BOROUGH OF KEYPORT
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025 at 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

SUNSHINE LAW NOTICE: Read by Municipal Clerk
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council, Borough of Keyport, held on the above date in Borough Hall Council Chambers, Keyport, NJ, pursuant to the Annual Notice on file with the Borough Clerk forwarded to the Asbury Park Press, and Newark Star Ledger and posted on the Bulletin Board in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L.1975, c.231.

ROLL CALL:
Members present: Councilmember Brady, Councilmember Gross, Councilmember McNamara, Councilmember Merla, Councilmember Reilly, Council President Vecchio, Mayor Araneo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE
Mayor Araneo held a moment of silence to remember the victims of the recent plane and helicopter crashes.

PROCLAMATION
Mayor Araneo read the Black History Month Proclamation.

America's 250th Anniversary
Tom Gallo provided an update on the plans for Keyport's commemoration – In 2026, the U.S. will mark the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. RevolutionNJ is leading New Jersey's commemoration, while Monmouth County's MonmouthNJ 250 committee focuses on the county's role in the Revolution. Keyport adopted Resolution #2023-322 in November 2023 to create a local committee for planning. The effort aims to educate the public about independence and promote tourism.

Mayor Araneo appointed Tom Gallo as the liaison with the County, and Mr. Gallo has been actively attending meetings and staying informed. Monmouth County recognized early partner municipalities with a framed certificate, including Keyport, which was displayed by Mr. Gallo.

The Keyport250 committee is encouraged to involve the community, develop event ideas, and plan for 2026, with regular meetings to organize events and budgets around the anniversary theme.

Keyport Fire Department
Former Fire Chief Jay Borsari provided an update on the Keyport Fire Department's consolidation efforts. He joined the department in 2007, and in 2021 became chief. Over the past 15 years, the department has voted multiple times to consolidate but had been unsuccessful. Due to a lack of volunteers and rigorous volunteer requirements, they recognized the need for change. In late 2024, Mr. Borsari was tasked by Chief Fox with leading the consolidation into one fire company.

Currently, five out of seven fire companies have agreed to consolidate, and 68 applications for membership have been received, ranging from seasoned veterans to new recruits. On February 1st, they held their first company meeting, and regular meetings are scheduled to continue the process. Mr. Borsari emphasized the department's focus on efficiency and thanked the governing body for their support. He addressed criticism that the process was moving too quickly, explaining that past failures were due to slow progress. He urged everyone to not politicize public safety efforts.

A Motion to Open the Meeting to the Public before the Consent Agenda, was moved by McNamara and carried by Brady.

Roll Call: Ayes: Brady, Gross, McNamara
Nays: Merla, Reilly, Vecchio, Mayor Araneo
Absent:
Abstain:

Following a tied vote on the Motion, Mayor Araneo voted Nay. The Motion failed.

A Motion to Pull R2025-85 for Separate Consideration was moved by Brady and carried by Gross, with all in favor.

Councilmember McNamara asked if the cost for the services to be provided in R2025-84 is an annual cost. The Borough Administrator confirmed it is an annual cost, but she cannot confirm the annual cost will decrease because it depends on what parts of the program the CFO will want to implement. She explained the benefits of using the payroll service.

CONSENT AGENDA

(All resolutions listed hereunder will be enacted in one motion. Any person may request that an item be removed for separate consideration.)

R2025-82 Payment of Bills Listed on the January 24, 2025 Bills List
R2025-83 Payment of Bills Listed on the February 4, 2025 Bills List
R2025-84 Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Primepoint LLC for Payroll Services
R2025-85 Authorizing Salary Increase for Superintendent of Public Works
R2025-86 Appointment of Class I Special Law Enforcement Officer
R2025-87 Reappointing Treasurer and Utility Collector for the Borough of Keyport
R2025-88 Approving New Jersey State Firemen's Association Application for Membership
R2025-89 Appointing Acting Construction Official and Acting Building Sub-Code Official and Inspector during the Temporary Absence of the Construction Official, Building Sub-Code Official and Building Inspector
R2025-90 Authorizing the County of Monmouth Mosquito Control Division to Conduct Aerial Mosquito Control Operations within the Borough of Keyport
R2025-91 Authorizing the Borough's Participation in the Clean Ocean Action 40th Bi-Annual Spring and Fall Beach Sweeps
R2025-92 Authorizing the Release of the Performance Guarantees Provided by Keyport 44 Realty LLC for Site Improvements at 193 Chingarora, Block 1.01, Lots 43, 44 and 45
R2025-93 Establishing a Hometown Heroes' Banner Program to Honor US Military Veterans and Active-Duty Service Members
R2025-94 Requesting Permission for a Dedication by Rider for the "Hometown Heroes Banner" Program

