

**COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2016  
7:00 P.M.**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>Robert A. Sabosik</b>
<b>Council President:</b>	<b>Joseph Furmato</b>
<b>Council Member:</b>	<b>Antoinette DePaola</b>
<b>Council Member:</b>	<b>John Wisniewski</b>
<b>Council Member:</b>	<b>William Borowsky</b>
<b>Council Member:</b>	<b>Pamela Snyder</b>
<b>Council Member:</b>	<b>Michael Thulen, Jr.</b>
<b>Borough Attorney:</b>	<b>Christopher Dasti, Esq.</b>
<b>Borough Administrator:</b>	<b>Frank Pannucci</b>
<b>Borough Clerk:</b>	<b>Antoinette Jones</b>

**THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**STATEMENT BY MAYOR SABOSIK:** Pursuant to the applicable portions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been given. Notice of this meeting of the Governing Body has been posted in the corridor of the Municipal Building, published in the January 8, 2016 edition of *The Ocean Star* and communicated to *The Asbury Park Press*.

**A. WORKSHOP**

**1. Committee Reports**

**Council Member Snyder stated the following:** “Before I start my report I would like to ask the Mayor for a moment of silence for the victims of the terror attack in Brussels. (Mayor Sabosik said absolutely and all stood for the moment of silence).

As some of you may know, this past weekend, Point Pleasant Borough High School had its musical, Beauty and the Beast, I went to it and try to get to all of the performances. For those of you who missed it, you are probably missing the best deal on the Eastern Seaboard. Tickets are usually very cheap, in this case \$10, and the performance easily rivaled Broadway and events you would see elsewhere. The talent in the Boro is astounding and it makes me proud to be a member and resident here.

The Environmental Commission would like to remind everyone Earth Day is scheduled for April 23 this year, with a rain date of April 24. Vendor applications are due April 8. Sponsorship applications are being determined and will be due before April 8. Thank you to the Environmental Commission for putting this together. They have a lot of great activities planned for Earth Day – a petting zoo, inflatables for the kids, projects to turn trash into things – it all sounds very exciting and they are also trying to encourage the geese in the area to poop elsewhere so the children have a place to play without stepping in goose poop all the time. Also, Middle School honor students will be working with the Environmental Commission for Earth Day and that is what we are trying to encourage here – working as a team and the community working together – and that is a perfect example.

Climate Action will be doing a presentation later in the meeting regarding the proposed Community Garden. They have been working very hard and very diligently putting this concept together for the better part of a year now, taking ideas and finding locations. They have distilled their ideas into a cogent presentation and I applaud the Climate Action Committee for everything they have done. I know they are welcoming of any questions mayor and council may have so they can move the Community Garden from a conceptual plan to something that is actually going to occur down the road.”

**Council Member Wisniewski stated the following:** “Some quick notes on the Open Space Committee. There will be some display cases purchased so the Historical Society will be able to display some items in preparation for the Centennial Celebration that will happen in 2020. The displayed cases will be purchased very soon. The Historical Society will have some items, like duplicates and prints, of the history of Point Pleasant for sale at Earth Day in the Bennett Log Cabin.

Tonight, we will be introducing the 2016 municipal budget. Our CFO prepared a statement that reads, as follows,

“The total general appropriation for 2016 is \$19,643,883.00 compared to \$19,872,731.55 in 2015. The proposed tax rate for Municipal Purposes for 2016 is estimated to be \$0.438 which reflects a tax increase of 0.008 cents (1.90%) over 2015 (\$0.430). For an average home in Point Pleasant assessed at \$381,600.00, the proposed municipal tax increase would be \$30.00 (from \$1,641.00 in 2015 to \$1,672.00 in 2016). The Borough Council will scheduled Council Budget Meetings to review the proposed budget in more detail. A formal presentation and public hearing on the Municipal Budget are scheduled for the April 19, 2016 Council Meeting.”

That pretty much sums it all up. That is what is being introduced, we still have to meet with the larger departments like police and fire, and we are hopeful and cautiously optimistic that we will be able to bring the tax rate down even more.”

**Council Member Thulen stated the following:** “Last week our Construction Official, who is also our Floodplain Manager, had a Flood Workshop here in Borough Hall. We had the DEP, FEMA and some insurance company representatives here to talk about some items. There were more than a couple dozen people who came to gather information and ask questions about a range of topics, including working on their houses, raising their houses, dealing with flood insurance and flood management. It was a pleasure to meet with all those people and everyone seemed to be satisfied with the information and had a smile on their faces when they went out the door.

Also, I would like to say our CFO and Councilman Wisniewski are doing a great job with the budget. This is my second year on the dais and I am looking forward to working more on the budget and learning more about the process.”

