

**COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor:	Robert A. Sabosik
Council President:	Valerie Coulson
Council Member:	William Borowsky (Absent)
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*.

A. PROCLAMATIONS

1. National Friends of Libraries Week 2023

Mayor Sabosik stated the following: “Tonight we have a lot of friends here from our library. As we all know, they provide a lot of services to our town.”

Friends of the Library spoke and read a statement: “I want to thank the Point Pleasant Mayor and Council for recognizing our Friends of the Library group. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our members. Our volunteers and supporters have not only contributed their time and energy, but they have also demonstrated their commitment to the mission of our library. Our upcoming fundraisers and sales are scheduled for November 17th and 18th. The friends have organized book sales, fundraisers and events that bring our community closer together all while raising vital funds needed for the libraries. So, on behalf of the library community and the friend’s group, I extend our appreciation to Point Pleasant Borough for recognizing the many contributions that the friends of the library make to the Point Pleasant Borough Library.”

2. United Nations Day

B. WORKSHOP

1. Committee Reports

Council Member Wisniewski stated the following: “A couple of weeks ago our state government did something that was actually productive. The New Jersey Economic Development Authority approved a \$50 million grant that will allow municipalities to acquire vacant land. This is something that I hope we can take advantage of. It is geared more towards redevelopment of commercial areas, like Bridge Avenue, but there are opportunities to acquire other land in the Borough that may become available. So that is big news. I haven’t had a lot of time to read through everything. It will put you to sleep. But this could actually benefit this municipality.

Finally, November 6-10 is CPA appreciation week. I only know that because I am a CPA and it gives people the ability to say to me, I appreciate you.”

Council Member Furmato stated the following: “If you notice, there are a lot of roads being paved. River Avenue is done, and River Road will be paved in a couple of weeks from Osborn Avenue to Route 70. That is going to be done by the County. Sleepy Hollow will be paved tomorrow, and Sunset was paved today. Ocean Road around the school we are putting a grant in for sidewalks for all the smaller streets that lead up to the school. Bay Avenue will be paved within three weeks which is also a county job.”

Council Member DePaola stated the following: “October is pedestrian safety month. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends looking out for pedestrians, particularly children and teens who can be less predictable and move more slowly. Be extra careful around schools, residential neighborhoods and parks and playgrounds. Drive with care, buckle up, obey speed limits, focus on the driving task, and drive sober. It is also that time of year when our deer friends are out and about looking for a mate. So, you have a lot of deer on our roadways through December. Please also be mindful of that.

Tomorrow night is our Annual Trunk or Treat event. We ask our community to please join members of the Police Department, Community Watch, and our Governing Body from 5pm-7pm for our Trick or Trunk event. It will have decorated vehicles that will line the path of Community Park where goods and treats will be given out to youngsters of all ages.

Boy Scout Troop III, Pack Night will be on October 18th. Our Point Pleasant Police Officers and our Fire Department members attended this event at Ocean Road School. They spoke to the scouts about the importance of bicycle safety, safe meeting spots, emergency escape plans and other invaluable topics to stay safe. It was a great night for our first responders to interact with our youth.

Don’t forget that our E-Bike ordinance was passed last month, and the Police Department continues to work collectively with the school administration to educate students on the new ordinance. The police department has created new warning cards to distribute to those observed violating the ordinance as another way to reinforce the law. With the cooperation of the school administration, the police department has deployed a message board on to the school grounds to promote helmet safety directed at all bicyclists. The police have started to see an increase in compliance with the safe operation and the wearing of helmets. However, those who have been previously warned and continue to disregard the law are subject to summonses. The police will continue that effort.

And finally, residents are reminded to report any suspicious activity to our Point Pleasant Police Department. The police would rather rule something out as innocent than discover later that it was criminal activity. The police department continually monitors and shares information with our surrounding jurisdictions and will notify the public of any information that would impact our area.”

Council Member Archer stated the following: “I am pleased to announce that the town, once again, got a clean audit. We get audited every year, and once again we got a clean audit with no exceptions. We are very proud of the town and our CFO and all that our Finance Department does to maintain the level of integrity that we have had over the years.

The date has been announced for Santa at Bennett’s Cabin. It will be for 2 days, December 9th and December 10th. Santa and Mrs. Clause will be there, and they will have fresh baked cookies and gifts for the kids. There will also be pictures with Santa. It is a great event.

Also, the town is applying for a grant. We are hoping to get a boardwalk around Slade Dale. We also had another grant that has been approved that is allowing us to get new playground equipment for Riverfront Park.

