



BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS
COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT

“In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 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.” *Meeting notice has also been continually posted on the Borough website.*

ROLL CALL

Mayor Houck asked the Clerk for roll call.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON 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 WORK SESSION:

No items.

PROCLAMATION *DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY*

Mayor Houck read aloud the Proclamation and presented to a representative of Moms Demand Action. Mayor Houck thanked Moms Demand Action for bringing to Council's attention.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the May 7, 2024 Business Meeting

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve the May 7, 2024 Business Meeting Minutes. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan seconded by Councilmember Russo. All members were in favor with the exception of Councilwoman Philipps who abstained.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES of the April 16, 2024 Business Meeting and the

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve the April 16, 2024 Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Motion was moved by Councilmember Ottoson, seconded by Councilmember Pagan. All members were in favor with exception of Councilmembers Russo and Philipps who abstained.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES of the May 7, 2024 Business Meeting

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve the May 7, 2024 Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Motion was moved by Councilmember Harron, seconded by Councilmember Pagan. All members were in favor with exception of Councilmember Philipps who abstained.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:

Councilmember Harron reported the Department of Community Affairs Local Recreation Improvement grant for Hoff's Park schematics are under review by the Department of Parks and Recreation Committee. Once approved, they will work

She went on to formally thank the new County Parks Director, Scott Traynor, Deputy Director, Ashley Pagan and Assistant County Engineer Anthony O'Toole for repainting the Cannons in time for Memorial Day. She thanked Clerk Santosusso for her assistance as well. Preparing for Memorial Day ceremonies which will begin at 10 am at the Sons of Italy at 6. W. Atlantic and approximately 11 am at the Cannons for the VFW Ceremony. Looking forward to everyone joining us there.

Harron concluded by reviewing plans for the 4th of July Parade celebration. Many groups and acts are lined up.

Councilmember Russo reported the Engineering Committee met at the end of April. Design plans for the Garden Street Reconstruction Project between 1st and 2nd Avenues were reviewed onsite right outside of the High School. Would like to get awarded at the next Council meeting and have the project begin as soon as school is out so there will be no disruption for students during the school year.

Councilmember Ottoson gave the Police Department report for month of April. Officer Propati was honored for her work on a white collar crime case. Ottoson then reported that the Shade Tree Commission planted 40 trees. He said he received a thank you card from Rose Fitzgerald who gave a \$100 contribution to Shade Tree Commission in honor of Anne McAdams who recently passed away. Environmental Commission - Dave McCollum is working toward getting the Sustainable Heights Bronze certification. Heights Grows – Decision was made to keep the fountain running this summer and do a fundraiser to replace it next year.

Council President Morgan reported that he and the Mayor met down at the Devon Avenue soccer fields with the members of the School District, the HH Soccer Club and Borough to discuss the condition of the fields and a maintenance plan going forward. All parties will meet more frequently in the future to ensure positive results and protection of the investment of the Tri-Party Agreement.

Morgan went on to thank all those responsible for the Gun Violence Proclamation presented this evening.

Councilmember Philipps gave the Fire Department report for the month of April. She went on to report on the Rythym and Brews event this past Saturday at which she had the opportunity to meet our new K9, Luna who will be completing her training in the next few weeks. She says she collected the new training cards which will be handed out at different events over the summer. She thanked all involved with the Rhythm & Brews eve

Philipps concluded her comments by noting the County's huge initiative this year, Parks Alive. Improvements include Pedestrian bridges, trails and drainage improvements. Restrooms and picnic pavillion.

Lastly she thanked her fellow Councilmembers and staff for covering for her while out on maternity leave over the last few weeks.

Resolution 2024:114 – Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for a Special Solicitor for Labor and Employment Matters

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 2024:110 through 2024:114. Motion was moved by Councilmember Ottoson, seconded by Councilmember Pagan. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Houck opened Public Comment on any matter.

Brian Shute, 239 Richards Avenue, Barrington Shute Tree Service – Mr. Shute described an incident in which his tree company was working in the 200 block of 9th Avenue at approximately 8:30 am when he was approached by someone from Camden County who said he was shutting down his job because he did not have a permit. Mr. Shute expressed concern at having to pay \$1,200 dollars for a permit application a day \$200 additional for each day beyond. Shute expressed his desire to continue working in Haddon Heights and said he tries to always work in a safe manner. He went on to say he was unaware of this requirement and was concerned at the manner in which he was approached.

Mayor Houck thanked Mr. Shute for attending the meeting this evening and said he did speak to Deputy County Administrator Dominic Vesper regarding this. He said he was unaware but would look into it and get back to us. Mayor Houck said he realized the cost would have then have to be passed onto residents. Mr. Shute said Brian Eisen returned his phone call who provided the numbers for permitting to him. Mr. Shute commented he does his best to offer a fair price for tree work and noted the recent take down of a Borough tree on New Jersey Avenue which was a significant job. He concluded his comments by noting that Sean Logan, tree foreman in Audubon is very responsive and does a great job. Mr. Shute said he appreciated Mayor and Council's time this evening. Mayor Houck said he will follow-up with him following conversations with the County.

Mayor announced please recess into Executive Session. 7:30 pm.

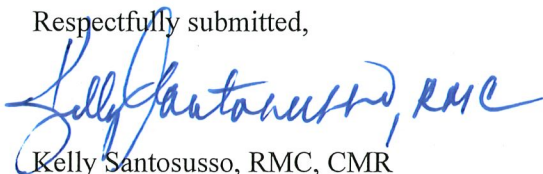
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon returning to open session, Mayor Houck asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion was moved by Councilman Pagan, seconded by Council President Morgan. All members were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to act on, Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was moved by Councilmember Russo, seconded by Councilmember Ottoson. All members were in favor. 7:40

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Santosusso, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk



MEMO

FROM: Chief Thomas Schneider #1851

DATE: May 21, 2024

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

SUBJECT: April 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

- 753,590 Total fleet Mileage
- 1172 Calls For Service
- 24 Arrests and Charges
- 14 Accidents
- 203 Motor Vehicle Summonses Issued

Summary of new initiatives/happenings/events:

****New****-Click it or Ticket mobilization campaign – NJ traffic safety DHTS campaign will be taking place in Haddon Heights from May 20th to June 2nd.

-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.

-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 6th at the Dell) All activities for kids including, face painting, touch a truck, popcorn, ice cream, pie eating contest, games, giveaways, and more!

- 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.

➤ **Haddon Heights Overnight Parking Request (ONLINE LINK)**

- Borough website online link <https://haddonhts.com> (click on the overnight parking request and complete the requested information)
- Overnight parking permission requests are valid for one night only.
- The vehicle must be parked with the traffic flow.
- The vehicle's gross weight must be less than 8,001 pounds.
- The vehicle cannot be placed on the list if it is operable and there is room in the driveway.
- You must give a valid reason why the vehicle is being left on the street.
- Excessive requests, abuse, or not adhering to the policy may result in a summons.
- In the event of snow or predicted snow, all on-street parking is prohibited.

➤ **Permit Parking**

Residents who do not have room in their private driveway to park all their vehicles or tenants who do not have access to a parking area can apply for parking permits at the Borough Hall. After the application is completed, it is submitted for approval.

Permit Application Fees

- **\$25.00 per permit** if there is no room on your property to construct or add onto your driveway according to current zoning laws
- **ONLINE PAYMENT**
PORTAL: <https://wipp.edmundsassoc.com/Wipp/?wippid=0418#miscPymtPage>

Renewal of Overnight Parking Permit Application

- <https://form.jotform.com/232205537110038>