

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

July 14, 2026

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

ABSENT: Councilman Anthony Picarelli and Councilman Sanders Reynoso.

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.

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

There were no reports.

CITIZENS HEARD:

Antonia Lazzaro, 58 Stirling Terrace; Giovanna Criscione, 109 Greene Avenue; Roberta Drew, 134 Barnert Avenue: Said they were all here for the same reason and started by saying that we have a beautiful park and walking path, but they have a problem with all the dogs on the path and their owners who are rude. Stated there is a sign – and handed

out a picture – that prohibits dogs, but says it's not enforced. Continued by saying it's not safe to walk on the streets and they want a safe place to walk, but with all the dogs on the walking path that's not either. Also remarked that there are dogs on the fields, in the playground areas where children play and on the tennis courts. Asked if there is an ordinance to prohibit dogs and who would enforce it. Mayor Coiro: Replied that we would look into the ordinance and update it if needed and that the Police Department would enforce the ordinance. Then asked Acting Police Chief Brian Mulroony to come up and address the issue. A conversation ensued. Councilman D'Angelo: Asked if they are being affected at a certain time of the day. The ladies said yes, around 7:00 a.m. and also asked that more new signs be put up.

Frank Grosso, 131 Shepherds Lane: Asked if anything is being planned for Shepherds Lane to widen the road to allow for left and right turns, paving and a traffic light. Mayor Coiro: Advised that we recently applied for a grant to pave the road and authorized a traffic study with the results being sent to the County for approval, which would address the traffic light and/or separate lanes for turns.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Bucher to approve the Minutes of the Mayor and Council for the meeting of June 23, 2026. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative. Councilman Fierro and Councilwoman Coiro abstained from the voting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Coiro to approve Resolution No. 2026-15 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 D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Coiro to approve payment of the 3rd Quarter 2026 Budget Allotment to the Borough of Totowa Public Library in the amount of \$399,299.50. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

A retirement letter was received from Deputy Court Administrator Irine Upritchard effective July 31, 2026. There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Coiro to accept her letter and thank her for her years of service. 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 Bucher to approve a grade increase for Patrol Officer Nicholas Duncan from Grade 7 Patrol Officer to Grade 6 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 Bucher to approve firefighter application, the purchase of firefighter equipment and authorize a firefighter physical for Gabriella F. D'Onofrio for Fire Rescue Company No. 4 and Sarah I. Raja for Riverview Park Fire Company No 3. 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 Bucher to approve Junior Firefighter Application for Christopher A. Calderon and Aliyah Ruiz 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 a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Fierro to adopt the following Resolution Approving Water Main Extension Permit Application To Extend The Permit Term And Authorizing The Mayor And Licensed Water Operator To Execute On Behalf Of The Borough Of Totowa For Digital Realty Trust C/O Digital Totowa, LLC, 701 Union Boulevard, Block 173, Lot 17. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 108-2026

RESOLUTION APPROVING WATER MAIN EXTENSION PERMIT APPLICATION
TO EXTEND THE PERMIT TERM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
LICENSED WATER OPERATOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE
BOROUGH OF TOTOWA FOR DIGITAL REALTY TRUST C/O
DIGITAL TOTOWA, LLC, 701 UNION BOULEVARD, BLOCK 173, LOT 17

WHEREAS, Digital Realty Trust, c/o Digital Totowa, LLC, 701 Union Boulevard, Totowa, New Jersey, 07512, Block 173, Lot 17 has previously made application for the demolition of the existing warehouse and the construction of new data center buildings, electrical substation and equipment yards; and

WHEREAS, Digital Totowa, LLC, was required to apply to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for a Water Main Extension Permit to install 4,700 linear feet of new water main to service the development with an average daily demand of 151,569 gallons per day; and

WHEREAS, the Water Main Extension Permit application has previously been reviewed and approved by the Borough Engineer; and

WHEREAS, the original permit was issued on September 15, 2021 and will expire on September 14, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the project has progressed with construction of the water main loop and laterals serving Building B, however construction of Building A has not yet commenced; and

WHEREAS, the extension of time is being requested to allow for construction of Building A and its associated water laterals; and

WHEREAS, the overall project scope and projected water demand remain consistent with the original approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Totowa, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Licensed Water Operator of the Borough of Totowa be and are hereby authorized to execute the various forms on behalf of the Borough of Totowa to extend the permit term.

