

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Jakubowski called the meeting to order.

MAYOR JAKUBOWSKI READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "Notice of this meeting has been provided in a legal notice published in the Courier Post and the Retrospect; and posted in accordance with Title 10 of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, specifying a 7:00 p.m. meeting time; and that formal action may or may not be taken at all Caucus and Commissioners meetings".

Those in attendance: Mayor Jakubowski, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Whitman, Borough Administrator David Taraschi, Solicitors Salvatore Siciliano and Jennifer McPeak, Municipal Clerk Danielle Ingves, Police Chief Tom Tassi

Mayor Jakubowski led the audience in the Flag Salute followed by a moment of silence for the lives lost in Israel.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve meeting minutes from October 3, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motioned carried.

ORDINANCES FOR ACTION:

2023-07 Ordinance Establishing the Salaries of Certain Officers and Employees of the Borough of Audubon for the Year 2023-First Reading September 19, 2023; Public Hearing/second Reading-October 17, 2023.

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to open to the public, seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor-motion carried.

John Poliero, 47 Beloit, questioned the purpose of the ordinance. Mayor Jakubowski responded that this ordinance establishes the salaries of the Borough of Audubon employees and that all will not be read individually, but the ordinance is available for review upon request and Mr. Poliero was agreeable.

Since there are no other comments from the public, Commissioner Lee made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motion carried.

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-07, seconded by Commissioner Lee. Unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION:

2023-144 AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2023

The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. Unanimous roll call vote.

2023-145 APPROVING 2024 MEETING DATES

The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor-motion carried.

2023-146 AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2022 MUNICIPAL AUDIT The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor-motion carried.

2023-147 AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE BOROUGH OF AUDUBON'S UPDATED POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Mayor Jakubowski. Commissioner Lee abstained. All in favor-motion carried.

2023-148 AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SEAN LEAHAN TO THE GREEN WAVE RECREATION COMMITTEE TO FILL AN UN-EXPIRED ONE-YEAR TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, VACATED BY JOSEPH GREBLE. The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motion carried.

2023-149 AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR TO RECEIVE BIDS FOR THE 2018 USED REFUSE VEHICLE OR EQUIVALENT. The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Mayor Jakubowski and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor-motion carried.

2023-150 AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A RAFFLE BASKET LICENSE, #06-2023, FOR PTA AUDUBON GRADE SCHOOL. The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motion carried.

2023-151 AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF 50/50 RAFFLE, LICENSE #07-2023 FOR PTA AUDUBON GRADE SCHOOL. The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor-motion carried.

DISCUSSION: In regard to the Best Practices Survey, the Borough Administrator, Dave Taraschi, stated that he and Jack Bruno, CFO, went through the analysis and are pleased that they had enough answers in the affirmative to receive all of our aid in 2023 and beyond. There were a lot of standard questions and not too many changes from last year. There were a lot of perspective questions that do not get counted in the scoring, for example are you interested in a grant for lead testing etc., regarding financial decisions in the borough and we are 100% state aid qualified.

COMMISSIONER LEE: Thank you to all for your great job on the audit especially by all who handle the finances. It is always a positive thing when there are no recommendations.

As far as the concerns with Israel, we do not anticipate Audubon being the kind of place where there are antisemitic issues, but we will certainly be monitoring it and would maintain they would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law for that type of behavior. Police Chief Tassi commented that there was concern from residents regarding how what is going on in Israel may affect our community. He explained that as police chief, he has the privilege of maintaining communication with state, county and federal partners. This country has a great level of cooperation and intelligence that is shared with the local level. Our officers are made aware of any issues that may arise. When the violence that was associated with the George Floyd incident occurred, we were able to protect the shopping center and community and that was due in part to our partnership with the federal government. Things were communicated in a timely fashion. We have also received information to be attentive to recent events as well. We appreciate a local resident asking for us to comment.

