

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

April 11, 2017 MINUTES

Council President Victoria Fife called the Regular Council Meeting of the Borough of Chatham to order on Monday, April 11, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers in Borough Hall, 54 Fairmount Avenue, Chatham, New Jersey.

SALUTE TO FLAG

The Borough Council led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Council President Fife asked for a moment of silence for those who have given their lives for our country.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Robin R. Kline, Municipal Clerk, read the following statement of adequate notice:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by including same in the Annual Notice, copies of which were posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board on the main floor of Borough Hall, emailed to the Daily Record, the Star Ledger, the Chatham Courier, the Chatham Patch, and The Alternative Press and filed with the Borough Clerk, all on January 5, 2017.

ROLL CALL

On a call of the roll, the following officials were present:

Council Member James J. Collander
Council Member James Lonergan (arrived at 7:55 p.m.)
Council President Victoria Fife
Council Member Gerald J. Helfrich
Council Member Leonard Resto
Council Member Peter Hoffman
Robert J. Falzarano, Borough Administrator
James L. Lott, Jr., Borough Attorney
Robin R. Kline, Borough Clerk

Mayor Bruce A. Harris was absent.

Council President Fife asked Council Member Resto to proceed with Resolution #17-153.

RESOLUTION #17-153

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Chatham that the minutes from the following meeting are approved as prepared and shall be filed as a permanent record in the Borough Clerk's office:

March 27, 2017

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Chatham that the minutes from the following Closed Session meeting are approved as prepared and shall be filed as a permanent record in the Borough Clerk's office:

March 27, 2017

Council Member Resto made a motion to approve Resolution #17-153. Council Member Collander seconded the motion. A vote was taken and Resolution #17-153 was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Gazebo Repair – Council Member Resto reported that the Gazebo Repair Committee, comprised of Fran Drew, Jack Drew, John Grobert and himself, have inspected the gazebo in Reasoner Park and have prepared a report of needed repairs. He introduced Fran Drew and asked her to present the committee's report.

Ms. Drew reported that the gazebo balusters are sagging and some are missing so the committee recommends replacing all five plastic composite baluster sections with wood balusters made of mahogany using the original design, which were made by Chatham High School Industrial Arts class students in 1986. Volunteers will apply the two coats of primer and two finish coats of paint. She further reported that some repairs would be made to one of the wooden benches and wood columns, and caulking where the cooper roofline meets the wood. The existing ceiling fixture will be replaced with LED lighting, and LED floodlights will replace existing outdoor floodlights. The gazebo will be given a fresh coat of paint, except for the blue ceiling, which is in good condition.

Ms. Drew reported that \$6,500 from the capital budget has been designated for the gazebo repairs and the committee plans to sell puzzles with an image of the gazebo and the Chatham clock in Reasoner Park for \$20.00 as a fundraiser.

Council Member Resto added that he inquired with the Morris County Vocational School whether its students could make the 107 balusters and is waiting to hear back.

Council President Fife provided an update on the restoration of the Chatham clock in Reasoner Park. She reported that the restoration project would take several weeks to complete. Jeff Davis of Specialized Auto Craft in Chatham will complete the painting and gold detailing of the clock. John Grobert and the Borough's Department of Public Works will perform the removal, re-installation, and electrical work. The clock will be re-installed prior to this year's Fishawack Festival.

Bond Sale Award – Tim Day, Chief Financial Officer, reported that seven bids were received at the Bond Sale. Chatham Borough will refinance \$6,220,000 in debt, consisting of \$5,200,000 in General Improvement Bonds and \$1,020,000 in Water Utility Bonds, with Wells Fargo through long-term bonds at 2.19%. Mr. Day mentioned that the Borough's triple-A bond rating from Moody's was a major factor in receiving the favorable bond rate.

