

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

May 13, 2025

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

ABSENT: Councilman William Bucher.

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 enable the Mayor and Council to present Sports Award Certificates to the 2025 Totowa PAL Boys & Girls 3rd & 4th, Boys 5th & 6th, and Boys & Girls 7th & 8th Grade Passaic Valley Youth Basketball League champions, to hold a public hearing on the 2025 Municipal Budget and to hold a public hearing on Ordinance No. 07-2025 as advertised. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Coiro remarked that he doesn't ever remember honoring five of our teams on the same night, but that it is always a fun night for us to celebrate our youth and congratulated

all the basketball players and coaches on winning the championship and mentioned how it is great that they are involved in team sports as it teaches you about teamwork, hard work and dedication.

Mayor Coiro began with the 3rd & 4th Grade Girls, then the 3rd & 4th Grade Boys, followed by the 5th & 6th Grade Boys, then the 7th & 8th Grade Girls and finally the 7th & 8th Grade Boys championship teams. Mayor Coiro started with the coaches for each team who gave a recap of their season and continued with the players for each team and presented each with a Sports Award Certificate. Coach Chad Alesandrelli thanked the Mayor and Council, Senator Kristin Corrado and Borough Clerk Wassel for honoring the teams. After each team was presented with Sports Award Certificates, pictures were taken.

Mayor Coiro announced that we would take a short recess so additional pictures could be taken of the teams and personal congratulations could be extended by the Mayor and Council.

Municipal Clerk Wassel announced that the 2025 Municipal Budget and Ordinance No. 07-2025 have been advertised for public hearing for Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

Municipal Clerk Wassel read the Municipal Budget Notice.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to adopt the following Resolution To Waive The Reading In Full Of The 2025 Municipal Budget. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 63-2025

RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE READING IN FULL OF THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 permits that the Budget as advertised may be read by its title providing that at least one week prior to the date of the hearing and at the hearing, a complete copy of the approved budget:

- a) shall be made available for public inspection; and
- b) shall be made available to each person upon request; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa has complied with the aforesaid requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council that the Borough of Totowa is hereby permitted to waive the reading in full, of the Municipal Budget for the year ending December 31, 2025.

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 the 2025 Municipal Budget.

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.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to adopt the following Resolution Regarding Self-Examination Of The 2025 Municipal Budget. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 64-2025

RESOLUTION REGARDING SELF-EXAMINATION OF THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 thru 7.5 the Borough of Totowa has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Borough meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2025 budget year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Totowa that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the Governing Body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, if applicable, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget.
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes.
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met. (Complies with the "CAP" law).
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated;
 - b. Items of appropriations are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to approve Resolution No. 65-2025 To Adopt The 2025 Municipal Budget. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Municipal Clerk Wassel read the legal notice and the title of Ordinance No. 07-2025.

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. 07-2025.

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. 07-2025 by title:

ORDINANCE NO. 07-2025

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA
CHAPTER 407 ENTITLED "WATER", ARTICLE I, "WATER USE",
SECTION 25, "CHARGES AND FEES"**

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to adopt Ordinance No. 07-2025 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: Mentioned the following: 1) Congratulated the Board of Recreation, DPW, PD and the Library for the Car Show and mentioned that the businesses were very happy that it was held on Union Boulevard; 2) The Pool and Camp registrations are open online and the in-person registration will be held on June 5th & 12th at the Library; 3) Totowa Day will be held on June 14th up at the PAL once again; 4) The Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 25th; 5) We will have 11 Summer Concerts this year.

CITIZENS HEARD:

Thafer Hanini, 18 Huntington Terrace: Said that an intruder broke into his home a few weeks ago looking to steal his cars, but ended up in his daughter's room, who screamed and is now scared to sleep in her room. Also, stated a neighbor had a break in and had three cars stolen. Noted that the Police have been great, but he is looking for the Mayor and Council for assistance or recommendations on how to make their neighborhood safe. Mayor Coiro: Expressed that he was sorry to hear about this and that he has spoken to the Police Chief to step up their patrols. Advised that installing gates would not be allowed because they are public roads. Mr. Hanini: Asked about getting license plate readers and private security. Police Chief Carmen Veneziano: Said they have stepped up their patrols to be more visual, we can look into the license plate readers, but that most of the vehicles used are either stolen themselves or the plates are hidden, and we would have to check with our Attorney on using private security.

