

**COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor:	Robert A. Sabosik
Council President:	Valerie Coulson
Council Member:	William Borowsky
Council Member:	Joseph Furmato
Council Member:	John Wisniewski
Council Member:	Antoinette DePaola
Council Member:	Charlene Archer
Borough Attorney:	Jerry J. Dasti, 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*.

Mayor Sabosik stated the following: “Tonight we have the pleasure to give a proclamation for outstanding work from one of our police officers, Mr. Jesse Waterson for his life saving actions.”

A. PROCLAMATION

1. Honoring Police Officer Jesse Waterson for Life Saving Actions

Mayor Sabosik read the proclamation for Officer Jesse Waterson. The gentleman whose life was saved by Officer Waterson was also present to extend his gratitude.

B. WORKSHOP

1. Committee Reports

Council Member Borowsky stated the following: “That is just amazing. Excellent job Officer Waterson. That is absolutely amazing. Imagine saving somebody's life like that. I couldn't even imagine what you are feeling. Talk about being an angel in somebody's life.

The Environmental Commission had a meeting on January 17th. Some of the things discussed were Earth Day. Earth Day will be April 22nd this year with a rain date of April 23rd. We are looking for sponsors and vendors for this event. If anybody wants to get involved, please let me know.

Another thing that was discussed was the living shorelines of Slade Dale and Nellie Bennett. There is progress being made. I know one of the members was very happy that some of the trees came down at Slade Dale, so thank you Mr. Mayor.

Point Pleasant Garden Club has a March 6th trip planned to the Philadelphia Flower Show. The cost is \$100.00 per person. Anyone interested can reach out to Heidi Reilly who is in attendance tonight.

Also discussed were the repairs to the gazebo that will be coming up.

And, last but not least, the Point Pleasant Borough Panther Wrestling Team will be competing in the sectional finals tomorrow night up in Raritan so I would like to wish them good luck.”

Mayor Sabosik stated that he would like to honor Councilman Joe Furmato who was really in charge of the dead trees being taken down at Slade Dale. Further stated that it was a great effort by the County and our town.

Council Member Furmato stated the following: “We have a preconstruction meeting at the end of the month for the sidewalk project on Herbertsville Road and Maxson Avenue. Construction should start in March. Also, you should check out the boat ramp and the fishing pier that the State of New Jersey built for free for us on the canal, it is off of Beach Blvd. They really did a good job. The only thing I don’t like is that it is a dirt road. I don’t know that there is anything we can do there because the State owns the property, but, it was free.”

Council Member Wisniewski stated the following: “Officer Waterson’s actions is just something that makes your voice quiver a little bit. It is something that you always wonder if you could do something like that yourself. I am proud to know Jesse and proud to know that he is part of Point Pleasant Borough.

Congratulations to the Borough Wrestling Team. As far as my new committee the Legislature and Land Acquisition Committee, I have been researching some of the bills and some of the things put forth by the State. The big one is the health insurance and we do have a budget meeting next week. I am sure we will get more information on this especially from people who know a little bit more about it, like our CFO. But the one thing I was shocked at, although I shouldn’t be, is that there are so many State resolutions that are just window dressing. I didn’t realize there were actually things like this. There is state CPA week. They spent time on things like this. I was just shocked. One of our state senators actually proposed a creatine day for New Jersey. So, I did some digging through and picked out the things that could be important to Point Pleasant. Once I figure out a way to get some substance to that research, I will get the committee and try to start talking about how that can impact Point Pleasant.”

Mayor Sabosik: “Thank you Councilman. I knew that this was going to be something that was paperwork intensive so that is why I think this is going to end up being a very important committee, so thank you so much.”

Council Member Archer stated the following: “As John was saying, we are going to have a Finance Committee meeting scheduled for February 16th at 4:30pm. The Budget will be handed out to the Council for their first run at that meeting.

I am also in Open Space. We will be holding our first meeting tomorrow night at Bennett Cabin at 7pm. I will report on that meeting at our next meeting.”

Council Member DePaola stated the following: “As the Liaison to our Police Department and Public Safety, I too would like to congratulate Officer Jesse Waterson for a job well done. Jesse has always been involved in our town, whether it was the First Aid Squad, or our Fire Company or anything else that required selfless service. To see that his actions actually saved a life is quite an incredible feat. It just shows you the love and the attention that our officers give to each and every resident. So, kudos to you too Chief for supporting our officers in all that they do. It is a great thing that all of our officers are taught CPR so it is great to know that they have that skill when they need it.

