

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 19, 2022
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.byramtwp.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 Municipal Clerk Cynthia Church

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Roseff, 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
 - Residency Requirement
 - Lakeland Emergency Squad
 - Elizabeth Town Gas
- b. Contract Negotiations
 - French & Parello – CO Park Improvements

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 19, 2022.

Cynthia Church, 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 7:30 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher

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

SWEARING IN OF NEW POLICE OFFICER – JOSEPH E. RUGGIERI

Deputy Mayor Bonker swore in Joseph E. Ruggieri with his mother & father holding the bible.

Deputy Mayor Bonker read aloud the following statement:

Joseph Ruggieri grew up in Byram Township and is a 2017 graduate of Lenape Valley Regional High School. After graduating high school, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University in May of 2022. Until his appointment Ruggieri worked in the Autobody industry and had previously worked for the Byram Township DPW in a summer position. Ruggieri will attend the Morris County Public Safety Academy Basic Course for Police Officers and is scheduled to graduate in November 2022.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Peter Dlugos – 3-year term – expiring 12/31/2023
- Christine Aboulhosn – 3-year term – expiring 12/31/2024

TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR, AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Township Manager – Mr. Sabatini reported that there will be only one meeting in August which will be on August 16th. A memo was sent to the Mayor and Council and to the department heads to kick off the 2023 Budget, and asked that the Township Council put together their goals and objectives for the 2023 budget process by August 10th. Tamarack Road will be paved starting on Monday July 25th. The tax bills will be mailed out July 20th and the grace period has been extended to August 15th.

Councilman Bonker – reported on his attendance along with the Mayor, Manager and Zoning Officer of the Grand Opening of the Pet Supplies Plus store on Saturday July 16th. The potholes at the intersection of Forest Lake Drive and Route 206 were filled. Reminded the council that the Manager has asked the Council members to provide him the manager additional feedback on the Dirty Dirt ordinance by July 31st.

Councilwoman Franco – There was a Planning Board Meeting on Thursday July 17th in which they heard one residential application that was carried to August 18th.

Councilman Gallagher – There was a Recreation Committee meeting Monday July 18th at which they discussed the survey questions, as well as a discussion about working on the 2023 Budget. There is a Board of Education meeting scheduled for Wednesday July 20th.

Councilman Roseff – nothing to report.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I

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

Debbie Devour, Fieldstone Trail – Asked if the mayor was renewing the Energy Harbor electricity savings deal. Expressed her disappointment with the traffic that was in her neighborhood on July 4th weekend because of Tomahawk Lake. Deputy Mayor Bonker replied with the following comment:

On Monday July 11th, a meeting was held in this room with the owner of Tomahawk Lake. The Byram administrator, the police chief, the lieutenant of the police department, the planning board secretary and I attended. It was a full and frank discussion. The immediate concern of the Township was to prevent any recurrence of the events of July 3rd, when extensive traffic issues plagued the Tomahawk Trail neighborhood. Based upon testimony from the planning board process, the police have been given additional authority to take earlier preventative actions, including closing the park more quickly and increasing the number of police personnel on the streets. Additional street closures and traffic flow patterns were also discussed. Traffic that continues to move along the streets will be tolerated, but traffic that stops on the roadway and remains stopped will not be tolerated. A formal warning was issued. The next time this happens, a fine will be assessed.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- July 5, 2022 Regular & Closed Session Minutes – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilman Roseff to approve the minutes.

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

- A. Resolution No. 159-2022 – Award of a Professional Services Contract to Steven Weinberg of Community Action Services to Administer Byram Township’s Housing Rehabilitation Program
- B. Resolution No. 160-2022 – A Resolution Appointing the Municipal Housing Liaison for the Administration of Byram Township’s Affordable Housing Program

- C. Resolution No. 161-2022 – Resolution Extending Grace Period for Payment of 2022 Third Quarter Taxes
- D. Resolution No. 162-2022 – Authorization for the Purchase of Sewer Pump and Related Equipment for the Rehabilitation of Sewer Pump Stations #1 & #2 – Not to Exceed \$45,560.00
- E. Resolution No. 163-2022 – Resolution Authorizing 100% Disabled Veteran Exempt Status to Owner of Block 356.02, Lot 1 for Tax Year 2022
- F. Resolution No. 164-2022 – Resolution Authorizing 100% Disabled Veteran Exempt Status to Owner of Block 358.02 Lot 1 Refund of Taxes Paid for 1st and 2nd Quarters
- G. Resolution No. 165-2022 – Resolution to Award the Bid for Department of Public Works Vehicle – Not to Exceed \$80,335.00
- H. Resolution No. 166-2022 – Authorization to Execute Change Order No. I for Proposed Improvements to Little Paint Way to Kulpeska Land Improvements - net increase of \$3,100
- I. Resolution No. 167-2022 – Final Acceptance of Improvements to Little Paint Way
- J. Resolution No. 168-2022 – Resolution to Award the Bid for Proposed Improvements to Riverside Park to Pav-Con Construction, Inc. – Not to exceed \$59,920.00
- K. Resolution No. 169-2022 – Award of Contracts Under the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey for Proposed Improvements to Riverside Park – Playground Border Supply & Installation – Not to Exceed \$15,896.37
- L. Resolution No. 170-2022 – Authorization to Apply for a Grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant Fiscal Year 2022
- M. Resolution No. 171-2022 – Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Stonehedge Lane Improvement Project

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

BILL LIST – July 19, 2022 – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilwoman Franco to approve the bill list excluding the three Nader bills.

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

ORDINANCE – 2nd Reading / Public Hearing

ORDINANCE NO. 008-2022 - AN ORDINANCE GRANTING MUNICIPAL CONSENT FOR THE OPERATION OF A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM, NEW JERSEY TO CSC TKR, LLC AND AMENDING AND REPLACING SECTION A286 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM ENTITLED “SERVICE ELECTRIC CABLE TELEVISION OF NEW JERSEY, INC. FRANCHISE ORDINANCE”

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher to Adopt Ordinance No. 008-2022

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

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance No. 008-2022 is passed on final reading and that a notice of final passage be published in the official designated newspaper according to the law.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Creation of a New Trails Management Committee – Mr. Sabatini provided the council with a draft for the development of a new Trails Management Committee. Mr Sabatini presented the membership as five general members, one alternate member, one member from township council and the manager or designated employee. Councilman Bonker suggested adding section 11 that would include the expectations of the members of the committee. Councilman Bonker is not in favor of an alternate member. Mr. Sabatini also suggested having a full general public advisory committee. Councilwoman Franco likes the idea of having 7 full members.

Mr. Sabatini suggested having this re-presented at the August 16th meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS -

Councilman Roseff would like a resolution placed on the August 16th agenda regarding Delaware Water Gap National Park. Councilman Roseff will write the resolution.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II

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

Todd Rudloff – Checking the status of the fire truck feasibility study. Requested to get more than a one-hour notice when discussing things pertaining to the fire department.

Motion by Councilman Gallagher, Second by Councilwoman Franco Motion to Close to public.

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BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

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Cynthia Church, 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

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.


 Cynthia Church, RMC
 Township Clerk


 Raymond Bonker, Deputy Mayor