

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2024
TRAINING SESSION – 6:30 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION – 7:30 P.M.**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER –Mayor Rubenstein called the meeting to order.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Both adequate and electronic notice of the meeting has been provided, specifying the time, place. In addition, a copy of this notice is available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk, posted on the main door, the bulletin board of the Municipal Building, on the Township website at: https://www.byramtwp.org/index.php/town_hall/township_council, and has been forwarded to those persons requesting notice.

ROLL CALL OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL –Councilwoman Franco, here; Councilman Gallagher, here; Councilman Proctor, here; Councilman Roseff, here; Mayor Rubenstein, here. Also present was Township Manager Joseph Sabatini, Attorney Richard Schneider and Township Clerk, Cynthia Church

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor, to go into executive session and adopt the below resolution.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P. L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

- a. Attorney Client Privilege Communication
 - General
 - Affordable Housing – Fourth Round
 - Aqua Water – Lee Hill Road
 - Andover Court Shared Service
 - Professionals (Conflict Attorney & Township Planner)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Byram, that the public shall be excluded from discussion of the following matters:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minutes will be kept on file in the Municipal Clerk’s office, and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes shall be made public.

BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Certification: I certify that the Byram Township Council adopted the above resolution on November 6, 2024.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to return to open session at 7:30 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to approve the agenda

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- A. Board of Health – GERALYN PONZIO-REPOGLE Motion by Councilwoman Franco, Seconded by Councilman Proctor, all in favor.

- B. Environmental Commission – Randy Gutwein (Alternate I) – Mayoral Appointment
- C. Recreation Committee – Mark Scott Councilwoman Franco, Seconded by Councilman Proctor, all in favor.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD – HALLOWEEN HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST – Deborah Armeno and Mayor Rubenstein presented the following awards:

- Scariest – 501 Stanhope Road - \$25 Visa Gift Card
- Traditional – 3 Peach Street - \$25 Visa Gift Card
- Most Original – 86 Lynn Drive - \$25 Visa Gift Card

TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR, AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Township Manager – Received the final draft of the lake and watershed plan and has been posted to the website. Monday November 18th will be the next meeting.

Mayor Rubenstein – Has heard from the DOT. Added signage on the Tamarack Road and Rt. 206 sides. They changed the timing of the light on Tamarack Road. The timing of the light at Brookwood Road has been put on a list to be analyzed. DOT does not have funding for the tunnel in Andover on Route 206. Next week there is a follow-up meeting with Fox Architectural on some preliminary designs for a potential police department. Had a meeting with Joe and the Police Chief on the noise ordinance. They will be working to modify the noise ordinance that Hopatcong has in place to fit the needs of Byram. Tomorrow is the Wawa Grand opening. Monday November 11th is the Veterans Day Ceremony at the old school house.

Councilwoman Franco – There is a new rack hung up in the vestibule by the tax office. It has flyers for all current events or programs the Recreation Department is doing. The October Tennis and Pickleball lessons have concluded. This was session 2 of the Fall Sessions, we did see some growth in the program and those who have participated and new people are interested in our Spring session. If we can get an indoor winter facility and the instructor’s area available, we will have a winter pickleball program. Deb is working on this to see if we can put this on. Both trips to Radio City Christmas show have 1 ticket left for each. We sold 49/50 for the Dec 8th show and 54/55 for the December 15th show. We have begun to sell tickets to the Devils vs Florida Panthers on Jan. 14 and Disney on Ice tickets for January 4th are beginning to sell, these will sell out. Senior Exercise continues to do well, we hold this class on Monday and Wednesday at 11am. The Thursday Walking Group is also doing well, Mark Scott has taken this on and it continues to grow. Due to the early sunset now, they are walking at 11am on Thursdays, once the days get longer, they will adjust the time. Deb attended the PTA Trunk or Treat and handed out flyers, spoke with many parents and promoted the Recreation Department and all we have to offer. We are beginning to see more registration for our 2025 Ski Club. We have secured the bus from LVR Bus Service and have made all the arrangements with Mountain Creek and our chaperones are in place, we are looking for a few more if the numbers warrant it. Crochet and Mahjong programs are holding their own. People who attend enjoy them. There will be a Tree Lighting with the Fire Dept. for December 1st at 6pm, we also have set up Letters to Santa and the Holiday Decorating Contest which will begin on November 25th and run until December 13, 2024.

Councilman Gallagher – Tonight is the Board of Education meeting, where they will be appointing the new administrator.

Councilman Proctor – at the Planning Board meeting in October they discussed eliminating air conditioners from the definition section of the Zoning Code. There is a Planning Board meeting tomorrow where they have one applicant.

