TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MINUTES

July 14, 2026

The Caucus Meeting of the Township of Hillside Township Council was held on July 14, 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 of this meeting was sent to the Star Ledger on July 10, 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 President Dr. Angela R. Garretson

EXCUSED
Council Vice President David Feuerstein

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

PRESENTATION
B.A. Faheem J. Ra'Oof' gave a CY 2026 budget presentation and overview.

BUDGET
R-26-133 Auth. the Introduction of the CY 2026 Municipal Budget

MUNICIPAL BUDGET NOTICE

Section 1.

Municipal Budget of the TOWNSHIP of HILLSIDE, County of UNION for the Fiscal Year 2026

Be it Resolved, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2026;

Be it Further Resolved, that said Budget be published on the offical website www.hillsidenj.us on July 24th ,2026;

Also, if applicable, it will be advertised in the following on-line publication of Star Ledger on July 24th ,2026.

The Governing Body of the TOWNSHIP of HILLSIDE does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the year 2026:

RECORDED VOTE
(Insert Last Name)

Ayes	Dr. Angela Garretson Daryl Joyner George L. Cook Lisa Bonnano Armando Dasilva Calvin Lofton	Nays		Abstained	
				Absent	David Feurstein

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the COUNCIL MEMBERS of the TOWNSHIP of HILLSIDE, County of UNION, on July 14th, 2026.

A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at Hillside Municipal Building, on August 25th, 2026 at 6:30pm o'clock ____ at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2026 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS: July 14, 2026
Motion by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Lofton
All Council Members present voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

RESOLUTIONS

R-26-134 Approving the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Township of Hillside and OPEIU-Local 32/Hillside Crossing Guards

WHEREAS, the OPEIU-Local-32 is a recognized employee organization representing employees of the Hillside Crossing Guards bargaining unit; and

WHEREAS, the OPEIU-Local-32 members are parties to a collective Bargaining Agreement which expired June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS negotiations for the Administration and the OPEIU Local-32 have reach agreement on terms of a successor Memorandum of Understanding; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township Of Hillside hereby approves the Tentative Agreement setting the terms and conditions of the successor Memorandum of Understanding between the Township of Hillside and the OPEIU Local-32, of which
Accompany this Resolution and are incorporated by reference herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding shall be in full force and effect and ratified from July 1, 2024, to the date of adoption hereof and shall continue through June 30, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Mayor, Chief Financial Officer and Township Attorney have the authority to take the necessary actions to implement the provisions of this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

R-26-135 Resolution of the Township of Hillside Adopting the Union County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS, the Township Council recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within Township of Hillside; and

WHEREAS, the County of Union has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as Union County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026, in accordance with federal and state laws, including the **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act**, as amended; the **National Flood Insurance Act of 1968**, as amended; and the **National Dam Safety Program Act**, as amended; and New Jersey P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 313 approved January 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Union County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026, identifies current and future natural hazard risks, and assesses the vulnerability of facilities, infrastructure, and populations, and defines mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long term risk to people and property in (local government) from the impacts of future natural hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the Township Council demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the Union County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Hillside, County of Union, State of New Jersey that:

Section 1. In accordance with (local rule for adopting resolutions), the Township Council adopts the Union County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2026. While content related to Township of Hillside may require revisions to meet the plan approval requirements, changes occurring after adoption will not require Township of Hillside to re-adopt any further iterations of the plan. Subsequent plan updates following the approval period for this plan will require separate adoption resolutions.

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

R-26-137 Auth. the Submission of a UEZ Funding Request to the State of NJ, DCA Urban Enterprise Zone Authority for Hillside UEZ FY 2026 Administrative Budget

WHEREAS the Township of Hillside UEZ Program desires to submit for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Urban Enterprise Zone Authority in an amount not to exceed $142,500 to be used to fund administrative expenses for the administration of Hillside Urban Enterprise Zone Program for the period July 1st, 2026, through June 30th, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Hillside does hereby authorize the application for such funding; and, recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the funding agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such funding agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Township of Hillside UEZ Program and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Urban Enterprise Zone's Zone Assistance Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Hillside that the Council consents to the submission of the FY 2026 Administrative Budget as proposed by the Hillside UEZ.

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

R-26-138 Auth. Application to the NJ Department of Transportation's FY27 Municipal AID Grant Program (Motion From the Floor)

WHEREAS, there is a need for approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Dod Pl and N Union Ave Improvements project.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as: MA-2027-Dod Pl and N Union Ave Improvements-00644 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Hillside.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor and Council and Clerk 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 by Council Member Cook; Seconded by Council Member Bonanno
All Council Members present voted in the Affirmative. **Motion Carries**

R-26-136 Auth. the Mayor and Municipal Clerk of the Township of Hillside to Execute an Agreement with County of Union to Modify the Cooperative Agreement Dated June 2014, as Amended 2017

WHEREAS, certain Federal funds are potentially available to the County of Union under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Block Grant Act of 1974, as amended, commonly known as the Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, certain Federal funds are potentially available to the County of Union under Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, commonly known as the HOME Investment Partnership program; and

WHEREAS, substantial Federal funds provided through subtitle B of Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act commonly known as the Emergency Solutions Grants program (ESG) are allocated to prevent homelessness and to enable homeless individuals and families to move toward independent living; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend an existing Cooperative Agreement for the County of Union and its people to benefit from this program; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township of Hillside **and** the County of Union in cooperation with each other to enter into a modification of the existing Cooperative Agreement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Hillside that the agreement entitled **"COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF UNION AND CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES FOR CONDUCTING CERTAIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES,"** dated June 10, 2014, as amended July 25, 2017 for the Purpose of Inserting a Description of Activities for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 of the Union County Community Development Block Grant program, the HOME Investment Partnership program, and the Emergency Shelter Grant program (ESG), a copy of which is attached hereto; be executed by the Mayor and Municipal Clerk in accordance with the provisions of law;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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

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

No one spoke.

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

COUNCIL REMARKS
Council Member Joyner
Council Member Cook
Council Member Lofton
Council Member DaSilva
Council Member Bonanno
Council President Dr. Garretson

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Rayna E. Harris, Township Clerk

Dr. Angela R. Garretson, Council President

DATE: 10/09/2026