

5. **VOTE ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

All items with an asterisk (*) are considered to be non-controversial by the Council and will be approved by one MOTION.

There may be further discussion prior to the vote upon request of a Council Member. Also, any item may be removed for further discussion or for Roll Call vote, in which case the item will be removed and considered in its normal sequence as part of the General Order of Business.

RESOLUTIONS

- *22-132 RESOLUTION TO CLEAR OUTSTANDING CHECKS FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT
- *22-133 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF 2022 LIQUOR LICENSES
- *22-134 RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO WEST STREET AND POPLAR STREET PROJECT
- *22-135 REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES
- *22-136 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRE OF DPW MECHANIC-CHRISTOPHER VERDINO
- *22-137 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION CODE OFFICIAL TO REVIEW FINES AND MITIGATION LIMITED TO APPEALS REGARDING TREE REMOVAL
- *22-138 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN APPROVED STATE CONTRACT PRICING SYSTEM VENDORS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11 CLOSTER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – SANITATION TRUCK
- *22-139 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE HOST COMMUNITY AGREEMENT
- *22-140 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LEINHOLDER
- *22-141 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN APPROVED COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM VENDORS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT: VEHICLE 705 AND VEHICLE 707
- *22-142 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF 2022-2023 LIQUOR LICENSE-ELKS-2304
- *22-143 REFUND OF TREE BONDS
- *22-144 BILLS LIST
- *22-145 RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH WATERS & BUGBEE

Item 22-142 was pulled for a separate vote

Councilwoman Latner moved to adopt Items 22-132 to 22-141 and 22-143 to 22-145, second Councilwoman Chung.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Councilwoman Amitai-no vote* | Councilwoman Latner-yes |
| Councilwoman Chung-yes | Councilwoman Witko-yes |
| Councilman Devlin-yes | Councilman Yammarino-yes |

*Councilwoman Amitai had WIFI issues.

Councilwoman Latner moved to adopt Item 22-142, second Councilman Devlin.

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Councilwoman Amitai-yes | Councilwoman Latner-yes |
| Councilwoman Chung-yes | Councilwoman Witko-yes |
| Councilman Devlin-yes | Councilman Yammarino-abstain |

Carried.

Item 22-146 was added for a Mayor’s Forum on Education. Councilman Yammarino moved to approve, second Councilwoman Amitai. Councilwoman Witko pointed out that the wording on the Closter Black Book has to be changed.

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Councilwoman Amitai-yes | Councilwoman Latner-yes |
| Councilwoman Chung-yes | Councilwoman Witko-no |
| Councilman Devlin-yes | Councilman Yammarino-yes |

Carried.

MOTION

MOTION GRANTING APPROVAL FOR JOEY’S FUND INC., 436 HILLCREST PLACE, PALISADES PARK, NJ TO CONDUCT AN OFF PREMISE CASH RAFFLE AT 19 VERVALEN STREET, CLOSTER, NJ ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 AT 3:00 PM

MOTION GRANTING APPROVAL FOR DONNA AND BRIAN HORAN, 2 BLACKLEDGE COURT, CLOSTER, APPLICATION FOR ESTATE/HOUSE SALE PERMIT FOR JULY 6, 7, & 8.

Councilwoman Latner moved to approve, second Councilman Devlin. All in favor. Carried.

6. **MINUTES**

- a. Approval of Work Session and Regular Public Meeting of December 22, 2021 *(Yammarino)
- b. Approval of Sine Die Meeting of January 4, 2022
- c. Approval of Reorganization Meeting of January 4, 2022
- d. Approval of Work Session and Regular Public Meeting of January 12, 2022
- e. Approval of Work Session and Regular Public Meeting of January 26, 2022
- f. Approval of Work Session and Regular Public Meeting of February 9, 2022
- g. Approval of Work Session and Regular Public Meeting of February 23, 2022
- h. Approval of Work Session and Regular Public Meeting of March 9, 2022
- i. Approval of Work Session and Regular Public Meeting of March 23, 2022
- j. Approval of Work Session and Regular Public Meeting of April 13, 2022
- k. Approval of Work Session and Regular Public Meeting of April 27, 2022 *(Amitai)
- l. Approval of Work Session and Regular Public Meeting of May 11, 2022 *(Chung)
- m. Approval of Work Session and Regular Public Meeting of May 25, 2022 *(Amitai)
- * Absent

MOTION Councilwoman Latner moved to approve, second Councilwoman Chung. All in favor. Councilwoman Amitai and Councilman Devlin abstained.

