

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

September 8, 2026

PRESENT: Mayor John Coiro, presiding, Council President Lou D'Angelo, Councilman Anthony Picarelli, Councilman William Bucher, Councilman Patrick Fierro, Councilman Sanders Reynoso, Councilwoman Kristen Coiro, Municipal Clerk Joseph Wassel and Municipal Attorney Kristin Corrado.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor John Coiro called the meeting to order and asked the Municipal Clerk to call the roll.

Municipal Clerk Wassel recited the Prayer of the Meeting followed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag with the public participating.

Mayor Coiro asked the Clerk to read the statement of the meeting.

Municipal Clerk Wassel read the following statement: This meeting of the Mayor and Council held on this day is being held in accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 of the State of New Jersey as amended. The agenda for this meeting has been prepared and distributed to the Mayor and Council and a copy has been on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to dispense with the regular order of business in order to hold a public hearing on Ordinance No. 15-2026 as advertised. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Municipal Clerk Wassel announced that Ordinance No. 15-2026 has been advertised for public hearing for Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

Municipal Clerk Wassel read the legal notice and the title of Ordinance No. 15-2026.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to open the public hearing. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Coiro asked if any citizens wished to be heard on Ordinance No. 15-2026.

CITIZENS HEARD:

There were no citizens who wished to be heard.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to close the public hearing. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Municipal Clerk Wassel read Ordinance No. 15-2026 by title:

ORDINANCE NO. 15-2026

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA
CHAPTER 295 ENTITLED "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE", SECTION 10,
"ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS" AND TO CREATE A NEW SECTION 12 TO BE
ENTITLED "BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES"**

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to adopt Ordinance No. 15-2026 on second and final reading. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to revert to the regular order of business. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Coiro asked if any members of the Council, the Municipal Clerk or the Municipal Attorney wished to address the Council.

Councilman Reynoso: Commented that, 1) we had a great summer camp; 2) we had a successful pool season with 545 members; and 3) the last summer concert will be held tomorrow night featuring Biagio.

CITIZENS HEARD:

Carole Palumbo, 304 Lincoln Avenue: Asked for an update on the ADA ramps across the street and putting a lip on the ramp on her corner. Mayor Coiro: Told her that there are no ramps across the street because the engineer said the scope of the work was to stop at the corner and that the State reviews these projects. Also, said that we cannot put a lip on the ramp by her house due to ADA regulations. Continued by saying that we have had people up by her house during the most recent heavy rainstorms and that the water did not come up the sidewalk. Asked DPW Superintendent Jim Niland to contact the engineer again to question why there are no ADA ramps across the street and then call Ms. Palumbo. DPW Superintendent Niland: Said he was also there during a very heavy rainstorm and the water was going into both catch basins and only came up to about halfway on the ramp. A conversation ensued.

Jessica Sime, 959 Riverview Drive: Stated that she sent an email requesting an expansion of the garden area or relocating to another location, but that she was okay if we can't expand or relocate. Said she doesn't need an answer now, but there is a grant deadline. Mayor Coiro: Responded that we will discuss it and let her know.

Vittorio Giordano, 126 Lincoln Avenue: Said that parking is very bad where he lives because there are multiple people and families living in houses by him and asked if we could go back to permit parking like when the Hop was there or time limit parking or no parking overnight. Also, said that there are numerous parties at these houses and people are peeing on his property and leaving garbage everywhere. Mayor Coiro: Informed him that we will need the addresses of the homes with multiple people living there so we can send an inspector out and to call the Police Department if the parties get out of hand. Detective Sergeant Gary Bierach: Told the Mayor that he would speak with the Chief to have our patrols give extra attention down there on weekends. Mayor Coiro: Remarked going back to the comment about the Hop and permit parking, it is a blessing and a curse, which is the same with either time limit parking or no overnight parking. Continued by saying that we will consider it, but would need you to produce a petition from whatever section of residents want to be included in the restricted parking area.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to approve the Minutes of the Mayor and Council for the meeting of August 25, 2026. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative. Councilman Reynoso abstained from the voting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve Resolution No. 2026-19 for the payment of bills. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following Resolution Certifying That The Governing Body Has Complied With N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 Pertaining To The Annual Audit. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 127-2026

RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THAT THE GOVERNING BODY HAS COMPLIED WITH N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 PERTAINING TO THE ANNUAL AUDIT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2025 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations"; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations" as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the governing body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52 – to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52 – “A local Officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

There was a motion by Councilman D’Angelo, seconded by Councilman Bucher to approve the firefighter application, the purchase of firefighter equipment and authorize a firefighter physical for Tatiana M. Toribio for Fire Rescue Company No. 4. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:

There was no report.

COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

There was a motion by Councilman Fierro, seconded by Councilman Reynoso to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing Professional Engineering Services For Speed Humps On Crosby Avenue At Carroll Place And Jefferson Place. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 128-2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
SERVICES FOR SPEED HUMPS ON CROSBY AVENUE
AT CARROLL PLACE AND JEFFERSON PLACE

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to retain the services of a professional engineering firm to provide design services for two speed humps on Crosby Avenue at the intersections of Carroll Place and Jefferson Place; and

WHEREAS, the professional engineering services for the speed humps include a study to determine the suitability of the speed humps, traffic count and the details of the design of the speed hump for each location; and

WHEREAS, Alaimo Group has submitted a proposal dated August 24, 2026 to provide the design services for the speed humps for the roads selected at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.00, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa on September 8, 2026 did examine the proposal submitted by Alaimo Group; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable New Jersey State laws, these professional services may be awarded without public bidding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby accept the proposal submitted by Alaimo Group for professional engineering services for two speed humps on Crosby Avenue at the intersections of Carroll Place and Jefferson Place in the amount of \$15,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize Alaimo Group to perform the professional services as set forth in their proposal.

COMMITTEE ON LIAISON & INSPECTION:

There was no report.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to introduce on first reading and advertise for public hearing the following entitled ordinance. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-2026

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA
CHAPTER 186 ENTITLED “FIRE PREVENTION”, ARTICLE I, “ENFORCEMENT OF
FIRE CODE”, SECTION 8, “ADDITIONAL REQUIRED INSPECTIONS AND FEES”**

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to adopt the following Proclamation In Honor Of The 150th Anniversary Of Hanson & Ryan, Inc. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

**PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF THE 150th ANNIVERSARY
OF HANSON & RYAN, INC.**

WHEREAS, Hanson & Ryan was founded in 1876 in Paterson, New Jersey, originally as the Eugene H. Olden Agency, beginning a remarkable history of service and family leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Ryan family joined the agency in 1939, beginning a tradition that has now spanned four generations; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Hanson & Ryan moved to the Borough of Totowa, establishing roots in our community that have remained strong for nearly six decades; and

WHEREAS, following a devastating fire in 1988 that destroyed its office, Hanson & Ryan demonstrated its resilience by rebuilding in Totowa at the location that remains its home today; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, sisters Carrie Nielsen and Kristin Ryan purchased the agency from their father, Terry Ryan, marking a new chapter in the company's history as a women-owned business; and

WHEREAS, today, Hanson & Ryan employs approximately 30 people and provides personal, business, health, and life insurance services throughout New Jersey and across the country, while maintaining a strong commitment to its employees and community; and

WHEREAS, Hanson & Ryan is deeply committed to philanthropy and community involvement, supporting local charities, first responders, community organizations, youth programs, and causes important to its employees and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa recognize Hanson & Ryan, Inc. as a valued and longstanding member of the Totowa business community and commend its leadership, employees, and generations of family members for their dedication and commitment to excellence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa hereby proudly recognize and congratulate Hanson & Ryan, Inc. on the celebration of its 150th Anniversary, and extend our sincere appreciation for its nearly six decades as a proud member of the Totowa community.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Borough of Totowa joins Hanson & Ryan, Inc. in celebrating 150 years of service, four generations of family leadership, and an enduring commitment to its clients, employees, and community.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that this tribute is given on this 8th day of September, 2026.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to approve Raffle License Application No. 2497 for Totowa Volunteer Fire Company #1 for a Casino Night to be held on October 2, 2026. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to approve Raffle License Application No. 2498 for the BPOE #2111 Passaic Valley Elks for an On-Premise 50-50 to be held on October 16, 2026. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to approve Raffle License Application No. 2499 for the BPOE #2111 Passaic Valley Elks for an On-Premise 50-50 to be held on October 25, 2026. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to approve Raffle License Application No. 2500 for the BPOE #2111 Passaic Valley Elks for an On-Premise 50-50 to be held on November 6, 2026. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There being no further business to come before the Council, there was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli that the meeting be adjourned. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Joseph Wassel, RMC
Municipal Clerk