

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING – March 4, 2024**

Mayor Mueller *calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

- PRESENT:** Mayor A. Mueller, Deputy Mayor V. Panico, Mr. J. Albanese and Mr. J. Heller
- ALSO PRESENT:** Administrator R. Sheola, Municipal Clerk K. Parker, Attorney C. Corsini
- ABSENT:** Mr. J. Huelsebusch

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Clerk read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION
EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist and desires to authorize the exclusion of the public from the portion of the meeting in accordance with the act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

- The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the specified subject matter as set forth in the following Exhibit “A.”

EXHIBIT A

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Basis Of Public Exclusion</u>	<u>Date Anticipated When Disclosed to Public</u>
Police Department	Personnel	Certain information at the discretion of Twp tonight shall remain confidential
Finance	Personnel	“ “ “
Personnel	Personnel	“ “ “
Memorandum of Understanding (Director of Public Safety)	Contract Negotiations.....	“ “ “
Professional Services / Tax Appeal Attorney	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
Professional Services / Special Counsel (Mondello)	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
Developers & Sewer Agreement (Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity)	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “
Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority	Contract Negotiations	“ “ “

Executive Session Minutes..... • February 20, 2024	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“	“	“
Executive Session Minutes..... • May 22, 2022, November 6, 2023, November 20, 2023 (redaction for release)	Attorney-Client Privilege.....	“	“	“
Affordable Housing.....	Potential Litigation.....	“	“	“
Readington Realty Holdings, LLC vs..... vs. Twp of Readington	Litigation	“	“	“

It is anticipated at this time that the stated subject matter will be made public on or about the time set forth in Exhibit “A.”

2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Heller to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

The meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Mueller led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

Executive Session:

Personnel / Police Department

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-62

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of public safety in Readington Township to hire police officers, and

WHEREAS, a recent retirement created a vacancy within the Readington Township Police Department, and

WHEREAS, Miles C. Smith, a recognized certified police officer by the New Jersey Police Training Commission, has succeeded a rigorous hiring process including interviews and examinations, and

WHEREAS, Director of Public Safety, James Curry, and Township Administrator, Richard J. Sheola, have recommended the hiring of Miles C. Smith; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Readington Township Committee agrees to hire Miles C. Smith as probationary police officer with the Readington Township Police Department, effective March 5, 2024.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Albanese and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

- Mr. Albanese -Aye
- Mr. Heller - Aye
- Mr. Panico - Aye
- Mayor Mueller - Aye

SWEARING OF NEW PATROL OFFICER

Municipal Clerk Parker swore in Miles Smith as Probationary Patrolman.

Personnel / Finance

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Personnel / Personnel

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Memorandum of Understanding (Director of Public Safety)

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / Tax Appeal Attorney

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-63

***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR
TAX ATTORNEY SERVICES***

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has a need to acquire Tax Attorney Services through a fair and open process pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has determined and certified in writing that the value of the services may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Craig Bossong, Esq. (Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt, Cappelli & Tipton, LLC) has submitted a proposal indicating he will provide Tax Attorney Services at a rate of \$170 per hour for a total amount not to exceed the amount appropriated for this service in the approved/adopted 2024 budget.

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer's Certification of the availability of funds is on file – (*N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*) and will be amended to reflect the final approved funds for this purpose upon adoption/approval of the 2024 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Craig Bossong, Esq. as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said contract shall expire on December 31, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection; and

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

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Albanese and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

Contract Negotiations / Professional Services / Special Counsel (Ronald Mondello, Esq.)