**Council Member DePaola stated the following:** “As the liaison to the Public Safety Committee, I would like to commend the Police Department for once again putting out some impressive statistics. For the month of February, we can see they have enhanced motor vehicle stops in order to help curb the speeding that goes on in some of our residential neighborhoods and near our schools and it seems to be making an impact. They increased their surveillance and, in the end, their total CAD reports were 2,153 in February of this year compared to 1,973 in February last year. They are responding to a lot of calls and for a small police department that is a big order. The department also received a letter of recognition for Police Officer Rossi for assisting a 92-year-old fall victim and treating her with kindness and patience.

Regarding community matters, I want to commend a student at Point Pleasant Borough High School, Matthew Gerrity, who received his Eagle Scout Award. His Eagle Scout Project was doing various kinds of games for handicapped students at Ocean Road Elementary School. It was a blessing for the students who are in that program and the school system. It took a lot of money, a lot of time and a lot of effort and the games he built really helped the children with the skill sets they need every day to improve. So I wanted to be sure to commend our newest Eagle Scout, Matthew Gerrity.

Also, the Community Watch organization will be at Earth Day. If anyone wants more information on what they do and the kinds of things you may want to become involved with, stop by their table at Earth Day.”

**Council Member Borowsky stated the following:** “There was a DPW Committee meeting on March 16. Myself, Mayor Sabosik, Council President Furmato, Superintendent of Public Works Bob Forsyth, Ernie Peters and John LeCompte from Remington, Vernick and Vena and Borough Administrator Frank Pannucci were all present. We first discussed the monthly engineer’s report. Coordination with utility companies is currently in the works and we plan to begin drainage reconstruction in the Mistletoe Avenue area this fall. There was severe flooding in that area and it is nice to see this project finally coming to fruition.

We also discussed generator installation at various locations. We were able to receive grant money in the amount of \$262,000 from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which is a FEMA program. Three locations were selected, Well #10, Well #8 and the Department of Public Works. The project is scheduled to go out to bid this summer. If we have another situation like Superstorm Sandy, we will have generators to keep everything running. Tide flow valves also fall under that program and we will get \$70,000 for new ones throughout the town. Additionally, the Bennett roadway



**MOTION: Introduction of Ordinance**

**MADE: Ms. DePaola**

**SECOND: Mr. Wisniewski**

Mr. Furrato: Yes

Mr. Wisniewski: Yes

Mr. Borowsky: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Snyder: Yes

Mr. Thulen: Yes

CARRIES: YES

**2. Introduction**

**Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriations Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank**

**MOTION: Introduction of Ordinance**

**MADE: Ms. DePaola**

**SECOND: Mr. Wisniewski**

Mr. Furrato: Yes

Mr. Wisniewski: Yes

Mr. Borowsky: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Snyder: No

Mr. Thulen: Yes

CARRIES: YES

**Mayor Sabosik asked members of the Climate Action Committee to step forward.**

**D. PRESENTATION**

**1. Climate Action Committee – Community Garden Presentation**

Dennis Rittenhouse: 1404 Johnson Avenue, I am representing the Climate Action Committee, which is chaired by Lois Jacobson, who is seated in the audience. I am also representing the Point Pleasant Community Garden Committee, chaired by Cheryl Olsen. The three of us have whittled things down to what we think are some great ideas. We owe a thank you to Council Member Pam Snyder who has been very faithful in attending our meetings and for whom we are very grateful.

The community garden idea has sprung up all over the country. I first saw it in San Francisco on the sides of the very steep hills. Recently, I saw it over in Trenton and spoke with the chairman of the Trenton Community Garden Committee and, most recently, I saw Brick Township is having a Community Garden on Herbertsville Road.

I drove around Point Pleasant with resident Patty O'Rourke, a former Monmouth County Parks employee and wife of former Councilman Shaun O'Rourke, and looked for ideal locations. Also drove around with Bob Panick, who is the advisor for Eagle Scouts in the area. This could also tie into an Eagle Scout project. I know some of you were thinking about handicapped gardening and they are relatively easy to build. We narrowed locations down to one on the east side of the Point Pleasant Canal and one on the west side. On the east side, Heritage Park, where there is a wishing well so there is already water there. There is room for about five plots. On the west side, Oakwood. That is a great, sunny spot, and it would need water from a water source and the Department of Public Works could help us with that. We would like to start in 2017.

Council Member DePaola: If the Borough is unable to get water to the Oakwood location, would you want to expand the location at Heritage Park instead?

Dennis Rittenhouse: Depending on where the plots would be placed, if they were close enough to the street, members of the Garden Club would be able to carry water there and water them at Oakwood. Or even run a hose.

Mayor Sabosik: How will the five plots at the locations be assigned? Will there be a lottery?

