

Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council February 26, 2024
Town Hall Council Chambers, 100 Central Avenue
Executive Session 6:00 P.M.
Public Session 7:00 P.M.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Councilperson:
Furgione -
Gribbin –
Marino -
Oliva-
R. Rodio-
S. Rodio –
Mayor DiDonato -

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried

PRESENT ALSO

Michael Malinsky, Town Solicitor
Bob Vettese, Public Works Manager

EXECUTIVE SESSION Resolution #034-2024

RESUME REGULAR MEETING-ROLL CALL

Councilperson:
Furgione -
Gribbin –
Marino -
Oliva-
R. Rodio-
S. Rodio –
Mayor DiDonato -

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried

PRESENT ALSO

Michael Malinsky, Town Solicitor
Robert Vettese, Public Works Manager
Mark Hermann of ARH, Town Engineer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of this meeting has been posted and given to official newspapers. Please familiarize yourselves with the fire exits to the right and rear of the Council Chambers. Please do not proceed beyond the front benches without invitation from the Mayor to do so. Also, each person who wishes to address Council will be allotted 5 minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
PUBLIC HEARD FOR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Minutes January 22, 2024
Executive Minutes January 22, 2024

PRESENTATION

- Retirement of Judge Frank Raso
- Rutgers Cooperative Water Resource Program / NJDEP

DISPENSE WITH REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Appointments:

MAYOR'S AD-HOC COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS for 2024

Great Egg Harbor Watershed Assoc.
John Keenan

Historical Commission
Rick Alverio – Alternate 2 year Term

Public Hearing of Ordinance #002-2024- Amend Chapter 6 Article VII

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6; ARTICLE VII OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Hammonton, County of Atlantic and State of New Jersey as follows:

Chapter 6, Article VII, Sections 6-43 through Sections 6-51 are repealed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by the Courts to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudicated, and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in the time and manner prescribed by law.

Public Hearing of Ordinance #003 – 2024- Amend Chapter 6, Article II

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6; ARTICLE II OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Hammonton, County of Atlantic and State of New Jersey as follows:

Chapter 6, Article II, Section 6-6(A) is amended to read as follows:

- The Board of Park Commissioners shall be composed of two members of the Council and seven residents, all to be appointed by the Council upon the nomination of the Mayor. The two members of the Board appointed from Council shall hold office for one year. The seven resident members shall serve terms of two years with four of the members terms expiring in one year and the remaining three members

terms expiring in the alternate year. Vacancies in the board occurring by resignation or otherwise shall be filled for the unexpired term only.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by the Courts to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudicated, and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in the time and manner prescribed by law.

Public Hearing of Ordinance #004-2024 – Amending chapter 173 of Town of Hammonton ordinances.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration - Councilman Gribbin

Business & Industry – Councilman Oliva

Quality of Life – Councilwoman R. Rodio

Education – Councilman Marino

Public Works & Transportation Councilman Sam Rodio

Law & Order – Councilman Rodio

Water & Sewer - Councilman Furgione

ENGINEER REPORT

ACTION ITEMS:

No Action Items for February

PUBLIC WORKS INFORMATION ITEMS:

Roadway & Transportation Projects:

1. NJDOT FY2022/FY2023 Municipal Aid: Old Forks Road (ARH #11-40061): 95% Complete

Our office has completed the changes to the design to accommodate the Town's Safe Routes to School project. We will resubmit the plans to NJDOT for review and authorization to bid. Our office plans on having the utilities constructed in the spring, and having the paving completed in late summer prior to the 2024-2025 school year.

2. 11th Street Sidewalk Improvements (ARH #11-40062): 95% Complete

Our office has completed the design of the 11th Street Sidewalk project. We are awaiting approval from the NJDOT to advertise for bidding. A resolution has been provided to request a time extension from the NJDOT.

3. Hammonton Bike Path Connector – Phase II (ARH #11-40052.07): 70% Complete

Descriptions for the easements along Egg Harbor Road have been submitted for execution. We need to schedule soil testing, which will be performed in early March. A resolution has been provided to request a time extension from the NJDOT.