The Public Safety Committee met with the local towers in town. As you may not know, we have contracted 3 tow companies that work on behalf of the police department. When there is an accident or police involvement and a car or truck needs to be towed, we have these three companies working on rotation and our price list has not been updated in quite some time. So we have been in the process of reviewing. This

evening, I passed it over to our Borough Attorney, Mr. Dasti for his input to make sure that all the fees are in compliance with state laws. We know there are many regulations in the state of New Jersey and towing is one of them. I have passed that along for input and hopefully we will have something to adopt or at least first reading at the next council meeting.”

Council President Coulson stated the following: “Pre-school registration opens online on Wednesday, March 8th at 10am for resident children who are currently enrolled. Registration for new students will be online the same day at 1pm. There is a comprehensive virtual Power Point presentation on the website that gives an overview of the curriculum if anyone would like to take a look at that. Sheri Silversmith did a great job with the power point presentation. Also on the Recreation web page you will find permit applications for the use of the Riverfront pavilion. The permit is for a 4 hour block of time and the details are on the website. The Easter egg hunt is tentatively scheduled for March 25th. We will have more details next month on that. The Senior fitness programs are being held in the Recreation Center. Wednesday’s at 10am is Senior Fitness. Fridays at 10:30am is also Senior Fitness and Friday at noon is Senior Yoga. These programs are free to seniors and are paid for by the Ocean County Senior Services under the Older American Act. There is an average of about 15 participants in each of these classes. You need to fill out a senior registration form which takes about 2 minutes when you come in. You do not need to pre-register. You can just walk in. Grab a calendar and you will be able to see when classes are. Lastly, last spring, I was approached by a local Vietnam Vet. He pointed out that the Borough does not have a memorial dedicated to the fallen heroes that have resided in the Borough. After doing some research with him and compiling a list of these brave men, there were 9 local residents that gave their lives for this country. So now, we are looking into doing a memorial over in the Community Park. It would be a boulder with a bronze plaque with the names inscribed of each of the fallen heroes. We are also interested in doing something like what Brick has in their town. They have these banners that you put on the lamp post and it has the names of the fallen heroes that we can put up for Memorial Day and take them down after Veteran’s Day for the winter. This is just something that we are looking into and I would like the Borough to subsidize the cost of the memorial in addition to corporate sponsors. It would be great to include it into this year’s budget. We do have a generic memorial over at the middle school, but nothing with the names of the fallen heroes.”

Mayor Sabosik: “The gentleman who is helping the various towns do this at no cost, has done a tremendous program and I too would fully support this. I think this is a great endeavor to have and to show respect for our residents who have given the ultimate sacrifice.”

2. Report of Mayor

Mayor Sabosik stated the following: “This evening, the Louis Bay Scholarship opportunity is out again. Anybody who has a senior who wishes to do an entry, it is a \$1,000.00 scholarship. Two years ago the town of Point Pleasant had a resident who won it. You can go to ptboro.com to get the application or you can come into town hall. There are 15 finalists and 3 winners. Each will receive \$1,000.00 and the winning essay is published in the NJ League of Municipalities magazine.

We have a 2023 County Road Improvement Program meeting coming up in two weeks. This is when they come to us and we go down to Toms River. We talk about signage, we talk about repaving and we talk about realignment. As soon as we get done with that meeting I will give the public a report of what occurred.

One of the things that I think is vitally important that the State of New Jersey is not helping the towns with is our health care costs. The state employees received a 3% cost increase. Our town received 26%. This is unconscionable. The State Health Benefit Plan should have equal wages for anybody who is in the plan. The League of Mayors have sent letters to the Governor requesting the raise be universal between town, County and State employees. At this time, unfortunately, he has decided strictly to give the 3% to the State and our town has gotten a 26% increase. If anybody would like to write a letter to the Governor pertaining

to this, be my guest. This is almost an unfunded mandate to the greatest degree. It will impact our budget. And it is unfair to our town employees because they do pay a large portion of their health.

Everyone has been talking about Wenke's. I am happy to report that we have come to a conclusion and we have come to an agreement. They will not be parking on the street. They will keep the parking inside. They have gone from 24 units to 16 units. It will be a nice project. I want to thank Councilwoman DePaola and Councilman Furmato for attending court with me in Toms River as well as our Legal Council Mr. Jerry Dasti. It was a long afternoon but it was beneficial to the town of Point Pleasant. We don't want an over density problem and we don't want an overbuild problem.

Lastly, the Chamber of Commerce has asked for a marketplace. The Bayhead Mayor and the Mayor of Mantoloking would like to see a joint summer type of marketplace. I do not have all the parts yet as to where it would be or when it would be. But we will come back to this in March. But we would like to start a new Chamber event where it would be beneficial to our residents. Other towns have a marketplace once a week or every two weeks and we would like to look into doing something like that for our residents."

C. MINUTES

1. Approve Re-Organization Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2023

MOTION: Approve Minutes

MADE: Ms. Coulson

SECOND: Ms. DePaola

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Wisniewski: Abstain

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Mr. Borowsky: Abstain

CARRIES:

2. Approve Council Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2023

MOTION: Approve Minutes

MADE: Ms. DePaola

SECOND: Ms. Archer

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Wisniewski: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Mr. Borowsky: Yes

CARRIES:

D. ORDINANCE

1. Introduction

Ordinance No. 2023-01 Accepting as a Borough Street the Right-of-Way Referenced Herein to be Known as "Howe Street"

MOTION: Approve Minutes

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:

**E. 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. DePaola

SECOND: Mr. Wisniewski

APPROVED: All in Favor

Council President Coulson opened the meeting to the public.

Dennis Vitkauskis: 2117 Foster Road – “Consent Agenda item #9, about the Community Development, is it just in general or is there something specific going on.”

Mr. Pannucci: “This is funds that we that we utilized to construct and make compliant parking spaces and walkways at the public area behind Treeneedle and Mossbank to try to clean that up a little bit if we get the grant money.”

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. (056-2023) Bills and Claims**
- 2. (057-2023) Cancel Outstanding Grant Balance – 2023**
- 3. (058-2023) Authorize Transfer of 2023 Budget Appropriations**
- 4. (059-2023) Approve Emergency Temporary Appropriation**

The bills totaling the amount of \$13,880,860.24 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. DePaola

SECOND: Mr. Wisniewski

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. (060-2023) Authorize Refund of Lien Redemption and Premium Paid at Tax Sale**
- 2. (061-2023) Authorize Refund Demolition Bond – Block 279, Lot 150, 1709 Certainty Dr.**
- 3. (062-2023) Authorize Refund Demolition Bond – Block 279, Lot 202, 1755 Bay Isle Drive**
- 4. (063-2023) Authorize Refund Demolition Bond - Block 278, Lot 1, 1715 Bay Avenue**
- 5. (064-2023) Authorize Refund Demolition Bond – Block 29, Lot 8, 216 Maxson Avenue**
- 6. (065-2023) Authorize Recreation Department Refund**
- 7. (066-2023) Authorizing Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Program – Fatal Accident Support Team (F.A.S.T.)**
- 8. (067-2023) Appointing Kendra Lelie of Kyle & McManus Associates as a Professional Planner in Conjunction with the R2T2 Litigation – COF #2023-114**
- 9. (068-2023) Authorizing the Submission of Application to the CDBG Program**
- 10. (069-2023) Confirming the following Appointment:**
 - Richard Higgins, OEM Emergency Response Team Member**
- 11. (070-2023) Approving the Following Applications:**
 - The Shore House Bar & Grill, Petition to Extend Premises, St. Patrick’s Day Celebration, Friday, March 17, 2023, from 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM. (Rain date March 18, 2023).**
 - Point Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, Summerfest, Friday, June 2, 2023, and Saturday, June 3, 2023 (rain date June 4, 2023) at Community Park.**
 - Point Pleasant Fire Department, Coin Toss, Saturday, June 3, 2023 (rain date June 4, 2023), Saturday, August 5, 2023 (rain date August 6, 2023) and Saturday, October 7, 2023 (rain date October 8, 2023) from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the intersection of Bridge Avenue and Route 88. (Three dates have been submitted, they will advise in advance of the actual two dates chosen).**
 - Point Boro First Aid Squad, Fundraising Efforts by mail in the month of April with additional mailing during the month of October.**
 - Point Boro First Aid Squad, Coin Toss, Saturday, July 15, 2023 (rain date July 16, 2023) from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the intersection of Bridge Avenue and River Avenue.**
- 12. (xxx-2023) Confirming Mayor’s Appointment to the Recreation Advisory Committee - Kat Campbell**

MOTION: Adopt Resolutions

MADE: Ms. Archer

SECOND: Ms. DePaola

Ms. Coulson: Yes
Mr. Wisniewski: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes
Ms. DePaola: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes
Mr. Borowsky: Yes

CARRIES:

H. 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. DePaola

SECOND: Mr. Wisniewski

APPROVED: All in Favor

Mayor Sabosik opened the meeting to the public.

