

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

January 14, 2025

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

ABSENT: 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.

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

Councilman Reynoso: Said that over the weekend he attended – along with Mayor Coiro and Senator Kristin Corrado – the Passaic Valley Elks #2111 Installation of the Antlers ceremony and that it was a nice event and well attended. Mayor Coiro: Concurred that it was a nice event and well attended.

CITIZENS HEARD:

Kevin Ashworth, 369 Winifred Drive: Stated that he had three traffic issues that he would like to bring up – 1) There are no speed signs on Riverview Drive and asked that we get some 35 MPH signs installed; 2) There needs to be a traffic light at the intersection of Vreeland Avenue and Minnisink Road and that he only goes that way if he's going to make a right turn onto Minnisink; 3) That he always pulls into the neighborhood down the one way street and parks in front of his house which is against the flow of traffic and now he received a ticket. Mayor Coiro: 1) Told him that we can have the speed signs installed and asked DPW Superintendent Jim Niland to install them if we have them in stock or order some and then install; 2) Explained the history of the traffic light at Vreeland and Minnisink and told him that we will have to follow up with the New Jersey Department of Transportation; 3) We think parking against the flow of traffic is a State law and we don't think that we can supersede it, but we can check.

Ralph Marana, 131 Greene Avenue: 1) Wished everyone a Happy New Year; 2) Asked what's happening with the house on Rosengren Avenue that the Borough owns; 3) Saw on the agenda that Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) is raising their rates by 6% and wants to know when that will hit. Mayor Coiro: 1) Wished Ralph a Happy New Year; 2) Told him that we will be selling the house on Mitchell Avenue first and then move on to the others; 3) Informed him that PVWC raises their wholesale rates every year and we haven't passed on an increase to our residents in 6 years.

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 December 10, 2024. 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 approve the Minutes of the Mayor and Council for the Reorganization Meeting of January 1, 2025. 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. 2025-02 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 Tax Collector to process the cancellation of any property tax refund, delinquency or charge and fee imposed by the municipality of less than \$10.00 for the year 2024. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there are taxpayers who have a property tax refund, delinquency or charge and fee imposed by the municipality of less than \$10.00 on their accounts regarding property taxes for the year 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Totowa may authorize a municipal employee to process the cancellation of any property tax refund, delinquency or charge and fee imposed by the municipality of less than \$10.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Totowa that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to process the cancellation of any property tax refund, delinquency or charge and fee imposed by the municipality of less than \$10.00 for the year 2024.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to adopt the following resolution to effectuate the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate Number 23-00001 for 62 Continental Circle, Block 9.10, Lot 68. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION

Tax Sale Certificate Number 23-00001

Block 9.10, Lot 68

Property: 62 Continental Circle, Totowa, New Jersey 07512

Owner: John M & Ellen Shakoor

WHEREAS, at the Municipal Tax Sale on October 17, 2024, a lien was sold on Block 9.10, Lot 68; and

WHEREAS, this lien known as Tax Sale Certificate Number 23-00001, was sold to MGRP TL Capital LLC for a 0% redemption fee and a premium of \$60,000; and

WHEREAS, John M & Ellen Shakoor, the owners of the property, has effected redemption of Tax Sale Certificate Number 23-00001 in the amount of \$48,762.36 as of January 14, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa do hereby authorize the Treasurer to issue a check in the amount of \$48,762.36 payable to MGRP TL Capital LLC for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate Number 23-00001.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council do hereby authorize the Treasurer to issue a check in the amount of \$60,000.00 (premium) to the aforementioned Lien Holder.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Capo to approve a grade increase for Patrol Officer Fina Matranga from Grade 4 to Grade 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 Capo to approve the Firefighter application and authorize a firefighter physical for Joseph M. Morabito, Jr. for Volunteer Fire Company No. 1. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:

A letter was received from DPW Superintendent Jim Niland requesting permission to switch the following holiday: Presidents Day, Monday, February 17, 2025 for Monday, July 7, 2025. There was a motion by Councilman Bucher, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to grant permission. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

A letter from the Passaic Valley Water Commission advising that they are increasing wholesale water rates by 6% for 2025 was received and filed.

COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

There was a motion by Councilman Capo, seconded by Councilman Reynoso to approve Payment Estimate No. 14 in the amount of \$104,771.19 to Pact Two, LLC for the William Place Pump Station Improvements. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Capo, seconded by Councilman Reynoso to approve Change Order No. 2 for a net increase of \$42,180.00 and Payment Estimate No. 4 in the amount of \$41,336.40 to National Water Main for the FY2020 & FY2021 CDBG – Phases X & XI Sanitary Sewer Main Rehabilitation. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON LIAISON & INSPECTION:

There was no report.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman Reynoso 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. 01-2025

**AN 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 Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman Reynoso to approve Raffle License Application No. 2412 for the PV Girls Lacrosse Parent Association for an Off-Premise 50-50 to be held on May 28, 2025 at The Barnyard & Carriage House. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman Reynoso to approve Raffle License Application Nos. 2413 & 2414 for Operation Graduation Passaic Valley Regional for a Tricky Tray and On-Premise 50-50 to be held on April 3, 2025 at the Elks Lodge. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman Reynoso to approve Raffle License Application Nos. 2415 & 2416 for the BPOE #2111 Passaic Valley Elks for a Tricky Tray and On-Premise 50-50 to be held on March 22, 2025 at the Elks Lodge. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman Reynoso to approve Raffle License Application No. 2417 for the Totowa Parent Teacher Organization for an Off-Premise Merchandise Raffle to be held on March 11, 2025 at Memorial School. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilman Reynoso to approve Raffle License Application No. 2418 for the Totowa Parent Teacher Organization for an Off-Premise Merchandise Raffle to be held on June 10, 2025 at Washington Park School. 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.

Joseph Wassel, RMC
Municipal Clerk