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-64

**TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, there exists a need in the Township of Readington for Professional Services; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contract Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.*) requires that the Resolution hiring a professional for professional services without competitive bids must be publicly advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Readington as follows:

1. That the following contract has been awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (a)* of the Local Public Contract Law because the services rendered or to be performed are by persons authorized by law to practice their profession:
 - Ronald Mondello, Esq. to represent the Township on Municipal Cannabis Legal Service at a Municipal rate of \$275 per hour and Cannabis escrow (billed to the cannabis applicant) at an hourly rate as this Subject Matter Expert of \$350 and \$325 per hour for litigation.
2. Said contract shall expire on March 20, 2025.
3. Copies of this Professional Service Contract are on file with the Municipal Clerk and are available there for public inspection.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this resolution, seconded by Mr. Albanese and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

Contract Negotiations / Developers & Sewer Agreement (Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity)

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Developers Agreement for Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, seconded by Mr. Albanese and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Sewer Agreement for Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, seconded by Mr. Albanese and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

Contract Negotiations / Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / February 20, 2024

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 20, 2024 for content only, seconded by Mr. Heller with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Attorney-Client Privilege / Executive Session Minutes / May 22, 2022, November 6, 2023, November 20, 2023 ~ Redaction for Release

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 22, 2022, November 6, 2023, November 20, 2023 for release as redacted, seconded by Mr. Heller with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Potential Litigation / Affordable Housing

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

Litigation / 388 Route 22 Readington Realty Holdings, LLC vs. Twp of Readington

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the amended agreement between the Township of Readington and the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund and Public Alliance Insurance Coverage Fund, seconded by Mr. Albanese and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
Mr. Heller - Aye
Mr. Panico - Aye
Mayor Mueller - Aye

The following item was added to the Executive Session:

Contract Negotiations / Board of Education / Security

Mayor Mueller stated that this matter remains in Executive Session.

PRESENTATION OF POLICE AWARDS

The following officers were recognized for receiving Life Saving Honor Awards:

Trevor Anderson
Joseph De Rocha
Jacob Belardo
Raymond Mackiewicz
Terry Wolverton
Michael Ramos

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Mueller read the following statement:

All items listed with an asterisk “” are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a committee member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from the General Order of Business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.*

Mayor Mueller requested the removal of *Item # 1* from the Consent Agenda.

1. * **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of meetings of February 20, 2024
2. * **Release of Police Escrow/ Supreme Industries**
3. * **Resolution of Support from Local Governing Body Authorizing Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by PSEG for a Municipal Application for \$2,000 Capacity Building Grant 2024**

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

#R-2024-65

Resolution of Support from Local Governing Body Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey® Grant funded by PSEG for a Municipal Application for \$2,000 Capacity Building Grant 2024

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic, and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, Readington Township strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air, and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, Readington Township is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants funded by PSEG;

THEREFORE, the Township Committee of Readington Township has determined that Readington Township should apply for the aforementioned Grant in order to evaluate and implement document management applications to improve administration of the Sustainable Jersey recertification process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Readington Township State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of the aforementioned Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by PSEG.

4. ***Tax Lien Redemption***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

READINGTON TOWNSHIP
HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, an interested party has paid to the Tax Collector the amount necessary to redeem the lien on Block 4, Lot 87 and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Tax Collector to refund to the lienholder the redemption amount.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee that the Treasurer be authorized to refund the redemption amount of \$200.13, plus a premium paid in the amount of \$100.00, known as Tax Sale Certificate#2023-003, to the lienholder, Anthony Malinowski.

5. ***Tax Lien Redemption***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

READINGTON TOWNSHIP
HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, an interested party has paid to the Tax Collector the amount necessary to redeem the lien on Block 95, Lot 12.375 and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Tax Collector to refund to the lienholder the redemption amount.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee that the Treasurer be authorized to refund the redemption amount of \$200.13, plus a premium paid in the amount of a \$100.00, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2023-012, to the lienholder, Anthony Malinowski.

6. ***Tax Refund***

The following resolution was offered for consideration:

READINGTON TOWNSHIP
HUNTERDON COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Readington Township Tax Collector has recommended the following refund of a property tax payment from 2024:

<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>REFUND TO</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
73/332	Jason Salerno	Duplicate Payment	\$4,393.86

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the amount recommended.

