

**BOROUGH OF KEYPORT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025, 7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 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

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented by Mayor Araneo to Donna Wedick for her many years of volunteer service to the Keyport Indians, Bayshore Buccaneers organizations

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(Councilmember is lead or co-lead liaison of Committees in bold)

Councilmember Brady: Environmental, Recreation/Senior Center, Municipal Alliance, Fire/First Aid/OEM, Green Team

- Environmental meeting held – discussed objectives for 2025; working with Kean University students and Dr. Cheng at Cedar Street beach; stormwater requirements; erosion at Aeromarine site; next meeting Monday, February 24th at 8 PM in Borough Hall.
- Recreation meeting held; Victoria Pacheco was named Chair; reviewed event posters; upcoming Egg Hun event; next meeting Monday, March 3rd at 7 PM.
- Municipal Alliance (MAC) held – discussed upcoming community program, current drug trends scheduled for March 20th at 6:30 PM in the Keyport High School cafeteria; information will be posted; next meeting is Thursday, March 13th at 6 PM.

Councilmember Gross: KBBC, Police, Recycling, Health/Registrar/Construction/Fire Bureau/Code Enforcement/Zoning

- KBBC meeting held – reports of excessive garbage on W. Front Street and surrounding areas; business owners and residents urged to keep sidewalks clean and maintain town's appearance and safety; KBBC requesting to rent the boat house for upcoming activities.
- Police – read Police Calls for Service report.

Councilmember McNamara: Public Works/Water-Sewer, Green Team, Cannabis, NPP, Finance/Grants, Recreation/Senior Center

- DPW – reported there were five water main repairs; leak in lead line service on Broadway; three snowstorms; JIF training.
- Green Team – next Wednesday Explore the Bayshore continues; presenter coming next Wednesday re: Coastal Birds; collaborating with Keyport Garden Club March 26th.
- Senior Center Director Madeline Costello retiring; retirement party at Senior Center February 21st at 11 AM.
- Cannabis – no updates.

Councilmember Merla: Planning Board, Redevelopment, Public Works/Water-Sewer, Harbor Commission

- Planning Board meeting held and Board appointments were made; three cases moved to February.
- Redevelopment – call with new attorney, BA Humphrey, and Council President Vecchio to discuss plans for the Borough.

- Harbor Commission – met February 10th and discussed waterfront items.
- KBBC – Councilman Gross reported on meeting, but wants to thank Mayor Araneo for her hard work past month for events.
- DPW – Councilwoman McNamara previously reported.

Councilmember Reilly: Finance/Grants, Fire/First Aid/OEM, Police, Municipal Alliance, Cannabis

- Finance/Grants – Finance Committee scheduled to meet next week re: this year's budget.
- Fire/First Aid/OEM – read Calls for Service report; consolidation continues to move forward.

Council President Vecchio: Harbor Commission, NPP, Finance/Grants, Redevelopment

- NPP – nothing new to report; next meeting expected for March; focus on patio, picnic tables, possible grasses or plants along curving walkway to beach.
- Harbor Commission – met February 10th and discussed waterfront items, including a few changes to boat ramp passes; finalized date of Snapper Contest for Saturday, September 15th; potential crabbing contest and bathrooms at the waterfront; looking into options related to the chipping paint on the railings along the waterfront.
- Hometown Hero banners almost ready for purchase; information will be posted on Borough website.

Mayor Araneo: Library, Cultural/Civic, Mayors Wellness Campaign, Planning Board, KBBC, Green Team

- Library – meeting held and we have a full house of employees; new trustee sworn in; Junior Honor Society put in 85.5 volunteer hours; clock restored; Open House was January 26th.
- Notice from New Jersey American Water re: potential salty taste in tap water due to use of salt and brine for the public safety during recent extreme weather events. Water continues to meet all health-based primary drinking water standards.
- Received letter from NJDEP re: coastal storm risk management study advising Keyport has been approved for inclusion in the study which is 100% federally funded.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brady, Carried by Councilwoman McNamara to open the meeting for public comments limited to three minutes per person for items on the Consent Agenda only.

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

John Merla, 34 Broad Street – commented regarding R2025-99 as to time period and certification of funds by CFO.

