

**Workshop Meeting
Borough of Eatontown Governing Body
Wednesday, May 10, 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 7:03pm, 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 Danielle M. Jones, Everett D. Lucas, Meir Araman

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Bayer, Interim Administrator Lucia, Borough Clerk Martin

ABSENT: Councilmember Mark Regan, Jr.

Councilmember Gindi arrived at 7:10pm

The Flag Salute was led by Councilmember Jones

Mayor Talerico asked for a moment of silence to commemorate police officer Tom Ferrugia. Chief Lucia offered a few words.

2. PROCLAMATION – PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY, NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mayor Talerico presented an overview of the proclamation.

3. PROCLAMATION – RECOGNIZING ANNUAL EMS WEEK

Mayor Talerico presented an overview of the proclamation.

4. PROCLAMATION – PUBLIC WORKS APPRECIATION WEEK

Mayor Talerico presented an overview of the proclamation.

5. CANNABIS LICENSES DISCUSSION (C/GINDI)

Councilmember Jones spoke briefly about expanding the licensing for Classes I through IV. Mayor Talerico presented an overview of the current cannabis ordinance. Mayor Talerico asked the Council for their thoughts on expanding the cannabis licenses. Councilmember Araman agreed with expanding the licenses, even Class V. Mayor Talerico asked the Council if there were anyone on the Council who are against increasing the number of licenses. Consensus of Council was to increase the number of licenses. Councilmember Jones commented on micro-licenses as a possibility to have as well. Attorney Bayer responded. Mayor Talerico asked the Council if everyone agrees on the location of the permitted Classes I through IV. Councilmember Gindi asked about Class V. Mayor Talerico responded. Attorney Bayer responded regarding the locations. Consensus of Council was to approve the proposed locations for Classes I through IV. Councilmember Jones commented on the locations. Councilmember Gindi suggested increasing Class V to four licenses instead of three. Councilmember Araman explained to include the expansion of the location as well. Councilmember Gindi commented on the locations, including the downtown. Mayor Talerico disagreed with including the downtown as a location. Councilmember Lucas commented on the traffic issues regarding the current cannabis location. Mayor Talerico and Councilmember Jones responded. Councilmember Araman suggested having a State Trooper patrol that area. Chief Lucia responded. Council President East commented on the public not following Eatontown's current traffic signs. Attorney Bayer commented on the Class V licenses in the downtown area. Mayor Talerico suggested keeping the Cannabis approved locations away from residential properties, then asked Attorney Bayer if there is a current statute enforcing that. Attorney Bayer responded. Councilmember Jones commented on her approval of putting a distance requirement for residential. Mayor Talerico asked the Council for a consensus regarding the proposed locations. Attorney Bayer and Councilmember Gindi commented. Mayor Talerico asked Attorney Bayer to comment on the guidance he received from the engineer regarding parking. Attorney Bayer commented. Mayor Talerico asked the Council if they would like to consider looking at parking when expanding the current licenses. Councilmember Araman suggested going by what the current standards are, but not making it too difficult. Mayor Talerico asked the Council if anyone would want to make the parking square footage higher. Attorney Bayer responded. Mayor Talerico clarified, and discussion continued. Mayor Talerico asked CFO, Dena Amoda, about the amount of time she needs regarding the budgetary planning. Ms. Amoda responded. Mayor Talerico opened the Cannabis Discussion to the public.

Roy Eisen, Byrnes Lane, commented on the proposed locations of Meridian Road and Wall Street. Mayor Talerico and Councilmember Jones responded.

Ron Wolner, asked for clarification regarding the cannabis discussion and what changes are being proposed. Mayor Talerico responded. Mr. Wolner stated he originally suggested limiting the retail licenses to two, then three, and now it's four. Mr. Wolner disagreed with adding another license, and thinks the town should keep it as is, but approved expanding the permitted area. Mr. Wolner then suggested including Industrial Way East when expanding the locations. Mr. Wolner then commented on the micro-licenses, Mayor Talerico and Councilmember Jones responded. Mr. Wolner clarified his views. The discussion continued. Attorney Bayer commented on the Class V licenses and the ongoing litigation of two businesses fighting over the same location. Mayor Talerico and Attorney Bayer addressed Mr. Wolner's comments.

6. EATONTOWN VETERANS OUTREACH & CELEBRATION (C/JONES)

Councilmember Jones provided an update regarding the date and location of the Veterans Program. Councilmember Jones commented on the honoring of four Eatontown Veterans. Councilmember Jones asked the Council if they would like to offer light refreshments at the event, or a catering service. Councilmember Jones clarified that this event will be the first that Eatontown has done, therefore there is no budget. Mayor Talerico asked the Council for comment. Councilmember Lucas showed his support for the program. Mayor Talerico asked the Council if they approve to have a community outreach to raise a couple hundred dollars for the event. Councilmember Gindi stated he will personally donate \$500 toward the program. Councilmember Jones thanked Councilmember Gindi.

7. CLOSED SESSION

A. Resolution 100-2023

1) Contract Negotiations - PBA

Mayor Talerico noted the Council would not act on the items in workshop.

Attorney Bayer read the resolution into the record.

RESOLUTION 100-2023

AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF EATONTOWN

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., a municipality may exclude the public from a meeting of the Municipal Council where the Council intends to discuss certain matters for which privacy is needed in order to protect the public interest or certain enumerated private interests; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Eatontown to discuss in session not open to the public certain matters that are required by law to be confidential, more specifically: 1) Contract Negotiations – PBA

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the minutes from the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Eatontown do hereby authorize the above-referenced executive session to be held closed to the public, on May 10, 2023.

Motion to enter into closed session by C/East; seconded C/Jones

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

ABSENT - C/Regan

Council entered Closed Session at 8:03pm

Council returned from Closed Session at 8:37pm

Motion to enter into open session by C/East; seconded C/Jones

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

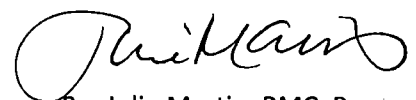
ABSENT - C/Regan

8. ADJOURNMENT – 8:38pm

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

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

ABSENT - C/Regan



By: Julie Martin, RMC, Borough Clerk

Exhibits are on file in the Borough Clerk's Office, according to the NJ State Records Retention Schedule established by NJS 47:3-15 et seq and approved by the State Records Committee. Audio is available on the Borough website.

Approval 05/24/2023