7. **VOTE ON ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

8. **ANY OTHER MATTER WHICH MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY**

9. **OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC FOR ANY MATTER)**
(Subject to 5-minute limit per By-Laws General Rule No. 11)

10. CLOSED SESSION

*22-147 RESOLUTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION AND EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Councilwoman Latner moved to go into Closed Session, second Councilman Devlin. All in favor. Carried. Closed Session began at 9:55 pm.

Councilwoman Latner moved to return to the Regular meeting, second Councilman Yammarino. All in favor. Return to the regular meeting was at 10:15 pm.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** Councilwoman Latner moved to adjourn, second Councilwoman Chung. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Evans
Borough Clerk

ALL BUSINESS WILL TERMINATE AT 11:00 P.M.



**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER**

WORK SESSION MINUTES-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2022 – 7:30 PM

Mayor Glidden opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with the following announcements: **DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS, THIS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE CLOSTER MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL BE HELD BOTH TELEPHONICALLY and VIA ZOOM VIDEO.**

You may join Zoom meeting including video by accessing the information posted in the **Borough Calendar** on the Borough website by visiting www.closterboro.com and clicking the link on the left sidebar for **Calendars and Notice of Meetings** and click on the corresponding date.

To join via Telephone Audio Only:

TOLL FREE: +1 646-558-8656; MEETING ID: 864 2063 3673; PASSWORD: 8675309

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT**

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, was included in the Notice of 2022 Mayor and Council Meetings which was published in The Record on December 23, 2021 and The Star Ledger on December 25, 2021, was posted on the Municipal Clerk's bulletin board and on the Borough website, and has remained posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of the notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Councilwoman Amitai-present

Councilwoman Latner-present

Councilwoman Chung-present

Councilwoman Witko-present

Councilman Devlin-present

Councilman Yammarino-present

4. **PRESENTATION**

Environmental Commission – Sustainable Jersey. Paul Yarin spoke about the process and virtues of pursuing Sustainable Jersey certification. He asked the Council for their support. A Green Team would need to be created. Steve Isaacson asked whether an environmental master plan would be helpful. Discussion. Councilman Devlin spoke about the need to make sure the Council is supportive. Different Council members spoke and voiced their support. Councilman Yammarino asked for material to review.

John and James McCaffrey joined the meeting (on the phone) for a hearing on the tree fines for 375 Blanch Avenue, Closter. They were both sworn in. Bill Fuchs described that he was called to the property because someone claimed that trees were being taken down without a permit and levied a total fine of \$6143.30. John McCaffrey spoke about being in town since 1960 and being curator of MacBain Farm for 23 years. He spoke about closing on the property in December and that most of the trees were transplanted but that the 6 trees in question were diseased, dead, and compromised. He said they were working to clean up the property. He said that 2 trees were hit by a town tree and completely snapped off and described the other 4 trees. He stated that he did not know that a permit was required but would have gotten one if he had known. He said that they were willing to pay the permit fees and planned to replace and plants that were removed. They were on a mission to fix up the property and make the property a master garden. He asked for relief on the fines. The Mayor thanked him for cleaning up the property and said that the Mayor and Council would consider the request.

5. **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF COMMUNICATION ITEMS**

a. MAIL LIST OF MAY 27, 2022

b. MAIL LIST OF JUNE 3, 2022—Councilwoman Latner asked about number 9 and asked if there was any follow up. Councilman Devlin and Mr. Winters stated that most of the problems documented on the video were on private property. Councilwoman Witko asked whether signs

about idling laws could be posted. The Police Chief said that this particular idling issue is being worked on. Councilwoman Amitai spoke about the narrow street and wondered whether the town property could be encroached upon for easier driving. Discussion.

