TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MINUTES

April 28, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Township of Hillside Township Council was held on April 28, 2026 in the Municipal Building, 1409 Liberty Avenue Hillside, New Jersey 07205 at 6:35pm.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Angela R. Garretson, 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 20, 2026. 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

The Township Clerk, read the roll call.

PRESENT

Council Members Lisa Bonanno, George L. Cook III, Armando DaSilva, , Daryl Joyner, Calvin Lofton, Council Vice President David Feuerstein and Council President Angela R. Garretson

ALSO PRESENT

Faheem J. Ra'Oof', Business Administrator & Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Willie Parker, Esq. Township Attorney; Brook L. Nieves, Deputy Clerk and Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk

PAYMENT OF BILLS (April 28, 2026)

Motion by Council Member Joyner; Seconded by Council Member Cook
All Council Members voted with the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

ORDINANCES - Seconded Reading & Public Hearing

O-26-04 AN ORDIANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 91, SECTION 3 TO CHANGE TERM AND START DATE OF TERM – SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE CITIZENS PARTICIPATION AND INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SAME

WHEREAS, the Township Council seeks to encourage citizen participation and increase the opportunities for same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey as follows:

The Township of Hillside Municipal Code Chapter 91 **Senior Citizens Advisory Council,** Section 91-3 **Term**, is amended as follows:

The term shall be for a (Delete "five") **two** years, with the exception of those appointed to fill vacancies. Appointments will take effect (Delete July 1) **December 31.**

First Reading and Introduction: April 14, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		Bonanno	X				
X		Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
		Lofton	X				
	X	Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Public Hearing: April 28, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		Bonanno	X				
X		Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
		Lofton	X				
	X	Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Second Reading and Final Adoption: April 28, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		Bonanno	X				
X		Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
	X	Joyner	X				
		Lofton	X				
		Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Motion to Open Public Hearing by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Lofton, **All-In-Favor**

None

Motion to Close Public Hearing by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Vice President Feuerstien, **All-In-Favor**

O-26-05 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 188, SECTION 44, PARAGRAPH "C" FROM 20 DAYS TO 10 DAYS

WHEREAS, the township needs to be in compliance with the NJ Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) as it relates to the maximum amount of business days to process a Zoning Permit

WHEREAS, the Building Department has reviewed the current ordinance 188-44 C, last amended 1-9-2007 (19 years ago) which states: All zoning reviews are to be conducted by the Zoning Official, and either a permit shall be issued or a written statement of denial shall be provided to the applicant, within 20 days of the completed application and all appropriate submissions having been provided to the Zoning Official.

WHEREAS, the NJ Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) namely NJSA 40:55D-18 states: The administrative officer shall issue or deny a zoning permit within 10 business days of receipt of a request therefor. If the administrative officer fails to grant or deny a zoning permit within this period, the failure shall be deemed to be an approval of the application for the zoning permit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township of Hillside Municipal Code Chapter 188, Section 44, Paragraph "C" is amended to read: All zoning reviews are to be conducted by the Zoning Official, and either a permit shall be issued, or a written statement of denial shall be provided to the applicant, within 10 business days of the completed application and all appropriate submissions having been provided to the Zoning Official.

First Reading and Introduction: April 14, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		Bonanno	X				
X		Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
		Lofton	X				
	X	Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Public Hearing: April 28, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		Bonanno	X				
X		Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
		Lofton	X				
	X	Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Second Reading and Final Adoption: April 28, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		Bonanno	X				
	X	Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
		Lofton	X				
X		Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Motion to Open Public Hearing by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Vice President Feuerstien, **All-In-Favor**

None

Motion to Close Public Hearing by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno, **All-In-Favor**

O-26-06 AN ORDIANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 249, SECTION 13 AND 14, TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL FEE AND PENALTY FOR A NEW OR USED CAR DEALERSHIP LICENSE

WHEREAS, the township is authorized to establish fees to cover administrative, processing, and inspection cost for the issuance of licenses and services; and

