TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE
ANNUAL INAUGURATION AND REORGANIZATION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MINUTES

January 15, 2026 @ 6:30pm *Agenda subject to change*

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 filed in the Office of the Township Clerk. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted. Proper notice having been given; the Acting Township Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER
Township Clerk Presides as Temporary Chairperson

PRESENTATION OF THE FLAG & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Hillside High School Jr. ROTC

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
Joanne Givens and Richard Carter

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

INVOCATION
Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Powell

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION

OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

1. Council 2nd Ward: Dr. Angela Garretson – administered by Councilwoman Patricia Perkins-Auguste
2. Council-at-Large: Calvin Lofton – administered by Raymond L. Hamlin, esq.
   Lisa Bonanno – administered by Assemblywoman Linda S. Carter
   Armando DaSilva – administered by Senator Joseph P. Cryan
3. Mayor: Andrea Hyatt - administered by Senator Renee C. Burgess

ROLL CALL OF THE FIRST COUNCIL MEETING IN 2026 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE
Council Member Bonanno, Council Member DaSilva, Council Member Feuerstein, Council Member Garretson, Council Member Joyner, and Council Member Lofton

NOMINATION, ELECTION & ADMINISTRATION OF OATH – 1ST WARD COUNCIL VACANCY
R-26-001 Filing the Vacancy of First Ward Council Member

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2026, First Ward Council Member, Andrea Hyatt, assumed the Office of Mayor for the Township of Hillside; and

WHEREAS, the assumption as Mayor creates a vacancy in the position of First Ward Council Member pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:16-3; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Hyatt was not elected Mayor as the nominee of any political party pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:16-11; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Municipal Vacancy Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:16-1 *et seq.*, provides that the remaining members of the Township Council may appoint any qualified resident of the Township who lives in the First Ward to temporarily fill the created vacancy until the certification of the next Municipal Election to be held within the Township of Hillside in November 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has identified a qualified individual residing in the First Ward and has reviewed the qualifications for appointment to temporarily fill the First Ward Council vacancy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Hillside, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that George L. Cook III is appointed as First Ward Councilmember of the Township of Hillside, effective January 15, 2026, until the certification of the November 2026 General Election by the Union County Clerk.

Motion to Nominate Anthony Saltors by Council Member DaSilva; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno, All Council Members voted in the Affirmative with the Exception of Council Members Feuerstein, Garrettson, & Joyner who Voted No.
Mayor Voted **No** to Break the Tie: **Motion Fails**

Motion to Nominate George Cook by Council Member Joyner; Seconded by Council Member Feuerstein, All Council Members voted in the Affirmative with the Exception of Council Members Bonnanno, DaSilva, & Lofton who Voted No.
Mayor Voted **Yes** to Break the Tie: **Motion Carries**

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Motion to Nominate Angela Garretson for Council President by Council Member Feuerstein; Seconded by Council Member Cook, All Council Members voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE

Council President - Oath of Office was administered by Rayna E. Harris Township Clerk

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Motion to Nominate David Fererstein for Council Vice President by Council President Garretson ; Seconded by Council Member Cook, All Council Members Voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE

Council Vice President - Oath of Office was administered by Rayna E. Harris Township Clerk

RESOLUTION

R-26-009 Appointing Board Member to the Joint Meeting Essex & Union Counties (From the Floor)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Hillside hereby appoints as the Township's Representative to the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties for the year 2026:

Council Member: Daryl Joyner

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Council that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

CONSENT AGENDA - RESOLUTIONS

R-26-002 Auth. Temporary Budget Appropriations for Total Sum of $13,056,926.39 2026

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides that where any contract, commitments or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the Calendar Year 2026, temporary budget appropriations shall be made for the purposes and amount required in the manner and time therein provided; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of this resolution shall be made prior to the 30th day of January 2026; and

WHEREAS, the total of the temporary appropriations does not exceed 26.25% of the total appropriations of the 2025 budget of the Township of Hillside, exclusive of any appropriations for debt service, capital and any other appropriations, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following temporary budget appropriations be made for the calendar year 2026:

