

**COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor:	Robert A. Sabosik
Council President:	Charlene Archer
Council Member:	William Borowsky
Council Member:	Joseph Furmato (by phone)
Council Member:	John Wisniewski
Council Member:	Antoinette DePaola
Council Member:	Valerie Coulson
Borough Attorney:	Christopher Connors, Esq.
Borough Administrator:	Frank Pannucci
Borough Clerk:	Antoinette Jones

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 6, 2023, edition of *The Ocean Star* and January 6, 2023, edition of *The Asbury Park Press*.

A. WORKSHOP

1. Committee Reports

Council Member Wisniewski stated the following: “I don’t really have a committee report because I am not exactly sure what my committee does. I know it is new and I am assuming has a purpose. I asked this question on New Year’s but did not get an answer as to what the purpose of Legislative and Land Acquisition Committee is. So I am looking forward to that and once I find out what I am supposed to be doing I will do it to the best of my ability.”

Mayor Sabosik responded: “Thank you Councilman. I thought I would see you at the Reorg Meeting and that was when I was going to talk to you about it, but I am free any time you wish to call me, and I will be more than happy to go over this new committee assignment. It is new and exciting and something I think this town needs.”

Mr. Pannucci added: “There is a lot of legislation going on in Trenton now and it is important for us to keep up on the multiple different facets.”

Council Member DePaola stated the following: “As Councilman Wisniewski said, we just had Reorg so I do not have much new to report other than that we are reorganizing and we will be holding a public safety meeting in the beginning of February, so I will be in touch with all of our public safety officials. If there are any concerns by the residents, please be sure to email me and I will bring it up at our meeting.”

Council Member Furmato stated the following: “I have nothing to report tonight.”

Council Member Borowsky stated the following: “First I would like to say congratulations to Councilman Furmato, Councilwoman Archer and you Mayor, for your victory this past November. I haven’t been at a meeting since then and I apologize for that. I also missed the Reorganization meeting and I apologize for that as well. I do want to talk about one thing about this passed election. It is very, very

disturbing to me. This is disappointing and disheartening. Some letters went around about me. I can deal with that, I am a grown man. But a letter went around, and it included my son in it. It stated that my son was dishonorably discharged from the United States Marines for his failure to get the vaccination. That is a lie. He received a general discharge, and it is very unfortunate that my son was dragged into this. All that kid did was put his life on the line for everybody in this room, for everybody in this town and for everybody in this country. The fact that he was brought into this infuriates me. I am a grown man, but this kid put his life on the line for this country. Yet, when something that affected his life and he made a decision, people here are going to condemn him for it, and then tell lies about him? This is unfortunate. I am trying to get to the bottom of it and find out where it originated but I don't know if I really want to because it has got me so angry. This is part of the reason why I have not been at these meetings. I am really upset. I am getting better with it, but it just infuriates me that my son was dragged into this. He did nothing wrong. He did nothing but try and defend his country."

Mayor Sabosik stated the following: "Councilman, I can rest assured that nobody up here had anything to do with that. And I will look you straight in the eye and say that. This past election was to the detriment of the people of Point Pleasant. I too am very upset as to the conduct of this election. I would be more than happy to sit down and talk to you about it man to man. Because you are very upset, and I am also very upset with the conduct of that election. I can assure you that nobody had anything to do with that letter on this dais."

Council Member Borowsky responded: "Maybe we can take 5 minutes in executive and discuss this and just clear the air in here."

Mayor Sabosik: "This is not an executive session topic, Councilman."

Chris Connors: "The Mayor is absolutely correct. That wouldn't be appropriate."

Councilman Borowsky: "How about 5 minutes after the meeting maybe? Obviously, there are some questions by some fellow councilmembers as well. So, maybe we can all get on the same page and do what is best for the residents of Point Pleasant."

Council Member DePaola: "We have been doing that. While you are away and gallivanting or you are just too mad to show up at meetings. Can we please keep this to the business of the people of Point Pleasant and not your personal agenda. You can have a pity party elsewhere. We are here to do the people's business."

Council Member Borowsky: "Really Toni? There is no pity party here. I guess I know where the letter originated from."