WHEREAS, the Building Department has reviewed the fee for a new or used Car Dealership license and has determined that the current fee of $50 established October 20th, 1992 (34 years ago) no longer covers the cost of providing the service; and **WHEREAS**, the attached Comparative Analysis of 20 other municipalities throughout the State of NJ further illustrates the current fee is substantially outdated and

WHEREAS, the township finds that the increase in fees is necessary to maintain the existing level of services and to achieve some cost recovery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey as follows:

Hillside Municipal Code Chapter 249, Section 13 is amended as follows:

- The annual fee for a New or Used Car Dealership License shall be $1,000 when the lot has 20 or less vehicles. The annual license fee shall be $2,000 when the lot has 21 or more vehicles.

Hillside Municipal Code Chapter 249, Section 14 is amended as follows:

- Any person, firm or corporation that misrepresents the number of vehicles on their lot or who shall violate any of the provisions of this Article shall, upon conviction, be punishable by a fine of $2,000 for a 1st offence and $5,000 for a 2nd offence. Subsequent offense fine will be determined by a Judge.

Any existing municipal ordinances that conflict with this one are hereby repealed.

First Reading and Introduction: April 14, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		Bonanno	X				
X		Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
	X	Lofton	X				
		Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Public Hearing: April 28, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		Bonanno	X				
X		Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
	X	Lofton	X				
		Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Second Reading and Final Adoption: April 28, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
	X	Bonanno	X				
X		Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
		Lofton	X				
		Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Motion to Open Public Hearing by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Lofton, **All-In-Favor**

None

Motion to Close Public Hearing by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno, **All-In-Favor**

O-26-07 AN ORDIANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 114, SECTION 3 TO CHANGE TERM COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

WHEREAS, the Township Council seeks to encourage citizen participation and increase the opportunities for same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey as follows:

The Township of Hillside Municipal Code Chapter 114 **Arts, Council on the**, Section 114-3A(3)(a) **Citizen Members**, is amended as follows:

Nine citizen members who shall be appointed as follows. Citizen members shall be appointed by the Township Council and, except for certain initial appointments, shall serve for a term of (Delete three) **two** years. The initial citizen membership shall consist of three members holding three-year terms, three members holding two-year terms, and three members holding a one-year term. Thereafter, all members shall serve for (Delete three) **two** years.

First Reading and Introduction: April 14, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		Bonanno	X				
	X	Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
		Lofton	X				
X		Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Public Hearing: April 28, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		Bonanno	X				
	X	Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
X		Joyner	X				
		Lofton	X				
		Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Second Reading and Final Adoption: April 28, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
X		Bonanno	X				
	X	Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
		Lofton	X				
		Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Motion to Open Public Hearing by Council Member Joyner; Seconded by Council Member Cook, **All-In-Favor**

None

Motion to Close Public Hearing by Council Member Bonanno; Seconded by Council Member Cook, **All-In-Favor**

O-26-08 AN ORDINANCE TO ABOLISH SWIMMING POOL COMMISSION FOR REASONS OF ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY

WHEREAS, the Swimming Pool Commission was established pursuant to Chapter 93 of the Township of Hillside Code in 1971 and said Code Section was amended in 2003; and

WHEREAS, for reasons of economic and administrative efficiency there is no further need for the Swimming Pool Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey that the Township of Hillside Swimming Pool Commission is hereby abolished.

First Reading and Introduction: April 14, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
X		Bonanno	X				
	X	Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
		Lofton			X		
		Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Public Hearing: April 28, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
X		Bonanno	X				
		Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
	X	Lofton	X				
		Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Second Reading and Final Adoption: April 28, 2026

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		Bonanno	X				
	X	Cook	X				
		DaSilva	X				
		Joyner	X				
		Lofton	X				
X		Feuerstein, VP	X				
		Garretson, CP	X				

Motion to Open Public Hearing by Council Member Bonanno; Seconded by Council Member Lofton, **All-In-Favor**

None

Motion to Close Public Hearing by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Joyner, **All-In-Favor**

ORDINANCES >> First Reading & Introduction

O-26-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 291, SECTION 10, PARAGRAPH "A" THROUGH "I" OVERNIGHT PARKING IF TRUCKS AN/OR BUSES PROHIBITED

Motion to **Remove Paragraph I** by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Joyner
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

Public Comments:

John Sowell (Zoning Officer)

- Explained the ordinance

Paula King – 1462 Hiawatha Ave.