Upon the recommendation of DPW Superintendent Jim Niland, there was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Fierro to approve a grade increase for DPW Laborer Justin Miceli from Grade 3 to Grade 2. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Fierro to acknowledge receipt of the following bids for the FY2026 NJDOT Municipal Aid & 2026 Road Program. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Total Bid</u>
AJM Contractors, Inc. Clifton, NJ 07011	\$364,548.00
4 Clean Up North Bergen, NJ 07047	\$372,688.26
DLS Contracting, Inc. Fairfield, NJ 07004	\$387,631.00
D & L Paving, Inc. Nutley, NJ 07110	\$415,452.76
Your Way Construction, Inc. Irvington, NJ 07111	\$439,844.40

Upon the recommendation of the Engineer, there was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Fierro to adopt the following resolution to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder for the FY2026 NJDOT Municipal Aid & 2026 Road Program. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 109-2026

RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR THE FY2026 NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM AND 2026 ROAD PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Municipal Engineer for the Borough of Totowa has recommended improvements to streets throughout the municipality including Patriots Trail, Lookout Point Trail, Garretson Avenue and Celia Street as part of the FY2026 New Jersey Department of Transportation ("NJDOT") Municipal Aid Program and 2026 Road Program; and

WHEREAS, the project will consist of roadway subbase repair, the milling and resurfacing of the roadways, the installation of ADA compliant curb ramps, the installation of Stop Signs and Stop bars and replacing pavement markings; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 42-2026 dated February 10, 2026, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa authorized the Borough of Totowa Municipal Engineer, Richard A. Alaimo Engineering Associates, to provide design services, prepare bid documents, assist in the bidding process and supervise construction of the FY2026 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program and 2026 Road Program; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa did receive sealed bids at its Municipal Building on July 7, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the apparent low bid was submitted by AJM Contractors, Inc., 300 Kuller Road, Clifton, New Jersey 07011 in the amount of \$364,548.00, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Engineer has reviewed the bids submitted and advised that the contractor is capable of completing the project; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa have determined that the bid submitted by AJM Contractors, Inc. be accepted as the lowest responsible bid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby accept the bid of AJM Contractors, Inc. for the FY2026 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program and 2026 Road Program as the lowest responsible bid for the total sum of \$364,548.00.

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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of this contract is subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

A letter was received from the St. James Italian Society requesting permission to use the Municipal Parking Lot on Saturday, August 15, 2026 for a bus trip to Our Lady of Assumption Church in Atlantic City and Saturday, September 19, 2026 for a bus trip to the Shrine of Padre Pio in Barto, PA. There was a motion by Councilman Fierro, seconded by Councilman Bucher 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 Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman Fierro to adopt the following Resolution Amending The 2026 Contract For Professional Services For The Affordable Housing Planner For The Borough Of Totowa. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 110-2026

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2026 CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLANNER FOR THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 41-2026, adopted on January 27, 2026, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa authorized a contract with Robert Hudak, MPA, PP, AICP, of InSite Engineering, LLC, 1955 Route 34, Suite 1A, Wall, New Jersey 07719, to serve as the Borough's Affordable Housing Planner and provide professional planning services for calendar year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has been advised that Robert Hudak, MPA, PP, AICP, has amicably separated from InSite Engineering, LLC; and

WHEREAS, Robert Hudak, MPA, PP, AICP, will continue to provide the Borough's professional affordable housing planning services through his newly formed firm, Benchmark Land Use Advisors LLC, located at 126 Fox Hollow Drive, Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey 08734; and

WHEREAS, Robert Hudak, MPA, PP, AICP, remains the designated Affordable Housing Planner and possesses the experience and expertise required to perform these professional services; and

