

**FAIR HAVEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 25, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Halpern at 7:04 p.m. The Flag Salute was followed by a Moment of Silent Reflection. The following Sunshine Law Statement was read:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, PUBLIC MEETINGS MAY BE HELD IN PERSON OR BY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE STREAMING SERVICES AND OTHER ONLINE MEETING PLATFORMS (NJSA 10:4-8(b)).

THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD IN-PERSON AND THROUGH THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM, BEING BROADCAST FROM BOROUGH HALL, 748 RIVER ROAD, FAIR HAVEN, NJ. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THIS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2024 IS AVAILABLE BY CALL IN PHONE NUMBER OR THROUGH WEB CONFERENCE (ZOOM). MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ON MUTE UNTIL IT IS TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED. AT THAT TIME, THE PUBLIC HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION/COMMENT BY PHONE OR THROUGH ZOOM BY THE "RAISE HAND" BUTTON AND WILL BE CALLED ON AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS INCLUDED IN A SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION NO. 2024-13 AND SENT TO THE ASBURY PARK PRESS, THE TWO RIVER TIMES, THE HUB AND THE STAR LEDGER ON JANUARY 6, 2023 POSTED ON THE BOROUGH WEBSITE, THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND HAS REMAINED CONTINUOUSLY POSTED AS REQUIRED UNDER THE STATUTE.

WITH ADEQUATE NOTICE HAVING BEEN GIVEN, THE BOROUGH CLERK IS DIRECTED TO INCLUDE THIS STATEMENT IN THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING.

ROLL CALL

On Roll Call the following were present: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson. Others present: Administrator Casagrande, Attorney Sobel and Chief McGovern.

PRESENTATIONS

From Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School, Sean Cranston, Business Administrator, and Darren Groh, Superintendent, were in attendance to present the 2024/2025 budget to the governing body. They provided a handout for the governing body to follow along as they explained their budget process (occurred between November 2023 to March 2024); their tentative budget is currently under review by the County. The public hearing will be held on April 24th. The local tax levy went up 2% which is the maximum allowed and the State Aid number went up 1.83% and includes extraordinary aid which was kept flat. Tuition numbers went up 47% between non-residents who would like to attend R-FH (through an application process) and accommodations for multiple disabled students from other districts. Miscellaneous went up 64% for interest payments. He reviewed other programs and costs. Transportation costs went down. Health Benefits are 7.8% which is good. About 65.6% makes up the salaries and benefits, out of district transportation costs are down, support services, and some new athletic programs (i.e. girls flag football), curriculum writing and professional development to support the curriculum and the teacher's needs. There will be upgrades to wireless and internet, a new kiln for the art room, salt spreader for their maintenance truck, roof replacement and HVAC replacement. A breakdown of the General Fund, Special Revenue Fund and Debt Service Fund was provided. Fair Haven's portion of the budget will be \$6.6 million of the \$22 million budgeted. The equation works out to 26 cents for every \$100 of assessed property value.

Councilman Olson asked about their debt service number; he was advised \$182,000 comes from the State. Councilman LaBarbera asked what the total percent increase to the taxpayer would be: this year is 26 cents for every \$100 of assessed property value vs. 28 cents in 2023. Councilman LaBarbera asked if there was a Fair Haven and Rumson excel spreadsheet that shows a side-by-side breakdown comparison; yes, Mr. Cranston will send it to Administrator Casagrande. Mayor Halpern confirmed that the Borough of Fair Haven residents are paying \$3,000 for a \$19,000 education per household; yes.

Chris Larsen, Shade Tree Commission Chairman, was in attendance to present the Shade Tree Commission's 2023 Annual Report. Copies were provided to the governing body in their meeting packet. A tremendous amount of credit for the tree inventory program needs to be given to Commissioner Jill Sullivan who as soon as she was appointed took on the task and secured a \$15,000 grant for a tree inventory (requirement for Community Forestry Management Plan). The

Commission created a Resident Tree Buying Program; 56 trees were planted last year. The program will be ongoing this year; the deadline for spring orders was today and it will be done again this fall. The Commission sponsored a tree give away. Two Kwanzan Cherry Trees were planted on Fair Haven Road in September. There were various community engagement activities which included door hangers providing tree information and tree care being distributed to all residences; this year will be information on the invasive ivy. There was participation in "Love Where You Live Day" and tree information was provided. The Commission will sponsor Arbor Day activities with a Poster Contest. There is online social media with a following of 173 people. Shade Tree is evaluating the options for the Christmas Tree which will be planted. They have maintained their accreditation. Two new members were core trained by NJUCF; Fair Haven earned 16 CEUs vs. the 8 CEUs that are required. The Commission is waiting on the new tree ordinance. It is felt that if the Borough takes down a tree, they should replace one elsewhere in the Borough. Members attended multiple trainings and would like DPW to attend as well. They submitted a budget request for this year; Mr. Larsen gave a breakdown and said the Commission would like a consulting line increase and classes are also a little more money this year.