Mr. Falzarano reported that several factors helped the Borough in receiving Moody's Aaa rating. He mentioned that the income level of our residents, the Borough's proximity to New York City via train, the Borough's 10-year strategic management plan to pay down the debt, while keeping a strong budget with reserves, and the Borough's demonstrated performance in maintaining its infrastructure were important factors.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT TIME LIMIT

Hearing of citizens during the Public Comment section of the Agenda is an opportunity for any member of the public to be heard about issues, which are/are not topics scheduled for Public Hearing tonight. To help facilitate an orderly meeting, and to permit all to be heard, speakers are asked to limit their comments to a reasonable length of time.

Council President Fife opened the meeting to the public.

Fran Drew, 32 Inwood Road, expressed her concerns regarding the vehicle traffic along Route 124 (Main Street) and needed improvements to Route 24, including a new interchange, to reduce traffic congestion and vehicle pollution in the Borough. She commented that in May 2015 she sent a certified letter to the Morris County Department of Planning and Public Works, Division of Engineering and Transportation asking the county to reopen the interchange that was planned, but never completed, in Madison when Route 24 opened. She stated that she received a reply to her letter recently from the county engineer, Christopher Vitz, who informed her that although the state is currently in concept development on a project to alleviate congestion at the Route 24 and Columbia Turnpike interchange, there is limited funding for new infrastructure projects, including any new interchange in the Chatham/Madison area. Mrs. Drew urged the Council to work with the New Jersey Department of Transportation ("NJDOT") to reduce the traffic congestion and offered to help the Council in getting the lines of communication open with NJDOT officials.

Council Member Collander responded that the Borough has been in contact with NJDOT and county officials, as well as federal and state elected representatives to find a solution to the traffic along Route 124 (Main Street). He reported that the NJDOT recently synchronized the timing of the five traffic lights along Main Street and new smart technology will be implemented in the future. Mr. Falzarano added that a telephone conference call is scheduled with NJDOT officials on April 18th.

Jack Drew, 32 Inwood Road, thanked the Mayor and Council for their efforts in improving the traffic congestion in town and encouraged the Council to keep working with the NJDOT to rectify the problem.

Seeing no one else wishing to comment, Council President Fife closed the meeting to the public.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING

Council President Fife asked Council Member Hoffman to proceed with Ordinance #17-05.

Council Member Hoffman read Ordinance #17-05 entitled:

ORDINANCE #17-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 204 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE" TO REQUIRE CREDITORS IN FORECLOSURE ACTIONS TO MAINTAIN AND REPAIR THE EXTERIOR OF VACANT AND ABANDONED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES ON WHICH A FORECLOSURE ACTION HAS BEEN FILED

Which Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a regular Council meeting held on March 27, 2017.

Council President Fife asked the Borough Clerk to give a summary of the legal notice.

The Borough Clerk stated that a legal notice was published indicating that Ordinance #17-05 was introduced and passed on first reading at the March 27, 2017 meeting and indicated the second reading and public hearing would be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 11, 2017 for consideration of final adoption. Copies of this Ordinance were made available to the general public and posted in accordance with the law.

Council President Fife opened the public hearing on the Ordinance and invited any member of the public may be heard. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, Council President Fife closed the public hearing.

Council Member Hoffman offered the following Ordinance and moved its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Ordinance as read by title on second reading, and after public hearing at this meeting, be adopted and finally passed.

Council Member Collander seconded the motion.

Council President Fife asked the Borough Clerk for a Roll Call Vote.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Collander		X	X			
Lonergan			X			
Fife			X			
Helfrich			X			
Resto			X			
Hoffman	X		X			

Council President Fife declared this Ordinance adopted and finally passed and requested the Clerk to publish the proper notice of adoption of this Ordinance in the official newspapers and to permanently record the Ordinance

REPORTS

BOARD & COMMISSION MEMBERS & LIAISON REPORTS

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee - Mayor Harris was absent.

Open Space & Historic Preservation Trust Advisory Committee - Mayor Harris was absent.

Historic Riverside Trail Advisory Committee – Council Member Resto reported that the Borough will apply for a \$50,000 grant to potentially add a visitor's center where the history of Chatham could be featured as it pertains to the Historic Riverside Trail. He reported the grant deadline is May 3rd.

Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee - Council Member Collander reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12th.

Shade Tree Commission - Council Member Collander reported that Arbor Day is April 29th and a proclamation will be presented at the April 24th meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council. He further reported that there is an Arbor Day concert scheduled for Sunday, April 23rd at St. Patrick's Church, 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lastly, Mr. Collander reported that "Shade Tree" banners have been placed along Main Street and encouraged residents read the interesting facts about shade trees that are written on the banners.

Communications & Technology Advisory Committee - Council Member Lonergan had nothing new to report.

Joint Recreation Advisory Committee - Council Member Lonergan reported that Committee's next meeting is scheduled later this week.

Municipal Pool Advisory Committee - Council Member Lonergan had reported that the reduced "Early Bird" registration fees would end on May 15th.

Farmers' Market Advisory Committee - Council President Fife had nothing new to report.

Mayors' Wellness Advisory Committee - Council President Fife reported that the Committee continues to support the senior rides program that was launched on Monday, April 3rd.

MyChathamNJ Advisory Committee - Council President Fife reported that the Committee is planning the 2017 Spring Clean scheduled for May 6th and the Fishawack Festival scheduled for Saturday June 10th.

Planning Board - Council President Fife reported that the Planning Board accepted the *Preliminary Investigation Report for the Redevelopment of Post Office Plaza* at its April 5th meeting and will adopt an authorizing resolution at its next meeting on April 19th. The *Preliminary Investigation Report for the Redevelopment of Post Office Plaza* will then be presented to the Mayor and Borough Council at their May 8th meeting.

Project Community Pride - Council President Fife had nothing new to report.

Senior Center of the Chathams - Council President Fife reported that the Senior Center of the Chathams is holding a Community Paper Shredding event on April 22nd at the train station parking lot from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

9/11 Memorial Advisory Committee - Council Member Helfrich had nothing new to report.

Board of Education - Council Member Helfrich had nothing new to report.

Joint Municipal Court - Council Member Helfrich had nothing new to report.

Municipal Alliance of the Chathams - Council Member Helfrich had nothing new to report.

Environmental Commission - Council Member Resto reported that the plastic bag recycling initiative is ongoing and 47 pounds of plastic bags had been collected as of Saturday, April 8th. He encouraged residents to continue recycling their plastic bags at the designated drop-off location at the Borough's Recycling Depot. Lastly, he reported that he attended a seminar on climate change with Kate Murphy, chair of the Environmental Commission, which was very informative. He recommended that the seminar be presented in Chatham to provide information to the community.

Joint Community Gardens Advisory Committee - Council Member Resto reported that all garden plots have been registered for the season. He further reported that the Chatham Borough and Chatham Township Departments of Public Works would be paving the driveway to the Joint Community Garden, which would be paid for with funds from the Community Garden Trust Account. Lastly, he reported that the gardeners are scheduled for their annual pre-season clean up on Saturday, April 22nd and Sunday, April 23rd.

Madison-Chatham Joint Meeting - Council Member Resto reported that the capacity study will conclude next month and that the Joint Meeting hired two new employees.

Pilgrim Pipeline Advisory Committee - Council Member Resto reported that the Committee circulated a draft Oil and Hazardous Substance Pipelines ordinance prepared by the Municipal Pipeline Group's attorney and customized for the Borough. He reported that the Committee requested a meeting with the New Jersey Highlands Council; however, representatives from the New Jersey Highlands Council indicated they would not be able to meet with the Municipal Pipeline Group until they have met with Pilgrim Pipeline.

Public Arts Council Advisory Committee - Council Member Resto reported that the "Green Takes Back Grey" painting of traffic signal boxes on Watchung Avenue has been completed.

Board of Health - Council Member Hoffman reported that the shared services contract with the Town of Westfield for public health services would be discussed at the April 24th meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council.