Appropriations Within "CAPS"		
Department	**Type**	**Amount**
Administration and Executive	SW	$63,000.00
Administration and Executive	OE	$7,875.00
Economic Development	SW	$32,418.75
Economic Development	OE	$1,050.00
Record Retention	OE	$
Repair and Maintenance Contracts	OE	$0
Township Clerk's Office	SW	$63,000.00
Township Clerk's Office	OE	$13,125.00
Advertising	OE	$2,625.00
Election	OE	$26,675.00
Township Council	SW	$22,706.25
Township Council	OE	$3,150.00
Financial Administration	SW	$131,250.00
Financial Administration	OE	$40,687.50
Annual Audit	OE	$22,312.50
Assessment of Taxes	SW	$23,887.50
Assessment of Taxes	OE	$1,837.50
Computer Services	OE	$7,875.00
Collection of Taxes	SW	$47,250.00
Collection of Taxes	OE	$13,125.00
Legal Service	SW	$38,062.50
Legal Service	OE	$39,375.00
Municipal Prosecutor	SW	$8,137.50
Municipal Prosecutor	OE	$.00
Engineering Service	SW	$0
Engineering Service	OE	$68,250.00
Alcohol Beverage Control Board	OE	$1,312.50
Buildings and Grounds	SW	$18,375.00
Buildings and Grounds	OE	$30,187.50
Planning Board	SW	$
Planning Board	OE	$6,562.50
Zoning Cost	SW	$
Zoning Cost	OE	$1,312.50
Postage	OE	$9,187.50
Unemployment Compensation	OE	$21,000.00
Workman's Compensation	OE	$217,875.00
Group Insurance Plan for Employee	OE	$2,173,500.00
Insurance Other	OE	$456,750.00
NJSTDI		$7,875.00

Fire	SW	$1,824,375.00
Fire	OE	$57,750.00
Fire Ambulance Service	OE	$10,500.00
Uniform Fire Safety Act (P.L 1983)	SW	$19,687.50
Uniform Fire Safety Act (P.L 1983)	OE	$3,150.00
Police	SW	$2,295,562.50
Police	OE	$76,125.00
Traffic Lights	OE	$23,362.50
School Crossing Guards	SW	$64,312.50
Garage Service & Repair	SW	$26,250.00
Garage Service & Repair	OE	$27,562.50
Office of Emergency Management	SW	$2,362.50
Office of Emergency Management	OE	$2,625.00
Roads Repairs and Maintenance	SW	$459,375.00
Roads Repairs and Maintenance	OE	$89,250.00
Garbage and Trash Collection	OE	$813,750.00
Sewer System	OE	$21,000.00
Sewer Pumping Station	OE	$13,125.00
Board of Health	SW	$45,937.50
Board of Health	OE	$5,250.00
Dog License Regulation	OE	$23,887.50
Community Recreation Committee	SW	$68,250.00
Community Recreation Committee	OE	$10,500.00
Senior Citizens Program	SW	$52,500.00
Senior Citizens Program	OE	$5,250.00
Celebration of Public Events- Mayor	OE	$787.50
Celebration of Public Events - Municipal Council	OE	$787.50
Municipal Court	SW	$91,875.00
Municipal Court	OE	$9,187.50
Public Defender	OE	$5,250.00
TV	OE	$0
Uniform Construction Code Official	SW	$128,625.00
Uniform Construction Code Official	OE	$3,937.50
Utilities	OE	$199,500.00
Street Lighting	OE	$95,812.50
Fire Hydrant	OE	$85,312.50
Group Insurance Waiver	OE	$0
Salary Adjustment Account	SW	$5,250.00
Accumulated Leave	OE	$131,250.00
Temporary and Summer Employees	SW	$9,450.00
Contingent	OE	$
PERS	OE	$
PFRS	OE	$
Social Security (FICA)	OE	$207,274.20

Consolidated PD/FD	OE	$
DCRP	OE	$15,750.00
Total		**$10,651,361.70**

Appropriations Excluded from "CAPS"

Department	**Type**	**Amount**
Maintenance of Free Public Library	OE	$308,553.52
Joint Truck Sewer	OE	$2,017,211.18
Reserve for Tax Appeals	OE	$1,312.50
Union County Fire & EMS Dispatch Services	OE	$16,012.50
Matching Funds for Grants	OE	$28,875.00
Judgements	OE	$7,350.00
Capital Improvement Fund	OE	$26,250.00
Interest on Notes	OE	$
Payment of Bond Principal	OE	$
Interest on Bonds	OE	$
NJEIT Principal	OE	$
NJEIT Interest	OE	$
NJDCA Demolition Loan	OE	$
UCIA Principal	OE	$0
UCIA Interest	OE	$0
Total Temporary Appropriation Excluded From the "CAPS"		**$2,405,564.69**

Swimming Pool

Department	**Type**	**Amount**
Swimming Pool S & W	SW	$0
Swimming Pool O & E	OE	$0
Swimming Pool Debt Services - Notes	OE	$0
Swimming Pool Debt Service Interest	OE	$0
Total Swimming Pool		**$0**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above Temporary Budget is hereby authorized to provide for contracts, commitments and payments prior to the adoption of the 2026 Municipal Budget.