Council Member DePaola: "I would never stoop so low."

Council Member Furrato: "The election is in the past. It is over. We must move on."

Mayor Sabosik: "That goes for all of us Councilman."

Council Member Borowsky: "I agree. Thank you. Also, I was on vacation and have not yet had a chance to reach out to the members of my two new committees. I will do that and have a report for you at the next council meeting. And I would like it if you and me could meet for five minutes after the meeting."

Mayor Sabosik: "I would be very enthused to do that."

Council Member Archer stated the following: “Since Reorg, I do not have much to report. I do want to say that we are working on the budget for the Finance Committee. We are beginning to get the budget ready to submit to the Council to review. We will be holding a Finance Committee meeting at the end of January or the beginning of February. Also, I know that Councilman Borowsky is going to be Environmental Committee Chairperson, but I just wanted to update everybody on Slade Dale because right now we are doing the Christmas tree recovery. DPW will be picking up the Christmas trees and will be bringing them over to Slade Dale so that they can put them in the marsh to keep building that marsh up. I read that Point Pleasant Beach is also encouraging this and residents from the beach can also donate a tree for the Slade Dale Marsh.”

Council President Coulson stated the following: “I do not have much tonight because we just had Reorg last week. I did meet with Sheri Silversmith and Mayor Sabosik this past Friday. We set our calendar of events for the year. Everything is pretty much the same as last year. The dates are different, but the events are the same. We are looking to add some new events which we are excited about. While we were there, we got to see the seniors taking their yoga class and they love being at the Rec Center.”

Mayor Sabosik added: “By the way, I was invited to join them being that I am a senior citizen. Council Member Coulson was not.”

2. Report of Mayor

Mayor Sabosik stated the following: “On January 12th at the Grenville in Bay Head, the Chamber of Commerce is having their opening event at 5:30pm. They are looking for new members anybody who wishes to come, I think it will be an enjoyable evening. I will be talking that evening along with a couple other speakers. I know it will be a fun time for anyone who attends. I will also keep this short and sweet.”

B. MINUTES

1. Approve Council Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2022

MOTION: Approve Minutes

MADE: Ms. DePaola

SECOND: Mr. Wisniewski

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furrato: Yes

Mr. Wisniewski: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Mr. Borowsky: Abstain

CARRIES:

Mayor Sabosik stated the following: “Before I give it over to you, Council President, we are adding a resolution to the agenda. We are asking for \$61,500.00 to carry out a project to create a walking trail on Arnold Avenue.”

C. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION (Resolutions, Consent Agenda and Authorizations Only)

Five (5) Minute Limit Per Person

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Ordinance No. 530. An Ordinance to establish by-laws to govern the organization and procedures of the Borough Council for meetings and deliberations. Section 5. Public Participation. Each member of the public shall keep his or her remarks brief, pertinent to the issues being discussed and shall not exceed a time period of five (5) minutes in order to adequately provide all members of the public with the opportunity to address the Governing Body consistent with good order and efficiency.

MOTION: Open the meeting to the public

MADE: Ms. Archer

SECOND: Mr. Wisniewski

APPROVED: All in Favor

Council President Coulson opened the meeting to the public.

Dennis Vitkauskis: 2117 Foster Road – “The resolution you just added, what kind of walking trail is this and where are you putting it?”

John LeCompte: “The walking trail is strictly at the Arnold Avenue Park. It is a concrete walking trail that goes from the existing parking lot all the way around the park.”

Mayor Sabosik: “It is almost like the walking trail around the Community Park.”

Dennis Vitkauskis: “On the Bills and Claims, I see a rental for a street sweeper. Are we renting this all the time?”

Mayor Sabosik: “No, what happened is, our street sweeper broke down and it was during the leaf season. So, we had to rent one. It also was for analysis because, while the one we have is fixed now, it is an old one and we need to look into a new one.”

Dennis Vitkauskis also asked for clarification on how it works with our bills and claims now that we are going to one meeting a month.

Mayor Sabosik answered that we will call special meetings, if need be, but that vendors will have to wait otherwise.

Council Member Wisniewski: “I have a quick procedural question. Do we have to have a resolution to authorize to submit a grant?”