WHEREAS, all other terms and conditions of the original contract, including the term ending December 31, 2026, and the approved compensation and fee schedule, shall remain unchanged; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the previously authorized contract to reflect the change in the contracting entity from InSite Engineering, LLC to Benchmark Land Use Advisors LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that the contract for Professional Affordable Housing Planning Services for calendar year 2026 is hereby amended to designate Benchmark Land Use Advisors LLC as the successor entity to InSite Engineering, LLC for purposes of providing the contracted professional services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an addendum to the Professional Services Agreement with Robert Hudak, MPA, PP, AICP, on behalf of Benchmark Land Use Advisors LLC, to reflect this change in the contracting entity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all other provisions of the original Professional Services Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be placed on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Totowa, and notice of this amendment shall be published in accordance with applicable law.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman Fierro to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing A Mortgage Modification For The Home Improvement Program Agreement Between The Borough Of Totowa And Joseph Iannaccone For 156 Greene Avenue. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 111-2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MORTGAGE MODIFICATION FOR THE HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA AND JOSEPH IANNACCONI FOR 156 GREENE AVENUE

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Home Improvement Program ("HIP") was created by the Borough of Totowa to provide funds to assist properties occupied by low- and moderate-income households to correct existing interior and exterior health, safety and code substandard conditions of major housing systems in conformity with the standards of the New Jersey State Housing Code, N.J.A.C. 5:28 and the Rehabilitation Subcode, N.J.A.C. 5:23-6; and

WHEREAS, the HIP is guided by N.J.A.C. 5:93-5.2 and in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs ("DCA") Council on Affordable Housing ("COAH") regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa has contracted with Community Grants, Planning and Housing LLC (“CGP&H”), a private consulting company specializing in the implementation of publicly funded housing rehabilitation programs, to administer the HIP; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 107-2025 dated August 12, 2025, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa entered into a Home Improvement Agreement with Joseph Iannaccone for the property located at 156 Greene Avenue, Totowa, New Jersey 07512, also identified as Block 78, Lot 1 on the official tax map of the Borough of Totowa; and

WHEREAS, the Home Improvement Agreement for the property at 156 Greene Avenue was also executed by co-owner Carla Iannaccone but Joseph Iannaccone is the sole resident of the premises; and

WHEREAS, CGP&H advertised a Request for Rehabilitation Bid (Case No. TOTO-2512) inviting general contractors to bid on the repair and rehabilitation work for the property located at 156 Greene Avenue (the “Scope of Work”); and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 138-2025 dated October 28, 2025, that Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa authorized the award of a contract to the Severe Structures, LLC, 40 Venna Avenue, North Haledon, New Jersey 07508 in an amount not to exceed \$21,800.00 for the Scope of Work; and

WHEREAS, the HIP funds are limited to \$20,000.00 and Joseph Iannaccone contributed \$1,800.00; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2025, Severe Structure LLC elected to terminate the construction agreement for TOTO-2512; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the termination of the construction agreement, the bow window was not installed in the house and the Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (“GFCI”) was not installed in the garage; and

WHEREAS, both items were deleted from the scope of work resulting in a reduction of the mortgage amount from \$21,800.00 to a final mortgage amount of \$18,600.00.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa desire to authorize a mortgage modification for the HIP for the aforementioned reasons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize a mortgage modification from \$21,800.00 to \$18,600.00 for the Borough of Totowa Home Improvement Program between Joseph Iannaccone for repairs to the property located at 156 Greene Avenue, Totowa, New Jersey 07512.

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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the mortgage modification shall be recorded in the office of the Passaic County Clerk

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing The Renewal Of Division Of Alcoholic Beverage Control Liquor License Number 1612-33-002-006 For The 2026 – 2027 License Term. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 112-2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL LIQUOR LICENSE NUMBER 1612-33-002-006 FOR THE 2026 – 2027 LICENSE TERM

WHEREAS, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) liquor licenses that have been issued by the Borough of Totowa during the 2025 – 2026 license term expired on June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, State and Municipal regulations require that ABC liquor licenses be renewed prior to July 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, state regulations further requires that all licensees must have filed their renewal applications online through POSSE ABC, have received their Alcoholic Beverage Retail Licensee Clearance Certificate and have paid their State and Municipal fees prior to renewing any liquor license; and

WHEREAS, The 46 Lounge, LLC license number 1612-33-002-006 timely filed the renewal application and paid the State and Municipal fees, but the licensee did not receive a Tax Clearance Certificate prior to June 23, 2026 which was the last Council Meeting before the June 30, 2026 expiration date; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2026, The 46 Lounge, LLC did receive a Tax Clearance Certificate, but never informed the Borough of Totowa, so their license was never renewed for the 2026 – 2027 license term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa that the Municipal Clerk be authorized to renew the ABC Plenary Retail Consumption License For 2026 – 2027 License Term to The 46 Lounge, LLC license number 1612-33-002-006 and that the Municipal Clerk upload a copy of this resolution and complete the renewal process on the POSSE ABC website.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing Massage Establishment License For JGN Massage, LLC Doing Business As Elements Therapeutic Massage. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 113-2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE FOR JGN MASSAGE, LLC DOING BUSINESS AS ELEMENTS THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

