



BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS  
COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Mayor Houck called the meeting to Order at 7:00 pm. He then read the following statement:

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:

“In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, 1975, notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board designed for that purpose and notice was transmitted to the official newspapers provided by Resolution adopted January 6, 2024.” *Notice has also been posted on the Borough website.*

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Houck asked the Clerk for roll call.

Under roll call: Council President Morgan, Councilmembers Ottoson, Pagan and Harron were present as well as Borough Solicitor Howard Long and Borough Clerk Kelly Santosusso. Councilmembers Philipps and Russo were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Houck asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CAUCUS AND AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Mayor Houck opened Public Comment on Caucus and agenda items only.

Seeing and hearing no movement or comment, Mayor Houck closed the Public Comment portion.

CAUCUS SESSION:

Elected Officials Risk Management Seminar Training

Clerk Santosusso announced that the Elected Officials Risk Management Seminar Training will be administered by Solicitor Long on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:15 pm prior to the Council meeting at 7 pm.

Financial Disclosure Statement Filing

Santosusso reminded all of the annual requirement of local government officials to file their Financial Disclosure Statement by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Tree Removal-Replacement Ordinance

Councilman Ottoson explained the Shade Tree Federation and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection are requesting we pass a tree replacement Ordinance that would include a municipal permit process and a schedule of fees for those who would not adhere to the Ordinance. Ottoson explained that he would circulate a slide presentation to Council. Solicitor Long commented that as part of the storm water regulation requirements, we have moved forward with the requested Privately Owned Salt Storage Ordinance which is being introduced tonight. The other Ordinance they requested is what Councilman Ottoson is referring to. Long advised he sent an email to the NJ DEP to advise that the Borough has a Shade Tree Commission and Ordinance that may very well meet the requirements and is awaiting a

response for a determination as to whether we fall within the exemption due to our current Ordinance. Long said he believes we do. Discussion ensued. Solicitor Long will report back on the DEP's determination. All agreed to discuss further in May.

Fountain at the Railroad

Councilman Ottoson reported he received a call from Heights in Progress, specifically Joe Gentile and Chris Henke regarding the maintenance of the Fountain at the railroad. HIP reports they have been maintaining the Fountain over last couple of years. Ottoson said that debris from the trees fall into the fountain blocking the flow of water. Some ideas included installation of a pump and we can absorb the cost of maintenance during the coming summer months. He further reported that DPW will no longer maintain and HIP is no longer interested. Ottoson suggested an enclosed fountain or the possibility of it becoming a planter. Ottoson reached out to Heights Grows to see if they would be open to this idea. In the meantime, DPW supervisor will install a new pump. Mayor Houck thanked Councilman Ottoson for his research and for meeting with all parties. Ottoson said he will continue exploring ideas and is waiting to hear back from Heights Grows and hopes to discuss at the next meeting.

RECESS OF CAUCUS SESSION AND COMMENCEMENT OF BUSINESS SESSION:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the March 19, 2024 Business Meeting

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve the March 19, 2024 Business Meeting Minutes. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Harron. All members present were in favor.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

Councilwoman Harron reported on Civic Events – Memorial Day and Fourth of July Parades. She mentioned a resident inquired about painting the Canons. Clerk Santosusso said that last year she was told that the County had plans in place for the Canons to be refurbished. She will follow-up. Harron concluded by mentioning that Haddon Heights Neighbors are planning the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town event to be held June 8<sup>th</sup> and have asked that Mayor and Council attend.

Councilman Ottoson gave the Police Department report for the month of March, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. He then gave the FD report. Ottoson went on to report that tree planting will take place soon and explained that the Shade Tree Commission had door hangers printed with instructions for watering newly planted trees as well as instructions to call and cancel should a resident not want a tree planted. Tree tublings will be distributed at the Farmers Market.

Council President Morgan had no report.

Councilman Pagan had no report.