Mayor Sabosik answered yes, authorization does need to be given.

Seeing no other hands, Council President Coulson closed this portion of the meeting.

D. 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. (044-2023) Bills and Claims – 2022**
- 2. (045-2023) Bills and Claims - 2023**
- 3. (046-2023) Void Check Resolution**

The bills for 2022 totaling the amount of \$530,812.33 are to be paid as presented. The bills for 2023 totaling the amount of \$1,298,002.95 are to be paid as presented. The bills and claims list is on file in the Clerk’s Office and can be reviewed Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MOTION: Adopt Resolutions

MADE: Ms. Archer

SECOND: Ms. DePaola

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Wisniewski: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Mr. Borowsky: Yes

CARRIES:

E. 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. (047-2023) Authorize Adjustment and/or Refund on Certain Tax or Water/Sewer Accts.**
- 2. (048-2023) Authorize Refund Demolition Bond – Block 145.02, Lot 67, 1305 Charles St.**
- 3. (049-2023) Authorize Recreation Department Refunds**
- 4. (050-2023) Authorize Recreation Department to Re-hire Part-time Seasonals**
- 5. (051-2023) Authorizing the Road Opening for 1717 Riviera Court**
- 6. (052-2023) Confirming Personnel Appointments – OEM**
- 7. (053-2023) Confirming Mayor’s Appointment to the Planning Board:
- Vincent F. Sestito, Alt. #1 (Term expiring 12/31/24)**
- 8. (054-2023) Approving the Following Applications:
- Clean Ocean Action, Beach Sweeps, Saturday, April 1, 2023, and Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM.
- Point Pleasant Rotary, 5K Run at Community Park on Saturday, June 17, 2023, from 6:00 AM – 12:00 PM.**
- 9. (055-2023) Authorizing Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the NJDCA for the Arnold Avenue Walking Trail Project**

MOTION: Adopt Resolutions

MADE: Ms. Archer

SECOND: Mr. Wisniewski

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Wisniewski: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Mr. Borowsky: Yes

CARRIES:

Mayor Sabosik stated the following: “Councilman Wisniewski, just so you understand, incase four people didn’t like it and two did, then we wouldn’t have the engineer apply for this grant. It is basically a legal document according to the town counsel here.”

Mr. Connors: “Yes, sometimes it often results in the expenditure of municipal funds through the grant application process by the professionals that may be involved in the grant application. Additionally, often there are conditions described to grant applicants that incumber the municipality to those conditions. So the acceptance of the grant, could force a municipality to accept certain conditions so it is important that every member of the governing body be aware of the grant application process.”

Council Member Wisniewski: “That is fine with me. Free money is free money, I am all for it.”

F. OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

5 Minute Limit Per Person. Ordinance No. 530. An Ordinance to establish by-laws to govern the organization and procedures of the Borough Council for meetings and deliberations. Section 5. Public Participation. Each member of the public shall keep his or her remarks brief, pertinent to the issues being discussed and shall not exceed a time period of five (5) minutes in order to adequately provide all members of the public with the opportunity to address the Governing Body consistent with good order and efficiency.

MOTION: Open the meeting to the public

MADE: Ms. Coulson

SECOND: Ms. DePaola

APPROVED: All in Favor

Mayor Sabosik opened the meeting to the public.

Laura Beeden: 2406 Spruce Street – “First I wanted to commend the DPW guys. They really did a great job with the leaf pickup. Some of the leaves did not get picked up because of all the cars that park on the street. Which leads me to my next question. Have you done anything about Spruce Street yet?”

Mayor Sabosik called up Chief of Police, Adam Picca to respond.

Chief Picca – “We did a traffic study on Spruce Street for a week. We did it from November 14th through the 21st. The speed was deemed low. Of the 4,697 vehicles the average speed was 20mph. So, from that, we deemed it a volume issue. We also had concerns with stop sign issues. We did corrective patrol for vehicles not fully stopping at the stop signs. We have been making numerous stops and continually enforcing that. We have corrective patrol that will be continuing. We are doing a speed study right now for School Street and for River Avenue and we will be continuing to enforce speed and stop signs. We have noticed comments on social media because of the uptick of our stops. So, the word is getting out there and we will continue enforcing that.”

