

BOROUGH OF FLEMINGTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 26, 2023

Mayor Karrow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. announcing that all laws governing Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Karrow stated a notice was provided as required. The annual meeting notice is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk for public inspection.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL:

Councilman Malik Johnston	Present
Councilman Tony Parker	Present
Councilwoman Elizabeth Rosetti	Present
Councilwoman Susan Engelhardt	Present
Council Vice President Kim Tilly	Present
Council President Jeremy Long	Present
Mayor Marcia Karrow	Present

Also Present:

Carla Conner, Borough Clerk
Chris Corsini, Borough Attorney

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Karrow thanked Robin Lapidus from Flemington Community Partnership, the Flemington Police and the DPW for their hard work on the Jacob Francis gravesite memorial ceremony. Mayor Karrow also reported that a Resolution is on tonight's meeting awarding the Borough a grant in the amount of \$32,000 for the new Flemington Police Department building for a ADA compliant public bathroom.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LONG:

Council President Long reported there was another shoplifting incident at ULTA and \$500 worth of merchandise was taken and also a theft at Flemington Power Sports where two UTVs and one 4-wheeler with a total of \$60,000 was taken.

Council President Long continued he met the new Court Administrator; Bianca Watkins and the Court is working on getting everything organized and everything is transitioning well.

Council President Long also reported he attended the Jacob Francis gravesite memorial ceremony and it was an excellent event.

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT TILLY:

Council Vice President Tilly reported that she attended the Historic Preservation Commission meeting, the DPW meeting and the Jacob Francis gravesite memorial ceremony which was very moving. Council Vice President Tilly thanked Robin Lapidus from Flemington Community Partnership for keeping Flemington's history alive.

Council Vice President Tilly reported that the fireworks will be held Monday, July 3, 2023 at 9:00pm and the rain date is Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

COUNCILWOMAN ROSETTI:

Councilwoman Rosetti reported thanked Dave Giuliani, Property Maintenance Officer for dealing with two locations with improper signage on Main Street, four properties with lawn complaints', several properties regarding an abandoned property Ordinance and the Shade Tree next meeting is July 12. They have several adopted tree applications, working on a community forestry plan and reviewing Planning Board plans.

COUNCILMAN PARKER:

Councilman Parker reported the newsletter will be launch on August 28, 2023 and he will have a face-to-face meeting with each committee.

Councilman Parker also reported that he is setting up a meeting NAACP and they would like to be engaged in Flemington Borough.

Councilman Parker continued that he would like to get the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and athletic teams involved in the Beautification of the Borough starting in the fall.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSTON:

No report.

COUNCILWOMAN ENGLEHARDT:

Councilwoman Englehardt reported that the Planning Board meeting is June 27, 2023 and a Public Hearing on BSD Flemington Apartments and a discussion on PO Ordinance review from the subcommittee is on the agenda.

Councilwoman Englehardt also reported that graduation was held last week for the both school districts.

Councilwoman Englehardt also praised the Jacob Francis gravesite memorial ceremony.

Councilwoman Englehardt also stated she would like Councilman Johnston to resign.

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FLEMINGTON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (FCP):

Robin Lapidus from the Flemington Community Partnership reported on an article on nj.com regarding the Sip and Stroll that took place in the Borough and discussed the Jacob Francis gravesite memorial ceremony.

Robin Lapidus also reported the Flemington Community Partnership did not receive the AARP grant they applied for.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – SESSION I:

Lois Stewart from Flemington questioned if the Resolution of hiring a new Police Officer is a replacement. Mayor Karrow answered it is a replacement of an Officer who resigned. Ms. Stewart also questioned why the Borough is giving the remaining reusable shopping bags to the Hillsborough Reformed Church when the Borough can donate them to the Flemington Baptist Church and other churches in Flemington. Mayor Karrow stated they can go to those Churches also.

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Authorizing an Agreement with Borough of Frenchtown and Borough of Lebanon regarding Street Sweeping

WHEREAS, The Borough of Frenchtown has a need for street sweeping services; and

WHEREAS, The Borough of Flemington has the available equipment and manpower to perform this service; and

WHEREAS, The Borough of Flemington is willing to provide this service according to the following terms:

The Borough of Frenchtown will reimburse the Borough of Flemington at a rate of \$220 per hour, portal to portal, which fee covers all labor, vehicle and fuel costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Borough of Flemington authorizes the above-stated arrangement with the Borough of Frenchtown for the use of Flemington Borough equipment and Department of Public Works personnel.

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice Present Tilly to approve the Resolution, seconded by Council President Long and on Roll Call the following was recorded:

Councilman Johnston	Yes
Councilman Parker	Yes
Councilwoman Rosetti	Yes
Councilwoman Engelhardt	Yes
Council Vice President Tilly	Yes
Council President Long	Yes

Motion carried.