Kelly Noto: 319 Barbara Drive – “I am here on behalf of the Point Pleasant Garden Club. Along with members that have come to support. We just wanted to come back and give you guys an update like we said we would in November. The pollinator garden is continuing to come along. We are doing a variety of activities over the coming next weeks including a winter seat sewing event on Tuesday the 14th at 10am at St. Mary’s by the sea. So starting next Tuesday afternoon, you will start seeing milk jugs at the pollinator gardens. They are there on purpose. They will have soil in them and seeds and hopefully they will have plants in them at some point. We do have them out in the pollinator garden now along with brochures that has information about the garden. It has a QR code on it with a Name the Garden Survey. That Survey will remain open through Earth Day. We want to try to get as many submissions as possible. We are continuing with our fundraising. So, we have seed sponsorship that is \$40.00. That will help us buy the individual plant signs. We are pushing for that over the next 6 weeks or so. We have received pricing from a company in Kansas where they let us keep the 2022 pricing through March 31st. If you want to join, please let us know. We do have grant applications in to the Monarch Watch world. They are going to potentially give us another 32 plants which is another \$160 bucks of plant material. So thank you to them and Frank thank you for your letter of support. We did also receive a community grant from the National Garden Club for \$1,000.00. That was a competitive grant so we were one of 20 garden clubs in the United States. It was a national grant.

We are hoping to get money from the Jersey Friendly Yard Certification. We are continuing to work through that certification. Thank you for updating the website because we were able to submit that in. We have 22 other pieces of paperwork that we need to file. Frank, be on the lookout. We are going to have paperwork that we will need you to review before we submit.

We have the flower show bus trip which is almost sold out. We have another in May for Longwood Gardens which will support our scholarship fund. We are anticipating two, \$1,000.00 scholarships to the high school seniors. The senior has to be a resident of the Borough but does not have to be in a Point Pleasant School. We will be doing a plant of the month as well.”

Mayor Sabosik asked that we let DPW know about all the Garden Club is doing as well.

Mr. Dasti asked if there was an application to fill out for the sponsorship.

Kelly Noto responded that there is QR code or he could write them a check and once they get that they will give a list of the plants and he could pick which plants he would like sponsor.

Mayor Sabosik also mentioned the flower barrels that can be purchased for \$150 the first year and \$100 each subsequent year.

Mayor and Council thanked Kelly Noto and the Garden Club for all their great work.

Dennis Vitkauskis: 2117 Foster Road – “Talking about the health insurance. I have seen on the news and read in the papers that some towns are pulling out of the State insurance plans and going with private insurance companies. Would that save us any money?”

Mr. Pannucci: “We already looked into that. We have Connor Strong as our insurance broker and they already shopped this out for us. What happens is a lot of the smaller towns have done that because it depends on your usage history. It may actually end up costing the Borough more in the long run so we did not go that route, but we did look into that. As a matter of fact, we look into that every year.”

Dennis Vitkauskis also asked about the introduction of the ordinance for Howe Street.

Mr. Dasti responded that in the past it was a paved cartway but not recognized by the town as a Borough Street. It is now accepted as a Borough Street where we will now plow and maintain it.

Dennis Vitkauskis asked about Jack Kennel’s property on the East side of the canal. Wanted to know if that was available.

Mayor Sabosik responded that Point Pleasant did reach out to the estate a while ago. Noted that we did enter into talks but since then the talks have ceased and we do not know their plans at this time.

Dennis Vitkauskis also thanked the DPW for fixing the pothole at the end of his street.

Heidi Reilly: 1924 Beach Blvd. – “I know you are all looking at reviewing our tree ordinance and I wanted to bring something to your attention that the Environmental Commission has put forth. Hopefully, we can come to some sort of plan for the town so that we can continue to replace and maintain the trees we have. So with that, our neighbor, Point Pleasant Beach Shade Tree Commission is selling trees. For \$400.00 you get a specific choice of trees. They deliver it, they plant it and all you have to do is water it and maintain it to help it to grow. I think this would be a great opportunity for people in our town to replace some of the lost trees we have had due to building or renovations.”

Mayor Sabosik stated that this was a great idea but that we do have a present program Testimony of Trees. Detailed that this is for someone who has passed and if there is a family that wants to put a remembrance tree up with a plaque. Stated that we could expand that program to include something like this but that he would have to check with his colleagues.

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**