TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE
CAUCUS MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MINUTES

August 11, 2026

The Caucus Meeting of the Township of Hillside Township Council was held on August 11, 2026, in the Municipal Building, 1409 Liberty Avenue Hillside, New Jersey 07205 at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER
Dr. Angela R. Garretson, Council President, called the meeting to order.

FLAG SALUTE
Council President Garretson led the flag salute.

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 about 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 (Entered at 6:33p.m), Council Vice President David Feuerstein and Council President Dr. Angela R. Garretson

ALSO PRESENT
Faheem J. Ra'Oof', Business Administrator & Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Williee Parker, Esq. Township Attorney; Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., LRO; Brook L. Nieves, Deputy Clerk, and Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk

MINUTES
1. Regular Meeting of June 9, 2026
Motion by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Vice President Feuerstein
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative with the exception of Council Member Bonanno who abstained.
Motion Carries

2. Caucus Meeting of June 23, 2026.
Motion by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Joyner
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

PAYMENT OF BILLS: August 11, 2026
Motion by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Lofton
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

ORDINANCES
O-26-21 >> First Reading & Introduction
There was discussion on the ordinance. No vote was taken.
An Ordinance Amending Chapter 291, Creating Section 20.3, Paragraphs "A" through "E", Prohibiting Repairing of Vehicles Outside of a Fully Enclosing Building

ORDINANCES

O-26-20 >> Second Reading & Public Hearing

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 291, CREATING SECTION 20.3, PARAGRAPHS "A" THROUGH "E", PROHIBITING REPAIRING OF VEHICLES OUTSIDE OF A FULLY ENCLOSED BUILDING

WHEREAS, the township wishes to update local Vehicles and Traffic Codes to reflect changes and growth within society; and

WHEREAS, the Building and Police Departments have reviewed the municipal code and determined that there is a need to regulate the repairing of vehicles outside of an enclosed building; and

WHEREAS, the township finds amending Chapter 291, and creating Section 20.3 would bring the code consistent with other municipalities that have updated their local Vehicles and Traffic Codes; and

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:

Chapter 291, Article II is amended to state:
Stopping, Standing, Parking and Repairing

Chapter 291, Section 20.3 is created to state:
291-20.3 Repairing of motor vehicles or equipment outside of a building prohibited.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person, company or entity to perform any type of repair work; i.e., repair, service, maintenance, dismantling, part swapping, etc., on any type of motor vehicle, RV, boat, trailer or equipment on any public street, parking lot, vacant lot or vacant property in the Township of Hillside. All repair and body work shall be conducted inside a fully enclosed building.

B. It is further unlawful to wash, wax, clean, detail etc., any type of motor vehicle, RV, boat, trailer or equipment outside the confines of a building. Any type of maintenance work shall be conducted inside a fully enclosed building.

C. Repair work in this section shall mean any nature of work upon such vehicles, including, but not being limited to, motor repairs, body repairs and greasing such vehicles, but such term, as used in this section, shall not include such emergency repair work as may be necessary to allow a damaged or stalled vehicle to be moved to a place other than a prohibited location in the Township of Hillside.

D. **Violations and penalties.** Any person violating this section shall be subject to a payable fine of $150.

E. This section of the Municipal Code shall be enforced by the Hillside Police Department.

First Reading and Introduction: June 23, 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: August 11, 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 & Final Adoption: August 11, 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 President Feuerstein, **All-In-Favor**

Mattie Holloway – 141 Bailey Ave.

- Looking for clarification on the ordinance & does it include the repair shops?

Phillip Wilson – 217 Williamson Ave.

- Would like to confirm whether the ordinance is applicable in emergency situations, or if a separate provision or procedure would apply in such circumstances.

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

RESOLUTIONS

R-26-138 Auth. an Event Application for a Block Party on Long Avenue (August 23, 2026)

WHEREAS, Tanky's Bar & Grill Inc. has submitted an Event Application for a Block Party being held on August 23, 2026 (rain date: August 29, 2026), from 12:00 p.m. ending at 8:00 p.m. at 330 Long Avenue, Hillside, New Jersey (New York Place / parking lot); and

WHEREAS, said application has been presented to, and approved by, the Police, Fire, Building, Recreation, and Health Departments based on their for findings and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Township Clerk has reported that the requisite fee has been paid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Hillside, County of Union, State of New Jersey that **Tanky's Bar & Grill Inc.** is issued an Event / Street Closure License in accordance with the Event Application provided the non-refundable application fee.

Motion by Council Vice President Feuerstein; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-26-139 Auth. an Event Application for a Block Party on Long Ave. (September 12, 2026)
There was discussion on the resolution. No vote was taken.

R-26-140 Auth. an Event Application for a Block Party on Williamson Ave. (September 5, 2026)
There was discussion on the resolution. No vote was taken.

R-26-141 Resolution for the Approval of Handicapped Parking Spaces

WHEREAS, four applications for a reserved Handicapped Parking Spaces were received by the Township of Hillside Police Department for the Individuals listed below with the applicable addresses; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillside Police Department has issued a recommendation to approve said applications after an investigation conducted by the Traffic Division.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Hillside, County of Union, State of New Jersey that per the recommendation of the Hillside Police Department, the Township Council hereby approves a Handicapped Parking Space in front of following address for Names listed as follows:

Name	**Address**
Mr. Robert Linton	1528 Compton Terrace, Hillside NJ
Ms. Francine Robinson	218 Conklin Avenue, Hillside NJ
Mrs. Pamela Sharif	237 Belleview Terrace, Hillside NJ
Ms. Maryann Jackson	1510 N. Broad Street apt D8

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

R-26-142 Auth. Refund of Premiums for Tax Sale Certificates August 2026 (June & July) as the Certificates 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 by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Vice President Feuerstein
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-26-143 Approving the Submission of an Award Extension Request for LA-2023 LAIF Hillside Township Burnett Street & Roadway Improvements Project

WHEREAS, the Township received a Municipal Aid Program grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) in April of 2024 for the above stated project (LA-2023 LAIF); and

WHEREAS, the Township advertised and bids were received on the project before the first approved extension deadline, but the bid was not awarded due to concerns with the specification and bids, along with the changing of the administration, the project will be readvertised for bids within the next two months and contract award as required; and

WHEREAS, the Township is now seeking a six (6) month extension of time from the NJDOT to award the above-stated project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Hillside Council approves and supports the request for a six (6) month award extension for the above-mentioned project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Engineer or Township Business Administrator are authorized to submit a formal request for a six (6) month award extension for the above referenced project to the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Business Administrator is hereby authorized to sign the six (6) month award extension request on behalf of the Township of Hillside and their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

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

R-26-144 (Motion from the Floor) Auth. Application to and Intent to Match a Grant Award from The Union County Open Space Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund for the 2026 Kids Recreation Trust Fund Grant

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillside desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund for the 2026 Kids Recreation Trust Fund Grant

WHEREAS, the Township is requesting $62,500.00 in County grant funds with match funds in the amount of $62,500.00 from the township for the rehabilitation of the existing basketball courts at Sanford Park. The matching will be allocated to the project from the Township 's capital improvement fund; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Hillside formally approve the grant application for the above-mentioned project.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund for the 2026 Kids Recreation Trust Fund Grant on behalf of the Township of Hillside.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Chief Finance Officer of the Township of Hillside hereby certify that the Township it has or will have the funds required to meet the 1to1 match of $62,500.00 offered by the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Chief Finance Officer are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Township of Hillside and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Motion to bring the resolution from the floor by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

Motion to adopt the resolution by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS
Planning Board: Dr. Angela R. Garretson, Council President
Committee for Economic Development: David Feuerstein, Vice President
Veterans Advisory Council: Lisa Bonanno
Finance Committee & Board of Health: George Cook
Council of the Arts: Armando DaSilva
Joint Meeting of Essex & Union Counties: Daryl Joyner
Senior Citizens Advisory Council & Recreation Advisory Council: Calvin Lofton

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

Paula King – 1462 Hiawatha Ave.

