

**BELMAR
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 25, 2025– 6:30 PM

Mayor Gerald Buccafusco, Council President Maria Rondinaro, Councilman Mark Levis, Councilwoman Jodi Kinney, Councilwoman Caitlin Donovan, Borough Attorney George McGill, Business Administrator Kevin Kane and Municipal Clerk April Claudio

“Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to The Coast Star, the official newspaper of the Borough of Belmar, and the Asbury Park Press on December 11, 2024 notice of this meeting was prominently posted on the bulletin board of the Municipal Building and filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Belmar.”

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Our troops and their families and first responders

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:

- Councilwoman Donovan presented the Sustainable NJ plaque and thanked the Environmental Commission for all their efforts in obtaining the Sustainable NJ designation for 2024-2027.
- Mr. Kane gave an update on how many grants have been received to date, which totals \$3,342,178.10. Councilwoman Rondinaro thanked Mr. Kane and Millennium Strategies for assisting with the Belmar Housing Authority Grant.
- Mayor Buccafusco referenced Ordinance 2025-01 and rumors about new positions being created. Ordinance is just listing titles; it doesn't mean that someone is filling that position. Some titles are being added to reflect current employees who hold those titles but were not listed in the ordinance. The only new position created is the Marina Supervisor, there is nobody in that position. Councilwoman Kinney asked if Borough employees are eligible for the Marina Supervisor position. Mayor Buccafusco stated they can apply as well.

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilwoman Kinney offered a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2025 meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Buccafusco and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Buccafusco, Rondinaro, Donovan and Kinney
ABSTAIN: Levis

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Councilwoman Donovan: Dine and Discover is March 9th. Any interested business can still apply. There will be trolleys for those in attendance. Borough Engineer is working with the Environmental Commission and DPW on improvements to Silver Lake. If you find a dead bird, notify DPW or the Police Department, don't touch it.

Councilwoman Kinney: Shade Tree Commission working on amending the tree permit, Arbor Day plans, and digitizing the tree inventory. The Junior Guards program is full. Summer Camp registration starts March 13th. Easter Egg Hunt is April 12th and volunteers are needed. There is a new salsa class at Taylor Pavilion. St. Rose High School both basketball teams made it to the Shore Conference finals. The boys won and the girls lost by two points. St. Rose Alumni is having a parade party on Sunday. March 7th is their annual fundraiser. The Belmar Elementary School musical is on March 13th and 14th. Pre-K program registration is open. All 3 schools are marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. This Friday there is a fundraiser at Jersey Mikes for the skatepark.

Councilwoman Rondinaro: Some businesses received letters about flutter flags. The ordinance currently prohibits them, but the ordinance is under review for possible revisions based on recommendations by the Planning Board. March 12th is the Library soda bread contest. The library is hosting two living history events in March.

Councilman Levis: Baseball and Softball sign ups are going on now. The marina fuel dock mobilization is starting soon, and work will begin on the pilings this week.

Mayor Buccafusco: Announced that veterans will now be able to get a free season beach badge if they would like instead of getting a daily badge every day.

PUBLIC SESSION: Public Session on resolutions only on the Agenda. We will continue to have a Public Session at the end of this meeting.

Neil Scheck, 410 4th Avenue, opposed resolution 2025-50.

Councilman Levis offered a motion to close the public session, which was seconded by Mayor Buccafusco and approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA - RESOLUTIONS:

All matters listed in the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Mayor Buccafusco offered the following resolutions for adoption:

- No. 2025-46 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**
- No. 2025-47 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS**
- No. 2025-48 RESOLUTION PERMITTING SPECIAL EVENTS AS PER BOROUGH
ORDINANCE 16-14.4**
- No. 2025-49 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR APPOINTING ALTERNATE
MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR**
- No. 2025-50 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PUBLISHING LEGAL NOTICES ON OFFICIAL
GOVERNMENT WEBSITES**

Seconded by Councilman Levis and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Buccafusco, Rondinaro, Levis, Kinney and Donovan

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 2025-01 *Second Reading & Public Hearing*

ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XI “PERSONNEL “SEC. 11-3, SCHEDULES, FIXING AND DETERMINING SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS, POSITIONS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Public Hearing: None

Mayor Buccafusco offered a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved unanimously.