- c. MAIL LIST OF JUNE 10, 2022
- d. MAIL LIST OF JUNE 17, 2022 Councilwoman Latner asked about Item 7 and the praise the administrator gave everyone.

6. **ORDINANCES**

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES (no one had questions)

Ordinance No. #2022-1298 – An Ordinance Amending Bond Ordinance Number 2021-1288 Finally Adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Closter, New Jersey on 12-8-21.

Ordinance No. #2022-1299 – Bond Ordinance Amending Bond Ordinance Number 2021-1287 Finally Adopted by the Borough of Council of the Borough of Closter, New Jersey on 12-8-21.

7. **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR MEETING**

- *22-131 RESOLUTION AMENDING 2022 BUDGET
- *22-132 RESOLUTION TO CLEAR OUTSTANDING CHECKS FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT
- *22-133 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF 2022 LIQUOR LICENSES
- *22-134 RESOLUTON FOR APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO WEST STREET AND POPLAR STREET PROJECT
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Councilman Devlin asked about line items on the tree budget. The Administrator explained that money was being taken from the tree fund for the Shade Tree Commission. Councilman Devlin asked for assurance that Shade Tree money would be able to be spent appropriately this year. He also asked about the garbage contract. The Administrator explained that nothing was changing on the street pickup side. Councilwoman Amitai said that there is a Welcome to Closter sign with no landscaping. She said that her organization would plant flowers and just needs the DPW to water it. The Mayor said there could be a resolution on the next agenda. The Administrator just asked her to review the design with the DPW superintendent. Councilman Yammarino explained that many other departments were having their budgets reduced a bit to put money toward the Ambulance Corps. Councilwoman Chung spoke a bit about the language in the recycling contract that was a bit confusing and asked the Borough attorney to look at it.

Gary Vinci joined the call to discuss the budget. The public hearing on the budget (which has a total increase of just under \$700,000) is on the regular meeting agenda. He said the Borough is in excellent financial condition. The budget amendment will include the grants received and appropriations. It is also on the agenda. Discussion with the Council about the valuation of Closter and the impact of the American Rescue Act. Mr. Vinci left the meeting.

8. **MINUTES**

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- m. Approval of Work Session and Regular Public Meeting of May 25, 2022 *(Amitai)

*Absent

9. **REPORTS**

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY – YAMMARINO (DEVLIN/WITKO) Councilman Yammarino shared that he is not completely happy with the budget but that it is moving forward. The summer concert series continues. Summer Recreation starts this Monday. There are concerns that many people have not filed their Financial Disclosure Statements. The Council is 100% compliant. A list will be compiled and addressed.
- b. PUBLIC SAFETY – LATNER (CHUNG/YAMMARINO) Councilwoman Latner stated Ivan fell off the ladder cutting limbs at the Library. Melissa Chalmer is moving away. Someone is taking up all of the work she did. Today is the Northern Valley High School graduation. On behalf of Don Farrell, is there a schedule for removing the limbs near the Nature Center? The answer is that there are many trees that need to be cleared because of the ash borer problem. May

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be these could be put on a list. Don Farrell also asked whether there could be an automated call about car thefts and things like that. The Police Chief said that possibly the Swiftreach system could be used but that it also shakes people up and was a Council decision. Councilwoman Chung asked if there was any way to protect the trees. Discussion.