Mayor Halpern asked about the tree giveaway and if it was paid from the Shade Tree Trust Fund. Mr. Larsen advised that the tree give away occurs once a year and there is a few thousand dollars in the account. It was asked if there is a plan for replacing the current Kwanzan Cherry trees that are at their end of life? Nothing has been done in recent history; a few years ago, some commission members met with Bill Brooks and he pointed out rot for some of the trees which will need to be discussed soon. The Fair Haven Natural Area needs to be cut back as the trees are growing toward the road due to sunlight; they need sunlight from the west. Mayor Halpern said on Buttonwood Drive many trees were taken down due to safety, however, there was no replanting and we would want replanting for Fair Haven Road because the trees in bloom are beautiful. It was suggested the Tree Buying Program information be included on the door hanger. Leah Beganie handles the Shade Tree Commission's social media based on suggestions for education (Spotted Lantern Fly, Arbor Day, tree care). It was noted that there needs to be consistency for all board and commission postings.

Councilwoman Cole advised she was liaison to Shade Tree for a few years and she asked about a policy to remove trees on public land. It was asked what is in the budget for tree removal; \$25,000 for removal. She asked about the cost to do "one for one". Administrator Casagrande said not all trees that are removed are on borough property, there are some in the right-of-way (this is a liability if the tree becomes hazardous) which is different from removing a tree from Fair Haven Fields.

The governing body thanked Chris Larsen for his time and presentation.

Carolyn Ferguson, Fair Haven Fields Natural Area Advisory Committee (FHFNAAC) Chairperson, was in attendance to present the 2023 FHFNAAC Annual Report. Copies of the report and Power Point presentation were provided to the governing body in their meeting packet. The FHFNAAC is willing to collaborate with the Shade Tree Commission to address hazard trees and tree replacement. Mrs. Ferguson asked that the Borough Clerk share the Power Point Slideshow with the public on Zoom and in the Council Chambers. Most of the members were in attendance and were introduced. The Advisory Committee would like to keep the Fair Haven Natural Area as natural as possible. They have a partnership with DPW and review, monthly, the condition of the fields/Natural Area. Monmouth County Parks has complimented the DPW's knowledge and commended Dave Karl for receiving his herbicide license. All six (6) goals that were set and met in 2023 were reviewed as well as other 2023 accomplishments. She noted that Devils Walking Stick trees were encountered; they have thick vines/thorns. In 2022, the project of the Natural Area's northwest section restoration started. In 2023, the Community Appeals donations were used to have the area professionally cleared. They wanted to honor distinguished committee members but did not accomplish doing so; it will be a 2024 goal. The Community Appeal balance for the Natural Area started at \$27,000 in the beginning of 2023 and \$20,000 was spent which included \$2500 for wildflower seeds for the meadow and \$2300 to protect native species from deer. Community Engagement (two volunteer clean ups and a Walk and Talk) took place through the year. They participated in "Love Where You Live Day" and repaired the bench in Moraller's Meadow. There has been communication with Church of the Nativity for vine management. The Advisory Committee's 2024 goals were reviewed. They would like to honor Jim Ingle who was the first Chairman of the Committee by installing a rustic bench with a plaque. A request of the Borough Council was to add curbs (request since 2021) on Fair Haven Road along the Cherry Tree area; this is already a plan as part of the NJDOT grant received. There is a need for deer management (deer are eating the understory - young trees planted to supplement for the loss of the mature trees), mostly in the Bird Sanctuary. They requested the Borough share the report from DEP inspection with FHFNAAC as well as events that are to take place in the Natural Area. There was a request for a single point of contact through the Borough for paperwork, etc. In 2023, there were 800 volunteer hours donated. A heat index map was shared of the Natural Area which showed the importance of

trees to the area.