4. K&K Linens Property / 224 Vine Street (ARH #11-01094.07): 75% Complete

Triad Associates is investigating the potential for grant funding, which could potentially cover the costs of the parking lot construction as well as the inclusion of a solar canopy.

Environmental Projects:

5. Hammonton Lake Aquatic Survey (ARH #11-90033): Completed

A meeting was held with the Pinelands Commission to discuss the application of a chemical to control bladderwort growth. The Pinelands Commission is conferring with NJDEP to receive guidance on the use of the proposed chemical. We expect another formal response from them in the next few weeks.

6. Mazza Muffler Site / 104 S. Egg Harbor Road (ARH #11-01102): Ongoing

With the demolition complete, additional investigation of subsurface conditions can be performed. This work will be ongoing for the near future.

7. Octagon Oil/Vine Street Parking Lot (ARH #11-01060): On hold

The lab results have been received and reviewed by our office. The Remedial Action Permit (RAP) has been submitted to NJDEP. No additional action is necessary.

8. Skinner Property / 317 N. Egg Harbor Road (ARH #11-01074.06): Ongoing

Our office continues to perform soil sampling and testing at the site. A report will be forwarded to the PWTC committee for discussion and to determine permanent improvements once the testing protocol is completed.

9. Celona Site Remediation - 130 Railroad Avenue (ARH #11-01054): Ongoing

Long-term monitoring at this site continues to be performed.

SEWER/WATER INFORMATION ITEMS:

10. Route 54 Water Main Replacement Project (ARH #11-30167): 80% Complete

Our office has submitted the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water application for the water main extension. We anticipate construction in 2024.

11. Boyer Avenue Pump Station (ARH #11-50058): 90% Complete

We have finalized a new design with individual grinder pumps. Our office has had discussions with the residents to finalize the location of the pumps and anticipate being ready to bid in early 2024.

12. Lakeview Gardens Water Main Extension (ARH #11-30172) Ongoing

Our office has begun the surveying phase of this project.

13. 4th Street Water Tower Temporary Water Storage (ARH #11-30171) Ongoing

This project was advertised for public bidding, but no companies submitted a bid package. We forwarded a quote from Garrison Enterprise to PWTC for consideration.

14. Water Quality Accountability Act Compliance (ARH #11-30166): Ongoing

Our office has received approximately 30% of the expected responses to the lead service line survey we created. We continue to draft policy, notification, prioritization, funding, and implementation documents, which will also include annual LSL reporting to the state and GIS updates.

GENERAL SITE AND RECREATION INFORMATION ITEMS:

15. Lake Park ADA Playground/Small Cities (ARH #11-01100): In Progress

A stakeholder meeting to finalize the design scope will be held in conjunction with Taylor Design Group and is anticipated to be scheduled in the next week or two. Once the design elements are finalized, the permit plans will be advanced.

16. Green Acres Application - 11th Street Park (ARH #P2024.0030): Completed

The Green Acres Application was submitted on February 7, 2024. This will be removed from the next Engineer’s Report.

17. Traditions at Blueberry Ridge (ARH #11-10044): In Progress

The Contractor has been directed to install fountain aerators, which will bring this project to completion pending final certification from our office and the HOA’s engineer.

SOLICITOR REPORT
MAYOR REPORT

PWM REPORT

TOWN CLERK REPORT

- 1) Approval to promote Shelly DiChurch from her position as part-time clerk 1 to a full-time clerk 1. 32.5 hours per week, single benefits salary to follow current white-collar contract. Effective February 26, 2024. Contingent upon all civil services rules and regulations.
- 2) Approval to hire Adam Monacelli as recreation leader / communications manager full-time 32.5 hours per week, single benefits, salary of \$31,265.00 per year. Effective February 26, 2024, Contingent upon all civil service rules and regulations.
- 3) Approval to Hire David Pantalone as part-time convenience station attendant, \$15.00 per hour, maximum of 16 hours a month, no benefits, contingent upon civil services rules and regulations.
- 4) Accept resignation of Dalton Scola from his position as Police office in the Hammonton Police Department effective March 3, 2024.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Bond Ordinance #005-2024- Sewer Infrastructure Study

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY AND MINOR REPAIRS TO THE SEWER SYSTEM, BY AND IN THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY;

