

**COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor:	Robert A. Sabosik
Council President:	Joseph Veni
Council Member:	Antoinette DePaola
Council Member:	Valerie Coulson
Council Member:	Charlene Archer
Council Member:	Joseph Furmato
Council Member:	William Stevenson
Borough Attorney:	Greg P. McGucken, Esq.
Borough Administrator:	Frank Pannucci

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 9, 2026, edition of *The Ocean Star* and published in *The Asbury Park Press* on January 9, 2026.

Mayor Sabosik stated the following: “Tonight, we are going to start with a very special proclamation, a man who gave many years to this town. With exceptional service, pride, and dedication. He did a great job working for, and with the town of Point Pleasant Borough. We are here to honor him for helping make this town what it is.”

A. PROCLAMATIONS

1. Honoring Detective Sergeant Hugh V. Hughes

Mayor Sabosik: “I'd like to present this to Mrs. Hughes. And we have a special presentation by the Chief. We are going to hang a plaque in the police department. And if anybody from the family wishes to have extra copies, I can get them. And thank you so much for your husband's dedication to the town of Point Pleasant.”

Chief Leonhardt: “The Police Department is excited to dedicate this plaque to the memory of Sergeant Hughes.”

2. Honoring the Point Pleasant Borough DPW as First Responders

Mark Lane stepped forward to receive the proclamation on behalf of the Department of Public Works

3. Recognizing 2026 OCMA Scholarship Recipient Adam Baker

B. WORKSHOP

1. Committee Reports

Council Member DePaola stated the following: “As the weather's warming up, we just want to remind residents to please be careful of bikers and pedestrians, especially with the new traffic patterns. You also notice that the State of New Jersey is doing roadwork on Route 88. So again, please be cautious and follow the directions. And I would like to congratulate the police department on recognizing Detective Sergeant Hughes and his dedication to our police department and dedicating our records room as he was the original founder. Lastly, I just wanted to say the Environmental Commission, along with the Garden Club and Point Pollinator, did a very nice job on Saturday inviting the community out to get some native plants. And the Garden Club raised some money for their endeavors. It was a very nice day. Thanks again to the police and DPW for making the parking lot accessible and safe, blocking certain entrances and exits.”

Council Member Coulson stated the following: “Summer registration for the Rec programs began on May 1st. Full day is filled, and there's forty children on the wait list. Half day is almost full. So, if you need a half-day program, you can go in and register. Summer recreation programs come out the week of June 1st, and the registration will be on June 9th. Our senior fitness this year will be moving to Nelly Bennett for the summer, so they can exercise in the air conditioning. The beaches and summer camps are fully staffed, so we have the lifeguards and the camp counselors all set in place. This coming Monday, a week from today, Memorial Day ceremony is at 11:00am over here at the Memorial Garden. So, it will be nice if people come and honor our fallen heroes. Last Saturday, a park was dedicated to a little boy by the name of Billy Paterno, and it was built by volunteers from an organization called Where Angels Play. It's a beautiful playground. If you have a chance, check it out. It's behind the Rec Center. And we're very appreciative of the volunteers, and our DPW helped a lot with the volunteers over there. We are going to have a summer movie at Riverfront Park. We did that last year. We did Jaws, and it was really nice to be on the water, and the DPW again helped set up the screen, and it was much better than when we used to do it in Community Park. So, we're doing that again. The date will be announced.”

Council Member Furmato stated the following: “I'll start with paving. Boat Point Drive has been underwater a lot. So, we are getting some reconstruction work done. Drainage is done, and they are going to be paving after Memorial Day week. Also, we have glass streets in Laguna Village. They were mixed with glass in the black top. So, they are going to be replaced. Beaverdam Road was paved by the county. Then we get to sidewalks. River and Herbertsville Road are done. They look great. I walked the sidewalks the other day with Drew Vandermark and Mark Lane, and we walked all of Herbertsville and back to River, and it really came out nice. They did a great job on people's landscaping and fixed everything up really nice. Our beaches are going to get more sand this year due to erosion. Arnold Avenue will be getting three pedestrian stops. And also, they are going to get handicap ramps there. Most of the projects that I was talking about are not paid by the Borough. We get grants. This Council works very hard to get grants from the state, federal, and it works out well. It saves us in tax dollars.”