- I would like to address three matters. First, I am very pleased with the Recreation Summer Program and the mentoring opportunities it provides for our young girls and boys. Second, I would like to bring attention to the sinkholes in the area, which have created safety concerns and nearly caused vehicle accidents. Lastly, I would

like clarification regarding the funding discussed for improvements to the basketball court and recreation facilities, as I had requested funding for benches or seating so parents would have a place to sit while watching their children at the recreation park.

Maddie Holloway – 141 Bailey Ave.

- I am here to represent the residents of Bailey Avenue and Maple Avenue. This is not a new concern, as we have discussed it previously. I see that Code Enforcement is present, and I would like an update on the status of the repair shop in that area. It is concerning that the property continues to have approximately 50 to 60 cars, trucks, buses, and other vehicles parked there, with additional vehicles at the municipal lot when there is not enough space. I would appreciate an update on what is being done to address this ongoing issue.

Theresa Mitchell – 1524 Highland Ave.

- Good evening, Mayor and Council Members. I am here tonight regarding the dead or dying tree near my property. I appreciate the removal of the fallen limb, but the dangerous tree remains. I was previously told it was scheduled for removal, yet it is still standing. After the severe storm on August 7, I am deeply concerned that another branch or the entire tree could fall onto my home. This is a safety issue, not simply a maintenance issue. I respectfully ask the Township to provide a clear update on when this tree will be removed and to inspect it immediately for any additional hazards. Thank you.

Annie Davis – 1544 Morris Pl.

- I would like to make a quick suggestion regarding the meetings. It is often difficult for the public to hear what is being said, especially online, so I respectfully ask that everyone speak directly into the microphones. I also want to raise a few concerns about Morris Place, including the car dealership, auto shop, improper parking, and ongoing Code Enforcement issues. I would also like an update on the vacant houses at Clark Street and Maple Avenue, the property on Clark Street that was damaged by fire several years ago, and the LLC-owned properties on Morris Place. Are these properties being addressed and will the Morris Place homes be returned to proper single-family use? I would appreciate an update on these concerns.

Phili Willson – 217 Ave. Williamson Ave.

- I was wondering about Resolution R-26-140. Is it being postponed until August 25? If so, I would like to know whether the resolution is expected to be approved, as there are several matters related to the block party that need to be addressed and finalized. Lastly, I would like to say that I really enjoyed the newsletter that was recently released. I think it was informative and well put together, and I appreciate the effort that went into it.

James Degross – 270 Compton Ave.

- I would also like to address the ongoing garbage issue between Liberty and Hillside, as well as Maple and Hillside. I have spoken with the businesses individually, and I understand that when the trash is collected and there is no available place to put it, businesses do not want garbage left directly in front of their property. As a result, the garbage is moved from one location to another, which creates an ongoing problem along the street. I believe the Township should consider providing additional garbage cans or identifying a designated area for business trash so that businesses can keep their storefronts clean without being concerned about receiving fines.

Santori Daniel. - 532 Yale Ave.

- I would like to address the ongoing flooding issue in my area. Every time we experience heavy rain, residents deal with flooded streets, damaged vehicles, and flooded basements. I have lived in this Township for more than 27 years, and this has been a constant problem. We continue to see increases in our taxes, yet we are not receiving the services needed to address serious issues like flooding. I respectfully ask the Township to make this a priority and take meaningful action before more property is damaged or someone gets hurt.

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

COUNCIL REMARKS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourned by Council Member Cook; Seconded Council Member Joyner. **All-In-Favor**

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk

Dr. Angela R. Garretson, Council President

DATE: 10/09/2026