2. Hiring of a Police Officer – Christian J. Mata

WHEREAS, there exists a vacancy in the position of probationary Police Officer in the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and Mayor recommended that Christian J. Mata be hired as a Police Officer with the Borough of Flemington Police Department, with a start date on or about July 5, 2023, contingent upon the successful completion of the following:

1. Successful completion of the Police Academy
2. Background Investigation
3. Psychological Evaluation
4. Medical Examination
5. Mayor and Council approval

WHEREAS, Mr. Mata shall start at the Probationary step, with a starting salary of \$52,693.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Flemington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that Mr. Christian J. Mata is hereby hired pursuant to the terms of this resolution and the appropriate labor contract, and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that for seniority purposes, his date of hire (anniversary date) shall be his actual start date, which as stated above is estimated to be on or about July 5, 2023.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Englehardt to approve the Resolution, seconded by Council President Long and on Roll Call the following was recorded:

Councilman Johnston	Abstain
Councilman Parker	Yes
Councilwoman Rosetti	Yes
Councilwoman Engelhardt	Yes
Council Vice President Tilly	Yes
Council President Long	Yes

Motion carried.

3. Resolution appointing Carla Conner as Flemington Borough Registrar and Maureen McIvor as Deputy Registrar

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey requires that every municipality shall have a Registrar and Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 26: 8-13 requires that the local Registrar be appointed through municipal resolution every three years; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 26: 8-13 also requires that if the local registrar is the Municipal Clerk, the registrar's term of office shall be concurrent with his/her term of office as clerk; and

WHEREAS, Carla Conner, CMR and RMC, was appointed to a three-year term as the Flemington Municipal Clerk by Resolution 2023-110, adopted May 8, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Carla Conner, CMR and RMC, appointed as Registrar with her term running concurrent with her term as Municipal Clerk, June 11, 2026 and Maureen McIvor as the Deputy Registrar.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey State Office of Vital Statistics and Registry, to be kept on file for 30 years.

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President Tilly to approve the resolution. This Motion was seconded by Council President Long and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Councilman Johnston	Yes
Councilman Parker	Yes
Councilwoman Rosetti	Yes
Councilwoman Engelhardt	Yes
Council Vice President Tilly	Yes
Council President Long	Yes

Motion carried.

4. Awarding the Borough of Flemington a grant in the amount of \$32,000 for the Flemington Police Station ADA Compliant Public Bathroom for the spending period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024

WHEREAS, there is a need for improvements to the bathroom at the Flemington Borough Police Department, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the funds are available through a grant from Hunterdon County Department of Human Services in the amount of \$32,000; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Flemington in the County of Hunterdon that the accepting of the grant was approved in the amount of \$32,000 for the spending period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President Tilly to approve the resolution. This Motion was seconded by Council President Long and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Councilman Johnston	Yes
Councilman Parker	Yes
Councilwoman Rosetti	Yes
Councilwoman Engelhardt	Yes
Council Vice President Tilly	Yes
Council President Long	Yes

Motion carried.

5. A Resolution Declaring the Remaining Reusable Shopping Bags as Surplus and Authorizing the Donation of the Bags to the Hillsborough Reformed Church & other Churches

WHEREAS, the Borough of Flemington purchased reusable shopping bags for residents in response to the ban on plastic bags within the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, all residents were sent a postcard making them aware these bags were available to them free of charge; and

WHEREAS, there are several thousand remaining bags; and

WHEREAS, the boxes are taking up much needed space in the record storage area of the Borough Hall; and

WHEREAS, several charities were contacted to determine if they could benefit from the donation; and

WHEREAS, the Hillsborough Reformed Church & other Churches are willing to take the bags as they work with several local charities, that would utilize these remaining bags.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Flemington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that the remaining reusable shopping bags being stored in the basement of Borough Hall are declared surplus and can be donated to the Hillsborough Reformed Church & other Churches.

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President Tilly to approve the resolution. This Motion was seconded by Council President Long and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Councilman Johnston	Yes
Councilman Parker	Yes
Councilwoman Rosetti	Yes
Councilwoman Engelhardt	Yes
Council Vice President Tilly	Yes
Council President Long	Yes

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – SESSION II:

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council will now convene in a closed session that will be limited only to consideration of items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to Section 7B of the Open Public Meetings Act.

The general nature of the subject to be discussed in this session is as follows:


1. Negotiations – Cardinal
2. Contract negotiations – Cannabis License
 - It is unknown precisely when the matters discussed in this session will be disclosed to the public.
 - Matters concerning litigation may be announced upon the conclusion of any trial or settlement of the litigation. Other matters may be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

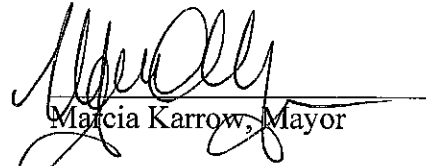
The Mayor and Council entered into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. and a **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President Tilly, seconded by Council President Long with a vote of all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made by Council Vice President Tilly to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. and was seconded by Council President Long with a vote of all ayes.

ATTEST:


Carla Conner, Borough Clerk


Marcia Karrow, Mayor

Adopted: September 11, 2023