Council Member Archer stated the following: “We are adopting the 2026 municipal budget. This has been easily the hardest budget in the last ten years. We have been working on this since the end of December, and we are adopting it tonight on time per state statute. In keeping with our promise to always stabilize the municipal portion of property tax, I am proud to be able to say that despite certain built-in cost drivers showing up that were out of our control, we have managed to actually cut spending. Our overall budget is less than last year's, which is truly a monumental feat. Our town budgets are always fat-free. There is nothing extra in our budgets. So being able to cut anything means taking the sharpest of knives and using the sharpest of knife skills to do this. Many things are driving this year's budget, which are also driving just about every towns in this state. Rising health care costs because of the state's mismanagement of state health benefits. Increased pension contributions for employees raised on us by the state and two snowstorms, one of which was the biggest we have had in a decade, which fell on a Saturday night into a Monday morning, causing soaring overtime costs for plowing. I'd also be remiss if I didn't mention the state-mandated

affordable housing costs to get through our fourth round. All of our increases were directly driven and dictated by the state of New Jersey. If these issues weren't hard enough to face, we also had to deal with interest rates dropping from the Feds, affecting our revenue streams, but we worked extremely hard to balance that by cutting whatever we could. While our overall budget is actually less than last year's because we've cut spending where we can, these built-in cost drivers that I have just mentioned are what's moving the needle here. In a state where the average municipal tax increase is five percent, this year some towns landed north of ten percent, we managed to have only a modest 3.54 increase which equates to \$81 for the entire year on an average assessed home. We manage this fee because year after year, we raise only what we need to raise and spend only what we need to spend to make sure the town still functions and still improves. Because of our fiscal prudence in the past, we put ourselves in a position to weather tough years like this. I'd like to thank the mayor and council for all their hard work on this, as well as our CFO and Administrator. This team certainly lost sleep this year because of this budget. But as usual, we took a dire financial situation that was thrust upon us by the federal and state governments and managed to give Point Pleasant a realistic and fat-free budget.”

Council Member Stevenson stated the following: “First I want to congratulate the family of Detective Sergeant Hughes. I personally knew Sergeant Hughes when I worked for the police department, and he was an invaluable member of it. Quick story. The very first police report I ever took was a middle school student who had their bicycle stolen. I was twenty years old, and a few days later, after I wrote the report, I was working the desk in dispatch that night, and Sergeant Hughes comes out, tells me to pull up the report, showed me what I did wrong and how to correct it. It was very nice, but after that, he would come up just to make sure my reports were good and everything was accurate. He would come up, and we would talk about other things, about his career, about his family, and how proud he was of all his family, especially his grandkids. So that was very special. On the legislative side, Assembly Bill A275 was introduced and sponsored by Assemblymen Kanitra and McGuckin, and the companion bill was sponsored by Senator Holzapfel. This bill would require all law enforcement officers to be given tourniquets by their agencies and for tourniquets to be available in all emergency vehicles. I know a lot of towns do issue them. I have one working in a school, but there are still many that don't. So, I feel it is the least we can do to protect our officers. So, I want to thank them, and hopefully we can get this passed.”

Council President Veni stated the following: “Congratulations to Detective Sergeant Hughes, Adam Baker, and the Borough DPW employees. I just want to say a few things about that. I'm currently the State President of the Public Works Association of New Jersey. And on behalf of the association and all its members, I would like to sincerely thank this mayor and this council for recognizing Borough Department of Public Works professionals as first responders. Public Works is more than cutting grass and snow removal. They do everything from A to Z, airports to zoos and everything else in between. It's true. And they are ready to respond at a moment's notice, should some kind of crisis occur, putting their lives at risk to serve their community. Just to give some history, shortly after 9-11, Public Works professionals were recognized as first responders on a national level. And in 2025, Public Works professionals were recognized as first responders in the state of New Jersey. And that is a bipartisan effort on Senator Vin Gopal and also Assemblyman Gregory McGuckin, who's sitting right next to me. We appreciate you. And also Assemblyman Paul Kanitra. We appreciate you and thank you for getting that across the finish line. It means a lot to us. And lastly, I'd like to mention, it's kind of ironic and fitting, but every year this week, is known as National Public Works Week. So, we appreciate that and thank you. It really means a lot to us. Earth Day, Toni touched on a lot of that. Thank you. One thing I will say is it was very disappointing that they had to cancel it. The EC does put such effort, and they really do such a good job every single year. Every year, I think it gets better and better. I was personally disappointed. I know many other people were. And the good thing with the EC is that, like Toni mentioned, the Garden Club, we met last week, and they did more of like an Earth Day 2.0. And they really do a good job driving home the information to our residents and us as Council, especially me. I really like learning a lot from them and them guiding me as far as sustainability and simple things that we can do on an everyday basis that will make a big impact for our environment. For example, they're talking about dark sky initiatives, fertilizers, and then the Pathway for