REAPPROPRIATING \$98,750.00 IN EXCESS BOND AND NOTE PROCEEDS FROM VARIOUS BOND ORDINANCES NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSE AND APPROPRIATING \$395,000 TO PAY FOR THE COST THEREOF, WHICH AMOUNT WILL BE FUNDED BY A UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY GRANT RECEIVED OR EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED BY THE TOWN

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Hammonton, in the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey (the "Town"), finally adopted various bond ordinances of the Town, as more fully described in Section 1 herein (collectively, the "Ordinances"); and

WHEREAS, following the effective dates, respectively, of the Ordinances, the Town issued bonds and notes to fully fund same and to finance the improvements or purposes authorized therein; and

WHEREAS, the Town has determined that the capital improvements or purposes set forth in the Ordinances have either been completed in full or discontinued as a result of events occurring subsequent to the adoption of the Ordinances, as applicable; and

WHEREAS, there currently remains on deposit in the Town's capital accounts excess bond and note proceeds allocable to the Ordinances (the "Excess Proceeds"), but no longer necessary to complete the improvements or purposes authorized therein; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the statutory powers set forth in section 39 of the Local Bond Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1 et seq. (the "Local Bond Law"), the Town Council of the Town has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to reappropriate the Excess Proceeds to finance the costs of sewer infrastructure study and minor repairs to the sewer system in and by the Town (the "New Purpose"), for which bonds may be issued, thereby eliminating the need for the Town to incur additional debt to finance such current capital needs; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town now desires to reappropriate the Excess Proceeds to undertake the New Purpose.

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring), AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The following amounts of Excess Proceeds from the Ordinances listed below are no longer necessary for the improvements or purposes for which they were appropriated, authorized and issued:

<u>Bond Ordinance Number and Date of Adoption</u>	<u>Excess Proceeds Amount</u>	<u>Section of Bond Ordinance Reappropriated From</u>
26-2011, finally adopted December 19, 2011	\$18,260.00	Section 3(a)
33-2014, finally adopted December 1, 2014	\$ 4,981.38	Section 3(a)

<u>Bond Ordinance Number and Date of Adoption</u>	<u>Excess Proceeds Amount</u>	<u>Section of Bond Ordinance Reappropriated From</u>
6-2019, finally adopted April 29, 2019	\$27,108.16	Section 3(a)
8-2019, finally adopted May 20, 2019	\$23,900.00	Section 3(b)
3-2021, finally adopted April 26, 2021	<u>\$24,500.46</u>	Section 3(a)(iii)
Total:	<u>\$98,750.00</u>	

SECTION 2. The total amount of \$98,750.00 in Excess Proceeds is hereby reappropriated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-39, and shall be used to finance the cost of the undertaking by the Town of general capital improvements or purposes for which bonds may be issued. Said general capital improvements or purposes are set forth in Section 3(a) of this bond ordinance.

SECTION 3. (a) The capital improvements hereby authorized and purposes for which the Excess Proceeds are to be reappropriated is for the New Purpose.

(b) The improvements or purposes set forth above in Section 3(a) shall also include, as applicable, all engineering and design work, preparation of plans and specifications, permits, bid documents, contract administration, and all work, materials, equipment, labor and appurtenances necessary therefor or incidental thereto.

SECTION 4. The amount of \$395,000 is hereby appropriated to pay for the New Purpose as referenced in Section 3(a) herein, which amount will be funded by a United States Environmental Protection Agency Grant received or expected to be received by the Town and deposited into the Capital Improvement Fund of the Town for said improvements or purposes stated in Section 3(a) herein.

SECTION 5. In the event the United States of America, the State of New Jersey and/or the County of Atlantic make a contribution or grant in aid to the Town for the improvement or purpose authorized hereby and the same shall be received by the Town, then such funds shall be applied to the payment of debt service on the bonds issued for such improvement or purpose and shall be used for no other improvement or purpose.

SECTION 6. The capital budget or temporary capital budget, as applicable, of the Town is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this bond ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and a resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital programs as

approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, is on file in the office of the Clerk and is available for public inspection.