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

Motion to approve resolutions **R2025-82 through R2025-94**, pulling **R2025-85** for separate consideration
MM: Reilly 2nd: Vecchio
Roll Call: Ayes: Brady, Gross, McNamara, Merla, Reilly, Vecchio
Nays:
Absent:
Abstain:

Motion to approve resolution **R2025-85**:
MM: Reilly 2nd: Vecchio
Roll Call: Ayes: Merla, Reilly, Vecchio, Mayor Araneo
Nays: Brady, Gross, McNamara
Absent:
Abstain:

Following a tied vote on the Motion, Mayor Araneo voted Aye. Resolution No. 2025-85 was adopted.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT

R2025-95 Authorizing an Amendment to the Shared Services Agreement between the Borough of Keyport and the Township of Middletown for Municipal Court Services

Motion to approve resolution **R2025-95**:
MM: Reilly 2nd: Vecchio
Roll Call: Ayes: Merla, Reilly, Vecchio, Mayor Araneo
Nays: Brady, Gross, McNamara
Absent:
Abstain:
Councilmember McNamara stated she would vote Yes if there were a stipulation added that this was for year 2025 only and that we will include the positions in the RFP process for 2026. The Borough Attorney explained this would be a substantive change and would require a separate resolution.

Following a tied vote on the Motion, Mayor Araneo voted Aye. Resolution No. 2025-95 was adopted.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT

Mayor Araneo announced the appointment of Kraig Bartolome as an Alternate No. 2 Member to the Planning Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 21, 2025 Regular Meeting
MM: Gross 2nd: Brady Ayes: all present Nays:

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember McNamara wants the cost of video recordings of meetings of the governing body for the public included in the budget. She believes the cost should probably be under $15,000, if not under $10,000.

Mayor Araneo wants the cost of cameras for the parks included in the budget this year because of vandalism.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Meeting was opened to the public for comments.
Opened: 7:24 PM Motion by Vecchio, Carried by Reilly. Ayes by all present.

John Merla, 34 Broad Street – asked if the 2025 contract for payroll services adopted tonight will be listed on the Borough website. Regarding R2025-95 for court shared service, he stated he is not against shared service but was opposed to changes being made without the public or the professionals being notified. He doesn't think this is going to save the Borough any money. He commented on the Perry Street so-called "junkyard" and said the residents in that area deserve better. He commented on poles and personal property being hit, home filter and breathing issues, biohazard material, trailers parked in fire zones, potential for fires. He provided a handout.

Kathleen Bell del los Reyes – expressed concern regarding the removal of the first Public Comment period during the meeting and the ability of the public to ask questions before decisions are made. She commented on the court shared services resolution and having safety concerns, on approval of a gun range in a populated area, and expressed environmental concerns as to the Cass Street issues and the wellhead. She thanked the governing body members for their service.

Mike Lane, 51 First Street – asked why the process was changed to no longer allow Public Comment before voting on resolutions. Mayor Araneo provided an explanation. Mr. Lane communicated by example the benefit of input from the public prior to resolutions being adopted by the governing body. He expressed concern for ground pollutants at the Cass Street site, the wellhead, and the risk to public health.

Mayor Araneo stated she is unable to comment due to potential litigation regarding the site. She said we are looking into our options.

Mr. Lane said he will forward a report prepared by the Keyport Environmental Commission to the governing body.

Victoria Pacheco, 168 Therese Avenue – voiced her concern about not having the first Public Comment period. She expressed her appreciation of comments and institutional knowledge received from the public during her six years on the dais.

Sandy Marion, 91 Perry Street – informed council of a huge crater in the back lot of Cass Street property that should be looked into. She said her property was hit again today and commented regarding the need for accident reports vs incident reports. She said there has been a lot of damage to her property (i.e., wall, tree, camera).

Closed: 7:47 PM Motion by Vecchio, Carried by Reilly. Ayes by all present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

R2025-96 - Authorizing a meeting not open to the Public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b, to discuss matters falling within the attorney-client privilege pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7): contract negotiations, pending litigation, and N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(8) personnel matters.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-96

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF KEYPORT, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING A MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, *N.J.S.A.* 10:4-12.

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A.* 10:4-12 provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Borough to discuss, in a session not open to the public, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b, to discuss matters falling within the attorney-client privilege pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7): contract negotiations, pending litigation, and N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(8): personnel matters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and the Council of the Borough of Keyport, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Mayor and Council assembled in public session on February 4, 2025 and determined that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held on February 4, 2025, at approximately 7:00 P.M. at the Borough Hall located at 70 West Front Street, Keyport, New Jersey, for the discussion of matters relating to the specific items designated above.

2. This resolution will take effect immediately.

Motion to go into Closed Session at 7:43 PM.
Moved by Reilly, Carried by Vecchio. Ayes by all present.
Council reconvened to Open Session at 9:15 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn
MM: Reilly 2nd: Merla Ayes: all present Nays:
Time of Adjournment: 9:16 PM