

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

April 11, 2023

PRESENT: Mayor John Coiro, presiding, Council President Lou D'Angelo, Councilman Anthony Picarelli, Councilman William Bucher, Councilman John Capo, Councilman Patrick Fierro, 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 have a swearing in ceremony for newly appointed Councilman Sanders Reynoso to take the Oath of Allegiance & Office. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Coiro went to the front of the dais and announced that this is a special night because this doesn't happen too often as we have very little changing of the guard. Thanked former Councilwoman Debra Andriani – who was in attendance – for all of her hard work over her years on the Council. Commented that he was happy to hear that Sanders was a candidate because he has already been involved in Totowa with our youth

at the PAL and while serving on the Board of Education. Said that he will now work with us and learn as we continue to do our best for our residents.

Mayor Coiro asked Sanders Reynoso to approach the dais to take the Oath of Allegiance & Office.

Mayor Coiro administered the Oath of Allegiance & Office to newly appointed Councilman Sanders Reynoso, with his wife Nancy holding the Bible and children Hannah and Dante by his side.

Mayor Coiro presented a badge symbolic to the Office of Council to Councilman Sanders Reynoso.

Councilman Sanders Reynoso thanked his mentor and “Irish Father” Peter Murphy and noted how his life has changed since moving to Totowa and meeting him. Thanked the Mayor and Council for their support. Thanked our next County Clerk Rosemary Pino. Next, he thanked his wife Nancy – “his rock”, and his children – who he said, “you are why I do this”, then his In-Laws – but said he doesn’t even like that word because they are like my parents, and finally his Mother – who he spoke to in Spanish.

Mayor Coiro also acknowledged Councilman Mike Murphy from Little Falls and Kelley Amico and Andie Pegel who are running for County Commissioner. Then announced that we would take a short recess.

Congratulations were extended to Councilman Sanders Reynoso by the Council, Municipal Clerk and Municipal Attorney, along with everyone in attendance.

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 asks the Municipal Clerk to call the roll of the Council.

PRESENT: Mayor John Coiro, presiding, Council President Lou D'Angelo, Councilman Anthony Picarelli, Councilman William Bucher, Councilman John Capo, Councilman Patrick Fierro and Councilman Sanders Reynoso.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Coiro announced the following new Council Committees for the remainder of 2023.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

PICARELLI D'ANGELO CAPO

PUBLIC SAFETY

D'ANGELO CAPO BUCHER

PUBLIC WORKS

BUCHER FIERRO D'ANGELO

ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY

CAPO REYNOSO PICARELLI

LIAISON & INSPECTION

REYNOSO BUCHER FIERRO

LEGISLATIVE & ORDINANCES

FIERRO PICARELLI REYNOSO

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

Councilman D'Angelo: Welcomed Councilman Reynoso and said he looked forward to working with him.

Those sentiments were reiterated by the rest of the Council.

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 March 28, 2023. 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. 2023-09 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 To Introduce The 2023 Municipal Budget. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 51-2023

RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations attached hereto constitute the local Budget of the Borough of Totowa, Passaic County, New Jersey for the year 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said Budget be published in The North Jersey Herald News in the issue of April 28, 2023, and that a hearing on the Budget will be held at the Municipal Building on May 9, 2023 at 7:30 P.M. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve payment of the 2nd Quarter 2023 Budget Allotment to the Borough of Totowa Public Library in the amount of \$290,096. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Capo to approve a grade increase for Patrol Officer Nicholas Macaluso from Grade 4 Patrol Officer to Grade 3 Patrol Officer. 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 Capo to approve a fireman's application, the purchase of fireman's equipment and authorize a fireman's physical for Elias Rezko for Riverview Park Fire Company. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:

A retirement letter was received from DPW Laborer Vincent Marciano effective June 1, 2023. There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Fierro to accept his retirement and thank him for his years of service. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

A letter was received from the Friends of the Totowa Public Library requesting permission to use the Municipal Parking Lot for a trip to Resorts World Casino in Monticello, NY on Thursday, May 18, 2023. There was a motion by Councilman Capo, seconded by Councilman Reynoso to grant permission. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON LIAISON & INSPECTION:

There was a motion by Councilman Reynoso, seconded by Councilman Bucher to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing Contract For Geese Control Services For 2023. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 52-2023

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR
GEESE CONTROL SERVICES FOR 2023

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 1, 2023 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 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. 05-2023

**CALENDAR YEAR 2023 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE
MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND
TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

There was a motion by Councilman Fierro, seconded by Councilman Picarelli to adopt the following National Library Week 2023 Proclamation. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK 2023 PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, libraries provide the opportunity for everyone to pursue their passions and engage in lifelong learning, allowing them to live their best life; and

WHEREAS, libraries have long served as trusted institutions for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, libraries strive to develop and maintain programs and collections that are as diverse as the populations they serve and ensure equity of access for all; and

WHEREAS, libraries adapt to the ever-changing needs of their communities, continually expanding their collections, services, and partnerships; and

WHEREAS, libraries play a critical role in the economic vitality of communities by providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for job seekers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that promote a sense of local connection, advancing understanding, civic engagement, and shared community goals; and

WHEREAS, libraries are cornerstones of democracy, promoting the free exchange of information and ideas for all; and

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, and library workers are joining library supporters and advocates across the nation to celebrate National Library Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby declare April 23-29, 2023 to be National Library Week.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa encourage all residents to visit our library to explore the wealth of resources available during National Library Week.

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