Councilman Roseff – Attended the Northwest New Jersey Rivers Conference and attended the Highlands Presentation to manage watersheds and woodlands management. November 22nd is the Historical Society Spirt of Byram Fund Raiser.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I

Motion by Councilwoman Franco second by Councilman Proctor to open to the public. All members were in favor.

No Comments.

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to close to the public. All members were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 15, 2024, Regular & Closed Session Meeting Minutes - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilman Proctor to approve minutes.

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

CONSENT AGENDA – All are considered to be routine by the Members of the Township Council and will be enacted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a citizen or Council member requests in which event the item may be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A. Resolution No. 178-2024 – Resolution of the Byram Township Mayor and Council Appointing Ptl. Officer Joseph Ruggieri as the Humane Law Enforcement Officer (HLEO) for Byram Township
- B. Resolution No. 179-2024 – North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund Resolution to Renew
- C. Resolution No. 180-2024 - Authorization to Purchase Snow Plow Parts from the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program for Budget Year 2024
- D. Resolution No. 181-2024 – Authorization to Enter into a National Purchasing Cooperative Agreement with Buy Board
- E. Resolution No. 182-2024 – Chapter 159 – Municipal Alliance Program \$3,918.00
- F. Resolution No. 183-2024 – Township of Byram Resolution to Transfer 2024 Budget Appropriations Current Fund
- G. Resolution No. 184-2024 – 2024 Capital Budget Amendment Resolution, \$80,000 for Technology Upgrades, \$25,000 for Acquisition for Alcotest Machine
- H. Resolution No. 185-2024 – Authorization to Purchase Bituminous Concrete, Aggregates & Broken Stone under the Sussex County Cooperative Pricing System for Budget Year 2024
- I. Resolution No. 186-2024 – Resolution Authorizing Entering into a Contract with an Administrative Agent for the Administration of Affordable Units
- J. Resolution No. 187-2024 – Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder – Block 98 Lot 362, 8 Hart Trail
- K. Resolution No. 188-2024 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Byram Approving a Release of Part of Mortgaged Premises for the Boy Scouts of America Patriots’ Path Council #358 for Portions of Block 378, Lot 1; Block 379, Lot 3; and Block 384, Lot 1; and Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute the Release
- L. Resolution No. 189-2024 – Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Gift Cards for Prizes at Halloween House Decorating Contest October 1-29, 2024
- M. Resolution No. 190-2024 – Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Program Loan Including the Client Contractor Agreement, Mortgage, Note and Deferred Loan Agreement for Block 342.02, Lot 16 in Accordance with the Byram Township Housing Rehabilitation Program

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

BILL LIST – November 6, 2024 – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to approve the bill list.

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

ORDINANCE – 1st Reading / Introduction

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE A CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES FOR THE TOWNSHIP TO PROVIDE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$80,000.00
Purpose Statement: Technology Upgrades for the Township including structured cabling for data communications, replacement switches, timeclocks, workstations and all related costs incidental thereto fully funded by Capital Improvement Fund.

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Byram on November 18, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 10 Mansfield Drive, Byram Township, at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE A CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ALCOTEST MACHINE FOR USE BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP TO PROVIDE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00

Purpose Statement: Acquisition of new alcotest machine for use by the Police Department of the Township.

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

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ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

CO Johnson Highlands Grant – Mayor Rubenstein believes that the transfer of impervious coverage at CO Johnson Park is important to move forward with and secure the transfer. Councilman Proctor agreed and said that the scope needs to be reduced from what it was previously and keep the field house in mind. Councilwoman Franco would like to move forward with the walking path. Mayor Rubenstein and Councilman Gallagher will work with French & Parello to redefine the scope.

Reassessment Extension Letter – Mayor Rubenstein worked with Councilman Roseff to come to a final draft of the letter that will be submitted to the Sussex County Board of Taxation. The Township Council reviewed the letter and after edits were made approved the letter to be sent out.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ARC
Send out a Nixle to announce the upcoming Historical Society Fund Raiser.
DOT Andover Tunnel – Send letter to the Commissioner

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, Second by Councilman Proctor to open to the public.

No Comments.

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, Second by Councilman Proctor to close to the public.

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor, to go into executive session and adopt the below resolution.

RESOLUTION

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BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Certification: I certify that the Byram Township Council adopted the above resolution on November 6, 2024.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
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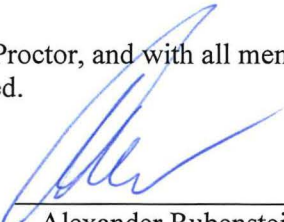
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to return to open session at 9:15 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.


Cynthia Church, RMC
Township Clerk


Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor