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

January 27, 2026 @ 6:39pm *Agenda subject to change*

The Caucus-Regular Meeting of the Township of Hillside Township Council was held on January 27, 2026 in the Municipal Building, 1409 Liberty Avenue Hillside, New Jersey 07205 at 6:30pm.

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

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

ALSO PRESENT
Glynn Jones, CFO; Brook L. Nieves, Deputy Clerk & Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk

PROCLAMATIONS (Read by Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk)

1. Recognizing January National Human Trafficking Prevention Month 2026
2. Recognizing January as Muslim Heritage Month in the Township of Hillside, NJ
3. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
4. International Holocaust Remembrance Day

PAYMENT OF BILLS (January 27, 2026)
Motion by Council Vice President Feuerstein; Seconded by Council Member Lofton
All Council Members voted with the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

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

NONE

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

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION (6:50pm) **Personnel Matters**
Motioned by Council Vice President Feuerstein; Seconded by Council Member Lofton
All-in-Favor

Back into Session (7:12pm)
Motioned by Council Member DaSilva; Seconded by Council Member Cook
All-in-Favor

RESOLUTIONS

WALK ON RESOLUTION – Auth. Emergency Temporary Budget Appropriation for Total Sum of $8,947,461.80
Motion by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Lofton
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-26-010 TAX: Auth. Credit of Veteran Deduction

WHEREAS, a veteran's deduction was granted by the Tax Assessor effective April 1, 2007, for the 2008 tax year, for the property known as Block 1011, Lot 6, located at 1449 Munn Avenue; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, a new deed was recorded adding additional names to the property, at which time the veteran's deduction should have been converted to a widow of a veteran deduction; however, the deduction was inadvertently removed in its entirety; and

WHEREAS, the widow of a veteran remained eligible for a statutory deduction for the 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 tax years in the amount of $250.00 per year to be applied in the form of tax credits.

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

1. The Tax Collector is authorized to credit the accounts as indicated.
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-26-011 TAX: Auth. Refund of Premiums for Tax Sale Certificates

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

R-26-012 Ratifying & Confirming the Appointment of the Township Business Administrator & Chief Financial Officer

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-43 through 44 and the Code of the Township of Hillside provide for the Department of Administration which must be headed by the Business Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Business Administrator shall be chosen solely on the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to his actual experience in, or his knowledge of, accepted practice in respect to the duties of Business Administrator pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-44; and

WHEREAS, each municipality is required under N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140-10 to have a Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") holding a municipal finance officer certificate issued pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140.13; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Andrea Hyatt has nominated Hillside Resident and Certified Public Accountant Faheem J. Ra'Oof for appointment as the Township Business Administrator and Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has reviewed the executive and administrative qualifications and credentials of Business Administrator and CFO appointee Faheem J. Ra'Oof and the Township Council are and is satisfied with Faheem J. Ra'Oof's 30 years of municipal government experience and is satisfied that he is fully qualified and certified to jointly discharge the duties and responsibilities of Township Business Administrator and Chief Financial Officer as set forth in law and the Township Code; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of Faheem J. Ra'Oof to serve jointly as the Township's Business Administrator and Chief Financial Officer will result in nearly $100,000.00 in savings to the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Hillside, that Faheem J. Ra'Oof be, and hereby is, confirmed to serve as the Business Administrator Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Hillside, during the term of office of the Mayor appointing him in accordance with the Faulkner Act at the rate of $197,000.00 per annum.

Motion by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno
All Council Members voted in the Affirmative with the Exception of Council Member Dasilva who Abstain. **Motion Carries**

R-26-013 Appointing Township Attorney for the Township of Hillside

WHEREAS, the Mayor Andrea Hyatt and Township Council deem it necessary and in the best interest of the Township of Hillside to appoint a Township Attorney as the Director of the Department of Law for the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has nominated Dr. William Parker, Esq. to the position of Township Attorney based upon his professional qualifications and experience; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has considered the Mayor's nomination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Hillside hereby provides its advice and consent to the Mayor's nomination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as follows:

1. Dr. William Parker, Esq., is hereby hired and appointed to the position of Township Attorney and will assume the duties for that position as set forth in the Township Code, effective January 15, 2026.
2. Mr. Parker shall be compensated as Township Attorney in the amount of $75,000 per annum retroactive to January 15, 2026.
3. This Resolution, subject to the issuance by the Township's Chief Financial Officer of a certification as to the availability of sufficient funds, shall take effect immediately.