Historic Preservation Commission - Council Member Hoffman had nothing new to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Harris was absent.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Falzarano reported that Sustainable Jersey Public Information and Engagement Technology Assessment Report would be finalized and presented in May. The consultant was able to meet with all department heads and staff, as well as the Mayor and two Council Members.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are considered routine by the Chatham Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

Resolution #17-154 through Resolution #17-156 have been placed on the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTION[S] REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE

None.

APPOINTMENT

RESOLUTION #17-154

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ROBIN R. KLINE, MAS, RMC, CMR TO THE OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL CLERK AND GRANT OF TENURE

WHEREAS, Robin R. Kline, MAS, RMC, CMR was duly appointed to the office of Municipal Clerk, referred to herein as Borough Clerk, on June 10, 2014 for a three (3) year term in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kline is a Registered Municipal Clerk and has satisfied the continuing education requirements for the office of Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Clerk wish to reappoint Ms. Kline to the office of Borough Clerk effective June 10, 2017.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Chatham that Robin R. Kline, MAS, RMS, CMR is hereby reappointed to the office of Borough Clerk effective June 10, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon her reappointment, Ms. Kline will acquire tenure in the office of Borough Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133 et seq.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all other Borough officials and employees are hereby authorized and directed to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

FINANCE

RESOLUTION #17-155

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

WHEREAS, vouchers for payment have been submitted to the Borough Council by the various municipal departments.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Chatham that all vouchers approved by the Finance Chairman be paid subject to the certification of the availability of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.

OTHER

RESOLUTION #17-156

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO CLOSE CERTAIN DESIGNATED PARKING LOTS AND ROADS AND TO CONTROL AND REGULATE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS CONSEQUENT THERETO FOR THE 2017 FISHAWACK FESTIVAL

WHEREAS, the 2017 Fishawack Festival will be held on June 10, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has reviewed the proposed layout of vendors, kiosks, car show and other planned activities for the 2017 Fishawack Festival and has made recommendations to the Borough Administrator that certain designated parking lots and roads should be closed in efforts to control and regulate traffic conditions consequent thereto for the event.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Chatham that they hereby authorize the Chief of Police to close the following parking lots on June 10, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. to facilitate public activity created by the 2017 Fishawack Festival:

1. Parking Lot No. 1 or Plaza North Lot
2. Parking Lot No. 2 or Plaza South Lot
3. Parking Lot No. 7 or Firehouse Plaza Lot (but will be used for handicap parking only)
4. Parking Lot No. 8 or Center Avenue West Lot
5. Parking Lot No. 6 or Center Avenue East Lot

And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief of Police is hereby authorized to close Fairmount Avenue from Main Street to Red Road, and close Center Street from Center Place to Main Street, and to establish appropriate detour routes and measures to control and regulate traffic conditions created consequent to the closure of the parking lots and roads herein referenced; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all other Borough officials and employees are hereby authorized and directed to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

Council President Fife asked Council Member Resto to proceed with the Resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda. Resolutions #17-154 through #17-156.

Council Member Resto moved to approve Resolution #17-154 through Resolution #17-156. Council Member Hoffman seconded the motion. A vote was taken and Resolution #17-154 through Resolution #17-156 listed on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION(S)

None.

Council President Fife asked Council Member Helfrich to proceed with Resolution #17-157.

Council Member Helfrich read Resolution #17-157.

RESOLUTION #17-157

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Chatham that it shall adjourn into closed session to discuss the following subject matter(s) without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 10:4-12b:

Personnel:

1. Administrative Appointment(s) – Council Member Resto

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the matter(s) discussed will be made known to the public at such time as appropriate action is taken on said matter(s), and when disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests of the Borough of Chatham, provided such disclosures will not violate Federal, State or local statutes and does not fall within the attorney-client privilege. The Borough Council will not return to public session after this closed session.

Council Member Helfrich moved to approve Resolution #17-157. Council Member Lonergan seconded the motion. A vote was taken and Resolution #17-157 was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business to be conducted, Council President Fife adjourned the public meeting. The Borough Council convened into Closed Session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robin R. Kline

Robin R. Kline, MAS, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk
BOROUGH OF CHATHAM