SECTION 7. The Town covenants to maintain the exclusion from gross income under section 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, of the interest on all bond and note proceeds reappropriated by this bond ordinance.

SECTION 8. This bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication hereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #035-2024- Amending Resolution #031-2024 Green Acres Park Development

AMENDING RESOLUTION #031-2024 RESOLUTION AUTHORISING APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GREEN ACRES PROGRAM - PARK DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSET DEPARTMENT OF ENVIORMENTAL PROTECTION

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program (“State”), provides grants and/or loans to municipal and county governments and grants to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the acquisition, development, and stewardship of lands for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, Town of Hammonton desires to further the public interest by obtaining funding in the amount of \$1,000,000, in the form of a low interest loan, from the State to fund the following project(s): 11th Street Complex – Skating Rink Infrastructure Improvements and Development at a cost of \$1,000,000;

WHEREAS, the State shall determine if the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Green Acres Program, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the State’s funds in accordance with such rules, regulations, and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the State for the above-named project;

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body/board resolves that:

1. Stephen DiDonato or the successor to the office of Mayor is hereby authorized to:
 - a. make application for such a loan and/or such a grant,
 - b. provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required, and
 - c. act as the authorized correspondent of the above-named applicant;
2. In the event the State’s funds are less than the total project cost specified above, the applicant has the balance of funding necessary to complete the project;
3. The applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and

4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution #036-2024 – Approve to apply for NJ DCA grant Hammonton Lake Park

SCHEDULE I: RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Town of Hammonton desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for up to \$100,000 for Playground Infrastructure Enhancements at Hammonton Lake Park.

Be it therefore RESOLVED,

1) that the Town of Hammonton does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and,

2) recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Town of Hammonton and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Be it further RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

Resolution #037-2024- Water / Sewer/ Tax Refunds

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON
AUTHORIZING TAX / WATER / SEWER REFUNDS**

Whereas, the following accounts need to have amounts credited, transferred, cancelled, refunded or changed

<u>Block / Lot</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1302-30	Hudson Homes	450 s 1 st rd	\$349.09 Utilities	Refund Overpayment
4903/28	Capoferri, Robert	5 DeMarco Ct	\$504.22 Utilities	Refund Overpayment
3003/7	Rocket Mortgage	550 Central Ave	\$1,405.78 Tax	Refund Overpayment
3004/27	Henao, Yomaira	267 Park Ave	\$681.88	Refund/Vet Tax Exempt
3004/27	Henao, Yomaira	267 Park Ave	\$1,363.88	Cancel/Vet Tax Exempt
4903/28	Capoferri. Robert	5 DeMarco Ct	\$2,005.31 Tax	Refund Overpayment
Various	Corelogic	Various	\$10,371.46 Tax	Refund Overpayments

Whereas, the above amounts have been corrected in the Edmunds Billing system for the Utilities and or tax module showing the correct amounts.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY that the above refunds are authorized, as approved by the Tax Collector of the Town of Hammonton:

Resolution #038-2024- Temporary Emergency

Appropriations

**RESOLUTION MAKING TEMPORARY EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS
IN THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides that temporary emergency appropriations may be made for the period between the beginning of the fiscal year and the date of adoption of the budget for said year; and

WHEREAS, the date of this resolution is not within the first thirty days of January, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Hammonton, New Jersey, that the following temporary emergency appropriations are hereby made:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Admin S&W	\$60,000.00
Admin OE	\$10,000.00
Finance S&W	\$40,000.00
Finance OE	\$7,000.00
Assessor S&W	\$60,000.00
Assess OE	\$4,000.00
Collection S&W	\$35,000.00
Collection OE	\$9,000.00
Legal OE	\$50,000.00
Computer S&W	\$30,000.00
Computer OE	\$30,000.00
Plng Brd S&W	\$ 8,000.00
Planning Board OE	\$ 2,200.00
Construction S&W	\$75,000.00
Construction O&E	\$10,000.00
Other Code S&W	\$20,000.00
Group Insurance	\$700,000.00
Insurance OE (Airport/ Rec)	\$ 0.00
Workers Comp (State Wide)	\$200,000.00
NJ Disability	\$10,000.00
Fire Operating Exp.	\$75,000.00
State Fire S&W	\$ 5,000.00
Police S&W	\$1,500,000.00
Police OE	\$65,000.00
Radio S&W	\$75,000.00