Mayor Halpern asked if there has been discussion about the Harding Bird Sanctuary and Third Street Trail becoming part of the FHFNAAC; it is common sense to do so as the mission is the same (get rid of invasives and upkeep). Mrs. Ferguson said the Committee’s hands are full and members are cautious about taking on more but understand the common mission. It was suggested the Northwest Area be renamed as “Inglewood” instead of installing a bench. There used to be the “Ingle Nook”, however the tree there has fallen and lies in the middle of the area.

Councilwoman Hoey suggested the Natural Area Advisory Committee speak with the Borough’s Environmental Commission about the deer population as they had the NJDEP present to them last year. Mayor Halpern announced that the NJDEP will be attending the May 13th governing body meeting to make a presentation on deer management.

Councilwoman DiMiceli asked if funding with Open Space for the Third Street Trail interferes with the Fair Haven Fields Natural Area Advisory Committee overseeing it. Mrs. Ferguson would need to speak with Community Appeals about the expansion of what the FHFNAAC currently oversees as far as funding purposes.

WORKSHOP SESSION

Mayor Halpern advised there is a request for 30 lawn signs from Jersey Shore Youth Rugby regarding their spring registration to be displayed in the Borough. Motion to approve moved by Councilmember Koch, second by Councilmember LaBarbera with Ayes by all present.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was opened to the public for comments or questions at 7:59 p.m. Susan O’Brien, River Road, who attends a number of Borough meetings, advised that there was a meeting at Bicentennial Hall and the building needs automatic lights for entering and leaving as it is very dark. There should be lights at all entrances. Councilwoman Cole advised that lighting has been identified as a punch list item; the Borough is aware and we are working on a remedy. Mayor Halpern advised that it will be considered during the building’s restoration.

There being no further comments or questions, the meeting was closed to the public at 8:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember LaBarbera made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of February 26, 2024, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Councilmember LaBarbera made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes of March 11, 2024, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Councilmember LaBarbera made a motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes of March 15, 2024, second by Councilmember Cole

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: Councilmember Koch

Absent: None

OLD BUSINESS

HEARING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance No. 2024-03, Amend Description for Bond Ordinance No. 2023-17

**BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING IN PART BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2023-17
ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 23, 2023 AND PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENTS, IN ORDER TO AMEND ONE OF THE PURPOSES THEREOF,
AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FAIR HAVEN, IN THE COUNTY OF**

MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY

On motion of Councilmember Cole, second by Councilmember DiMiceli with Ayes by all present, Mayor Halpern opened the meeting for comments or questions at 8:03 p.m.

There being none, the Hearing was closed to the public at 8:03 p.m. on motion of Councilmember Cole, second by Councilmember Koch with Ayes by all present.

Offered for adoption by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- 2. Ordinance No. 2024-04, Index Rate Ordinance (COLA)

2024 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

On motion of Councilmember Cole, second by Councilmember Koch with Ayes by all present, Mayor Halpern opened the meeting for comments or questions at 8:04 p.m.

There being none, the Hearing was closed to the public at 8:04 p.m. on motion of Councilmember Koch, second by Councilmember Cole with Ayes by all present.

Offered for adoption by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Councilwoman Cole reported back to the governing body regarding the Historic Site Management Grant Application for Bicentennial Hall which was carried from the March 11th meeting. She summarized what was discussed and submitted information to the governing body. This grant will help pay for a professional to institute the grant and program. At the last meeting, the Council had questions regarding the grant i.e. cost to apply, matching funds, etc. Councilwoman Cole and Administrator Casagrande met with Colliers Engineering who provided a proposal not to exceed \$5,200 to prepare the grant application. The Borough's commitment would be 25% of the grant award as a matching amount. Councilwoman DiMiceli said this is in line with next steps; it is funding that would come out of our pockets anyway and this grant will help. We would apply for an amount in the middle of \$5,000 and \$75,000. Councilwoman DiMiceli spoke with another company about consulting and their cost is \$3,400. The Historic Association of Fair Haven is willing to front the application fee and if awarded, be reimbursed in 2025. The matching grant money would have to come from the current fund budget. We cannot reimburse an outside entity in one year (2025) for a prior year (2024). Administrator Casagrande gave an example calculation of a \$75,000 grant (\$56,250 would be the grant and the match would be \$18,750). Nancy Britton, Assistant CFO, agreed that we cannot repay or reimburse an outside entity. If they are agreeing to pay the application fee, they are funding the application and/or the match. It is either a Borough expense or they pay it with the understanding that are not being reimbursed. The Consulting Engineer's hourly rate is between \$130 and \$160 per our professional agreement with them. The Borough would need to cut a purchase order.