R-26-003 Annual Meeting Schedule

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provision of N.J.S.A.10:4-18, at least once a year, within seven days following its annual reorganization meeting, the Township Council is obligated to provide "adequate notice", as defined in N. J. S. A. 10:4-8(d), of the schedule of the regular meetings of the Township Council to be held during the succeeding year; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council desires to establish a meeting schedule for the year (January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026), as required by the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

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

During the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, unless otherwise indicated below*, the Township Council shall have (1) Annual Reorganization Meeting (1) Caucus Meeting per month and (1) Caucus-Regular Meeting per month. The dates and times for such meetings are set forth in the Meeting Schedule Notice below. Unless otherwise notified, all Caucus Meetings, Regular Meetings, and the Reorganization Meeting of the Township Council shall be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Municipal Building, 1409 Liberty Avenue (Liberty and Hillside Avenues), Hillside, NJ 07205.

Reorganization Meeting	January 15, 2026
Caucus Meetings	**Regular Meetings**
N/A	January 27, 2026
February 10, 2026	February 24, 2026
March 10, 2026	March 24, 2026
April 14, 2026	April 28, 2026
May 12, 2026	May 26, 2026
June 9, 2026	June 23, 2026
July - NO MEETING*	July - NO MEETING*
August 11, 2026	August 25, 2026
September 8, 2026	September 22, 2026
October 13, 2026	October 27, 2026
November 10, 2026	November 24, 2026
December 8, 2026	December 22, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to take all actions as are required in order to satisfy the requirements of N. J. S. A. 10:4-18, including, but not limited to, (a) prominently posting, and maintaining throughout the year, the Meeting Schedule Notice in at least one public place reserved for such announcements, (b) mailing the Meeting Schedule Notice to the newspapers officially designated by the Township Council to receive such notices, and (c) filing the meeting schedule with the Municipal Clerk of the Township of Hillside.

R-26-004 Designation of Official Newspapers for 2026

WHEREAS, the Township of Hillside desires to comply with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, otherwise designated as the "Open Public Meetings Act", N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, and more particularly N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(d), requires the Township Council to designate at least two newspapers that have the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the Township of the Township's public meetings and of other official matters and legal publications of the Township, and requires the Township Council to designate one such newspaper as the "official newspaper" for the Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Hillside, as follows:

1. The Township Council hereby designates the Star Ledger, the Union County Local Source, Luso Americano, and TAPInto to receive notices required under the Open Public Meetings Act along with other official or legal advertisements as deemed appropriate by the Township.
2. The Township Council hereby designates the Star Ledger and the Union County Local Source as the official newspapers for the Township as required by N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(d).
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

R-26-005 Designating Depositories

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Hillside that the following be and they are hereby designated as depositories for all funds of the Township of Hillside for the Fiscal Calendar Year 2026:

Wells Fargo
State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund Valley
National Bank
Citizens Bank

R-26-006 Appointing Auditor – Suplee, Clooney & Company

TERM: January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026

WHEREAS, there exists a need for an Auditor for the Township of Hillside, and

WHEREAS, qualification statements have been solicited via a Fair and Open Process through the annual issuance of a Request for Proposal ("RFP") for certain professional services returnable on December 10, 2024, in accordance with the "New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law", N.J.S.A. 40A:1 l-l, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Suplee Clooney & Company was the only entity to submit a proposal for these services. The proposed description of services is as follows: ***2025 Statutory Audit -Audit of Current Fund, Trust Fund, Capital Fund, Swim Pool Utility Fund, General Fixed Assets Account Group, and various other offices as pre-scribed by the Division of Local Government Services and where applicable Federal and State pro-grams in accordance with the Single Audit Act of 1996, Federal Uniform Guidance and State of New Jersey OMB Circular 15-08; and audit of the billings and collections of the Sewer User Charges;*** and

WHEREAS, Suplee Clooney & Company (308 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090) 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.