- I would appreciate a little more information regarding the ordinance for commercial vehicles. I understand there is a new policy in place, so I would like to know how residents will be informed about it. Specifically, when and how will people be notified if they are not permitted to have commercial vehicles? Will warnings or tickets be issued first, or will neighbors be informed in advance? Any clarification would be appreciated.

Christian Estremera – 1538 Morris Pl.

- I have a question regarding how this ordinance will impact current property owners. For owners who have a significant amount of space on their property, will this ordinance limit what they are allowed to do with their property, particularly in regard to parking or keeping commercial vehicles?

Motion to Close Comments by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Cook, **All-In-Favor**

RESOLUTIONS

Motion to Consent Agenda by Council Vice President Feuerstein; Seconded by Council Member Cook
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-26-082 Auth. the Purchase of Police Body & Fleet Camera Equipment, in Order to be Compliant with NJ Attorney General Guidelines, from Axon Enterprise, Inc. Pursuant to NJ State Contract #L 7-Fleet-00738 in an Amount not to Exceed $535,502.40

WHEREAS the Township of Hillside desires to purchase Police body and fleet camera equipment in order to be compliant with new jersey attorney general guidelines; and

WHEREAS, Axon Enterprise, Inc. has a valid contract through the New Jersey State Contract #17-FLEET-00738; and

WHEREAS this purchase is permitted under N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law which permits contracting units to participate in cooperative pricing systems; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available in an amount not to exceed $535,502.40 paid over five years at $103,660.76 per year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Hillside, in the County of Union, and State of New Jersey authorize the purchase of Police body and fleet cameras from Axon Enterprise, Inc. for a total not to exceed $535,502.40 under the valid New Jersey State Contract #17-FLEET-00738.

Motion to Adopt by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Joyner
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-26-083 Auth. a Comprehensive Technology Risk & Readiness Assessment Pursuant to NJ State Cooperative Purchasing Alliance, Contract # Ck04, in an Amount not to Exceed $66,960.00

WHEREAS the Township of Hillside desires to contract for a comprehensive technology risk and readiness assessment; and

WHEREAS, SHI International Corp. has a valid contract through the New Jersey State Cooperative Purchasing Alliance, contract # 04; and

WHEREAS this purchase is permitted under N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law which permits contracting units to participate in cooperative pricing systems; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available in an amount not to exceed $66,960.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Hillside, in the County of Union, and State of New Jersey authorize the purchase of a comprehensive technology risk and readiness assessment from SHI International Corp. for a total not to exceed $66,960.00 under the valid New Jersey State Cooperative Purchasing Alliance, contract # 04.

Motion to Adopt by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Joyner
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-26-084 Auth. Refund of Premiums for Tax Sale Certificates as the Certificate of Sale have been Fully Paid and Satisfied

WHEREAS, Certificates of Sale for unpaid municipal taxes were issued and sold to the lien holders listed on the attached spreadsheet; and

WHEREAS, premiums were paid to acquire these Certificates of Sale; and

WHEREAS, these Certificates of Sale have been fully paid and satisfied.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE THAT:

1. The Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue checks, as indicated on the attached spreadsheet, to refund premiums.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion to Adopt by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Joyner
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-26-085 Auth. Refund of Premiums for Tax Sale Certificates April 2026 as the Certificates of Sale have Fully Paid and Satisfied

WHEREAS, Certificates of Sale for unpaid municipal taxes were issued and sold to the lien holders listed on the attached spreadsheet; and

WHEREAS, premiums were paid to acquire these Certificates of Sale; and

WHEREAS, these Certificates of Sale have been fully paid and satisfied.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE THAT:

3. The Chief Financial Officer is authorized to issue checks, as indicated on the attached spreadsheet, to refund premiums.

