

**BOROUGH OF KEYPORT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025, 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 in memory of former Keyport Mayor Robert McCleod, Council President Vecchio's father Harold Ullmann, the 134 lives lost in the Texas floods, and the 101 people who remain missing.

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

- Special guest Trevor Taylor from CME and BA Kim Humphrey joined the last meeting to discuss flooding issues in the Division Street basin related to the duck bill outflow pipe at Beach Park. No resolution yet; discussions will continue.
- High bacteria counts at the waterfront were discussed—linked to hot weather and heavy rain. Monitoring will continue.
- Next Meeting: Monday, July 28th at 8 PM at Borough Hall.

Recreation / Senior Center

- Kickoff to Summer Event (June 20): Very well attended with great weather. DJ Lyons may return for Friday waterfront events—details coming soon.
- Movie Nights: Weather issues have impacted scheduling. *Scooby Doo* is planned for tomorrow night. Updates on Facebook.
- Summer Camp: Small attendance, but ongoing. Staffing has been reallocated to other departments.
- Senior Center Updates:
 - Sofie's last day was July 11. A farewell breakfast was held in her honor.
 - Upcoming Boat Trip aboard the *Northern Star*:
 - Date: Thursday, July 17, 1:00–4:00 PM
 - Cost: \$55/person
 - Cruise includes NYC Harbor or dolphin spotting (weather permitting). Light refreshments included.
 - Welcome to new staff: Jessi and two seasonal helpers.
 - Cara's Monday Exercise Class continues strong (25–40 participants); plans to add another session.
 - David (Chorus teacher) will offer a new History Class in the fall.
 - Summer Party: Thursday, August 15, catered by Jacques.
 - New rugs to be installed Friday for a refreshed look.
 - Basement cleanup and reorganization underway by Chris.
 - Next Meeting: Monday, August 4th at 7 PM.

Municipal Alliance

- Last meeting lacked a quorum but included discussion on participating in *National Night Out* (August 5).
- Next Meeting: Thursday, August 14th at 6 PM.

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

Police

- Read Police calls for service report

Registrar

- Read Registrar treasury report

KBBC

- Relocating office to Senior Center
- Nine Deez Nite in Mini Park July 17th
- Raitt/Ronstadt in Mini Park July 24th

Construction Department

- Disruption in issuing violations following the system transition; GovPilot made aware.

Mayor Araneo - clarified the KBBC employee will be working from a home office. Storage will be at the Senior Center.

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

Public Works

- Read DPW report:
 - Beach Park – nautical-style rope; repairs to be made to broken gate
 - Storm cleanup and extra pickups of leaves and branches
 - Street sweeping underway
 - Recycling yard open Saturdays 9-12
 - Second Street road project has begun
 - Maple Place water main replacement is ongoing

Green Team

- Collaborated with Garden Club for presentation on medicinal plants

Cannabis

- Fencing up on highway location for a new building

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

Planning Board

- Cass Street scheduled to be heard last Thursday of month

Redevelopment

- Nothing to discuss

Public Works

- No report but they are out working every day

Harbor Commission

- No meeting held

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

Fire/First Aid/OEM

- Read First Aid calls for service report
- Read Fire Department calls for service report
- Read summary provided by Chief of Fire Department including:
 - Improved response time
 - Improved morale
 - Call response time at a ten-year high

Finance/Grants

- Applied for a number of grants including:
 - NJDOT/LTPF Local Transportation Project Funds FY2025 – joint application with Hazlet for Clark Street

- NJDOT Municipal Aid FY2026 for Chandler and Provost
- Senator Kim Congressional Earmark – Borough-wide water/sewer improvements
- Preparing for NJDEP Green Streets Stormwater Mapping Assistance
- Capital Projects in Various Phases:
 - Construction – Improvements to Second Street Phase I and II
 - Cedar Street Park Improvements
 - NJDOT Tap Grant Pedestrian Improvements
 - Fireman’s Park Bulkhead and Parking Lot Improvements permitting phase
 - Beach Park Pavilion permitting phase
 - EPA Community Grant Lockport Neighborhood Water Project grant coordination phase
 - NJEIT Water and Sewer Upgrades grant coordination phase

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

- Nothing to report

Borough Administrator Humphrey – reported there was a stormwater failure on Fulton Street and DPW was on site to take care of the issue; JCPL was contacted regarding street light issues and bulbs and photocells were replaced however lights continue to not work – we do not pay for those lights; residents can report outages through JCPL link on our website; GovPilot issues being addressed; Updated Borough website is in testing phase.

