

**Workshop Meeting
Borough of Eatontown Governing Body
Wednesday, March 22, 2023**

This meeting has been advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act: A notice of the meeting has been published in the Asbury Park Press, Star Ledger and the Link News, posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of Borough Hall, and posted to the Borough website. Public Comment is welcome at any time.

Mayor Talerico opened the Workshop at 7:05pm, noting the Borough's compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Anthony Talerico, Jr., Council President Virginia M. East,
Councilmembers Mark Regan, Jr., David Gindi, Everett D. Lucas
ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Yenicag (in for Attorney Bayer), Deputy Borough Clerk Muscillo
LATE ARRIVAL: Councilmember Danielle M. Jones (arrived at 7:11pm)
ABSENT: Interim Administrator Lucia, Councilmember Meir Araman
The Flag Salute was led by C/Regan

Mayor Talerico asked the residents and Council to continue standing to memorialize the loss of Mr. Joel Stark. Mayor Talerico thanked Mr. Stark for his years of service to the Borough and held a moment of silence in his honor.

2. PROCLAMATION – CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

Mayor Talerico gave an overview of the importance of Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness.

Proclamation - Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month

WHEREAS, in federal fiscal year 2020, 3.5 million reports were made to child protective services; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Eatontown; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anthony Talerico, Mayor of Eatontown, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Eatontown, New Jersey and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.*

3. PROCLAMATION – RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

Mayor Talerico gave an overview of National Autism Acceptance Month.

Proclamation - Recognizing National Autism Acceptance Month April 2023

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 1 in every 44 children in the United States are among the more than 3.5 million Americans living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); and

WHEREAS, April has widely been known as "Autism Awareness Month" as a way to empower autistic individuals and their families. Today, the autism community is calling for a shift in language to match the growing need for acceptance within the community by using terminology that aims to foster acceptance to ignite change through improved support and

opportunities in education, employment, accessible housing, affordable health care and comprehensive long-term services; and

WHEREAS it is important to further increase awareness about autism signs, symptoms and opportunities through information and referrals, events, printable and digital resources, and community partnerships with businesses and organizations dedicated to building inclusive experiences; and

WHEREAS, Autism is a reality that affects millions of families every day, and while our nation has made progress in supporting those with Autism, we are only beginning to understand the factors behind the challenges they face; and

WHEREAS, During Autism Acceptance Month, we recommit ourselves to be more aware of autism, and to promote acceptance, and be more inclusive; and

WHEREAS, we reaffirm our resolve to support all those with ASD as they continue to strengthen our families, our communities, our Nation, and the world. Together, we will work to promote more meaningful connections of respect and build a society where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anthony Talerico, Jr., Mayor of the Borough of Eatontown, on behalf of Governing Body, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as Autism Acceptance Month. I encourage all citizens to learn what more they can do to support individuals on the Autism Spectrum and their families.

4. DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN (MAYOR TALERICO)

Mayor Talerico explained what has been completed regarding this plan, and what still needs to be completed. Mayor Talerico advised the Council that they will need to start formulating a plan regarding the redevelopment project.

Councilmember Lucas asked if a new business is taking over the gas station on the corner of Tinton Avenue and Highway 35.

Mayor Talerico responded. Councilmember Regan expressed his happiness regarding the plan.

5. DATE SELECTION, EATONTOWN STUDENT GOVERNMENT EVENT (C/JONES)

Councilmember Jones presented two dates that work best with the schools and asked the Council for a final date selection.

The Council discussed the two dates with the consensus of having the event on May 24, 2023.

6. PROGRAMMING, NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK, 4/16-4/22 (C/JONES)

Councilmember Jones explained to the Council some ideas she has for Local Government Week and asked the Council for further ideas. The Council discussed several ideas. Mayor Talerico asked Mark Regan, Sr. about the Borough delivering toiletries to the Food Co-Op. Mr. Regan, Sr., responded with a suggestion to hold a food drive in Joel Stark's honor. Mayor Talerico agreed. The consensus of the Council was to host a food donation drive in honor of Joel Stark and Eileen Ferrugia. Mayor Talerico suggested having the final day of the food drive on May 24, 2023 along with the Student Government Event. The Council agreed. Councilmember Regan expressed his concern regarding donations being close to the expiration date. Councilmember Jones suggested having a list with non-perishable food items.

Mayor Talerico opened the meeting to the public.

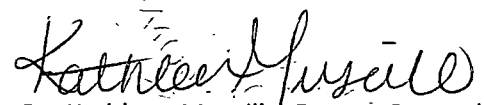
No comments were made.

Mayor Talerico closed the meeting to the public.

7. ADJOURNMENT – 7:35pm

Motion to adjourn by C/Regan; seconded by C/East

Voice Vote: AYE - C/East, C/Regan, C/Jones, C/Gindi, C/Lucas
ABSENT - C/Araman



By: Kathleen Muscillo, Deputy Borough Clerk