7. *Payment of Bills – (Complete bill list is on file in Clerk’s Office)

<u>Fund Description</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Received Total</u>
GENERAL	3-01	\$ 6,377,039.14
SEWER UTILITY OP FUND	3-02	\$ 35.75
GENERAL	4-01	\$ 1,028,997.57
SEWER UTILITY OP FUND	4-02	\$ 120,802.88
GENERAL	G-01	\$ 1,756.40
OTHER TRUST	X-03	\$ 33,531.87
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	X-06	\$ 393,533.34
2022-14 VARIOUS CAPITAL	X-22	\$ 895.63
2023 CAP IMPROVEMENTS	X-23	\$ 8,617.20
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		\$ 7,965,209.78

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to approve the Consent Agenda (*with the removal of item#1*), seconded by Mr. Heller and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese -Aye
 Mr. Heller - Aye
 Mr. Panico - Aye
 Mayor Mueller - Aye

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC for items listed on the agenda only

There were no comments from the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

As it was after 7:45 p.m., A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 148 OF THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY PERTAINING TO PERFORMANCE AND MAINTENANCE GUARANTEES

ORDINANCE #03-2024

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the governing body

There were none.

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were no comments.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 148 OF THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY PERTAINING TO PERFORMANCE AND MAINTENANCE GUARANTEES

ORDINANCE #03-2024

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to adopt this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Albanese and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE #33-2021 AMENDING CHAPTER 148 OF THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY PERTAINING TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND ADOPTING A REPLACEMENT ORDINANCE

Ordinance #04-2024

Engineer O'Brien stated that Hunterdon County Planning Board reviewed this ordinance and had some additional comments regarding the stormwater ordinance and suggested continuing the Public Hearing to the April 1st meeting to allow time for him to further review the recommendations.

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

There were none.

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the public.

There were none.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to continue the Public Hearing of Ordinance #04-2024 to April 1, 2024, seconded by Mr. Albanese and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Clerk read by Title:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 201 “SPECIAL EVENTS” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON TO INCLUDE APPLICATIONS FOR FILMING AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING SPECIAL EVENTS APPLICATIONS

Ordinance #07-2024

Deputy Mayor Panico provided an overview of the ordinance.

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the governing body.

Mr. Heller requested that a clause that stipulates that “*any use of the property for filming shall be restored to the same shape/or better*” and that it is noted that use of the four properties, Bouman Stickney Farmstead, Eversole Hall House, Darts Mill and Taylor’s Mill require prior approval from the State Historic Preservation Office.

Mayor Mueller asked if there were any comments from the public.

Pat Fisher Olsen, Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, spoke to the state law in place which states that government agencies, such as the Township of Readington, that own property listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places must obtain permission from the NJ State Historic Preservation Office before undertaking any actions that could impact the property. Ms. Olsen recommended that the following sites that fall under this are not permitted to be used for filming:

- Bouman Stickney Farmstead
- Eversole Hall House
- Darts Mill
- Taylor’s Mill

Betty Ann Fort inquired about provisions for any off site security that may be needed.

Andrew Saad expressed concern about the bond amount.

Ken Becker asked about the Township’s interest in filming.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to close the Public Hearing and open the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Panico to table the ordinance, seconded by Mr. Mueller and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

CORRESPONDENCE / OTHER INFORMATION

1. Letter dated February 22, 2024 from Jamie Hawn, Director of Rates & Regulatory, NJ American Water in ***the Matter of the Petition of New Jersey-American Water Company, Inc for Recovery of Regulatory Asset Established for Incremental Covid-19 Related Expenses, and for Establishment of an Uncollectible Adjust Clause.*** No action taken.
2. Letter dated February 21, 2024 from Michael Martelo, Counsel for Central Power & Light Company in ***the Matter of the Verified Petition of Jersey Central Power & Light for Approval of JCP&L's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan Including Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs.*** No action taken.