Life, which, Council did that proclamation a couple months ago. You know, those are the small things that we really need to focus on. Not necessarily the big, gigantic things that cost an astronomical amount of money. So, I give them a lot of credit, and I do really enjoy working with them. Moving along to our lighting upgrade. I was speaking with DPW Director Mark, and it looks like we are moving forward with that. You know, it's a lot of things, you know, a lot of benefits from that. Number one, we are going to get automatic energy reduction to exterior lights and interior lights. It's going to be better lights for our employees, and for our residents to walk outside in the dark hours. Maintenance is going to be a lot less for our DPW crews. They are going to have to change, barely change really any lights for years. And also, we're reducing our carbon footprint, and at the end of the day what taxpayers like most is we are going to be saving a lot of money for our taxpayers. It's just all win, win. Just like Mayor Bob and Councilman Joe Furmato just mentioned, no matter the size of the project, this team, this council, we work hard to find ways where we can subsidize costs. We really do. And it's been a long time, I know we've been saying this for a couple of years, we are going to do it. Sometimes patience is key, and in this case, it worked out great because, just so everybody understands, a project like this a couple of years ago, and without rebate incentives, you are talking upwards minimum fifteen to twenty thousand. Because of the instant rebates, which is even better because the DPW personnel don't have to sit there and write every little fixture down and make sure it qualifies. We are looking at about \$2,000.00. So, I mean, it's just a win-win-win, every which way I look at it. So, I appreciate the efforts of Mark and Frank for finding the money and also everybody being so patient on waiting on us.”

Mayor Sabosik stated the following: “You know this town continues to evolve with improvements on various roads, parks, and playgrounds. This team on the dais will continue to gather more data to continue the tradition of finding grant monies from all avenues, including Trenton, and Washington DC. The average town spends about thirty percent of total tax dollars to run and improve the town. We are very fortunate that our team runs our town, your town, with approximately twenty-two percent of the total tax revenue collected. We, among the lowest in the whole County. This efficiency has been accomplished by policy of finding dollars everywhere. This is why the team approach yields results far above what a single individual could accomplish. Elected individuals with professional staff in town hall hire professionals in all aspects of what a town needs to be truly successful. Working as a team, this is not a pipe dream. This is reality, folks. This is where everybody leaves their egos outside. We work strictly to make this town the best that it could be. So, stay tuned, our future looks bright, looks successful, and we will continue to run this town using a team approach for the benefit of all of our citizens.”

C. MINUTES

1. Approve Council Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2026.

MOTION: Approve Minutes

MADE: Coulson

SECOND: DePaola

Mr. Veni: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

D. ORDINANCES

1. Introduction

Ordinance 2026-07 Providing for Various Capital Improvements and Expenses in and for the Borough of Point Pleasant and Appropriating \$1,944,971 therefore and Providing for the Issuance of \$1,846,971 in Bonds or Notes

MOTION: Adopt Ordinance

MADE: Archer

SECOND: DePaola

Mr. Veni: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

2. Introduction

Ordinance 2026-08 Providing for Various Water and Sewer Utility Improvements and Other Related and Appropriating \$525,300 therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$498,800 in Bonds or Notes

MOTION: Adopt Ordinance

MADE: Coulson

SECOND: Furmato

Mr. Veni: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

3. Introduction

Ordinance 2026-09 Creating Borough Code Section 7-25, Entitled “Designated Handicapped Parking on School Street”

MOTION: Adopt Ordinance

MADE: Stevenson

SECOND: DePaola

Mr. Veni: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

4. **Introduction**
Ordinance 2026-10 Amending and Supplementing Chapter 19 of the Borough Code of the Borough of Point Pleasant, Entitled “Land Use”

MOTION: Adopt Ordinance

MADE: DePaola

SECOND: Coulson

Mr. Veni: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

E. **MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

1. **Public Hearing of 2026 Municipal Budget as Introduced**
2. **(136-2026) Adoption of 2026 Municipal Budget**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Sabosik: “Tonight, we have a, a municipal budget public hearing. The 2026 municipal budget is introduced. Adoption of the 2026 municipal budget. Would anybody like to step forward to discuss the municipal budget? Frank, would you like to say anything?”

Mr. Pannucci: “No, I think Councilwoman Archer said it best. This was easily the toughest budget in over a decade. Our CFO, Himanshu, is here with his staff. They did an amazing job working tirelessly along with the Mayor and Council. It's rare in a day and age where, as the Councilwoman said, we have all these things facing us that we're actually able to reduce spending at the same time. I'm actually in disbelief we were able to pull it off, but the teamwork that we have up here and with our staff made it possible. So, if anybody has a question on the budget, by all means, now is the time.”

Meeting was opened for public comments/questions.

Seeing no hands, this portion of the meeting was closed.

MOTION: Adopt Budget

MADE: Archer

SECOND: Furmato

Mr. Veni: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

**F. 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: Stevenson

SECOND: DePaola

APPROVED: All in Favor

Council President Veni opened the meeting to the public.