Laura Beeden: “I know the police cannot be there all the time, but it is absolutely insane. I was convinced that the speed limit was bumped up to 35mph because the cars were doing 40 and 45. I have gotten several people to occasionally let me cross, but the people behind them are probably almost crashing into them.”

Mayor Sabosik: “I also want to point out that since the last time you were here, Dorsett Dock is now 25mph. We convinced the county. It takes time, but we are getting stuff done.”

Topic of the dangers of Electric Bikes were discussed between Laura Beeden and the Mayor and Council.

Topic of the sidewalks around the school grounds was discussed. She had written a letter over a month ago to the grounds keeper of the school and has seen a complete difference. No more garbage is seen all over the sidewalks anymore.

Topic of speeding issues and stop sign issues at Old Drift Road coming into Moore Avenue were discussed. Mayor requested that Chief Picca have enhanced enforcement in that area.

Chief Picca responded that he and Ms. Beeden already spoke about this, and the extra enforcement has already started throughout the school area in the morning and at their lunch time.

David Guetzlaff: 2234 Riviera Parkway – “I have some old business and some new business. Since the Reorg meeting, I presented the idea of the plaque at the Riverfront Park to the Rotary Club, and they were overwhelmingly in favor of it. So, I made up a life size image of what it would actually look like.”

Mayor Sabosik stated the following: “Just so council knows, I know some of you were not here for Reorg, Mr. Guetzlaff spoke about a sign at the Riverfront Park, on the fishing pier that goes all the way to the end. He would like to put this sign up in honor of the great American writer Robert Louis Stevenson who wrote the book Treasure Island. This sign will help show our heritage.”

David Guetzlaff read a prepared statement of the history of Robert Louis Stevenson and how important he was.

David Guetzlaff Added that in the 1700’s the English navigator and explorer, Henry Hudson took four voyages trying to find the way up through Russia to China for a trade route each time being forced back due to ice. In 1609, during his third voyage, he decided to go South because Captain John Smith sent him maps of the new world. So, he came down from Greenland and bounced off our coast and between August 24, 1609, and September 11, 1609 anchored himself in the Barnegat Bay here he came ashore and traded with the Lenape Indians that were here. During the fourth voyage he went into the Hudson Bay where his crew mutinied him and he and his son were never heard from again.

Mr. Guetzlaff requested that the new park right on the river on Arnold Avenue be named Henry Hudson Park and gave the Mayor and Council handouts of an example of the sign he would like to have made.

Maryellen Wisniewski: 821 Rosewood Avenue – “I would like to thank Billy Borowsky, Jr. for his service to our country. I really wasn’t going to say anything until New Years Day when John got the information about the Committee changes. It was very disheartening to see, since the election and since Billy decided to run, how John was treated. We were at several town functions with my kids and you Mayor, and many of the other council members, aside from Billy Borowsky, ignored John. There were photos taken of the Council Members at one of the functions. John is also a grown man who can handle these things, but for my kids to see all the sacrifice that he has made over the past 10 plus years and be treated this way. Time away from family, time away from events to serve this community which I didn’t even want him to do in the beginning because I knew it was going to be very time consuming. He did this selflessly and then to see you guys all at Summerfest as we walked up to you as a family, barely getting a hello before you all walked away. The next thing we knew you are all up on stage taking photos and doing your thing and my kids were like, “Dad, aren’t you supposed to be up there?” And my husband just said, I don’t know, nobody called me. It has been very disheartening to see. We love this town. When Billy decided to run for Mayor, I felt like it was a good thing quite honestly. I feel like when all of you started, you had the towns best interest at heart. But it seemed apparent to me as time went on, people were doing this for their own benefit and that was very discouraging to see. So, I felt like Billy would be a great change because I think that he has the towns best interest at heart. The whole thing about the Committee changes was upsetting. John has been on Council for over ten years. He has had his same Committee assignments the entire time and all of the sudden, because he...”