Leon Kitovsky, 37 Mountainwood Court: Asked the Police Chief how long the stepped up patrols would last. Police Chief Veneziano: Responded as long as needed, but we also have other parts of the Borough that need to be patrolled and emergencies that need to be responded to. Mr. Kitovsky: Then asked for ideas on how they can protect their families – would a gate be possible in the future and they would all chip in to pay for it, and he said he has a gun, can he use that? Mayor Coiro: Told about his house trying to be broken into recently and how they didn't have cameras, but now they installed cameras, lights, better locks and you're still not safe from the criminals. Also, explained the gate situation and how Hickory Hill received their approval for a gate because their roads are private and they maintain them.

Walid Hamzeh, 56 Hamilton Trail: Inquired about having cameras installed at the beginning of the development and also at the top and have the Police monitor them. Mayor Coiro: Asked Council President D'Angelo to contact Convergint on Vreeland Avenue about having some cameras installed and also asked Police Chief Veneziano to contact Passaic County to borrow their camera for a while.

A conversation ensued between the various residents in attendance, the Mayor and

Council, Borough Attorney, Police Chief and Detective Sergeant Gary Bierach, Detective Sergeant Brian Britting and Detective Lieutenant James Eisele.

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 April 22, 2025. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative. Councilman Fierro and 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. 2025-11 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 authorizing the Treasurer to issue a tax refund for Lloyd De Pope, 167 Bogert Street, Block 147, Lot 19 due to a 100% Exemption for a 100% permanent and total disability. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Lloyd De Pope, 167 Bogert Street, Block 147, Lot 19 has applied for a 100% exemption for a 100% permanent and total disability; and

WHEREAS, he meets all the requirements for the exemption; and

WHEREAS, the 100% disability became effective on January 2, 2024, and he applied for exemption on March 24, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Kearney Federal Savings Bank paid the taxes from March 24, 2025 to June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$1,898.70 and therefore Lloyd De Pope is entitled to a refund of \$1,898.70.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Treasurer is authorized to refund \$1,898.70 to Lloyd De Pope and upon paying the refund due to the Taxpayer, this property will be exempted from future tax payments.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing Contract For Social Media Services And Media Consulting. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 66-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR SOCIAL MEDIA SERVICES AND MEDIA CONSULTING

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa requires the services of a professional firm for the purpose of providing social media services and media consulting; and

WHEREAS, the professional services to be provided by the consulting firm include, but are not limited to, expanding the presence of social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and X; creating relevant municipal content to share; structuring a schedule for posting vital information and community messaging and highlighting important Totowa projects and events; and

WHEREAS, the professional consulting contract shall be awarded on a trial basis effective May 15, 2025 through November 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, GovEd Solutions NJ, LLC, 129 Winifred Drive, Totowa, New Jersey 07512 has submitted a proposal dated April 24, 2025 to provide the professional social media services and media consulting, a copy of which is on file in the office of the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, GovEd Solutions NJ, LLC shall be entitled to compensation in accordance with the fee scheduled set forth in their proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to authorize this contract on a trial basis to better communicate with and serve the residents of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Borough of Totowa to enter into a contract with GovEd Solutions NJ, LLC to provide social media services and media consulting to the Borough of Totowa.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all necessary instruments relating thereto.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Capo to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing The Purchase And Installation Of A New Will-Burt LED Nightscan Light Tower For The Borough Of Totowa Fire Department. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 67-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW WILL-BURT LED NIGHTSCAN LIGHT TOWER FOR THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the LED Nightscan Light Tower on Borough of Totowa Fire Department Fleet Vehicle Rescue No. 4 was inadvertently damaged returning from a fire call; and

WHEREAS, the Light Tower provides lighting during emergency night responses as well as enhances safety and security in a variety of situations during rescue and recovery operations; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Fire Chief has requested the purchase and installation of a new LED Nightscan Light Tower for the Borough of Totowa Fire Department as soon as possible to ensure that Rescue No. 4 is readily available to respond to all fire calls; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa have determined that there is a need to quickly replace this illuminating equipment which will safeguard our volunteer firefighters as they respond to emergency calls; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to authorize the purchase and installation of a new Will-Burt LED Nightscan Light Tower for the Fire Department which is compatible with the existing fire apparatus; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Emergency Vehicles, LLC ("NJEV, LLC"), 2201 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 2, Manasquan, New Jersey 08736 has submitted a proposal for the purchase and installation of a new Will-Burt LED Nightscan Light Tower, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new Will-Burt LED Nightscan Light Tower is comparable to the make and model of the Light Tower that was damaged and is designed for installation on Rescue Trucks; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Fire Chief has also recommended that NJEV install the new Light Tower since they employ a team of skilled technicians who specialize in mounting equipment on Rescue trucks; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable New Jersey State laws, the emergency purchase and installation of this compatible equipment may be authorized without public bidding for the well-being and safety of the volunteer firefighters and residents of the Borough of Totowa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the purchase and installation of a new Will-Burt LED Nightscan Light Tower for the Borough of Totowa Fire Department in the amount of \$22,541.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Municipal Clerk and Fire Chief to execute any and all instruments relating thereto.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Capo to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing The Submission Of A Strategic Plan For The Totowa Municipal Drug Alliance Fiscal Year 2026 Grant Cycle July 1, 2025 To June 30, 2026. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 68-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE TOTOWA MUNICIPAL DRUG ALLIANCE FISCAL YEAR 2026 GRANT CYCLE JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Substance Use Disorder in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent substance use disorder in communities throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey recognizes that substance use disorder is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent substance use disorder in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder through the County of Passaic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Totowa Municipal Drug Alliance grant for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (FY2026) in the amount of:

GCSUD GRANT	\$8,277.00
Cash Match	\$2,069.25
In-Kind	\$6,207.75

2. The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa acknowledge the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:

There was no report.

COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

There was no report.

COMMITTEE ON LIAISON & INSPECTION:

There was a motion by Councilman Reynoso, seconded by Councilman Fierro to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing The Provision Of A Grant Pursuant To The Borough Of Totowa Affordability Assistance Program For The Tenant Of An Affordable Housing Unit Located At Sunset Ridge At Totowa, 617 Preakness Avenue, Apartment 210. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 69-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROVISION OF A GRANT PURSUANT TO THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE TENANT OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT LOCATED AT SUNSET RIDGE AT TOTOWA, 617 PREAKNESS AVENUE, APARTMENT 210

WHEREAS, Applicant, Abdelghani Touka ("Tenant") will be renting Apartment 210, Sunset Ridge at Totowa, 617 Preakness Avenue, Totowa, New Jersey 07512 ("Unit"), a property governed by the statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations restricting occupancy and use of the property as an affordable housing unit; and

WHEREAS, the Tenant is eligible for an Affordability Assistance Grant through the Borough of Totowa's Affordability Assistance Program to pay for four month's rent for the Unit; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa's Affordable Housing Administrative Agent, Community Grants, Planning & Housing, LLC, ("CGP&H") has reviewed the Tenant's application and qualified the Tenant for the requested assistance; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the requested grant for the four month's rent will be paid directly to the Landlord, (\$4,700.00) by the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa is willing, pursuant to the Affordability Assistance Program, to extend a grant in the amount of \$4,700.00; and

WHEREAS, the funding for the grant will be from the Borough of Totowa Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the following:

1. The Borough of Totowa is hereby authorized, pursuant to the Borough of Totowa's Affordability Assistance Program, to provide the Tenant with a grant to be used to pay four month's rent for the Unit.
2. The Mayor, Municipal Clerk, Borough Attorney, CFO and such other staff and officials as may be appropriate are authorized to take such steps as may reasonably be required to implement this resolution, including issuance of the grant amount.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all necessary instruments relating thereto.

There was a motion by Councilman Reynoso, seconded by Councilman Fierro to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing Contract For Professional Planning Services For 2025. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 70-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL PLANNING SERVICES FOR 2025

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa requires the services of a professional planner to provide general consulting services on an as-needed basis to assist the Borough of Totowa, Planning Board and Board of Adjustment; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa did advertise for receipt of sealed proposals for the professional planning services in accordance with its specifications entitled "Request for Proposals for the Position of Municipal Planner for the Borough of Totowa"; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa did receive proposals at its Municipal Building on April 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Liaison and Inspection Committee did examine all proposals for professional planning services; and

WHEREAS, Jersey Professional Management, having its principal place of business at 16 Pearl Street, Suite 210, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840, has submitted a proposal to provide the required planning services, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Jersey Professional Management possesses the necessary experience and expertise to perform the professional planning services; and

WHEREAS, for providing the required services, the Borough of Totowa will compensate, Jersey Professional Management in accordance with their proposal; and

WHEREAS, the term of this contract shall be effective as of the date of this Resolution and terminate on December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the professional planning services shall be awarded as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Borough of Totowa to enter into a contract with Jersey Professional Management to serve as the Borough of Totowa Municipal Planner and provide professional planning services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all necessary instruments relating thereto.