Clerk Santosusso commented on the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our fallen officers approaching on April 20<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned that the Banner has been hung at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Station and mulch and flowers were placed around the Memorial and the Police Department side of the building by the Department of Public Works. Chief Schneider commented that a roadway in Camden will be dedicated to John Norcross next week. Schneider also mentioned that officers visit the gravesite every year on the anniversary. The police bike tour will come through in May and in 2025, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy will be held at the Dell. Mayor Houck thanked Santosusso and Chief Schneider.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Houck had no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION of Ordinance 2024:1544 – Ordinance Rescinding Ordinance 2024:1541 and Amending Chapter 125-2 of the Code of the Borough of Haddon Heights Entitled Animal License Fee: Exemptions

Mayor Houck opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2024:1544. Motion to open the Public Hearing was made by Council President Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Pagan. All members present were in favor.

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2024:1544. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Council President Morgan. All members present in favor.

Mayor Houck closed the Public Comment on Ordinance 2024:1544. Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024:1544. Motion was moved by Councilmember Harron, seconded by Councilmember Ottoson. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

RE-INTRODUCTION of Ordinance 2024:1545 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 100 of the Code of the Borough of Haddon Heights Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic”– *One-Way Conversion on Garden Street from First Avenue to Crest Avenue*

Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance 2024:1545 is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at approximately 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building located at 625 Station Avenue, Haddon Heights, New Jersey 08035.

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to Introduce Ordinance 2024:1545. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Harron. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTION of Ordinance 2024:1546 – Ordinance Amending the Code of the Borough of Haddon Heights, County of Camden and State of New Jersey to Include New Chapter 353, Entitled, “Privately-Owned Salt Storage”

Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance 2024:1546 is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at approximately 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building located at 625 Station Avenue, Haddon Heights, New Jersey 08035.

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to Introduce Ordinance 2024:1546. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Ottoson. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in favor.

Mayor Houck read aloud Resolutions 2024:93 through 2024:96 and 2024:98.

Resolution 2024:93 – Resolution Approving Change Order #1 (Final) for the FY 2021 NJDOT Trust Fund Reconstruction of Devon Avenue – Phase III

Resolution 2024:94 – Resolution Approving a Bingo License for Sons of Italy, Lodge 2311 for the Purpose of Conducting a Designer Handbag Bingo – *Friday, May 10, 2024*

Resolution 2024:95 – Resolution Supporting the Submission of an Application to the Camden County Open Space, Farmland, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund for the Purchase of a Mobile Sensory Station

Resolution 2024:96 – Resolution Authorizing Payment of Bills and Claims for the First Half of April

Resolution 2024:98 – A Resolution Providing For A Meeting Not Open to the Public In Accordance With The Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12. ***1.) Matters Relating to Attorney-Client Privilege. 2.) Contract Negotiations related to Police Contract. Discussions are expected to be ½ hr. in duration. Formal action may be taken on the foregoing items following Executive Session.***

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 2024:93 through 2024:98, 2024:96 excepted. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Ottoson. Under a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Houck opened Public Comment on any matter.

Judy Buecker, Stanfill Towers – Ms. Buecker mentioned the President of the Resident’s Association of Stanfill Towers presents a wreath on Memorial Day. The wreath has been ordered and paid for but they do not have anyone to present. She asked if Mayor and Council have any input on who should present the wreath, specifically, does it need to be a veteran? Mayor Houck responded it does not have to be a veteran; it can be any resident who volunteers. Councilman Ottoson said it would be nice if it were a veteran but agreed with Mayor Houck that it does not have to be a veteran. Ms. Buecker said a decision should be made over the next couple of weeks.

Seeing no further movement or comment, Mayor Houck closed the Public Comment portion.

Mayor Houck announced Mayor and Council are recessing into our Executive Session 7:40 pm

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Executive Session ended at 8:22 pm. Mayor Houck asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion was made by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Morgan.

Mayor Houck read aloud Resolution 2024:97 – Resolution Authorizing Payment of Bills and Claims for the Second Half of April

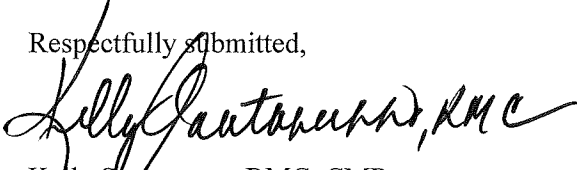
Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2024:97. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Harron. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in favor with the exception of Council President Morgan who voted no to payment on check #28749.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to act upon, Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Ottoson. All members were in favor.

Time: 8:24 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Santosusso, RMC, CMR  
Borough Clerk



## MEMO

FROM: Chief Thomas Schneider #1851

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Director of Public Safety Regina Philipps Cc: Mayor & Council

SUBJECT: March 2024 Monthly Report

Below is the report for the Haddon Heights Police Department along with important topics. As always do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

### MONTHLY STATISTICS

- 6482 Miles were driven on patrol, Total fleet Mileage 731,626
- 1119 Calls For Service
- 13 Arrests and Charges
- 27 Accidents
- 158 Motor Vehicle Summonses Issued

### Summary of new initiatives/happenings/events:

**\*\*NEW\*\* - Camden County Pedestrian Safety Initiative** - Funding was provided to HHPD by the State, specifically the White Horse Pike corridor within Haddon Heights to assist in reducing traffic accidents and saving lives by focusing mainly on aggressive and distracted driving as well as pedestrian safety.

**\*\*NEW\*\* - 2024 NJ Women in LE Community Outreach and Engagement Award**- Officer Megan Propati was presented this award at the NJWLE Conference for displaying positive outreach and engagement work within our community specifically by bringing residents and officers together and building a better bond through activities such as National Night Out, Pizza with Police, and Coffee with a Cop to name a few.

**-NATIONAL Night Out 2024** – (August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Dell) All activities for kids including, face painting, touch a truck, popcorn, ice cream, pie eating contest, games, giveaways, and more!

**-Pizza with Police** – (Brooklyn Pizza December New date coming soon) Face painting, touch a truck, giveaways, special guest appearance and more!

**-Autism Spectrum Disorder/ and or all disabilities registry-** The registry provides information to the Police Dept. in case of an emergency specifically about the registered person's emergency contacts, detailed physical descriptions, known routines, favorite attractions, and any other pertinent information that could help us if an emergency situation arises.

**-GCPOP (Garnet Country Police Outreach Program)** – is a program made up of Haddon Heights, Barrington, Lawnside, and Merchantville police officers, that meet/play sports/activities/etc., with students within our community to allow them to get to know us, answer any questions, and help them with any school or life event that they may need assistance with.

**-PROJECT SAVE PROGRAM (Substance Abuse Visionary Effort)** – is a strategy focused on not only arrest, but on practices and policies that involve prevention and intervention. This program also focuses on diverting defendants with a drug addiction disorder into treatment, and will ultimately reduce crime within the borough.

### **Ordinances and Resolutions:**

The following SOPs to be adopted by Resolution/Ordinance for HHPD:

### **General Initiatives**

- **Reminder** – HHPD would like to remind residents to please obey prohibited parking laws and ordinances around our schools, sports facilities, and recreational centers. Please obey all posted **NO PARKING** areas in order to allow for the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicular traffic.
  
- **Traffic** –
  - Pedestrian upgrades in the area of the (Prospect/Glenview)
  - KHY construction will be starting around Spring 2024 (County)
  - Speed RADAR sign proposal in the area of (1600 block of Prospect Ridge Blvd. (completed)
  - RADAR Enforcement increased / Radar sign deployed where potential speeding problems are reported.
  - Officers have increased STOP intersection monitoring where potential violations have been reported.
  - HHPD continues to work with the Department of Public Works and the County to identify intersections in need of yellow curbing and crosswalks to increase safety of students and pedestrians.