3. Notice to Public Service Electric and Gas Company Customers in *the Matter of the Petition of Public Service Electric and Gas Company for Approval of its Clean Energy Future-Energy Efficiency Program on a Regulated Basis*. No action taken.
4. Letter dated February 9, 2024 from Jennifer Ader, Municipal Clerk, Township of Tewksbury regarding *An Ordinance of the Township of Tewksbury, Hunterdon County, New Jersey Creating Article V, Development Review Procedures and Plat Details, Section 520, Green Development Checklist, of the Development Regulations*. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *An Ordinance Amending Chapter 43-108 Et Seq. to Provide for Rates of Compensation for Police Officers Working Special Events in the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey*

The following ordinance was offered for introduction:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 43-108 ET SEQ. TO PROVIDE FOR RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR POLICE OFFICERS WORKING SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE #08-2024

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has established rates of compensation for Police Officers who perform outside duty jobs, commonly referred to “men in blue “and;

WHEREAS, it necessary to adjust the rate of compensation to reflect amended contractual hourly rates; and

WHEREAS, the following amendments are hereby approved [any addition is shown as thus and any deletion is shown as ~~thus~~.]

Authority to employ.

The Township of Readington through the Chief of Police, or his/her designee, of Readington Township, when requested by an organizer of a special event to take place within the township, shall have the authority to employ or assign sworn police officers from Readington Township and/or sworn police officers from other Police Departments to perform services associated with street openings, special traffic control or other types of police services for special events.

§ 43-109 Request for off-duty police services.

All requests for off-duty police services shall be made to the Chief of Police of Readington Township.

§ 43-110 Fee schedule.

The organizers and/or vendor of the above-stated special events who request off-duty police officers shall pay the Township of Readington in accordance with the following schedule:

- A. All police officers of the Readington Township Police Department shall be paid at the rate of ~~\$35 per hour or at time and one-half of said police officer's hourly rate, whichever is greater,~~ Sergeant First Class at one and one-half times the hourly rate plus an additional surcharge of 15% on that amount that will be retained by the Township of Readington to cover fringe benefits and administrative costs incurred by the Township.

Ordinance #08-2024 cont'd:

B. All police officers from outside Police Departments will be paid ~~at a rate of \$35 per hour~~ in accordance with their respective Ordinances or Collective Bargaining Agreement, as appropriate, plus an additional surcharge of 15% on that amount that will be retained by the Township of Readington to cover ~~fringe benefits and~~ administrative costs incurred by the township.

C. If the special event requires the use of a police vehicle, then notwithstanding the fee set forth in Subsection **A** or **B** above, a vehicle usage fee in the amount of \$5 \$20.00 per hour per police vehicle shall be imposed and retained by the Township of Readington to cover the wear and tear on the police vehicles.

Section 2. All other provisions, sections and language contained in Chapter 43 of the Township Code shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3 Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect April 1, 2024 upon final adoption and publication according to law.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Albanese to introduce this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Panico and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

The Public Hearing was scheduled for March 18, 2024 at 7:45 p.m.

- 2. An Ordinance Authorizing the Conveyance of Properties Known as Block 21.12, Lots 25.01 and 25.02 in the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey to Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, Inc., a non-Profit Corporation of the State of NJ for Affordable Housing Purposes; Authorizing Affordable Housing Deed Restrictions on Both Properties, and Providing for Funding of a \$50,000 Financial Contribution in Accordance with the Township's Amended and Approved Affordable Housing Plan and Court-Approved Settlement with Fair Share Housing Center Dated July 19, 2019***

Municipal Clerk Parker advised that she was informed by Attorney Dragan that the ordinance is not ready for introduction at this time.

- 3. An Ordinance Reappropriating \$21,332 from the Capital Improvement Fund in Order to Provide for the Acquisition of a Breathalyzer in and by the Township of Readington, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey***

The following ordinance was offered for introduction:

ORDINANCE REAPPROPRIATING \$21,332 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A BREATHALYZER IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE #09-2024

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Ordinance #09-2024 cont'd:

Section 1. It is hereby determined that \$21,332 of the \$40,000 appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund by Ordinance #08-2021 of the Township of Readington, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey (the "Township"), finally adopted May 3, 2021, is no longer needed for police body cameras.