Councilwoman Rondinaro offered a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-01, which was seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Buccafusco, Rondinaro, Levis, Kinney and Donovan

ORDINANCE 2025-02 *Second Reading & Public Hearing*

ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 41 ENTITLED “MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON”

Public Hearing: None

Mayor Buccafusco offered a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Councilman Levis and approved unanimously.

Mayor Buccafusco offered a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-02, which was seconded by Councilwoman Rondinaro and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Buccafusco, Rondinaro, Levis, Kinney and Donovan

ORDINANCE 2025-03 *Second Reading & Public Hearing*

ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 5 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AND SPECIFICALLY AT ARTICLE 1, SECTIONS 5-3 ET SEQ., FIRE DEPARTMENT, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Public Hearing: None

Councilwoman Kinney offered a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Mayor Buccafusco and approved unanimously.

Councilman Levis offered a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-03, which was seconded by Mayor Buccafusco and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Buccafusco, Rondinaro, Levis, Kinney and Donovan

ORDINANCE 2025-04 *First Reading & Introduction*

ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XVIII, SECTION 18-4.3 MISCELLANEOUS RATES AND SERVICES OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY

Councilwoman Kinney offered Ordinance 2025-04 for first reading and introduction, which was seconded by Mayor Buccafusco and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Buccafusco, Rondinaro, Levis, Kinney and Donovan

ORDINANCE 2025-05 *First Reading & Introduction*

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

Councilwoman Rondinaro offered Ordinance 2025-05 for first reading and introduction, which was seconded by Mayor Buccafusco and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Buccafusco, Rondinaro, Levis, Kinney and Donovan

ORDINANCE 2025-06 *First Reading & Introduction*

ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 19, TRAFFIC, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AND, SPECIFICALLY, ADDING SECTION 54, LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND OTHER MEANS OF MOTORIZED CONVEYANCES

Councilwoman Donovan offered Ordinance 2025-06 for first reading and introduction, which was seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Buccafusco, Rondinaro, Levis, Kinney and Donovan

PUBLIC SESSION:

Joe Mangione, South Lake Drive, asked about the geese at Silver Lake. Councilwoman Donovan stated we did hire a company, and they are monitoring them and attempting to scare them away. They are migratory so they will be leaving eventually. Encouraged everyone to not feed the geese. Mr. Mangione asked about the EMS. Mayor Buccafusco stated he and Councilwoman Donovan met with Monmouth County officials about their EMS program, and we are waiting for more information from them.

Tom Volker, 8th Avenue, shouted out to Asbury Park Press and Coast Star for providing good updates on Belmar meetings. Asked about the Housing Authority grant. Mr. Kane and Councilwoman Rondinaro gave an update.

Brian Magovern, South Lake Drive, was concerned about all the stickers on the historical pole at 8th and Ocean Avenue. He reiterated that the migratory geese will be leaving soon but the resident geese are going to stay and nest at the Silver Lake island. Encouraged DPW to oil the eggs. Suggested veterans get a different looking season badge.

Neil Scheck, 4th Avenue, asked how electric wheelchairs fall into the electric bicycle ordinance. Councilman Levis stated electric wheelchairs aren't part of the ordinance. Mr. Scheck would like to see leaf blowers addressed and the yellow paint peeling off the curbs near 5th Avenue.

Sal Fiore, Toms River, spoke about a pedal cycle business he owns that he would like to operate in Belmar.

Clare Hayner, 18th Avenue, thankful for summary on grants. Would like to see ordinances enforced against residents and not businesses.

Sarah Tantillo, 505 13th Avenue, thankful to all the fire fighters involved in the 15th Avenue fire. Expressed concern about regular bicycles on the boardwalk.

Greg Michelini, Ocean Avenue, the contractor doing the fenders in the inlet, did a great job.

Councilwoman Rondinaro offered a motion to close the public session, which was seconded by Mayor Buccafusco and approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Levis offered the following resolution for adoption:

No. 2025-51 RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PERMITTING THE COUNCIL TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PUSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

Seconded by Mayor Buccafusco and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Buccafusco, Rondinaro, Levis, Kinney and Donovan

After the Executive Session, the Mayor and Council returned to the public meeting. No further action was taken. Councilwoman Rondinaro offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

April Claudio
Municipal Clerk