WHEREAS, JGN Massage, LLC doing business as Elements Therapeutic Massage ("Elements Therapeutic Massage") has approval to operate a massage establishment in a portion of the premises located at 650 Union Boulevard, Totowa, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements set forth in Chapter 250 entitled "Massage Establishments" in the Borough of Totowa Code Book, Elements Therapeutic Massage has submitted an application to the Borough of Totowa for a Massage Establishment License; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Police Department Detective Bureau has conducted a thorough investigation of the applicant in accordance with Section 250-6 of the Borough of Totowa Code Book; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Police Detective Bureau has cleared the license for approval; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the application and report issued by the Borough of Totowa Police Department, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa have determined that Elements Therapeutic Massage has complied with all the requirements for a Massage Establishment License in the Borough of Totowa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby approve the Massage Establishment License application for JGN Massage, LLC doing business as Elements Therapeutic Massage and authorize the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk to issue a Massage Establishment License effective July 14, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Elements Therapeutic Massage is required to continue to comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules and regulations and said license must be renewed annually on or before July 1st each year.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following Resolution Authorizing Massage Therapist Licenses for JGN Massage, LLC Doing Business As Elements Therapeutic Massage. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 114-2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MASSAGE THERAPIST LICENSES FOR JGN MASSAGE, LLC DOING BUSINESS AS ELEMENTS THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

WHEREAS, JGN Massage, LLC doing business as Elements Therapeutic Massage ("Elements Therapeutic Massage") has approval to operate a massage establishment in a portion of the premises located at 650 Union Boulevard, Totowa, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the requirements set forth in Chapter 250 entitled "Massage Establishments" in the Borough of Totowa Code Book include obtaining a Massage Establishment License for the business and Massage Therapist Licenses for employees to be issued by the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 113-2026 dated July 14, 2026, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa authorized the issuance of a Massage Establishment License application for Elements Therapeutic Massage effective July 14, 2026 through June 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the following individuals have submitted applications for a Massage Therapist License as employees of Elements Therapeutic Massage, 650 Union Boulevard, Totowa, New Jersey:

1. Donna Garrity, 3 Ridge Road, Wharton, New Jersey 07885
2. Ingrid DeJesus, 1010 East 25th Street, Paterson New Jersey 07513
3. Robert Simmons, 326 Park Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07107
4. Karen Gutierrez, 350 Baldwin Road, Apt 5G, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054
5. Michelle Russell, 12 John Street, Lincoln Park, New Jersey 07035
6. Grisel DaCosta, 122 Montgomery Street, Paterson, New Jersey 07503
7. Naomi Lovelace, 82 Avenue C, Haledon, New Jersey 07508
8. Ronald Guevara, 31 Bloomindale Avenue, Garfield, New Jersey 07026
9. Christine Licciardello, 12 Brook Place, Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003
10. Luis Sotil, 215 Aycrigg Avenue, Apt 11, Passaic, New Jersey 07055

11. Roseann Hutcheson, 351 Hoover Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003
12. Souzan N. Rammaha, 1304 79th Street, North Bergen, New Jersey 07047

WHEREAS, the above-named employees of Elements Therapeutic Massage have each submitted proof of their respective clinical training in compliance with Section 250-7 of the Borough of Totowa Code Book; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Police Department Detective Bureau has conducted a thorough investigation of the applicants in accordance with Section 250-6 of the Borough of Totowa Code Book; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa Police Department Detective Bureau has cleared the licenses; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the application and report issued by the Borough of Totowa Police Department, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa have determined that the aforementioned applicants have complied with all the requirements for a Massage Therapist License in the Borough of Totowa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby approve the Massage Therapist License applications for Donna Garrity, Ingrid DeJesus, Robert Simmons, Karen Gutierrez, Michelle Russell, Grisel DaCosta, Naomi Lovelace, Ronald Guevara, Christine Licciardello, Luis Sotil, Roseann Hutcheson and Souzan N. Rammaha, as employees of JGN Massage, LLC doing business as Elements Therapeutic Massage and authorize the Borough of Totowa Municipal Clerk to issue Massage Therapist Licenses to each applicant effective July 14, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above Massage Therapist License holders are required to comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules and regulations and said license must be renewed annually on or before July 1st each year.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve Ice Cream Vendors License Application for Michael Panepinto as Owner/Operator and Marissa Romaniello as Operator, trading as Mainland Shave Ice. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following Proclamation In Honor And Celebration Of John Florida. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