Dennis Rittenhouse: We have not decided how we would handle a situation where we have more people interested than the number of plots available.

Council Member DePaola: Who would be the Garden Guardians?

Dennis Rittenhouse: Members of the Garden Club, Climate Action and other committees and I would ultimately oversee the operations.

Council Member Thulen: How would the watering happen?

Dennis Rittenhouse: Primarily with a hose, locking and unlocking a faucet. The faucet should stay locked when not being used.

Council Member Snyder: Who exactly would be watering the gardens? Garden Guardians? Members of the Department of Public Works?

Dennis Rittenhouse: I would take the responsibility of watering or assign it to a Garden Guardian or someone who is particularly interested.

Mayor Sabosik: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has plots, do you know how many they have?

Dennis Rittenhouse: One very large vegetable garden and another smaller garden, also for vegetables and some plants. The large one was divided into four sections and maintained by the Girl Scouts.

Council Member Snyder: How will the Community Garden be paid for? Will you be looking to the Council to approve any money for the Garden or will it be self-funded?

Dennis Rittenhouse: We hope that it will be self-funded. We would rent out the plots and even without an Eagle Scout project, we believe we would break even the first year. So we are not asking for money at this time, we are just asking for your approval.

**E. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION (Resolutions, Consent Agenda and Authorizations Only)  
Five (5) Minute Limit Per Person**

**MOTION: Open the meeting to the public**

**MADE: Ms. Snyder**

**SECOND: Mr. Wisniewski**

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Wisniewski: Yes

Mr. Borowsky: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Snyder: Yes

Mr. Thulen: Yes

**CARRIES: YES**

**Council President Furmato opened the meeting to the public.**

**Seeing no hands, Council President Furmato closed this portion of the meeting.**

**F. RESOLUTIONS**

**“All matters listed under item “Resolutions” will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. If discussion is desired on any item, this item will be removed and will be considered separately.”**

**1. (111-2016) Bills and Claims**

**2. (112-2016) Introduction of Municipal Budget – Fiscal Year 2016**

**MOTION: Adopt Resolutions**

**MADE: Ms. DePaola**

**SECOND: Mr. Wisniewski**

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Wisniewski: Yes

Mr. Borowsky: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Snyder: Yes/\*Abstain

Mr. Thulen: Yes

**CARRIES: YES**

\*Ms. Snyder – Yes, but abstained from all payments regarding Bathgate, Wegener & Wolf, P.C.

**G. CONSENT AGENDA**

**“All matters listed under item “Consent Agenda” will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. If discussion is desired on any item, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.”**

**1. (113-2016) Authorize Municipal Budget to be Read by Title Only at Public Hearing**

2. (114-2016) Authorize Disposal of Surplus Property Via Online Auction
3. (115-2016) Refund Demolition Bond – Block 212, Lot 1 – 3260 Bridge Avenue
4. (116-2016) Authorize Adjustment and/or Refund on Certain Tax or Water/Sewer Accounts
5. (117-2016) Appoint Part-Time Recycling Laborer, Recycling Program – Debra Dygon
6. (118-2016) Appoint Borough Conflict Public Defender – Alexandra Nieves-Martinez
7. (119-2016) Appoint Emergency Management Coordinator – William Dikun

**MOTION: Adopt Consent Agenda**

**MADE: Ms. DePaola**

**SECOND: Mr. Thulen**

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Wisniewski: Yes

Mr. Borowsky: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Snyder: Yes

Mr. Thulen: Yes

CARRIES: YES

**H. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION (Resolutions, Consent Agenda and Authorizations Only)  
Five (5) Minute Limit Per Person**

**MOTION: Open the meeting to the public**

**MADE: Ms. Snyder**

**SECOND: Mr. Furmato**

APPROVED: ALL IN FAVOR

**Mayor Sabosik opened the meeting to the public.**

Laura Beeden: 2406 Spruce Street, Is there anything we need to know about the water quality considering recent reports?

Mayor Sabosik called Superintendent of Public Works Bob Forsyth up to address the question.

Superintendent Forsyth: There was a national news television report that names West Orange and a dozen other municipalities in the state that had PFCs in the water. We do test for PFCs and we have none in our water.

Laura Beeden: With all the work going on in Borough Hall, are there cameras in the building yet?

Mayor Sabosik: That is a security question so we really can't answer. On the advice of the police department we are upgrading all the building and parks to have a security feature. We are trying to make Borough Hall more appealing for the workers. It hasn't been upgraded in 32 years and we are doing it all in-house and within budgetary constraints.

Laura Beeden: When was the recreation department roof replaced, four or five years ago?

Mayor Sabosik: Years ago and unfortunately the bond and warranty are over. We just repaired it again recently. Our town engineer is in the back. John LeCompte, could you please come up. Bob Forsyth also.

