

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

July 11, 2023

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

ABSENT: Councilman Anthony Picarelli and Councilman Patrick Fierro.

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 Bucher to dispense with the regular order of business in order to enable the Mayor and Council to present a Proclamation In Honor And Recognition Of Derek Melissant. 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 adopt the following Proclamation In Honor And Recognition Of Derek Melissant. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

PROCLAMATION IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF DEREK MELISSANT

WHEREAS, Derek Melissant is a life-long resident of the Borough of Totowa and will be a junior at Passaic Valley High School this fall; and

WHEREAS, Derek is a 2nd year lifeguard at the Borough of Totowa Community Pool and was on duty on Sunday, June 26, 2023 diligently surveying the pool area when he observed a young child on the slide who appeared to be in need of assistance; and

WHEREAS, Derek recognized the child as a regular member of the pool who usually wore swimmies but he immediately noticed he did not have them on that day which caused Derek to closely monitor the situation; and

WHEREAS, the child went down the slide and began to struggle as soon as he entered the water; and

WHEREAS, Derek reacted by immediately jumping into the pool and bringing the child to safety; and

WHEREAS, Derek demonstrated his professionalism and attentiveness by quickly recognizing the potential danger that the child was in and reacting swiftly and without hesitation to ensure that the child was brought out of harm's way; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa are grateful to have such well trained and responsive life guards protecting the residents at our community pool each summer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa, County of Passaic and State of New Jersey do hereby give special recognition to Derek Melissant for his diligence and professionalism as a Totowa lifeguard.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa honor Derek Melissant for being a hero and a lifesaver.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that this Proclamation be made a part of the permanent records of the Borough of Totowa and that a copy of said Proclamation be presented to Derek Melissant.

Mayor Coiro called Derek and his Mom Nicole up to the front of the dais. Mayor Coiro recounted the events of the day Derek saved a young boys life at the Totowa Pool. Mayor Coiro also told Derek that you are just like a first responder where you go to work, and

you never know what's going to happen and then duty calls and you have to save a life. Mayor Coiro read some excerpts of the proclamation and presented the proclamation to Derek. Mayor Coiro then congratulated and thanked Derek. Mayor Coiro next called up Pool Manager Mark Monteyne who thanked Derek for using his skills and saving a life. He also called up Presley, the young boy who Derek saved, to take some pictures. He proceeded to give Derek some Totowa Day memorabilia as further appreciation for his courageous act.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Bucher 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.

There were no reports.

CITIZENS HEARD:

Cathy Ann Dewar, 78 William Place: Said she lives next to the William Place Pump Station and they are aware of flooding that occurs during hurricanes, but now due to climate change every time that it rains for 20 minutes they flood and said that the only things that have changed are the work done to the sewers and the water that runs off of Memorial School. Stated that she has since spoken to DPW Superintendent Jim Niland, who was very nice and explained everything to her about the way the sewers work, but that she is not convinced. She had some ideas that may help alleviate some of the problems, i.e. repaving the area, using reverse 9-1-1 to have residents move their cars because when it floods the cars start to float and cause a dangerous situation, add a notice in one of our mailings telling residents to move their cars during rainstorms and adding a weather page to our website. Mayor Coiro: Responded that you hit it right whether or not you want to call it climate change, but we've been having more flash floods and that section is one of our lowest points where the water gathers. Remarked that the system can handle a prolonged rainfall, but the constant downpours are tough, though the system does drain once the torrential rain subsides. Also, told her that we have been implementing a program of re-lining our sanitary sewers to cut back on infiltration and also reiterated how the check valves on the Passaic River work. Mrs. Dewar: Thanked the Mayor and Council for their time and efforts.

Gertrude Bouchard, 56 Franklin Place: Said that she has some new residents who moved into town in June, and they leave a Home Depot truck in their driveway hanging out over the apron. Stated that she had called the Police on numerous occasions, and they finally moved the truck out of the driveway, but now they park it on the street along with two other Home Depot trucks and one on Lincoln, 24/7. Mayor Coiro: Replied that the police have been there, but asked the Chief to respond. Police Chief Carmen Veneziano: Told her that his officers went down and spoke to the homeowner and they said that they were moving, so the officers have discretion and gave the resident the benefit of the doubt. Mrs. Bouchard: Asserted that these residents just moved in. Mayor Coiro: Asked the Chief for clarification because you're saying that the residents are moving out and Mrs. Bouchard is saying that they are moving in. Chief Veneziano: Said that this is the first that he was hearing about it and he will send his officers back and if the problem continues they will be issued summonses. Also, stated, that Police Sergeant Robert Errigo who was in attendance would go down there tonight after the meeting. Mrs. Bouchard: Thanked the Mayor and Council for addressing this issue.

There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman Capo to approve the Minutes of the Mayor and Council for the meeting of June 27, 2023. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative. Councilman D'Angelo abstained from the voting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Capo to approve Resolution No. 2023-15 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 Councilman Capo to approve payment of the 3rd 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 adopt the following Resolution Authorizing The Submission Of A Strategic Plan For The Totowa Municipal Drug Alliance Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Cycle July 1, 2023 To June 30, 2024. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 81-2023

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN
FOR THE TOTOWA MUNICIPAL DRUG ALLIANCE FISCAL YEAR 2024
GRANT CYCLE JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse 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 alcoholism and drug abuse 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 the abuse of alcohol and drugs 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 such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse 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, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (FY2024) in the amount of:

DEDR	\$8,276.48
Cash Match	\$2,069.12
In-Kind	\$6,207.36

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.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Capo to approve payment of the annual garage rent for 2023 to Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 and to Riverview Park Fire Company, Inc. 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 no report.

COMMITTEE ON LIAISON & INSPECTION:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee, there was a motion by Councilman Reynoso, seconded by Councilman Bucher to appoint Julie Alesandrelli as a Board of Adjustment Commissioner. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT

I, Mayor John Coiro, with the advice and consent of the Council do hereby appoint Julie Alesandrelli as a Board of Adjustment Commissioner for an unexpired term ending December 31, 2025.

There was a motion by Councilman Reynoso, seconded by Councilman Bucher to confirm the appointment. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:

There was a motion by Councilman Reynoso, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve the Application For Social Affair Permit from the State Of New Jersey Division Of Alcoholic Beverage Control for the Macedonian Orthodox Church "St. Nikola" to be held on September 9, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. & September 10, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. 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 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