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

1. Suplee Clooney & Company, (308 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090) is hereby awarded a con-tract to perform the following services: ***2025 Statutory Audit - Audit of Current Fund, Trust Fund, Capital Fund, Swim Pool Utility Fund, General Fixed Assets Account Group, and various other offices as prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services and where applicable Federal and State programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act of 1996, Federal Uniform Guidance and State of New Jersey OMB Circular 15-08; and audit of the billings and collections of the Sewer User Charges.*** The total contract amount for said services shall be $68,350.00. Consistent with the Temporary Township Budget, a partial certification of funds in the amount of $10,000.00 is attached hereto.
2. Upon adoption of the Final Township Budget, this Resolution shall be amended to reflect an additional certification of funds in the amount of $58,350.00.
3. THE ANNUAL (UNAUDITED) FINANCIAL STATEMENT (AFS) shall be prepared by the firm at a cost not to exceed $20,000.00 in accordance with the attached certification of funds as permitted under the Township's Temporary Budget.
4. Assistance with the 2026 Budget shall be provided at a cost not to exceed $10,000.00 in accordance with the attached certification of funds as permitted under the Township's Temporary Budget.
5. This contract is awarded in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq., and upon approval, notice of award hereunder shall be published in the official newspaper of the Township pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:1l-4.5(g).
6. The Township Attorney is hereby directed to prepare and furnish to the entity named in Section 1, a Contract in accordance with the RFP and this Resolution.
7. The Mayor is hereby authorized to examine and execute said Contract.

R-26-007 Tax-Fixing of Interest, Grace Period, & Year End Penalty for Tax and Sewer

TAX - FIXING OF INTEREST, GRACE PERIOD, AND YEAR END PENALTY FOR TAX AND SEWER

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-66, taxes in municipalities operating under a calendar based fiscal year shall be payable for the first quarterly installment of the year on February 1, for the second quarterly installment May 1, for the third quarterly installment on August 1, and for the fourth quarterly installment November 1; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a) provides that the governing body may fix the rate of interest to be charged for the non-payment of taxes, assessments or other municipal liens or charges on or before the date when they would become delinquent; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a), the governing body may provide that taxes shall not be subject to interest charges if payments of any installments is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which same became payable: and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(c), the governing body may fix a penalty to be charged to a taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of $10,000 who fails to pay that delinquency as billed, prior to the end of the fiscal year, provides that within the current fiscal year if any delinquency is in excess of $10,000.00, which penalty shall not exceed 6% of the amount of the delinquency with respect to each most recent fiscal year only.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Hillside, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66 et seq, the rate of interest to be charged on delinquent taxes and all other municipal liens or charges for the first, second, third and fourth quarterly installments of year 2026 shall be eight percent (8%) per annum on the first $1500.00 of delinquency and eighteen percent (18%) per annum on any amount in excess of $1500.00 to be calculated from the date the tax was payable until the date of actual payment to the collector is received provided that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made on or before the tenth calendar day following the date upon which same became payable: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the rate of interest on unpaid sewer utility bills shall be the eight percent (8%) on the first $1500.00 and eighteen percent (18%) on any amount in excess of $1500.00 per annum on any delinquency to be calculated from the date the bill was payable until the date of actual payment, provided that no interest shall be charged if payment of any bill is made within thirty (30) calendar days following the billing date or before the tenth calendar day following the date upon which same became payable, whichever is later; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a penalty of six percent (6%) be charged on all delinquent taxes and municipal charges in excess of $10,000.00 that are not paid prior to the end of the fiscal year.

R-26-008 Tax-Cancellation of Small Balances

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40a:5-17.1(a) permits the governing body to adopt a resolution authorizing a municipal employee to process, without further action on the part of the governing body, any property tax refund of less than $10.00.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40a:5-17.1(b) further permits the governing body to adopt a resolution authorizing a municipal employee to process, without further action on the part of the governing body, the cancellation of any property tax refund, delinquency, or the charges or fees imposed by a municipality of less than $10.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Hillside that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to process, without any further action by the Township Council, any property tax refunds of less than $10.00 and the cancellation of any property tax refund, delinquency, or the charges or fees imposed by the Township therefore in an amount less than $10.00.

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

COUNCIL REMARKS

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DIGNITARIES AND GUESTS - By Council President Garretson

ADDRESS BY MAYOR:
Speech & Moment of Silence for Principal Terry Woolard

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
None

BENEDICTION
Rev. Dr. Christopher Michael Jones

MOTION TO ADJOURNED by Council Member Joyner; Seconded Council Member Cook, **All-In-Favor**

Adjourned at 7:53pm

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk

DATE: 02/18/2026

Dr. Angela Garretson, Council President