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

Library

- Launched new website June 15th
- Hosted L’Oréal team members volunteers who organized storage areas and prepared goodie-bags for Summer Reading program (41 volunteer hours)
- Eight others contributed 99 volunteer hours in June
- Summer Reading Club kicked off on June 30th with Pirate Magic Show
- Apollo fixed boiler pump
- Friends of Library Scarecrow Contest
- Welcome new board member Trish Burns

KBBC

- KBBC Thursday night concert was canceled due to rain and will be rescheduled

Other

- Fire hydrants - down to two fire hydrants out of service – located at Hurley & Broad and Maple & Broad (fake rock covering hydrant on Maple was stolen)
- Complaints about bikes on the promenade

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Meeting was opened to the public for comments on agenda items only.

Opened: 7:17 PM Motion by Merla, Carried by Reilly. Ayes by all present.

Elmer J. Graham Jr., St. Peters Place – asked for an explanation of Resolution No. 25-196 regarding long range plan for drainage issues and Resolution No. 25-202 regarding the Water Bank grant which the Borough Administrator provided.

Jessica Magee Callandrillo, Fulton Street – asked about the stormwater issue to which the Borough Administrator responded there was a pipe failure so the water does not drain properly.

Mike Lane, First Street – asked what are the sources related to Resolution No. 25-195 and the Borough Administrator explained; he asked does the budget provide the funding and she said yes you would cancel out an appropriation in the budget; regarding Resolution No. 25-196 he asked about strategic recovery report being updated. She said this resolution is not related to stormwater mapping, which the borough does have, but more about a plan on how to handle issues.

Councilmember Brady asked for update on this and the Borough Administrator will provide the proposal.

Closed: 7:26 PM Motion by Merla, Carried by Reilly. Ayes by all present.

Motion to table resolutions **R2025-197 and R2025-198.**

MM: Reilly 2nd: Merla

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

Councilmember McNamara questioned reference to Affordable Housing Trust Fund in **R2025-195**. Correction will be made. Second page of **R2025-196** has references to the engineer and wants to know is that the Borough Engineer or the free engineer? It's the free MEL engineer.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- R2025-193 Payment of Bills Listed on the July 11, 2025 Bills List
- R2025-194 Payment of Bills Listed on the July 15, 2025 Bills List
- R2025-195 Resolution Requesting Permission for the Dedication by Rider for Storm Recovery Trust Fund
- R2025-196 Resolution Creating and Implementing a Long-Range Plan to Address Drainage Issues
- R2025-197 Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Chief of Police Employment Agreement (Tabled)
- R2025-198 Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Captain of Police Employment Agreement (Tabled)
- R2025-199 Authorizing the Promotional Appointment of a Police Lieutenant of the Borough of Keyport Police Department
- R2025-200 Authorizing Participation in the Civil Service Examination Exemption Program for Entry-Level Law Enforcement Positions and the Appointment of a Police Officer
- R2025-201 Authorizing the Appointment of a Zoning Officer
- R2025-202 Authorizing the Submission of a Loan and Grant Application from the New Jersey Water Bank

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

Motion to approve resolutions **R2025-193 through R2025-202** on the Consent Agenda with the change to **R2025-195** to name Storm Recovery Trust Fund.

(**R2025-197 and R2025-198** which were tabled)

MM: Merla 2nd: Vecchio

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS/ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance No. 2025-10 – Senior Center Membership Fee

The Clerk read the Ordinance by Title: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF KEYPORT, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING BOROUGH CODE CHAPTER XI (RECREATIONAL FACILITIES) SECTION 11-7.3 (MEMBERSHIP FEE)**

- 1a. Motion to Open Public Hearing: 7:30 PM
MM: Merla 2nd: Reilly

Elmer J. Graham, Jr. – asked will the fee be raised for residents and Mayor Araneo explained there is no fee for residents of Keyport and this ordinance reduces the fee for non-resident members from \$100 to \$50.

Mike Lane, First Street – asked how many residents/non-residents on average use the facility.