Mayor Sabosik interjected the following: “It is not all of the sudden. On April 25th of last year, you were not at this meeting. We had committee reports. I have a quote here from your husband. He said “The fact that we have not had any meetings is basically my fault. I have just had personal, professional and health

issues which did not leave me time to set up the meetings to do the budget.” That is his words. So, this year, I wanted to reduce the pressure on your husband and that is why he has a new committee assignment.”

Maryellen Wisniewski: “Okay, it would have been nice for you to have spoken to him prior to that. You can say he wasn’t at the Reorg or missed a meeting, but you could have made a phone call. For him to be blindsided by that.”

Mayor Sabosik: “He wasn’t blindsided, and he has a cell phone too. I am not going to stand up here and argue with you. I am just making a statement of why the change was made.”

Maryellen Wisniewski: “Again, I feel like he was blindsided by that because when he got notification of his new assignment, he was very surprised. So, for you to repeat that quote is fine, but I think a phone call would have been good. It just seems very apparent that once Billy decided to run, John was obvious in his decision and made it known to everyone that he was not choosing a side and that he was going to stay neutral, but because he had communication with Billy, you all shunned him. I just feel like after all these years, and I have known a lot of you for a very long time, that this is very discouraging. I remember being at the meeting with my daughter, where Cortland Coleman stood up and said, “We are a small town. Let’s keep this fair and let’s keep this clean, let’s keep this nice.” It really does not seem like that was the way it went. I just wanted to share this because it was very close to my heart. I watched the sacrifices that my husband has made to be a councilman and to do this for the town. I think the way that he has been treated since the Primary Election has been terrible. When I was at the dinner and you came up to John and said, “Did you know that Billy was running?” Just the way you spoke to him. And since then, you have not treated him very well and I think that is disgusting. I just wanted to share all this on the record.”

Dennis Vitkauskis: 2117 Foster Road – “Back to the electric bikes, things are getting bad. The other day coming down my street was a kid with an electric bike, with two kids on regular bikes on each side of him holding on to his bike. He was pulling those two down the street with him and none of them were wearing helmets. They were just kids. I kind of feel like they should have some kind of driver education for this kind of bike. They are out and about and do not pay attention to any signs or signals of the road. I also see kids trying to cross at crosswalks and instead of walking their bikes across the road, they are riding their bikes through the crosswalk. They do not know the rules. We do not have to stop for another vehicle coming through a stop sign, so why should we stop for a bike? They should be walking their bikes across the crosswalk. Someone is going to get hurt. Also, a lot of foreign restaurant workers have electric bikes. When the restaurants and bars are closing late at night, these people are out, and they are worse than the kids zipping in and out. We need more enforcement on the electric bikes. Also, earlier you said something about the Christmas trees. At the Recycling Center, they are dropping the Christmas trees from the brush area.”

Mr. Pannucci: “There are two places for drop off. The ones that get dropped off at the Recycling Center and the ones that Public Works picks up, they are taking a portion of those and putting them over at Slade Dale.”

Dennis Vitkauskis: “Also, at a previous meeting, I was asking about only one drop off a day. Has anything been done about that? I was told it would be looked into.”

Mr. Pannucci: “I already did answer it. I told you it was for commercial only. Because what happens is when you have the big trucks a lot of these contractors will try to put all of their personal stuff from their businesses and 3 or 4 drop offs a day, thinking that nobody is going to see that it is their business.”

Dennis Vitkauskis: “Also, on the one meeting a month, I know we didn’t always have two meetings every month, but why is it now only one meeting a month now?”

Mayor Sabosik: “Because we are leaving the opportunity to have a special meeting if we have to rather than an organized second meeting. Something might arise that we have to have a vote and then we will have a special meeting.”

Dennis Vitkauskis: “For lack of computer people, how are we going to find out about a special meeting?”

Mayor Sabosik stated that they will call him if we are having a special meeting.

Dennis Vitkauskis: “Someone should mention it to the Ocean Star because they still have it as the second and fourth Mondays of the month.”

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

Mayor Sabosik stated that there will be no Executive Session this evening.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

All in Favor.

TRANSCRIBED BY: VERONICA THWING, DEPUTY BOROUGH CLERK

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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

**ROBERT A. SABOSIK
MAYOR**