

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

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Deputy Mayor Bonker 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.byramtpw.org/index.php/town\\_hall/township\\_council](https://www.byramtpw.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, absent. Also present was Township Manager Joseph Sabatini, Attorney Tom Collins and Retired Township Clerk, Doris Flynn

**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
- B. Contract Negotiations
  - Hopatcong Animal Control Pound Shared Services
  - General Liability / Workers Compensation Insurance Renewal
- C. Personnel

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 November 21, 2023.

Doris Flynn, Retired Municipal Clerk

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	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 Gallagher to return to open session at 7:32 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Motion by Councilwoman Franco/second by Councilman Gallagher to approve the agenda as presented.

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

**HALLOWEEN CONTEST WINNERS AWARDS - \$25 Gift Cards** – Presented with their certificates and gift card.

- Scariest – 11 Newton Ave

- **Most Traditional** – 3 Peach Tree Street
- **Most Original** – 32 Manor Drive

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

**Township Manager** – There will be a Capital budget discussion on December 4, 2023, as well as a junkyard hearing on the same night. Over the weekend there were two structure fires in Byram. They are posted uninhabitable, and the families are displaced. Mr. Sabatini expressed his thanks and appreciation to all the emergency crews involved in this.

**Councilman Bonker** - Councilman Bonker also expresses his thanks and appreciation to the emergency personnel who assisted with the structure fires over the weekend. Reported on the progress on the CO Johnson basketball court – so far so good.

**Councilwoman Franco** – November 13<sup>th</sup> Byram had its first crochet night, they had 29 people registered. It was a big success. Anyone else interested can register with the Recreation Department. On Wednesday, we have our first Mahjong Night – so far 14 people have registered – It will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Councilwoman Franco attended the League of Municipalities last week in which there was a lot of terrific information. She expressed her thanks to the Emergency Services and stated that we are so lucky to have them in our town. Ms. Franco reported on the last Planning Board meeting.

**Councilman Gallagher** – Announced a great turn out for Veterans’ Day. The Board of Education meeting was held on November 15, 2023. There was a Recreation Committee meeting last night. Coming up soon is the holiday lighting please register online, the voting for it will take place on December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Letters for Santa start will start on November 27<sup>th</sup> and will go through December 8th. You can also bring the letter to the Christmas lighting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Santa will be around town by fire truck on December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure you get your chimney swept and furnaces cleaned out to help keep everyone safe.

**Councilman Roseff** – no report

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I**

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

Ricky Proctor announced that Rich Bowe passed away this morning after a long battle with Parkinsons.

Councilman Bonker stated that Rich Bowe was a big part of Byram’s government for a very long time. He was responsible for our form of government. He was Mayor for many years as well as the Judge for Byram Township.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

November 8, 2023 Regular & Closed Session Meeting 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 <sup>nd</sup>			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. Motion by Councilwoman Franco, Second by Councilman Gallagher to approve the consent agenda

- Resolution No. 215-2023 – Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Gift Cards for Prizes at Holiday Decorating Contest November 27-December 15, 2023
- Resolution No. 216-2023 – Resolution Appointing Risk Management Consultant for 2024 Fund Year
- Resolution No. 217-2023 – Resolution Appointing the Commissioner of the Statewide Insurance Fund for Byram Township for Year 2024
- Resolution No. 218-2023 – Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder – Block 148 Lot 168
- Resolution No. 219-2023 – Resolution to Transfer 2023 Budget Appropriations Current Fund
- Resolution No. 220-2023 – Authorizing Foveonics Document Solutions to Perform Scanning and Document Management Services through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) – Not to Exceed \$25,014.16

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

**BILL LIST** – November 21, 2023 – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilman Roseff to approve the bill list. Councilwoman Franco recuse on her reimbursement for going to the convention.

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

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

MS4 – Tier A Municipal Stormwater Permit – In 2023 there were updates for requirements for Tier A permit. At our last council meeting, we authorized a grant to cover the items to be in compliance with the new requirements. The salt storage ordinance and tree ordinance are mandated by the NJDEP. The ordinances are required to be adopted by May 1, 2024.

Mr. Sabatini is planning on having the salt storage ordinance on for introduction at the next meeting. Cory reviewed the existing stormwater ordinances, and he feels they are in compliance with the new requirements.

Councilman Roseff stated that we have gotten a lot of money for stormwater planning, but he asked if we have done any engineering. Joe stated that on an annual basis we are always doing stormwater maintenance. The focus right now is on planning.

Ray Bonker read through the proposed tree ordinance that the State presented. Ray stated that he strongly opposes it. We may not be able to not have a true ordinance, but he feels we should adopt the most watered-down ordinance possible. Ray won't be here next year, but he is relying on his fellow council members and councilman elect to protect Byram from this over-reaching ordinance.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II**


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

No Comments

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, Second by Councilman Gallagher 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 7:56 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

  
 Drafted By: Doris Flynn for  
 Cynthia Church, RMC  
 Township Clerk

  
 Raymond Bonker, Deputy Mayor