Prosecutor OE	\$15,000.00
Bldg & Grds OE	\$70,000.00
Highway S&W	\$300,000.00
Highway OE	\$350,000.00
Dog Reg. OE	\$5,000.00
Registrar OE	\$1,000.00
Park S&W	\$500.00
Recreation Operating Exp.	\$40,000.00
Advertising	\$25,000.00
Airport OE	\$6,000.00
Gasoline	\$75,000.00
Natural Gas	\$20,000.00
Electric	\$40,000.00
Street Lighting	\$100,000.00
Telephone	\$20,000.00
Social Security	\$60,000.00
Recycling Tax	\$10,000.00
DCRP	\$5,000.00
Public Defender	\$10,000.00
Municipal Court S&W	\$70,000.00
Municipal Court OE	\$6,000.00
PERS	\$174,893.81
PFRS	\$756,746.59
Capital Improvement Fund	\$75,000.00
CDBG – Covid Grant	\$315,000.00
CDBG – Lake Park ADA Pathways	\$488,259.00
Utility S&W	\$250,000.00
Utility OE	\$250,000.00
Utility Disability	\$ 4,000.00
Utility Social Security	\$ 5,000.00
Utility PERS	\$ 110,187.50

Resolution #039-2024 – Approval Memorial Day parade

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND ENDORSING
THE ANNUAL “TRI VET MEMORIAL DAY PARADE”**

WHEREAS, the Tri Vets continue to promote the Town of Hammonton with their annual “Tri Vet Memorial Day Parade”; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council continues to support the efforts of the Tri Vets; and

WHEREAS, **Monday May 27, 2024** is the scheduled date for the Tri Vet Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony beginning at 10:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Tri Vets have requested assistance of the Town of Hammonton Police Department for this scheduled event and closure of the following street in the Town of Hammonton during the parade from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:

Bellevue Avenue (Route 54) from Railroad Avenue to Tilton Street

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that the Tri Vet Memorial Day Parade is acknowledged and endorsed by the Town of Hammonton contingent upon the following:

1. Filing of required State written approvals for street closures with the Town Clerk’s office.
2. Filing of the necessary certificate of insurance.

Resolution #040-2024- Refund Escrow Funds

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON
AUTHORIZING ESCROW REFUNDS**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY that the following refunds/close out of accounts are authorized as approved by the respective Department Heads of the Town of Hammonton:

Liberto, David	\$ 401.25	Refund Escrow
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Resolution #041-2024-Approve amendment to Safe Routes to School agreement (GPI)

**AGREEMENT AMENDMENT #1
FINAL DESIGN SERVICES
2018 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL DESIGN ASSISTANCE
SOOY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AREA SIDEWALK AND ADA RAMP IMPROVEMENTS**

TOWN OF HAMMONTON, NEW JERSEY

This AMENDMENT #1, entered into on February 26, 2024, by the Town of Hammonton, a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, hereinafter called "HAMMONTON," and Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., hereinafter called "GPI."

WHEREAS, HAMMONTON has received a grant commitment from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) under the 2018 Safe Routes to School Program for construction funding for HAMMONTON Sooy Elementary School Area Sidewalk and ADA Ramp Improvements project, and

WHEREAS, NJDOT has also made available a Design Assistance Program to fund the design of the PROJECT using federal funds and an approved engineering firm from a pool of firms established by NJDOT, and

WHEREAS, HAMMONTON has selected GPI from the NJDOT pool to provide Design Assistance for this PROJECT, and

WHEREAS, Hammonton and GPI have entered into an Agreement on the 12th day of August 2021, to provide Design services for Preliminary Engineering, Final Design Engineering and Construction Engineering for the PROJECT, and

WHEREAS, the agreement may be amended to commit funding for final design services and construction engineering services, when Hammonton has determined that these services are ready to proceed, and

WHEREAS, HAMMONTON has determined that the PROJECT may proceed to Final Design.

