

TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE
CAUCUS-REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MINUTES

May 28, 2025 @ 6:30pm *Agenda subject to change*

The Caucus-Regular Meeting of the Township of Hillside Township Council was held on May 28, 2025 in the Municipal Building, 1409 Liberty Avenue Hillside, New Jersey 07205 at 6:30pm.

CALL TO ORDER

Craig Epps, Council President called the meeting to order.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk read the following statement: This Meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was sent to the Star Ledger on January 3, 2025. In addition, copies of notice were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, posted on the Town Hall doors, and field in the Office of the Township Clerk. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted. Proper notice having been given; the Township Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.

ROLL CALL

Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk, read the roll call.

PRESENT

Council Member Lisa Bonanno, Council Member Craig Epps, Council Member David Feuerstein, Council Member Angela Garretson, Council Member Andrea Hyatt, Council Member Daryl Joyner, Council Member Robert Rios

ALSO PRESENT

Hope Smith, BA; Glynn Jones, CFO; Gracia Montilus, Township Attorney; Brook L. Nieves, Deputy Clerk and Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk

COMBINE CAUCUS & REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Council Member Bonanno; Seconded by Council Member Feuerstein

All-In-Favor

PRESENTATION

John Swisher: The process of the Budget and the explanation on the Cola Ordinance

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION (6:51pm)

R-25-130 Auth. an Executive Closed Session – Personnel Matters

Motioned by Council Vice President Rios; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno

All-in-Favor

Back into Session (7:46pm)

Motioned by Council Vice President Rios; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno

All-in-Favor

RESOLUTIONS

R-25-123 Resolution Appointing Municipal Court Prosecutor – Alcantara (TABLED: May 13, 2025)

Motion to Un-Table by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno

All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

Motion to Approve by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Joyner

All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-25-124 Resolution Appointing Municipal Court Prosecutor – Brown (TABLED: May 13, 2025)

Motion to Un-Table by Council Vice President Rios; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno

All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. Motion Carries

Motion to Approve by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Vice President Rios

All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. Motion Carries

R-25-131 Appointing Samuel Manigault as Public Defender

Motion by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Joyner

All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. Motion Carries

MINUTES: April 22, 2025 (As Amended *INCLUDED the word Buy in Mary Dawkins Statement*)

Motion by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Joyner

All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. Motion Carries

ORDINANCES**ORDINANCE: First Reading & Introduction >> O-25-11****Calendar Year 2025****Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits & to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.140) (TABLED)**

Motion to Un-Table by Council Vice President Rios; Seconded by Council Member Joyner

All Council Members voted with the Affirmative with the Exception of Council Members Bonanno & Garretson who voted Nay.

Motion Carries

Motion to Approve by Council Vice President Rios; Seconded by Council Member Joyner

All Council Members voted Nay with the Exception of Council Member Joyner & Council Vice President who voted Yeas.

Motion Fails**ORDINANCE: First Reading & Introduction >> O-25-12****AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 73. PERSONNEL, SECTION 15: COMPENSATION & BENEFITS**

Motioned by Council Member Garretson; Seconded by Council Member Feuerstein

All Council Members voted with the Affirmative. Motion Carries

ORDINANCE: First Reading & Introduction >> O-25-13**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN E-MOBILITY DEVICES & LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE**

Motioned by Council Vice President Rios; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno

All Council Members voted with the Affirmative. Motion Carries

RESOLUTIONS**R-25-074 Auth. the Township of Hillside to Join the ACR Health Insurance Fund (TABLED)**

Presentation by the Health Insurance Raquel Cagley (Senior Vice President) & Dan Henry (Administrator)

Motion to Un-table by Council Vice President Rios; Seconded by Council Member Hyatt

All Council members Voted in the Affirmative. Motion Carries

Motion to Approve Amendment from Alamo Insurance Group to Reduce the HIP commission from 3.5% to 2.5% by Council Member Hyatt; Second by Council Vice President Rios

All Council Members voted with the Affirmative. Motion Carries

R-25-132 Resolution Of The Township Of Hillside, In The County Of Union, State Of New Jersey, Determining The Form And Other Details Of Its Note "Relating To The Water Bank Construction Financing Program Of The New Jersey Infrastructure Bank", To Be Issued In The Principal Amount Of Up To \$1,160,000, And Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Such Note To The New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, And Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of Such Note By The Township Of Hillside In Favor Of The New

Jersey Infrastructure Bank, All Pursuant To The Water Bank Construction Financing Program Of The New Jersey Infrastructure Bank.