PROCLAMATION IN HONOR AND CELEBRATION OF JOHN FLORIDIA

WHEREAS, John Floridia was born on April 1, 1928, in Paterson, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 21, he married the love of his life, Angelina, and together they built a loving family, welcoming their daughter, Jo-Ann, and making their home in Totowa; and

WHEREAS, John's passion for music began at an early age while he worked as a horseshoe maker. A gifted musician, he mastered the guitar, banjo, and mandolin, cultivating a lifelong appreciation for music and the joy it brings to others; and

WHEREAS, after his marriage, John set aside his musical pursuits to dedicate himself to raising his family and providing for them through his work; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 70, John joined the Totowa Seniors, where he discovered the Wayne Mandolin Orchestra. After several decades away from performing, he once again took up the mandolin, rekindling his passion through weekly rehearsals and community performances; and

WHEREAS, when the Wayne Mandolin Orchestra eventually disbanded, John and his close friend, Sheik Tafazool Baksh, remained committed to preserving the rich tradition of mandolin music by forming a new ensemble in Ridgefield Park; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, John approached the Totowa Public Library with the vision of establishing a local mandolin orchestra. Beginning with just six dedicated musicians, the Totowa Library Mandolin Orchestra was founded; and

WHEREAS, through John's leadership, dedication, and enduring love of music, the Totowa Library Mandolin Orchestra has flourished, enriching the cultural life of the Borough of Totowa and bringing enjoyment to audiences throughout the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby recognize and honor John Floridia for his outstanding musical contributions and extend their sincere gratitude for his unwavering dedication to preserving the tradition of mandolin music and enriching the lives of countless residents as a member of the Totowa Library Mandolin Orchestra.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Council congratulate John Floridia on his remarkable legacy and wish him continued health, happiness, and many more years of sharing the gift of music with the community he has so faithfully served.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following Proclamation In Honor And Celebration Of Franco Di Gangi. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

PROCLAMATION IN HONOR AND CELEBRATION OF FRANCO DI GANGI

WHEREAS, Franco Di Gangi was born in Italy on November 18, 1932, where he began a life dedicated to education, music, and service to others; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Franco immigrated to America, where he married his beloved wife, Kristine Presifilippo. Together they raised two sons, Jeffrey and Mario, while building a life founded on hard work, family values, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, Franco became a respected professional hairstylist and owned and operated his barbershop on Bloomfield Avenue in Caldwell for an extraordinary 65 years, earning the friendship and admiration of generations of loyal customers; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Franco has demonstrated an unwavering passion for music. For decades, he was an active member of the Bloomfield Mandolin Orchestra, where he proudly served as Concertmaster and helped preserve the rich tradition of mandolin music; and

WHEREAS, fifteen years ago, Franco founded the mandolin quintet La Bella Musica, further sharing his love of music and providing audiences with memorable performances; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Franco joined the Totowa Library Mandolin Orchestra, where he serves as the group's Rehearsal Director and Master of Ceremonies, bringing exceptional leadership, musical expertise, and enthusiasm to every rehearsal and performance; and

WHEREAS, through Franco's guidance and dedication, the Totowa Library Mandolin Orchestra has become an even more polished, organized, and successful ensemble, enriching the cultural life of the Borough of Totowa and delighting audiences throughout the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby recognize and honor Franco Di Gangi for his outstanding musical contributions, his dedication to preserving the tradition of mandolin music, and his exemplary leadership of the Totowa Library Mandolin Orchestra.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that we congratulate Franco Di Gangi on his remarkable musical legacy and wish him continued health, happiness, and many more years of sharing the gift of music with the community he has so faithfully served.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following Proclamation In Honor And Celebration Of Francesco Incandela. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