Superintendent Forsyth: If you have a flat roof, eventually it is going to leak, plus the roof that was put on was not a membrane type roof. That lasted about 15 years. We have been repairing it here and there.

Laura Beeden: How many trucks have we borrowed in the last four years?

Mayor Sabosik: We have upgraded DPW from two-wheel to four-wheel drive." (brief, unclear conversation ensued about snow plowing and traffic flow). We have another meeting with the Board of Education to discuss the traffic flow plan.

Laura Beeden: Someone mentioned to me that your salaries went up. Most people did not even know you were getting salaries. The total went from \$14,000 to \$55,000.

Mayor Sabosik: The council salary was set in 1989. I have a business and you have a business, and neither of us are charging what we charged in 1989. This council is the hardest working council considering the number of hours we are putting in. We have saved this town \$2 to \$3 million. I have a list of 17 items. Here is an example: We were able to get a 15 percent discount for homeowners on flood insurance rates. That saved approximately \$400,000. We also sold a cell tower for \$1.6 million. We also received various grants for almost \$2 million. Our water rate has stabilized to the third lowest in Ocean County. We brought the Police Department back to full staffing and negotiated a contract with Point Pleasant Beach that reduced our cost by \$80,000. We developed a new website that is easy to use and keeps the people well informed. I have an email from the previous mayor, William Schroeder, stating he wanted Council's salary at \$6,000 and the Mayor's salary at \$9,000. The town could not afford it until now. Some of us will donate portions and we are still among the lowest salaries in Ocean County.

Council Member DePaola: When I first came on council, I had no idea of the time and effort and energy. I love this town, I raised my children here and I have struggled to stay here because this is where we want to live. There are a lot of obligations as a council person, for instance the Chamber dinner was \$100, and I did not realize how much money of my own I would have to take away from my family to do a good job as a council person, represent the town and support all the organizations in the town that ask us to support them.

Laura Beeden: There is a place in town that looks like a clown threw up on it. (referring to the location of the new restaurant that is being built on Route 88)

Mayor Sabosik: Design criteria cannot be placed on a commercial building. I have already checked. It is freedom of choice when it comes to coloration. The best way to look at it is the gentleman is investing over a million dollars and taking an empty building and turning into a restaurant.

Council Member Borowsky: I agree with you Laura and I have had hundreds of residents complain about it. I actually think it will be detrimental to his business and I almost want to tell him in a nice way, but I don't know how to approach him.

Dennis Vitkauskis: 2117 Foster Road, Have we done anything about any of the parks being upgraded for special needs?

Council Member Borowsky: It was discussed extensively at the last Public Works meeting. The administrator, mayor and borough engineer have been working on things and they are headed in a very positive direction.

Mayor Sabosik: And we are looking for matching funds and we are very close to a couple of organizations.

Dennis Vitkauskis: Do merchants, peddlers and the like still need a town license to go door to door and if so, are they getting the Do Not Knock List?

Mayor Sabosik: Yes and yes. And I, myself, question solicitors when I see them.

Chris Constantino: Thank you all for the help you always give us (the Environmental Commission) regarding Earth Day and everything we do during the year. There is a lot of interest in the Community Garden from a lot of families and, if we move forward with it, I think you will see a lot of participation and support.

**Mayor Sabosik called Chief Financial Officer Himanshu Shah to the microphone to say a few words.**

Himanshu Shah: I would like to thank Mayor and Council for considering and introducing the budget and moving the budget process forward. I think it is important for all of us to recognize that, in the past, the process took a long time. We will be able to save money and all of the departments will be able to operate knowing what their budgets are. We can also move forward with the capital plan and do things that are necessary. It is a reasonable budget. If we find something that can reduce the cost during budget meetings, I am all for it. Also, the Moody's upgrade helped our rate, when you look at the \$10 million plus bond sale, we easily saved \$500,000.

**Seeing no other hands, Mayor Sabosik closed this portion of the meeting.**

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 1. Contract Negotiations**
- 2. Personnel**
- 3. Possible Litigation**

**MOTION: Go into Executive Session**

**MADE: Ms. DePaola**

**SECOND: Ms. Snyder**

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Wisniewski: Yes

Mr. Borowsky: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Snyder: Yes

Mr. Thulen: Yes

**CARRIES: YES**

**RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Dasti: In closed session we discussed ongoing contract negotiations with the Borough's unions, some personnel matters, potential litigation and the possibility of a shared service agreement with Barnegat Township.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

All in Favor

**TRANSCRIBED BY: ERIC COLVIN, RMC, CMR  
ASSISTANT TO THE CLERK**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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**ANTOINETTE JONES, RMC, CMR  
BOROUGH CLERK**

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**ROBERT A. SABOSIK  
MAYOR**