Closed: 7:16 PM Motion by Reilly, Carried by Vecchio. Ayes by all present.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- R2025-97 Payment of Bills Listed on the February 7, 2025 Bills List
- R2025-98 Payment of Bills Listed on the February 18, 2025 Bills List
- R2025-99 Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Borough of Keyport, PBA Local 223, and Borough Employee
- R2025-100 Declaring an Emergency Regarding the Needed Replacement of a Sewer Main Lateral Located in the Borough Right-of-Way at 11 Van Dorn
- R2025-101 Authorizing Advertising for Proposals for Lawn Maintenance/Groundskeeping Services through the Competitive Contracting Process
- R2025-102 Pulled
- R2025-103 Authorizing Issuance of a Social Affair Permit for Raritan Post 23 American Legion

R2025-104 Authorizing Use of Borough Property for Keyport Garden Club for the Garden Walk and Garden Talk Lectures on June 7-8, 2025

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

Motion to approve resolutions **R2025-97 through R2025-104** on the Consent Agenda.

MM: Reilly 2nd: Vecchio

Roll Call: Ayes: Brady, Gross, McNamara, Merla, Reilly, Vecchio

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION OF KEYPORT BID, INC. (KBBC) 2025 BUDGET

The Clerk read the Budget by Title: **KEYPORT BAYFRONT BUSINESS COOPERATIVE 2025 BUDGET 1.8.25**

The Meeting was opened to the public for comments or questions on the Keyport BID, Inc. (KBBC) 2025 Budget.

Jack Straub, KBBC, provided a brief summary of the KBBC budget, which included budget comparison, event focus, revenue changes, capital funds, visual improvements, holiday décor savings, and cost reduction in legal fees.

1a. Motion to Open Public Hearing: 7:22 PM

MM: Reilly 2nd: Brady

No comments were made.

1b. Motion to Close Public Hearing: 7:22 PM

MM: Reilly 2nd: Brady

Resolution No. 2025-105 Approving the Keyport BID, Inc. Budget for 2025

Motion to adopt **Resolution No. 2025-105** Approving the Keyport BID, Inc., Budget for 2025

MM: Reilly 2nd: Vecchio

Roll Call: Ayes: Brady, Gross, McNamara, Reilly, Vecchio

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain: Merla

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 4, 2025 Regular Meeting

MM: Reilly 2nd: Brady

Ayes: all present

Nays:

REPORTS

1. Municipal Clerk's Report for January 2025
2. Tax/Water/Sewer Collector's Report for January 2025
3. Board of Health Treasurer's Report for January 2025
4. Building Department Report for January 2025
5. Municipal Court Report for January 2025

MM: Reilly 2nd: Brady

Ayes: all present

Nays:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Meeting was opened to the public for comments limited to five minutes per person.

Opened: 7:23 PM Motion by Reilly, Carried by McNamara. Ayes by all present.

George Walling, 54 Second Street – asked for a status of decorative street sign on Osborn. Asked if there was an update regarding the bent street signs and stop signs around the Borough and asked about fire hydrants being replaced.

John Merla – happy the KBBC budget was approved and that Keyport is now included in the DEP study.

Joe Vecchio, 315 Broad Street – thanked Mayor and Council for honoring Donna Wedick. Commented on volunteerism and implored the Governing Body to consider recreation for the kids.

Mike Lane, 51 First Street – asked what triggered Resolution 2025-99. He commented regarding land use regulations, no parking regulations for the general commercial district, and density regulations in the master plan. He provided a handout to the Governing Body.

John Hubler, 65 Warren Street – commented regarding volunteering and merging town organizations.

Closed: 7:39 PM Motion by Reilly, Carried by Gross. Ayes by all present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

R2025-106 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 negotiation; pending litigation.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-106

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 negotiation; pending litigation.

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 18, 2025 and determined that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held on February 18, 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 7:41 PM.

Moved by Reilly, Carried by Vecchio. Ayes by all present.

Council reconvened to Open Session at 10:05 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn

MM: Reilly 2nd: Brady

Ayes: all present

Nays:

Time of Adjournment: 10:05 PM