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

R-26-014 Appointing Director of Health for the Township of Hillside

WHEREAS, Mayor Andrea Hyatt and Township Council deem it necessary and in the best interest of the Township of Hillside to appoint a Health Director as the Director of Health for the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has nominated Karla Spivey to the position of Health Director based upon her professional qualifications and experience; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has considered the Mayor's nomination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Hillside hereby provides its advice and consent to the Mayor's nomination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as follows:

1. Karla Spivey is hereby hired and appointed to the position of Health Director and will assume the duties for that position as set forth in the Township Code, effective January 28, 2026.
2. Karla Spivey shall be compensated as Health Director in the amount of $75,000 per annum.
3. This Resolution, subject to the issuance by the Township's Chief Financial Officer of a certification as to the availability of sufficient funds, shall take effect immediately.

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

R-26-015 Appointing Night Municipal Court Prosecutor

WHEREAS, there exists a need for a night Municipal Court Prosecuting Attorney for the Township of Hillside; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor desires to appoint Moshood Muftau, Esq., as night Municipal Court Prosecuting Attorney, at a rate not to exceed $35,000.00 per annum, conterminous with Mayor Andrea Hyatt.

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

1. Moshood Muftau, Esq., is hereby appointed as the night Municipal Court Prosecuting Attorney at the rate, not to exceed $35,000.00 per annum, effective as of January 28, 2026.

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

R-26-016 Appointing a Zoning Officer for the Township of Hillside

WHEREAS, Mayor Andrea Hyatt and Township Council deem it necessary and in the best interest of the Township of Hillside to appoint a Zoning Officer for the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has nominated John Sowell to the position of Zoning Officer based upon his professional qualifications and experience; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has considered the Mayor's nomination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Hillside hereby provides its advice and consent to the Mayor's nomination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as follows:

1. John Sowell is hereby hired and appointed to the position of Zoning Officer and will assume the duties for that position as set forth in the Township Code, effective February 15, 2026.
2. Mr. Sowell shall be compensated as Zoning Officer in the amount of $40,000 per annum.

3. This Resolution, subject to the issuance by the Township's Chief Financial Officer of a certification as to the availability of sufficient funds, shall take effect immediately.

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

R-26-017 Confirming the Appointment of Dwayne D. Warren, Esq. as the Township Council Legislative Research Officer

WHEREAS, the Code of the Township of Hillside Section 4-3.4 provides for a Legislative Research Officer to carry out the duties set forth in said Section of the Code; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has reviewed the qualifications of Dwayne D. Warren, Esq. and is satisfied that he is fully qualified to fulfill the duties of Legislative Research Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Hillside hereby appoints Dwayne D. Warren, Esq. as Legislative Research Officer at a rate of $40,000.00 per annum.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking Event on January 31, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor: An overview of the winter storm and the response efforts of each department

Val Mayo 1444 Liberty Ave.

- Congratulations to all newly elected officials.
- First question is for the Police Department: why are no tickets being issued on street-cleaning days?
- Second question is for the DPW: why are they not consistently coming out to clean the snow?

Lisa McDuffie 1576 Maple Ave.

- **Question regarding plowing:** Is there a way to notify residents when DPW starts plowing so we can move our cars and allow the snow to be cleared from the streets?

Shelia White

- Concern about parking and snow on the street: On her street, there are people who do not park in their driveways. The snow is making it very difficult for everyone to find parking.

Tyrese Outlaw (Works in DPW)

- Bottle and cans pickup will take place tomorrow

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

COUNCIL REMARKS

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

Motion to Adjourned by Council Member Cook; Seconded Council Member Lofton, <u>All-In-Favor</u>

Adjourned at 7:43pm:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk

Dr. Angela R. Garretson, Council President

DATE: 02/18/2026