Section 2. The \$21,332 described in Section 1 is hereby reappropriated to provide for the acquisition of a breathalyzer, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.

Section 3. The Township hereby certifies that it has adopted a capital budget or a temporary capital budget, as applicable. The capital or temporary capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. To the extent that the purposes authorized herein are inconsistent with the adopted capital or temporary capital budget, a revised capital or temporary capital budget has been filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect after final adoption and publication and otherwise as provided by the law.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to introduce this ordinance, seconded by Mr. Albanese and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

The Public Hearing was scheduled for March 18, 2024 at 7:45 p.m.

4. ***2024 County Historic Partnership Program (CHPP) Grant Award Agreement***

Mayor Mueller stated that Readington Museums received a \$10,000 grant from the Hunterdon County Cultural Heritage Commission.

A ***MOTION*** was made by Mr. Panico to approve the 2024 County Historic Partnership Program Grant Award Agreement, seconded by Mr. Albanese and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Albanese	-Aye
Mr. Heller	- Aye
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Mueller	- Aye

5. **** Release of Police Escrow/ Supreme Industries***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

6. **** Resolution of Support from Local Governing Body Authorizing Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by PSEG for a Municipal Application for \$2,000 Capacity Building Grant 2024***

This matter was addressed under the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Sheola stated that he had nothing further to report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Corsini stated that he had nothing further to report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer O'Brien reported that the Stormwater Infrastructure Map must be updated by the end of next year as required by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Engineer O'Brien also reported that proper detours were not put in place for the gas main work on Pulaski Road which is currently being addressed. Engineer O'Brien further spoke to Hunterdon County's proposed bridge improvements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JOHN ALBANESE

Mr. Albanese stated that he had nothing further to report.

JONATHAN HELLER

Mr. Heller stated that he had nothing further to report.

VINCENT PANICO

Mr. Panico reported that the Museums Committee will be meeting next week and the Recreation Committee was recognized with three awards at the New Jersey Recreation Park Association Annual Awards Dinner on February 27th for the All Star Band Camp, Summer Road Park, and Committeeman Albanese for the Public Service Award. Mr. Panico also reported that the Recreation Committee is working on preparations for the Memorial Day Parade and Hunterdon Games.

ADAM MUELLER

Mayor Mueller reported that Republic Services advised that all garbage cans have been picked up. Mayor Mueller added that they are continuing to work on the budget process.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Betty Ann Fort spoke to the need for a guardrail where the stream is located on Roosevelt Road near Holland Brook.

Renee Rao, Chair of the Museums Committee, clarified the use of the funds from the 2024 County Historic Partnership Program (CHPP) grant. Ms. Rao also spoke about the potential high cost for damage to the historic sites during filming.

Sharon Becker thanked the Committee for recognizing the Recreation Department awards received and commended Gabrielle Bolarakis, Dina Fornataro and Lisa Baum for their outstanding work in the Recreation Department.

Ken Becker inquired about the ordinance reappropriating the \$21,332 from the Capital Improvement Fund.

COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

Mayor Mueller spoke to the following items to be addressed:

- Begin conversations with the DEP to remove the entire Municipal Building Complex property from the Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) to come into compliance and to start looking at much needed Capital Improvement Projects, specifically a new Department of Public Works facility.

- The status of the funding that was approved a few years ago for a small digital display in front of the Municipal Building.
- Solicit proposals to explore a grant writer on retainer to assist the Township with acquiring additional grant money.

Pat Fisher Olsen spoke to the need for grant writers with specific expertise.

As there was no further business, *A MOTION* was made by Mr. Panico at 9:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Albanese with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Submitted by:

Karin M Parker, *RMC*
Municipal Clerk