Motion by Council Member Bonanno; Seconded by Council Member Joyner

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-25-133 Auth. the Grant Application to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for the 2025 NJ Clean Communities Grant Program

Motion by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Joyner

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-25-134 Auth. the Acceptance of a Grant Award from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for the 23025 NJ Clean Communities Grant Program in the Amount of \$43,899.33

Motion by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Garretson

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-25-135 Auth. Emergency Budget Appropriation for a Grand Award from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for the 2025 NJ Clean Communities Grant in the Amount of \$43,899.33

Motion by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Garretson

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-25-136 Auth. Acceptance of a Grant Award from the State of NJ Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for the Urbans Parks Grant Funding in the Total Amount of \$1,700,000.00

Motion by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Feuerstein

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-25-137 Requesting Insertion of Special Revenue Item into the Township of Budget Regarding Award of Funds from the State of NJ Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program Under the Urban Parks Grant Funding in the Total Amount of \$1,700,000.00

Motion to Amend Title to say *Auth. Emergency Budget Appropriation for a Grant Award* by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Vice President Rios

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-25-138 Rejecting the Bids for the Renovations to the Central Park Basketball & Tennis Courts & Sanford Park Basketball Courts

Motion by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Vice President Rios

All Council members Voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-25-139 Awarding a Contract for the Hillside Public Library Project to M&M Construction Company, Inc. (33 Commerce Drive, Cranford, NJ 07016)

Motion by Council Vice President Rios; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative with the Exception of Council Members Feuerstein, Garretson, & Hyatt who Voted Nay. **Motion Carries**

R-25-140 Awarding a Contract for the 2025 Summer Food Service Program to Nu-Way Concessionaires, Inc. (339-345 Bergen Ave., Kearny, NJ 07032)

Motion by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Joyner

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-25-141 Auth. the of O'Toole Scrivo, LLC as Special Litigation Counsel in the Matter of James Davis v. Hillside Township et al.

Motion by Council Member Bonanno; Seconded by Council Vice President Rios

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative with the Exception of Council Member Hyatt who Voted Nay. Motion Carries

R-25-142 Amending Resolution R-25-115 for the Auth. for Refund for Exempt Property 2025 Taxes (Block 1011, Lot 21)

Motion by Council Member Bonanno; Seconded by Council Member Joyner

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. Motion Carries

R-25-143 Auth. for Refund for Exempt Property 2024 Taxes (Block 1011, Lot 21)

Motion by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Vice President Rios

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. Motion Carries

R-25-144 Auth. for Refund for Exempt Property 2025 Taxes (Block 402, Lot 13)

Motion by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. Motion Carries

R-25-145 Auth. Sewer User Charges for 2025 (TABLED)

Motion to Table by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Vice President Rios

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. Motion Carries

R-25-146 Auth. Refund of Premiums for Tax Sale Certificates

Motion by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Joyner

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. Motion Carries

R-25-147 Auth. an Event Application for a Block Party on Fitzpatrick Street

Motion by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Garretson

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. Motion Carries

Council Member Joyner Left Meeting @ 9:59pm

R-25-148 Auth. Emergency Temporary Budget Appropriation for Total Sum of \$2,162, 917.38

Motion by Council Vice President Rios; Seconded by Council Member Joyner

All Council Members Voted Nay with the Exception of Council Member Joyner & Vice President Rios who Voted Yes.

Motion Fails

Motion to Amend Total Sum to \$725,000.00 by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council President Epps

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative with the Exception of Council Member Bonanno who Voted Nay. Motion Carries

R-25-149 Urging Compliance with the Township Code Meeting Attendance Requirements (Motion from the Floor)

Motion by Council Member Garretson; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno

All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative with the Exception of Council Member Joyner, Council Vice President Rios, & Council President Epps who Abstain. Motion Carries

PAYMENT OF BILLS

April 8, 2025, April 22, 2025, May 13, 2025, & May 28, 2025

Motion to Amend Bills List to just Pay Pitney Bowes, Utilities, & Health Insurance by Council Vice President Rios; Seconded by Council Member Joyner

All Council Members voted with the Affirmative. Motion Carries

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion to OPEN Public Comments by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno, **All-In-Favor**

NONE

Motion to CLOSE Public Comments by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded by Council Member Joyner, **All-In-Favor**

Motion to Adjourned by Council Member Hyatt; Seconded Council Member Bonanno, All-In-Favor

Adjourned at 10:11pm:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,


Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk


Craig Epps, Council President

DATE: 08/05/2025