I also want to announce that the Kiwanis are doing a really different kind of event held on November 4, 2023, from 1pm to 4pm. It will be called Points Day of Giving. They are going to be inviting a lot of non-profits for the community to come and check out the different non-profits and to see how they can help out whatever project they may be working on. All different non-profits will be able to talk about what they are all about and get their message out there and maybe get some of our residents involved.”

Council President Coulson stated the following: “I don’t have much tonight. This Thursday is Haunts in the Park. There will be a non-scary walk through from 5pm-6pm. The older children will be able to go through from 6pm to 9pm. You can buy tickets at the Rec Center through Wednesday or purchase them that night.”

2. Report of Mayor

Mayor Sabosik stated the following: “As two of our Council Members have stated, we have received another clean audit. I want to explain more about what that means for our town. When we first came into the office, we had numerous deficiencies. In this administration, we have corrected those deficiencies to such an extent and with our credit rating going up, last year when we bonded, we got 1.83%. Now, if you look at what today’s interest would be, we were very prudent doing that last year and we were able to save the town over the life of the bond, \$707,000.00. These are real savings for the town. It shows real professionalism and the dedication of our accountants and our auditors to make this happen. I was given a tree ordinance emailed to me by the Environmental Commission. I will be sending this to Council tomorrow and to our legal counsel to evaluate said proposal and any changes, additions, and amendments that our Council and our legal department would wish to do.

We had a great fireworks night. It was one of the greatest nights for our town. I want to thank all of our sponsors who paid for all of that. Bubbakoos, Paul Altero, was a platinum sponsor. He loves Point Pleasant and I want to personally thank him for his generous donation. Our Gold sponsor was All American Ford. Another shining example of a company who wants to give back to their town. So, I give both of them a hardy applause because they really did a great job.

A new building on Beaver Dam Road. We are having our engineering people and architects looking at it. This is going to be a huge win for our town. It will be a multigenerational building from a pre-school to a senior citizen component, to a new gym. This is going to create something that the future for this town and that many generations can save. The old one is past its lifecycle. We were able to get this property at a very good price to save this town a lot of money. The old building, we would have had to take down a lot of trees, which nobody wants to do and build it there. So, stay tuned, it is exciting times for building a new Recreation Center.

I also want to say thank you to Andrew Rempfer, who is in charge of our Construction Department. With the changes of FEMA, every town was potentially losing the discount that we get off of our flood insurance. He was able to modify our application and comply in such a way, that I am happy to announce that all of our FEMA flood policies will get the same discount this year. We are one of the few towns that was able to do that.

Tonight, we have a Class II officer that we intend to hire. This officer is going to work closely with the Chief for various safety on the roads component for electric bikes. Next month, we will be adding a patrolman, and he too will be hired to make sure that everyone is complying with these new laws that we

have enacted. This additional manpower is for the benefit of all our citizens. It will help ensure the quality of life and enforcement of our ordinances.”

Council Member Wisniewski requested to add one more item before closing committee reports: “Point Pleasant Borough plays in our playoff game on Friday against Spotswood. Hopefully everyone can go. It will be the first round in the playoffs, and they are the #1 seed in their group.”

C. MINUTES

- 1. Approve Council Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2023**

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: Absent

CARRIES:

- D. 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: Mr. DePaola

SECOND: Mr. Wisniewski

APPROVED: All in Favor

Council President Coulson opened the meeting to the public.

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

E. 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. (209-2023) Bills and Claims**
- 2. (210-2023) Void Check Resolution**
- 3. (211-2023) Authorize Emergency Appropriation – Water/Sewer Utility-Pocahontas Ave.**

The bills totaling the amount of \$8,961,972.30 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: Absent

CARRIES:

F. 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. (212-2023) Authorize Adjustment and/or Refund on Certain Tax or Water/Sewer Accounts.**
- 2. (213-2023) Authorize Refund of Lien Redemption and Premium Paid at Tax Sale**
- 3. (214-2023) Cancelling Taxes and Authorizing Refund – Decker**
- 4. (215-2023) Authorize Refunds – Recreation Department**
- 5. (216-2023) Authorize Recreation Department to Rehire Part-Time Seasonals**
- 6. (217-2023) Authorize Refund of Performance Bond for 1717 Riviera Court**
- 7. (218-2023) Authorizing the Road Opening for 1117 Sampson Place**
- 8. (219-2023) Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract With the NJDOT for the Proposed Sidewalk Near Ocean Road Elementary School Project**
- 9. (220-2023) Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit**
- 10. (221-2023) Memorialize Authorization to Permit a Handicap Parking Space at 1112 Pinebluff Avenue**
- 11. (222-2023) Authorize Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the Ocean County Prosecutor – Drug Recognition Expert Callout Program, (D.R.E.C.P.) 2023-2024**
- 12. (223-2023) Authorize Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the Ocean County Prosecutor – Driving While Intoxicated Enforcement Program, (D.W.I.E.P.) 2023-2024**
- 13. (224-2023) Authorize Execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the Ocean County Prosecutor – “Move Over” Law Enforcement Program, (M.O.L.E.P.) 2023-2024**
- 14. (225-2023) Authorizing Participation of Employee Dental Insurance Plan Offered by Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc., Effective January 1, 2024.**
- 15. (226-2023) Authorize RVV for Drainage Improvements at Various Locations and Authorization to Bid – COF #2023-126**
- 16. (227-2023) Approving Engineer's Certificate Number 3, Authorizing Release of the Performance Guarantee and Acceptance of the Maintenance Guarantee for the Herbertsville Road and Maxson Avenue Proposed Sidewalk Project**
- 17. (228-2023) Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions - DPW:**
 - Retirement of William E. Knecht as DPW Maintenance Worker 2, effective September 28, 2023.**