PROCLAMATION IN HONOR AND CELEBRATION OF FRANCESCO INCANDELA

WHEREAS, Francesco Incandela was born on May 3, 1936, in Bagheria, near Palermo in Sicily, and has spent a lifetime driven by a strong work ethic, deep cultural roots, and a profound love for music; and

WHEREAS, Francesco's musical journey began at the young age of 13 when he proudly joined his local town marching band as a talented drummer; and

WHEREAS, as a young man in Sicily, Francesco demonstrated his dedication to craftsmanship and family by helping his father manage and operate their local shoe repair shop; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Francesco married his beloved wife, embarking on a lifelong journey together that led them to emigrate to the United States in December of that same year to build a bright future; and

WHEREAS, after settling down in Ridgefield, New Jersey, Francesco utilized his lifelong trade to buy and operate a successful shoe repair shop, serving as a trusted business owner and a staple of that community for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, now a resident of Wayne, New Jersey, Francesco's enduring passion for music was reignited through his friendship with Claudio Di Gangi, brother of Franco Di Gangi, who introduced him to the Totowa Library Mandolin Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, Francesco Incandela's remarkable journey from Sicily to New Jersey, his decades of hard work, and his devotion to the musical arts serve as a wonderful inspiration to the residents of the Borough of Totowa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby recognize and honor Francesco Incandela for his outstanding musical contributions, his dedication to preserving the tradition of mandolin music and enriching the lives of countless residents as a member of the Totowa Library Mandolin Orchestra.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Council congratulate Francesco Incandela on his remarkable legacy and wish him continued health, happiness, and many more years of sharing the gift of music with the community he has so faithfully served.

There was a motion by Councilwoman Coiro, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following Proclamation In Honor And Celebration Of Sheik Tafazool Bakhsh. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

PROCLAMATION IN HONOR AND CELEBRATION OF SHEIK TAFAZOOL BAKHSH

WHEREAS, Sheik Tafazool Bakhsh, affectionately known as "Tafa," was born in Guyana, embarking on an extraordinary lifetime journey dedicated to international diplomacy, cultural preservation, and world-class musical arts; and

WHEREAS, Tafa's illustrious musical career began at the age of 16 in Guyana, where he grew into a prominent cultural icon through songwriting, recording Indian music albums, hosting his own radio program, and performing on National TV, in nightclubs, and at major music festivals; and

WHEREAS, during the 1960s, Tafa was a distinguished member of the renowned Indian Hot Shots Orchestra, performing for the Governor General and two Prime Ministers of Guyana, as well as the Presidents of Zambia and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) at London's Commonwealth Institute and Walthamstow Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, Tafa has proudly shared his talents across the globe with performances throughout Europe, Trinidad, and Los Angeles, California, before settling in Jersey City, New Jersey, where he has tirelessly kept the rich musical heritage of the Indo-Caribbean diaspora alive; and

WHEREAS, Tafa has served as a member of the United Nations, performed for the Universal Peace Federation, and was officially designated an Ambassador for Peace; and

WHEREAS, driven by his love for community performing arts, Tafa brought his immense talents to the New Jersey Mandolin Orchestra and the Wayne Mandolin Orchestra, where he forged a deep, lifelong friendship with John Florida; and

WHEREAS, when the Wayne Mandolin Orchestra became defunct, Tafa and John stood as the final two remaining members, bound by their shared passion to keep the mandolin tradition alive through tireless rehearsals in Ridgefield Park and Totowa, laying the foundational bricks for what has now proudly transformed into the Totowa Library Mandolin Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, Sheik Tafazool Bakhsh's remarkable artistic legacy, his historic role in the birth of the Totowa Library Mandolin Orchestra, and his global contributions as an Ambassador for Peace serve as a tremendous source of pride and inspiration for our entire community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby recognize and honor Sheik Tafazool Bakhsh for his outstanding musical contributions and extend their sincere gratitude for his unwavering dedication to preserving the tradition of mandolin music and enriching the lives of countless residents as a member of the Totowa Library Mandolin Orchestra.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and Council congratulate on his remarkable legacy and wish him continued health, happiness, and many more years of sharing the gift of music with the community he has so faithfully served.

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

Joseph Wassel, RMC
Municipal Clerk