

**Workshop Meeting
Borough of Eatontown Governing Body
Wednesday, June 28, 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., Danielle M. Jones, David Gindi, Meir Araman

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Bayer, Deputy Borough Clerk Muscillo

LATE ARRIVAL: Interim Administrator Lucia

ABSENT: Councilmember Everett D. Lucas

The Flag Salute was led by C/East

2. INTRODUCTION OF HISTORICAL COMMITTEE ESSAY WINNER (C/EAST)

Council President East provided a background on the Historical Committee's annual essay contest and introduced the essay winner, Roberto Casas-Alvarado. Roberto Casas-Alvarado read his essay into the record. The Historical Committee presented an award to Roberto Casas-Alvarado and took a few pictures.

3. PROCLAMATION – "WHAT EATONTOWN MEANS TO ME" ESSAY WINNER, ROBERTO CASAS-ALVARADO

Mayor Talerico read the proclamation into the record and pictures were taken. Mayor Talerico thanked the Historical Committee for holding this contest every year.

**MUNICIPAL STRATEGIC PLAN (STAFFING PLAN, MUNICIPAL BUILDING/COMPLEX PROPOSED PLANS)
(C/JONES)**

Councilmember Jones suggested a strategic plan that includes staffing and the municipal building. Councilmember Jones also wants to include a bicycle safety audit in the plan. Councilmember Araman agreed with Councilmember Jones and explained his views. Councilmember East agreed with the plan and suggested a few ideas. Councilmember Gindi commented that the Finance & Ordinance Committee is currently making a strategic plan. Councilmember Jones responded. The consensus of the council was to form a new group within the Finance & Ordinance Committee to work on the Municipal Strategic Plan.

5. ORDINANCE 19-2019, CHAPTER 251 BAMBOO (C/GINDI)

Councilmember Gindi commented on the strict bamboo ordinance in the Borough and wondered if any research was done regarding bamboo prior to it being written. Councilmember Gindi asked for feedback from council if they would be willing to hear the professionals on bamboo. Mayor Talerico responded explaining the history of why the ordinance was written and provided some suggestions. Councilmember East commented on the packed council meetings when the bamboo ordinance was first being written and explained prior complaints. Councilmember Gindi urged the council to do more research on the different variations. Councilmember Araman stated he has no objections to investigating it, but he has only heard negative things about bamboo. Councilmember Jones stated she will research as well.

6. JUNETEENTH, BOROUGH CELEBRATION (C/JONES)

Councilmember Jones asked the council how they would like the Borough to celebrate the holiday. Councilmember Jones explained the holiday is both a Federal and State holiday. Councilmember Jones explained the history of Juneteenth. Councilmember Jones explained the holiday is not listed on the Borough Calendar and Borough Hall was not closed. Mayor Talerico explained Juneteenth can be added to the calendar, and explained his reasoning as to why Borough Hall was not closed. Mayor Talerico explained that the council would have to approve Juneteenth as a day off and suggested having the Borough organize a celebration for the holiday. Councilmember Araman asked Councilmember Jones if the State or County has any direction. Councilmember Jones responded. Councilmember Araman asked Councilmember Jones if she knew of any other municipalities that were closed. Councilmember Jones responded. Councilmember Gindi commented on other

holidays that are mentioned on the calendar and agreed to have Juneteenth on the calendar. Councilmember Jones responded.

7. MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM – SUMMER 2023 UPDATE (C/JONES)

Councilmember Jones provided an update regarding the internship program. Councilmember Jones asked a few interns to introduce themselves. Three interns introduced themselves.

8. ENGINEER REPORT

Ed Herrman, Borough Engineer of T&M Associates, presented his report. Regarding the Target project, Councilmember Gindi asked about the concrete red balls in the front of the store. Mr. Herrman responded. Councilmember Araman asked Mr. Herrman about the Industrial Way paving project sinking on Phase I. Mr. Herrman responded. Councilmember Regan asked about the Fire Department pad and if there is a time frame as to when that will be replaced. Interim Administrator Lucia responded. Councilmember Jones asked about the crossing lane on Richardson and Grant leading to Memorial Middle School. Interim Administrator Lucia responded.

Mayor Talerico opened the meeting to the public.

Ron Wollner, 275 Industrial Way West, asked Ed Herrman about the paving project on Industrial Way West. Mr. Herrman responded. Mr. Wollner asked Mr. Herrman what his opinion on why the concrete is sinking. Mayor Talerico responded.

Roy Eisen, Byrnes Lane, asked about the bike safety lanes. Mayor Talerico responded.

Councilmember Gindi asked for an update on Wall Street. Mayor Talerico responded.

Anthony E., spoke about his son's motorcycle accident on May 25th, and showed his appreciation and thanks for Chief Lucia and the Police Department for saving his son's life.

Mayor Talerico added the Closed Session resolution to the agenda meeting.

9. CLOSED SESSION

A. Resolution 139-2023

1) Litigation - Fresh Dispensary v. Borough of Eatontown

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

Attorney Bayer read the resolution into the record.

RESOLUTION 139-2023

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) Litigation - Fresh Dispensary v. Borough of Eatontown

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 June 28, 2023.

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

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

Council entered Closed Session at 8:19pm

Council returned from Closed Session at 8:35pm

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

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

10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:35pm

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

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



By: Kathleen Muscillo, Deputy Borough Clerk

Exhibits are on file in the Borough Clerk's Office, according to the NJ State Records Retention Schedule established by NJSA 47:3-15 *et seq* and approved by the State Records Committee. Audio is available on the Borough website.
Approval 07/12/2023