WHEREAS, GPI has provided a scope and fee proposal for final design services for the project, dated May 27, 2020, revised July 21, 2023 and September 8, 2023, identified as agreement amendment #1-Exhibit A.

Resolution #042-2024 – Opposition to Wharton State Forest Vehicle Use Map

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING TO LOCAL RESIDENTS AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES THAT THE MUNICIPALITY EXPRESSES ITS OPPOSITION TO THE ADOPTION OF WHARTON STATE FOREST VISITING VEHICLE USE MAP

WHEREAS, Wharton State Forest is the largest state forest in New Jersey at approximately 123,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Pine Barren municipalities, and throughout the state, have enjoyed unfettered access to the elaborate system of roads since the land officially became Wharton State Forest in 1954 and even well before its official designation; and

WHEREAS, regardless if visitors are driving to get to a hike, a hunting or fishing expedition or just going for a drive through the forest, they need access to the various roads within Wharton; and

WHEREAS, the most comprehensive baseline of roads are documented in the USGS Topographical maps and were adopted as the baseline by the Pinelands Commission in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection collected 1,600 surveys from users and chose to ignore them and implement the same failed map from 2015; and

WHEREAS, a vehicle permitting system could be closely matched to the Department of Environmental Protection's \$195 per-vehicle permit in Island Beach State Park; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection already enjoyed an over \$250 million budget in 2021, and residents of New Jersey already pay the highest property taxes in the nation; and now be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Hammonton strongly oppose implementation of the proposed Wharton State Forest Visiting Vehicle Use Map as it will effectively deny access of law-abiding citizens to many areas of Wharton State Forest and will do very little to reduce or prevent the type of damage that has been caused by a small minority to certain specific areas of the forest.

Further; we urge the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governor to take whatever action is necessary to discontinue the Wharton State Forest Visiting Vehicle Use Map and instead adopt the map adopted by the Pinelands Commission in 2017.

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy, Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way, New Jersey Senate President Nicholas Scutari, New Jersey Senate Republican Leader Anthony M. Bucco, New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, New Jersey Assembly Republican Leader John DiMaio, and our State Senator and Assembly members.

Resolution #043-2024- Approve application for NJ Clean Energy program

**Resolution Authorizing the Application to the
NJ Clean Energy Program Community Energy Planning Grant Program**

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to ensure that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hammonton strives to assure clean land, air and water for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's Energy Master Plan: Pathway to 2050 ("EMP") established that community-level action necessary to achieve the state's goal of 100% clean energy by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has created a Community Energy Plan Grant program for municipalities to develop a community energy plan to meet the goals of the state's Energy Master plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hammonton is invested in developing a community energy plan to help the state achieve the goal of 100% clean energy by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Community Energy Plan Grant program will help the Town of Hammonton to plan for and invest in renewable energy and to work towards a better environment for all residents by using the state's Energy Master Plan (EMP) as a guide to develop sustainable strategies that increase clean energy production, reduce energy use, and cut emissions .

THEREFORE, the Town of Hammonton's Council, has determined that the Town of Hammonton should apply for the aforementioned Community Energy Planning Grant program; and

THEREFORE, the Town of Hammonton will commit to providing staff support for the duration of the Community Energy Planning process, including for gathering of relevant data and for convening at least one public meeting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Hammonton's Mayor and Council, State of New Jersey, authorizes the submission of the aforementioned application to the NJBPU Community Energy Planning Grant program.

Resolution #044-2024- Approve Mainstreet Arts and Music Festival

WHEREAS, MainStreet Hammonton has and continues to promote the Town of Hammonton with scheduled events in the downtown business district; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council has and continues to support the efforts of MainStreet Hammonton; and

WHEREAS, Main Street Hammonton is partnering with the Art Club of Hammonton and the other art organizations of Hammonton to host this annual event which will feature live music, art vendors, and art demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, The Hammonton Arts & Music Festival attracted many new people to the town since it began in 2021 and therefore enhanced the growing reputation of Hammonton's Art District, and

WHEREAS, Saturday, May 04, 2024 is the scheduled date for the Hammonton Arts & Music event during the hours of 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, MainStreet Hammonton has requested the following street closure for this event between the hours of 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.:

Horton Street between Bellevue Ave and Orchard Street;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that Saturday, May 04, 2024 is approved for the Hammonton Arts & Music Festival event, including the above requests for street closure and are approved and endorsed;

Resolution #045-2024- Approve Mainstreet Easter Eggstravaganza

WHEREAS, MainStreet Hammonton has and continues to promote the Town of Hammonton with scheduled events and promotions in the downtown business district; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council has and continues to support the efforts of MainStreet Hammonton; and

WHEREAS, MainStreet Hammonton will meet with the Police Chief to outline arrangements and is partnering with the HPD and Town of Hammonton Recreation Dept to offer this event;

WHEREAS, the Downtown Easter Eggstravaganza is a widely popular event attracting many people to the town and therefore generates increased exposure for the entire town, and

WHEREAS, Friday, March 29, 2024 is the scheduled date for the annual Downtown Easter Eggstravaganza event during the hours of 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, and

WHEREAS, MainStreet Hammonton has requested the following street closure for this event between the hours of 10:00 am – 3:00 pm:

South Second St. between Bellevue Ave. and Vine Street, and

WHEREAS MainStreet Hammonton has requested police assistance on Rt 54 from 12:00-2:00 pm and also assistance with crowd control in front of Toy Market, located at 200 Bellevue Ave. from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm for “The Great Egg Drop”,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that March 29, 2024 is approved for the Downtown Hammonton Easter Eggstravaganza event, including the above requests for street closure and police assistance are acknowledged, approved and endorsed;

Resolution #046-2024- Approval of Cruisin Mainstreet

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND ENDORSING
CRUISIN’ MAINSTREET- REMEMBER FRIDAY NIGHTS EVENT**

WHEREAS, MainStreet Hammonton Program has and continues to promote the Town of Hammonton with scheduled events in the downtown business district; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council has and continues to support the efforts of MainStreet Hammonton; and

WHEREAS, Numerous Town residents have requested a Cruisin’ MainStreet event each year; and

WHEREAS, Friday, May 17 (rain date May 18) is the scheduled date for the MainStreet Hammonton Annual “Cruisin’ MainStreet- Remember Friday Nights” event during the hours of 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, Main Street Hammonton has requested the following street closures for this event between the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.:

Central Avenue (Rt. 542) from Bellevue Avenue to Vine Street;
N. Egg Harbor Road between Rt. 54 and Pleasant Street;
Orchard Street Railroad Crossing;

WHEREAS, Main Street Hammonton has requested the reservation of the following parking spaces:

West side of Rt. 54 between Third Street and West End Avenue;
East side of Rt. 54 between Third Street and Egg Harbor Road;
Both sides of Railroad Avenue between 12th Street and Orchard St;
Both sides of Egg Harbor Road between Bellevue Ave. and Pleasant St; and

WHEREAS, Main Street Hammonton has requested appropriate Police Parking Control signs to be posted early in the day noting NO PARKING AFTER 4:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, Main Street Hammonton has requested 2 Police Officers to direct traffic at the intersections of Bellevue Avenue at Central Avenue and Bellevue Avenue at Egg Harbor Road due to increased event related pedestrian and vehicular traffic on State Route 54;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON, COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that the May 17 (rain date May 18) and the "Cruisin' Main Street" event, including the above requests for street closures, reservation of parking spaces, posting of "NO PARKING" signs and two police officers are acknowledged, approved and endorsed;

Resolution #047-2024- Approve Budget Transfers

TRANSFER OF BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Hammonton, County of Atlantic, and State of New Jersey, that there be and hereby is authorized the following transfer from the 2023 Budget appropriations reserves:

<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	
From: Disability Insurance -Operating Exp.	\$ 1,460.00
From: Highway – Salary & Wages	\$ 2,700.00
From: Environmental – Operating Expense	\$ 1,000.00
From: Social Security – Operating Expense	\$ 2,400.00
From: Recycling Tax – Operating Expense	\$ 1,200.00
From: DCRP – Operating Expense	\$ 1,600.00
To: Legal - Operating Expense	\$ 10,360.00

PUBLIC HEARD

MEETING ADJOURNED