Chris McManus, Senior Center – provided the membership numbers in response to Mr. Lane’s question. April report showed 330 resident members and 106 non-resident members. He believes decrease in membership fee will see an increase in non-resident members.

- 1b. Motion to Close Public Hearing: 7:33 PM
MM: Merla 2nd: Vecchio
- 1c. Motion to adopt Ordinance:
MM: Merla 2nd: McNamara
Roll Call: Ayes: Brady, Gross, McNamara, Merla, Reilly, Vecchio
Nays:
Absent:
Abstain:
- 1d. Motion authorizing the Clerk to publish the Ordinance as adopted:
MM: Reilly 2nd: Brady Ayes: all present Nays:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting
June 17, 2025 Regular Meeting
July 1, 2025 Regular Meeting
MM: Merla 2nd: Vecchio Ayes: all present Nays:
Councilmember Merla abstained from approval of October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

REPORTS

- 1. Municipal Clerk’s Report for June 2025
- 2. Tax/Water/Sewer Collector’s Report for June 2025
- 3. Board of Health Treasurer’s Report for June 2025
- 4. Building Department Report for June 2025
- 5. Municipal Court Report for June 2025
MM: Reilly 2nd: Brady Ayes: all present Nays:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Meeting was opened to the public for comments.
Opened: 7:35 PM Motion by Merla, Carried by Brady. Ayes by all present.

John Merla, Broad Street – reviewed the Planning Board resolution as to a home being used as museum; he said he found out they do pay taxes; Also, pursuant to the resolution the museum should be open three days per week and allow scheduled tours; commented regarding speed limit when coming into Keyport from Broadway over Union Beach bridge – Chief Ferm provided an update and said County will provide signage; commented on Police, Fire Department, and Fire Marshal exemplary and professional response to fire incident on Broad Street – they saved the building.

Judy Scibetti, Jackson Street, on behalf of the First Aid Squad; read letter which requested support and partnership related to an expansion. Requesting newly acquired building be included under the Borough’s existing insurance policy; purpose is to house current apparatus and provide dedicated training place for volunteers; needs the additional building and are willing to pay the premium and acceptable responsibility for any deductibles.

Councilmember Reilly asked what kind of zoning is needed. Ms. Scibetti said none – they received certificate of occupancy when building was transferred over.

Mike lane – commented regarding Severe Storm Preparation Team headed by Joe Sheridan years ago. They used to run drills and go through the checklist for storm prep. He asked that council reinstitute that activity.

Elmer J. Graham, Jr. – presented information regarding We Care Adult daycare and provided handout for the governing body; We Care just celebrated its 35th year anniversary; program being held next Thursday for all caregivers and an Open House is scheduled for July 24th; Mr.

Graham commented regarding a young man he assists who was born without sight and a middle-aged woman who had a stroke and attends the facility; facility is located on Highway 35 in Middletown, NJ.

Caly Gallopo, Third Street – commented regarding flooding and asked about getting a dozen orange cones and signs that say flooding to place in area; cars driving through flood waters cause swells and flooding into homes; Borough Administrator said there is no pipe on Third Street which contributes to the flooding;

Dennis Fotopoulos – asked about Borough Administrator’s comment that there is no pipe on Third Street and she clarified that it has disintegrated; Mr. Fotopoulos commented on flooding and outfall pipe to the Chingarora Creek;

Closed: 8:04 PM Motion by Merla, Carried by Reilly. Ayes by all present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

R2025-203 - 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 for the purpose of discussing matters related to shared services agreement negotiation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7), pending litigation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7), and matters falling within the attorney-client privilege pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7): OPMA and privileged/confidential information, and potential bond ordinance.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-203

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, matters related to shared services agreement negotiation pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7)*, pending litigation pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7)*, and matters falling within the attorney-client privilege pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(7)*: OPMA and privileged/confidential information, and potential bond ordinance.

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 July 15, 2025, and determined that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held on July 15, 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. It is anticipated at this time the above-stated subject matter may be made public in approximately sixty days or at such time as any litigation or matters discussed are resolved.
3. This resolution will take effect immediately.

Motion to go into Closed Session at 8:05 PM.
Moved by Merla, Carried by Brady. Ayes by all present.
Council reconvened to Open Session at 9:13 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn

MM: Brady	2 nd : Gross	Ayes: all present	Nays:
Time of Adjournment:	9:13 PM		