4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion to Adopt by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Joyner
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-26-086 Auth. for Refund for Exempt Property 2025 Taxes (Block 919, Lot 88) Due to Overpayment by Taxpayer

WHEREAS: the property owner was granted Veteran's Exemption by the Department of Veteran Affairs on August 20, 2025, and

WHEREAS: the Tax Assessor approved the exemption on January 22, 2026, as of the date of approval by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and

WHEREAS: the property owner paid their 3rd quarter 2025 in the amount of $2,443.00 the 4th quarter 2025 property taxes in the amount of $3,088.32 and 1st quarter 2026 property taxes in the amount of $2,578.49 in full. and

WHEREAS: the property owner shall receive a partial refund in the amount of $1,112.84 for the 3rd quarter of 2025, 4th quarter 2025 in the amount of $3,088.32 and the 1st quarter 2026 in the amount of $2,578.49.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Hillside that.

1. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to issue a refund check in the amount of **$6,779.65** for partial refund of 3rd quarter of 2025, 4th quarter 2025 and 1st quarter 2026.

Block 919 Lot 38 Freddy Francisco Aybar, 1046 Thomas St, Hillside, NJ 07205
Property Location: 1046 Thomas St.

2.This resolution shall take effect immediately.

3. The Township Clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution to the property owner.

Motion to Adopt by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Joyner
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-26-087 Approving King, Moench & Collins LLP to Provide Alcoholic Beverage Control Counsel Services for the Township of Hillside

WHEREAS, there exists a need for Alcoholic Beverage Control Counsel for various types of matters on an "as-needed" basis for the Township of Hillside; and

WHEREAS, proposals for Legal Services have been solicited via a Fair and Open Process through the issuance of a Request for Proposals the "New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law", N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq. for Outside Legal Counsel which was returnable on March 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, King, Moench & Collins LLP, (51 Gibraltar Drive, Suite 2F, Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950) has been selected as qualified pursuant to the Township's Fair and Open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.

WHEREAS, these forms were not included in the original RFP package; and

WHEREAS, the Township has requested the vendors complete the forms and the same are now on file on the office of the municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council, which serves as the Township's Alcohol Beverage Control Board, has cured this requirement and hereby approves the award of the professional service contract for Alcoholic Beverage Control Counsel.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE THAT:

1. King, Moench & Collins LLP, (51 Gibraltar Drive, Suite 2F, Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950) shall be awarded a contract for Alcoholic Beverage Control Counsel ratified from April 28, 2026, to the date of adoption of this resolution and shall end on April 27, 2027. The total amount of this contract shall not exceed $20,000.00.

2. Attached hereto is a certification of funds in the amount of $5,000.00 in accordance with the Temporary Budget.
3. Upon adoption of the Final Township Budget and availability of funds therein, this Resolution shall be amended to reflect an additional certification of funds in the amount of $15,000.00.
4. The Township Attorney is hereby directed to prepare a Contract/Engagement for execution by the Mayor in accordance with the RFP and this Resolution.
5. Upon approval, a notice of award hereunder shall be published in the official newspapers of the Township pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.5(g).

Motion to Adopt by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Joyner
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

Ceremonial Resolutions **(Read by all Council Members)**

1. **Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Hillside Celebrating the 113th Anniversary of the Township's Incorporation**
   Motion by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno
   All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**
2. **Resolution Recognizing "Autism Awareness Month 2026"**
   Motion to Adopt by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Vice President Feuerstein
   All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**
3. **Resolution Recognizing Extra Curricular Achievement of Hillside Innovation Academy 8th Grade Student Uwaila Agheyisi**
   Motion to Adopt by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Lofton
   All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Motion to Open Public Comments by Council Member Lofton; Seconded by Council Vice President Feuerstein, **All-In-Favor**

Arthur Kobitz – 327 Trinity Pl.