- c. PUBLIC WORKS – CHUNG (AMITAI/WITKO) There had been complaints from residents on Meadows after a large storm. A team went to the residents to reassure them that the situation is on the list for remediation. Tomorrow she, the Administrator, and Engineer will visit a resident on Wendy Lane.
- d. ORDINANCES – DEVLIN (AMITAI/LATNER) The Ordinance Committee discussed parking on Bogert and Hickory, raffles, vacant houses, electric vehicles, tree mitigation. The Shade Tree Commission received a grant for a Shade Tree Inventory. The Environmental Commission received a grant for Buzzoni Farm. The website has been updated.
- e. HUMAN RESOURCES – WITKO (LATNER/YAMMARINO) Several Council members attended a luncheon at the Hillside School. The Fire Department hours and calls were reviewed.
- f. LAND USE AND CONSTRUCTION – AMITAI (CHUNG/DEVLIN) Sophie Heymann has fallen and is still in the hospital, but her spirits are good and is attending zoom meetings. She has a video tape for Lustron House that she would like on the website. She said the Farm Committee is doing great! The Seniors have an active schedule. The Lions Club wants to do a Duck Derby fundraiser. In order to do that, they will need the DPW to remove a small tree that has fallen into the waterway at the park. The CIP is trying to determine the best way to welcome newcomers. The first event of the Mayor's Council on the Arts was well received. Phase 2 is now in process—planning on pop-up events of all sorts at several locations. They are calling on people to perform. A lot of money was raised for the Ed Rogan Scholarship. The electric car show has been canceled. Paul Weisman reported that the Farm officially opened on June 19 and looks quite good.
- g. MAYOR'S LIAISON REPORT He attended the Ambulance Corps meeting last night; they are having difficulty with their fundraising. He encouraged people to spread the word.

11. **PROFESSIONAL REPORTS**

- a. BOROUGH ENGINEER Piermont Road/Vervalen Road: He has emailed the County a few times without much response, but it is on their list. Closter Swim Club: There is debate with the EPA about the way the contamination in the wetland is being handled in the absence of direct guidelines. The final invoice for the Blanch Avenue Bridge has not yet been received. The Road program is underway. The Local Aid Grant is on the agenda for today. The LFIF grant: the job is underway. The next is to remove the spur and resurface it, maybe by mid-July. Discussion about the gray areas surrounding the wetland contamination, it is a lower-level contamination, and remediating it could do more damage to the wetlands than is warranted. Thus, a waiver is being sought.
- b. POLICE CHIEF Everything went well with the moving-up ceremony at the school. National Night out is August 2. Operation Chill in conjunction with 7-11 is underway. A meeting has been held concerning the Police Headquarters. Councilman Devlin asked if there would be overtime for the National Night Out. The Chief said that the officers would receive comp time not overtime. Councilwoman Amitai asked about a Safe Streets and Roads grant and whether it concerned High Street. The Chief will read the application again but does not believe it will apply to High Street.
- c. MAYOR An educational forum had been planned at the Senior Center concerning legislation affecting public schools in NJ. It will take place at 7:00pm on the 29th. He asked for the support of the Council. Councilwoman Amitai said that she had sent a request for the use of the Senior Center. The Mayor believes that he worked it out.

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12. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. McCaffrey – Tree Violations (addressed earlier in the meeting).
13. **NEW BUSINESS** The trees affected by the ash borers need to be addressed. The Administrator will speak to the Borough tree expert.
14. **OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS (5 MINUTE LIMIT)** Steve Isaacson reminded everyone that the original Closter Cleanup came from the Green Team, that an Environmental component to the Master Plan was important, that Ken’s Tree Care should cut down the 40 trees as part of the deal for running their business off town property. He asked if there was a response to the RFQ for the farm and was told that it hadn’t gone out yet. He said that on Walker there was clearcutting and that to stop the flooding you have to stop the clearcutting. He said that instead of money John McCaffrey should give plants.

Joe Bianco said that he felt there would be requests for higher buildings in town, that he supports sustainability, and that people can contact him.

Ross Herbert thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of the Ambulance Corps. The Mayor thanked him.

Ms. Gleason asked about the senior transportation van. Her mother was using it and now was told that it holds only three people and can only be used for medical needs. Councilwoman Witko responded. It is primarily for medical transportation it is shared with two other towns and is used a lot. This van is temporary; a new one is on order. There is no solution at this time. It can be taken up again when there is more information. Councilwoman Amitai said that she knows of at least two other people who go daily to the JCC. Maybe they can all travel together.
15. **ANY MATTER BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY**
16. **ADJOURNMENT** Councilwoman Latner moved to adjourn the Work Session and go into the Regular Meeting, second Councilman Yammarino. All in favor. The Work Session was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Evans
Borough Clerk