Resident: 2117 Foster Road: Asked for clarification on Resolution Item #10 regarding handicapped cuts on Arnold Avenue. Asked if we could get grants for that project.

Mr. Pannucci: “Answered that there is a grant. Those are the CDBG Grants that are paying for the whole project.”

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

**G. RESOLUTIONS
Five (5) Minute Limit Per Person**

“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. (137-2026) Bills and Claims**
- 2. (138-2026) Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit**
- 3. (139-2026) Approval Corrective Action Plan 2025 Audit**

The bills for 2026 totaling the amount of \$15,029,947.03 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: Coulson

SECOND: DePaola

Mr. Veni: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

H. 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. (140-2026) Authorize Adjustment and/or Refund on Certain Tax or Water/Sewer Accounts
2. (141-2026) Authorize the Borough of Point Pleasant Tax Collector to Prepare and Mail Estimated Tax Bills in Accordance with P.L. 1994.C.72
3. (142-2026) Authorize Recreation Department Refunds
4. (143-2026) Authorize Recreation Department to Rehire Part-time Seasonals
5. (144-2026) Authorizing the Road Opening for 1719 Rue Mirador
6. (145-2026) Authorizing Fourth Amendment to Agreement to Provide Fixed Rate Insured Prescription Drug Management Services Offered by Benecard Services LLC
7. (146-2026) Confirming Personnel Action – DPW
 - Resignation of Kenneth Gahr as Laborer in DPW effective May 8, 2026.
8. (147-2026) Approving the Following Applications:
 - Approval of Idle Hour, Annual Expansion of Premise Permit Renewal.
 - Clarks Landing Caterers, LLC, Petition to Extend Licensed Premises, Outdoor event on June 10, 2026, from 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM (rain date June 17, 2026) at the Clarks Landing marina.
9. (148-2026) Rescinding Resolution #109-2026 and Confirming 2025 Length of Service Award List (LOSAP)
10. (149-2026) Authorizing RVE to Move Forward with the Bid and Project Management of Handicapped Depressions and Crosswalks on Arnold Avenue

MOTION: Adopt Consent Agenda

MADE: Furmato

SECOND: Coulson

Mr. Veni: Yes

Ms. DePaola: Yes

Ms. Coulson: Yes

Ms. Archer: Yes

Mr. Furmato: Yes

Mr. Stevenson: Yes

CARRIES:

I. 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: Stevenson

SECOND: DePaola

APPROVED: All in Favor

Mayor Sabosik opened the meeting to the public.

Resident: 2117 Foster Road: Commented on what a good job the Garden Club does on all the planters and plants in front of the Post Office. Also mentioned that the street sweeper went down his street and does an excellent job.

Mayor Sabosik stated that we are very fortunate to have such a motivated and talented Public Works department. Stated that they do a great job for the town of Point Pleasant.

Resident: 2117 Foster Road: Asked for an update on when Verizon will be available in the town of Point Pleasant.

Mr. Pannucci: “So as the Mayor reported a few months back, Verizon is starting to put their infrastructure into Point Borough. But Verizon is known to take their own time. In the meantime, Mayor Sabosik and Council President Veni, they have been talking with government liaisons from Optimum Online, Optimum Cable, the whole company, and they are looking to set up a meeting with us in June to talk about logistics. They are looking to come into town quicker than even Verizon Fios. So, within the next two years, thanks to Mayor Sabosik, Councilman Veni, and the rest of the Council, Point Pleasant Borough will have three options for their cable and internet.”

Mayor Sabosik: “We will bring competition into the town. It has taken us years to get to this.”

Resident: 2117 Foster Road: “Also, the streetlight at the end of the street by the library is out.”

Mayor Sabosik stated that the Chief of Police will take care of that.

Resident: 2117 Foster Road: “On the outbound side of Treeneedle Road, by Colonial Ranch, A lot of people who cannot find parking are making a u-turn the wrong way. It has been happening a lot now.”

Mayor Sabosik stated that with the new hires in the police department, they will be able to have a more active traffic department on Bridge Avenue. Also reminded people to not pass on the right on Bridge Avenue because the warnings are over and tickets are being issued.

Seeing no other hands, Mayor Sabosik closed public participation.

Mayor Sabosik stated that there would be no executive session this evening.

Before closing the meeting, Mayor Sabosik thanked the Finance Department for working so hard on this Municipal Budget. Commented that the three employees in Finance are the best of the best and personally thanked each one for their hard work and dedication to the Borough of Point Pleasant.

Councilman Stevensen commented that the Chief of Police came to this meeting on his birthday.

The Mayor and Council wished Chief Leonhardt a happy birthday.

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**