- From my understanding, this issue may have originated from the previous administration and the former CFO, although I cannot confirm all of the details. Last week, while attending a trade show, I spoke with representatives from one of the largest companies (Montana) in the area, and they expressed concerns about continuing work for the township due to unpaid balances from prior years. I informed them that I would deliver their concerns to the new CFO for review. As many may recall, the previous administration also failed to pay the company responsible for work on the traffic lights, which resulted in delays until payment was made. Since this outstanding bill dates back several years, it may now need to be addressed as an emergency expense and potentially included in next year's taxpayer budget.

Maddie Holloway – 141 Bailey Ave.

- I would like to bring attention to the situation on Maple Avenue regarding the repair shop in that area. Anyone who passes through there on a daily basis can see that the conditions are unacceptable and not something the residents of Hillside should have to deal with regularly. There are often dozens of vehicles parked on both sides of the property, with repairs being performed outside alongside visible oil, debris, and other hazards. Concerned residents have contacted code enforcement multiple times seeking answers about whether anything will be done to address the issue, but unfortunately there has been little communication so far. The community would appreciate an update, as this matter cannot be resolved soon enough.

Mr. Franklin – 126 William Ave.

- My question is: what specific steps will the township take to improve communication and accountability regarding billing notices? In my experience, I receive bills on small cards that can easily be overlooked or mistaken for advertisements, and sometimes I do not receive them at all. As a result, the charges accumulate, and when I try to

address the issue, I am told it is my responsibility. Unfortunately, by that point the balance has often increased significantly, sometimes leading to liens being placed on properties along with additional legal and administrative fees that end up costing more than the original bill itself. I was also told that "this is just how Hillside handles it," but I believe residents deserve a clearer and more reliable billing process. Can we please find a way to fix this.

Arthur Garrett – 1585 Summit Ave.

- I drive through the Westminster section and have noticed that the streets look very nice. I appreciate the work being done in that area. However, on Summit Avenue, some material was recently placed on the road, but it came up almost immediately, and I am unsure what it was intended to fix. I respectfully ask that Summit Avenue also receive proper repairs, as residents there pay taxes as well. Please consider addressing the condition of Summit Avenue.

Faith Fryerson – 72 Hillside Ave.

- I am here to find some information at 69 Hillside Avenue. I would appreciate it if someone could look into what is happening at that property. There appears to be a great deal of activity, including concerns about a possible boarding or rooming house and Airbnb rentals. In addition, the lawn is not being maintained. As a resident living directly across the street, I wanted to formally express these concerns and have them placed on record.

Val Mayo – 1424 Liberty Ave.

- I am following up on my concerns regarding the former Bristol Myers building project. At a previous public presentation, residents asked questions about the development, and we were told that there would be senior discount housing included. However, it now appears that apartments are being offered at market value. I thought someone would bring the developers back to clarify this issue, as several residents also recall the previous contractor stating that senior housing would be part of the project. Recently, I have heard that this may no longer be the case. Could someone please provide clarification or invite the developers back to discuss the project and explain how many apartments, if any, will be available for seniors?

Christian Estremera – 1538 Morris Pl.

- I would like this statement to be placed on record. As a community, we are all working together to rebuild and support one another, and it is important to recognize that comments made by public figures can have a significant influence on the community as a whole. I would like to express my concern regarding disparaging remarks about board spending and school support spending. I believe these comments can be harmful and divisive, and I respectfully feel that such remarks should be made more thoughtfully, especially by those who are not directly contributing to or involved in the school system.

Mrs. Diana – 1458 Maple Ave.

- I just have a question. I missed the last meeting and wanted to know if applications are still being accepted for individuals who would like to join the different committees.

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

COUNCIL REMARKS

Council Member DaSilva
Council Member Lofton
Council Member Cook
Council Member Joyner
Council Member Bonanno
Council Vice President Feuerstein
Council President Dr. Garretson

Motion to Adjourned by Council Member Cook; Seconded Council Member Lofton, All-In-Favor

Adjourned at 7:52pm:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk

Council President Angela R. Garretson

Date: June 12, 2026