- Retirement of Jude Walker, as DPW Supervisor, effective October 1, 2024.
 - Memorialize Dave Kinsley, as Senior Water Plant Operator, effective October 16, 2023, on a part-time basis, at \$40.00 per hour.
 - Charlie Willever is hereby appointment to the position of temporary, full-time DPW Laborer for leaf season, effective October 23, 2023, at \$16.00 per hour.
18. (229-2023) Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions – PD:
- Resignation of Theresa Gahr as full-time Crossing Guard effective November 1, 2023.
 - Kelly Staunton be appointed to the position of full-time Crossing Guard, effective November 1, 2023, at the rate of \$24.68 per hour, as per the current Teamsters Local Union No. 469 Collective Bargaining Agreement.
 - Carolyn Watters be appointed to the position of part-time Substitute Crossing Guard, effective November 1, 2023, at the rate of \$24.68 per hour, as per the current Teamsters Local Union No. 469 Collective Bargaining Agreement.
 - Judith Lomax be appointed to the position of part-time Substitute Crossing Guard, effective November 1, 2023, at the rate of \$24.68 per hour, as per the current Teamsters Local Union No. 469 Collective Bargaining Agreement.
19. (230-2023) Appointment of Special Law Enforcement Officer II (SLEO II)
- Logan Carter effective November 1, 2023.
20. (231-2023) Confirming the Following Personnel Appointment – OEM:
- Beth Degen – Community Emergency Response Team Member
21. (232-2023) Resolution Confirming the following Personnel Appointments/Actions:
- John Rowe be appointed to the position of fire sub-code official/inspector, effective October 23, 2023, at the rate of \$50.00/hr., minimum of 6 hours per week.

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: Absent

CARRIES:

G. 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.

Resident: 1011 Philadelphia Avenue – “I am a dog walker and I walk River Road every day. It is a little hairball because there are no sidewalks. I don’t understand why the Borough doesn’t have sidewalks on the side streets and these major streets. I understand there is a new fund and money set aside for sidewalk placement. Is there any plan to put sidewalks on River Road? It is very dangerous.”

Mr. Pannucci: “We actually have a few plans, and John can elaborate a little bit. I don’t know what the timeframe is, but the Public Works Committee and the Mayor and Council have been trying to work hand in hand with the county. For us to do sidewalks completely up Herbertsville and River Roads is just infinitely not feasible financially on our own. But the county is supposed to be paving up there and one of the things we have planned is to put a couple blocks on each road going up every year and try to do as much as we can in tandem when the county does do River.”

John LeCompte: “We did an estimate for River Road all the way to Community Park. We decided that we could do about three blocks at a time for about a half a million dollars. So, this year, we submitted an application to the DOT to see if we could get funding for the first three blocks and then each year we plan to tackle another section of that road.”

Resident: 2406 Spruce Street – Wanted to clarify which school was mentioned earlier about sidewalks.

The Mayor and Council clarified it to be Ocean Road School.

Michele Viggos: Running for Council – “I am running for Council in the Borough in November, and I have been out and around in the neighborhoods, and it has been pretty beneficial because I was able to talk to a lot of people individually. A lot of people are not able to make it to the town council meetings due to work or whatever they have going on. But there is a big concern with sidewalks. I actually wanted to read an email that I received today from a resident that was not able to come to the meeting.”

Michele Viggos read the email to the Mayor and Council from a resident. The email asked for sidewalks on Herbertsville road and also offered ideas on how to help make Point Pleasant safer. Also brought up that a resident who is a mail carrier has been bitten by dogs multiple times.

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

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

Mayor Sabosik stated: “I just want to say again that the Borough Engineer is working on some of the county roads with us to make sure that we can make them as safe as possible. It is an ongoing situation that we are working on and we have done in the past.”

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**