Com. Lee commented that it will be a busy week on Merchant Street. There is one business leaving, one finally opening and one changing hands. There will be several ribbon cuttings this week. The new Dominican restaurant has been a long time coming and the community is excited about them getting to that finish line.

Paving is planned to proceed to the two-year finish line and am confident that the residents will be happy when completed. We thank the residents for their patience.

COMMISSIONER WHITMAN: The audit results are good for the town with no findings. The Anchor Program checks should be coming out soon. The Senior Freeze is due October 31. Hopefully, the paving will start next week as scheduled.

MAYOR JAKUBOWSKI: Sustainable Audubon hosted a paper shredding and electronics collection for the community last Saturday. It was a huge turnout and above and beyond other collections per the electronics recycling company. We were above average, and it shows that our residents care about the environment when it comes to recycling paper, electronics or plastic bags. Our recycling and trash have become very costly.

Sustainable Audubon had a number of trees donated and they will be planted at houses in which residents expressed an interest. That will happen this weekend. There will be an additional opportunity in the future for other residents through Sustainable Audubon.

To add to the comments on Israel, we have been asked so many times to comment on so many things such as hate crimes against Asians or hate crimes against LGBTQ. I wish that we did not always have to comment on hate and that we could just find a way to end it.

OPEN SESSION:

Commissioner Lee made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motion carried.

Amy Herb, 184 Cornell Road, wanted to thank the Mayor and Commissioners for all their efforts. She has a hickory tree on the curb strip in front of her property that she understands the town owns. The tree is hanging over the house and needs to be cut again and she feels it is dangerous. Per D. Taraschi, the tree was trimmed with the last two years. She says that her memory is only one time since she lived there. She would like to know the resolution after the tree is looked at this week. Per Mayor Jakubowski and D. Taraschi, the tree will be looked at this week and they will follow back up as they are all in agreement that they want to save the tree, if possible, but taking into consideration that the resident believes the tree is dangerous at this time. She also has concerns about the sidewalk replacement in relation to the tree. She thanked everyone for the communication for the roads and will remain patient. Mayor Jakubowski asked her to reach back out to him if she hears nothing by the end of the week.

John Poliero, 47 Beloit Ave, wanted to talk to the Chief about the noise ordinance and about the same home, same number of people, and the same parties. The Chief asked if he had called the police when there was a problem. Mr. Poliero questioned calling that often. The Chief stated that Mr. Poliero has to call to complain if there is a problem that needs to be addressed or he needs to come in and file an official complaint. The police cannot help him if there are no phone calls or official complaints. Mr. Poliero acknowledged that he understood.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motion carried.

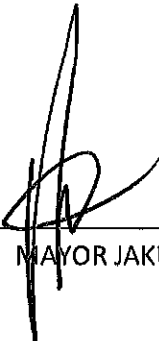
2023-152 RESOLUTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR LITIGATION AND POLICY REVIEW

The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor-motion carried at 7:21 pm.

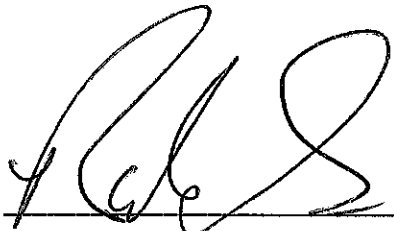
Commissioner Lee made a motion to come out of closed session and seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor-motion carried at 7:51 pm.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Whitman.

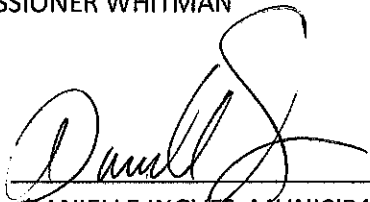
Meeting adjourned at 7:53 P.M.



MAYOR JAKUBOWSKI

COMMISSIONER WHITMAN

COMMISSIONER LEE

ATTEST: 

DANIELLE INGVES, MUNICIPAL CLERK

DATE APPROVED: November 8, 2023