayor had received an update from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) regarding Mount Heights Drive. Mayor Rubenstein reported that he had been in contact with NJDOT and that the Department is reviewing the memorandum regarding Mount Heights Drive.

Councilwoman Franco also inquired about the continued construction along Route 206. Mayor Rubenstein stated that he expects the construction to continue through the winter.

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.

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

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BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Certification: I certify that the Byram Township Council adopted the above resolution on September 15, 2026.

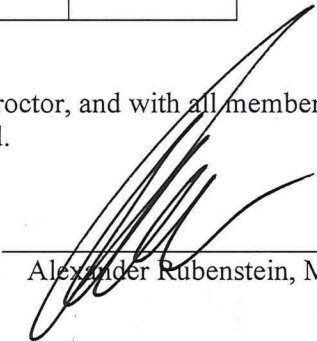
Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

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

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.


Cynthia Church, RMC
Township Clerk


Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor