



BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS  
COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 18, 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 Philipps, Russo and Harron were present as well as Borough Solicitor Howard Long, Borough Clerk Kelly Santosusso and Deputy Clerk Julie Yuhaze. Councilmembers Ottoson and Pagan were absent.

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:

Requested 15 Minute Parking Spaces in 500 Block of Station Avenue

Councilmember Russo said this is a continuation of discussions regarding parking on Station Avenue. She spoke about various requests and potentially relocating some of the parking spots. Discussion ensued regarding where changes could be made. He also addressed a concern of idling and advised that “no idling” signs have been ordered. Solicitor Long commented it is state law that idling cannot go beyond three minutes. Councilmember Russo said we can relocate the spot in front of 501-503 Station to Gradwell Recording Studio and relocate the spot in front of PNC Bank to E. Atlantic Avenue.

George Wise, 1533 Oak Avenue and owner of Wise Jewelers on Station Avenue would like to address parking enforcement. Discussion ensued between business owners and Chief Schneider. Mayor Houck said he does not feel anyone is interested in parking meters as he thinks it would hurt the businesses.

Mayor Houck advised that with Redevelopment opportunities before the town, the Business Advisory Committee will likely become more active.

Joe Gentile, 1410 Sycamore Street – Mr. Gentile said that idling signs are important and suggested signs that say additional parking on Atlantic Avenue. He discussed relocating some of the 15 minute spots.

Further discussion ensued between members of Council, business owners and Chief Schneider.

The general consensus is to have Councilmember Russo work with the Department of Public Works, Police Department and business owners to rework some of the parking spots in the 500 block of Station Avenue.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the June 5, 2024 Work Session Meeting

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 5, 2024 Work Session. Motion was moved by Councilmember Philipps, seconded by Councilmember Russo. All members present were in favor.

#### COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:

Councilmember Harron congratulated and thanked the Library and Heights Grows for a great job on the Garden Tour this past Saturday. She visited a few of the beautiful homes on what was a beautiful evening and formally thanked all of the participants as they did a great job. It was a nice fundraiser for the Library. She went on to report that they are working on the line-up and staging for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Needs volunteers for staging.

Councilmember Russo congratulated the Safe Routes to School Committee as they held a bike rodeo at Glenview Elementary school in Mid-May - a successful event. The Committee once again handed out helmets at the event. She went on to thank Councilmembers Harron and Pagan on the Civic Events on Memorial Day as well as the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. She encouraged everyone to visit the Farmers Market as she is excited to see all the new vendors.

Councilwoman Russo concluded by noting the Engineering Committee are working on road resurfacing projects beginning with Garden Street and then progressing throughout town.

Council President Morgan had no report.

Councilmember Philipps gave the May report for the Police Department. She congratulate K9 Luna and Sgt. Selby on successful completion of K9 Academy -16 weeks of hard work for Luna and Sgt. Selby. Luna has already proven her skills. We are excited to have Luna attend National Night Out and the Parade for community outreach. National Night Out will be held August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Dell, activities for kids, face painting, touch-a-truck, ice cream, pie eating contest, games, giveaways and more. Philipps reported there is a 501c3 started to support care for K9 Luna, go to Venmo hhpdfoundation and there is also a link on Facebook page to donate. She concluded with the providing the May report for the Fire Department.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Houck thanked Councilwoman Harron for her work on the Memorial Day festivities and the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. The Memorial Day services were a big success. He thanked the Sons of Italy and the VFW and said these services are to remember all those who served and who we have lost. He congratulated the Library and Heights Grows for a great Garden Tour fundraiser. Mayor Houck concluded by highlighting the County Summer Concert series hosted Wednesday evenings at the Dell noting they have some great 90's bands this year.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Houck read aloud Resolutions 2024:122 through 2024:133.

Resolution 2024:122 – Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Tax Collector to Issue and Mail Estimated Third Quarter Tax Bills Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.2 et seq.

Resolution 2024:123 – Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Public Works Heavy Equipment through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program Under Tree Maintenance Contract 031721-VRM

Resolution 2024:124 – Release of Performance Surety and Posting of Maintenance Bond for Una Voce, LLC, 414 White Horse Pike, B 37, L 8.

Resolution 2024:125 – A Resolution of the Borough of Haddon Heights Authorizing Application by the Borough Engineer to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Reconstruction of St. Martins Avenue – Phase IV, Wynnefield Avenue, and New Jersey Avenue

Resolution 2024:126 – Resolution Requesting the Insertion of A Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of the Borough of Haddon Heights Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40a:4-87 (Chapter 159 P.L. 1948) – *FY 2021 Recycling Tonnage Grant*

Resolution 2024:127 – Resolution Authorizing Refund of Summer Recreation Program Fees

Resolution 2024:128 – Resolution Authorizing Refund of a Cabin Rental Fee

Resolution 2024:129 – Resolution Authorizing Payment of Bills and Claims for the Second Half of June

Resolution 2024:130 – Resolution Approving A Raffle License For St. Rose of Lima Parish for the Purpose of Conducting A Monetary Raffle at the Annual Christmas Bazaar - *50/50 Monetary Raffle – November 8, 2024*

Resolution 2024:131 – Resolution Approving A Raffle License for St. Rose of Lima Parish for the Purpose of Conducting A Penny Auction at the Annual Christmas Bazaar - *Penny Auction – November 8, 2024*

Resolution 2024:132 – Resolution Approving A Raffle License for St. Rose of Lima Parish for the Purpose of Conducting A Raffle At Annual Christmas Bazaar – *Disney Family Vacation - November 8, 2024*

Resolution 2024:133 – 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.) Attorney Client Matter relating to litigation. Discussion is expected to be ½ hr. in duration. Formal action may be taken on the foregoing item following Executive Session.***

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 2024:122 through 2024:133. Motion was moved by Councilmember Harron, seconded by Council President Morgan. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Houck opened Public Comment on any matter.

John Gremminger, 1540 Cedar Avenue – Mr. Gremminger offered his opinion on Caucus parking topic saying he is generally in favor of shorter time limits. He thinks there is a perception that we have a parking problem but we actually have adequate parking, especially on Atlantic Avenue.

He went on to address his concern regarding speeding Devon Avenue near his home. Council President Morgan recalled that the Police Department had set up a flashing sign and a squad car present on the street - temporary solution but proves to be helpful. Police Chief Schneider said that he can do a traffic study in the area. Mr. Gremminger advised that they might want to conduct the study around 5:30 pm into the early evening. Mayor Houck said that increased traffic flow in that area with Haddon Glen Swim Club open this summer. He said that Councilmember Russo is a good point of contact as she is a traffic engineer. There

are a lot of different options to address the speeding. He commended Council on the bike lanes and signage on the roadway.

Brian Shute, Richards Avenue, Barrington – Mr. Shute who owns a tree service said he was here last month to complain about a County inspector who had approached him while working on County roads about not having a permit. He said he was here to see if the Mayor had any information about the permit process. Eileen Lampitt from the County and has not returned his call. He explained he feels he was harassed again days after the last Council meeting and had to have the PD intervene. Mayor Houck explained he did speak with Bob Harris and Dominic Vesper, County Administrator who explained the \$1,200 permit fee. If the homeowner pulls the permit, the fee is waived for the resident. There is still a \$200 fee that goes to the County, Eileen Lampitt and then gets forwarded to our Police Department for review. Shute again expressed his frustration as he wants to report the conduct of the inspector and is not getting a call back. Mayor Houck apologized and advised Mr. Shute that he will contact Ms. Lampitt to call him back.

Mayor Houck closed the Public Comment portion. All members present were in favor.

Mayor announced that Council will recess into Executive Session asking all to exit Council Chambers until Council resumes open session.


EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:44 pm

Upon returning to open session, Mayor Houck asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion was moved by Councilmember Russo, seconded by Councilmember Philipps. All members present were in favor. 8:04 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to act on, Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was moved by Council President Morgan, seconded by Councilmember Harron. All members present were in favor. 8:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Santosusso, RMC, CMR  
Borough Clerk