

## **BOROUGH OF TOTOWA**

### **MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**May 12, 2026**

**PRESENT:** Mayor John Coiro, presiding, Council President Lou D'Angelo, Councilman Anthony Picarelli, Councilman Patrick Fierro, Councilman Sanders Reynoso, Councilwoman Kristen Coiro, 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 2026 Totowa PAL Boys 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, Boys 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, and Boys 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Passaic Valley Youth Basketball League champions, to hold a public hearing on the 2026 Municipal Budget and to hold a public hearing on Ordinance Nos. 08-2026 & 09-2026 as advertised. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Coiro remarked that we have all three teams here again celebrating another league championship, said we always enjoy celebrating our youth and congratulated all the

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

Mayor Coiro began with the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, then the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade 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 2026 Municipal Budget and Ordinance Nos. 08-2026 & 09-2026 have been advertised for public hearing for Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

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 2026 Municipal Budget. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 82-2026

#### RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE READING IN FULL OF THE 2026 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, 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 the 2026 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 2026 Municipal Budget. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 83-2026

#### RESOLUTION REGARDING SELF-EXAMINATION OF THE 2026 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 2026 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. 84-2026 To Adopt The 2026 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. 08-2026.

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. 08-2026.

**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. 08-2026 by title:

**ORDINANCE NO. 08-2026**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA  
CHAPTER 415 ENTITLED "ZONING AND LAND USE", PART 1 "GENERAL  
PROVISIONS", ARTICLE II, "DEFINITIONS", AND PART 3, "SUBDIVISION AND  
SITE PLAN REVIEW", ARTICLE XIII, "DESIGN STANDARDS"**

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to adopt Ordinance No. 08-2026 on second and final reading. 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. 09-2026.

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. 09-2026.

**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. 09-2026 by title:

**ORDINANCE NO. 09-2026**

**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"  
AND SECTION 9, "PERMIT FEES"**

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to adopt Ordinance No. 09-2026 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 D'Angelo: Wished Mayor Coiro a belated Happy Birthday!!

**CITIZENS HEARD:**

There were no citizens who wished to be heard.

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 28, 2026. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve Resolution No. 2026-11 for the payment of bills. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

A retirement letter was received from Police Captain Keith Schaffer effective June 1, 2026. There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to accept his retirement and thank him for all of his years of service. 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 Traffic Studies At The Intersections Of Union Boulevard And Bogert Street And Union Boulevard And Shepherds Lane. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 85-2026

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR TRAFFIC STUDIES AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF UNION BOULEVARD AND BOGERT STREET AND UNION BOULEVARD AND SHEPHERDS LANE

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to retain the services of a professional engineering firm to provide traffic studies at the intersections of Union Boulevard and Bogert Street and Union Boulevard and Shepherds Lane; and

WHEREAS, the traffic studies will consist of data collection; intersection evaluation; conceptual plans and cost estimates; preparation of a technical memorandum summarizing the study activities, findings, constructability considerations, constraints and recommendations; and project management; and

WHEREAS, Richard A. Alaimo Engineering Associates has submitted a proposal dated April 27, 2026 to provide the traffic study services at a cost not to exceed \$70,000.00, 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 May 12, 2026 did examine the proposal submitted by Richard A. Alaimo Engineering Associates; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i), 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 Richard A. Alaimo Engineering Associates for professional engineering services in connection with traffic studies at the intersections of Union Boulevard and Bogert Street and Union Boulevard and Shepherds Lane in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council hereby authorize Richard A. Alaimo Engineering Associates to perform the professional services as set forth in its proposal dated April 27, 2026.

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. 10-2026**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORDINANCE FIXING THE ANNUAL SALARIES AND WAGES OF THE OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND THE APPOINTEES OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to approve Raffle License Application No. 2495 for the St. James Knights of Columbus Council 6574 for an Off-Premise 50/50 to be held on December 13, 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.

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Joseph Wassel, RMC  
Municipal Clerk