There was a motion by Councilman Reynoso, seconded by Councilman Fierro to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing Contract For Geese Control Services For 2025. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 71-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR GEESE CONTROL SERVICES FOR 2025

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Board of Recreation has recommended that the Borough of Totowa hire a qualified company to provide safe and effective geese clearing and control services at all of the Borough of Totowa recreational ball fields; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa have also determined that there is a need to retain a company that can provide these services to ensure the health and well-being of the residents of the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa has solicited quotes for the necessary geese clearing services for all of the Borough of Totowa recreational fields as well as Washington Park School and the Municipal Complex; and

WHEREAS, Geese Chasers North Jersey LLC, P.O. Box 282, Great Meadows, New Jersey 07838 submitted a proposal dated April 30, 2025 to clear and maintain a virtually geese-free environment with the use of working border collies, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, Geese Chasers North Jersey LLC will provide these services to the Borough of Totowa on an as needed basis for a term not to exceed a period of one (1) year; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable New Jersey State laws, the contract for these services may be authorized without public bidding since the total contract price will not exceed the public bidding threshold.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize a contract with Geese Chasers North Jersey LLC for all necessary geese control and clearing services in accordance with the fee schedule set forth in their proposal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Totowa does hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute any and all instruments relating thereto.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:

There was a motion by Councilman Fierro, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to adopt the following Resolution Requesting The Restoration Of Energy Receipts Taxes To Municipalities. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 72-2025

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE RESTORATION OF ENERGY RECEIPTS TAXES TO MUNICIPALITIES

WHEREAS, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities to be used for local purposes and to compensate the public for the use of their rights of way; and

WHEREAS, when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; since, just as municipalities collect property taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties and other entities; the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, for years State budget makers have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to fund State programs; and instead of being spent on local programs and services and used to offset property taxes, the money has been spent as successive Legislatures and Administrations have seen fit; and

WHEREAS, while the State may need to have the right to override the statutory dedication of these revenues to local governments, in order to deal with emergencies and crises that may occur; current State policymakers should not exercise that right automatically; and

WHEREAS, while that right should be the exception, it has become the rule; and

WHEREAS, by keeping flat funding of the appropriation for CMPTRA year-over-year, State Budget makers have been able to continue collecting Energy Taxes, while keeping additional revenue that should have been returned to provide property tax relief; and

WHEREAS, in SFY 2023, the State did provide some much-needed relief in the allocation of \$75 million of new funds identified as the Municipal Relief Fund; and

WHEREAS, in SFY 2024, the State allocated \$150 million in Municipal Relief Funds, however, in SFY 2025 and, as proposed in SFY 2026, no allocation will exist; and

WHEREAS, in SFY 2024 the Energy Tax Receipts Program should have received over \$350 million to restore municipalities back to 2008 levels, however, the State's diversion of Energy Taxes has continued to grow causing more of a financial gap; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of flat funding and underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials are in the best position to decide the best use of these resources, which were always intended to fund local programs and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Totowa, in the County of Passaic, calls for the immediate restoration of funding diverted from Energy Taxes intended for local use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, respectfully, call on State policy makers to end the diversion of our municipal resources to cover State spending and to provide us with this important tool to relieve the worst-in-the-nation property tax burden borne, for too long, by the people of New Jersey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy, Senator Kristin M. Corrado, Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips, Assemblyman Al Barlas and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

There was a motion by Councilman Fierro, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to adopt the following Proclamation Declaring May As National Water Safety Month In The Borough Of Totowa. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY AS NATIONAL WATER SAFETY
MONTH IN THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

WHEREAS, citizens of the Borough of Totowa, along with New Jersey Swim Alliance ("NJSSA") and New Jersey Recreation & Park Association ("NJRPA") recognize the vital role that swimming and aquatic-related activities relate to good physical and mental health and enhance the quality of life for all people; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Borough of Totowa along with NJSSA and NJRPA understand the essential role that education regarding the topic of Water Safety plays in preventing drownings and recreational water-related injuries; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Borough of Totowa along with NJSSA and NJRPA are aware of the contributions made by the recreational water industry, as represented by the organizations involved in the National Water Safety Month Coalition in developing safe swimming facilities, aquatic programs, home pools and spas, and related activities providing healthy places to recreate, learn and grow, build self-esteem, confidence and sense of self-worth which contributes to the quality of life in our community; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Borough of Totowa along with NJSSA and NJRPA recognize ongoing efforts and commitments to educate the public on pool and spa safety issues and initiatives by the pool, spa, waterpark, recreation and parks industries; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Borough of Totowa along with NJSSA and NJRPA understand the vital importance of communicating Water Safety rules and programs to families and individuals of all ages, whether owners of private pools, users of public swimming facilities or visitors to waterparks.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby declare the month of May as

NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa urge all those in the community to support and promote this observance

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