The Mayor confirmed the grant being discussed is for planning, not actual improvements. Councilwoman Cole read from the grant synopsis. If the Borough tries for the maximum amount, we are investing \$24,000 for the benefit of \$57,000 in grant money. There was no estimate, but the Grant Committee's hope to have that number before the April 8th Council meeting. The Council had a brief discussion including pros vs. cons. There was no definitive information. Councilwoman DiMiceli advised the grant is to offset the engineer's fee with a goal to rehabilitate Bicentennial Hall. There is no obligation for additional expenditures. Administrator Casagrande advised the CDBG grant work has not gone out to bid; the deadline to complete that project is October 1st (out to bid, award and work to commence).

Councilman LaBarbera said there are three pieces to the grant and reviewed those pieces in the grant description. He then reviewed the four components that the Borough is working on for Bicentennial Hall. Councilwoman Cole said this grant will get us 2 and 3 of the four components of the Borough's plan.

Councilwoman DiMiceli asked Councilman LaBarbera what his take was. He advised design considerations and the maintenance plan (need quotes for professionals). From the research that was done, there are a few key items of historical significance (building being painted). What is the professional cost to produce an updated maintenance plan and what do we want Bicentennial Hall as a facility to be in Fair Haven. We would like to host Mayor and Council meetings there; it is currently not suitable for those meetings right now and requires design work. Councilwoman DiMiceli said the grant can cover those two things noted. Councilwoman DiMiceli said this is the only Historic Building in Fair Haven. Councilman LaBarbera gave a synopsis of the four steps and what we are trying to achieve. The Council needs to bifurcate the two. We should not tie the long-term maintenance plan with this grant. This grant focuses on the programming of Bicentennial Hall and the next step is to address the long-term maintenance plan. He loved the grant idea but we should give pause to the \$5,200 fee as the economics don't make sense; why, hypothetically, would we invest \$5,200 for a \$1,500 maintenance plan for 10 years. Administrator Casagrande advised we need a Scope of Work description to apply for the grant. Councilwoman Koch said there is still a lot of unknowns that is a risk for little reward. The Council had a further discussion regarding matching grants and receiving grants that are non-matching. Councilwoman DiMiceli advised the Grant Committee is trying to fund the planning for a project next year and if not done now, it cannot be done next year. Currently, the risk is \$5,000 because we are not guaranteed a grant award. Councilman Olson asked if there is a budget line item for grant writing? No, there is a line item for planning and zoning consulting which is for our Land Use Attorneys. The Council was advised that this matter cannot be carried to the April 8th Council Meeting since April 18th is the grant deadline. At the April 8th meeting, we would need to approve the professional to write the grant.

Mayor Halpern advised that he is committed to the restoration of Bicentennial Hall. Administrator Casagrande advised that we currently have a \$350,000 bond that was previously authorized for the building's improvements. Attorney Sobel asked the Council who the President of the Historic Association of Fair Haven is; Elise Casey. He asked if they are going to fund the 25% match? Elise Casey came forward and said it was the understanding that they would be reimbursed the money which this evening Council has stated is now off the table. It was asked if the Historic Association can fund the application to fund a grant writer without reimbursement? Administrator Casagrande was trying to reach out to the CFO for an answer. Attorney Sobel asked Ms. Casey if the Historic Association pays the application fee, are they willing to pay the match amount. He advised that he will need to prepare a resolution to accept the donation as a gift and then a resolution to support the application and authorize Colliers to do the grant writing work. The Council then discussed if a grant amount is received, we could always turn it down; scenarios were discussed.

Councilwoman Cole told Ms. Casey that the Borough is appreciative to the Historic Association of Fair Haven and their offer. Attorney Sobel said resolution needs to be listed on the April 8th agenda to accept a donation from the Historic Association of Fair Haven. Councilwoman Cole will speak with Colliers to see what the turnaround time for the grant application would be and if they could meet the April 18th deadline. It was stated Current Fund budget money would be needed for a matching planning grant. In a better future budget year, there can be a line item for grant writing costs. Ms. Casey asked when she should write the check for the grant application; April 9th.

Councilman LaBarbera provided a facilities update for the DPW Facility. He spoke with the Borough's contact in Washington, D.C. and the Borough's grant for the Community Center was written into law; we will receive \$1.25 million. Mayor Halpern noted Councilman LaBarbera going forward with the heavy lifting to secure the money and Councilwoman DiMiceli was thanked for finding the grant. There were samples of the DPW siding and stone with a handout showing grout color options. The color "Raven" was the professional's recommendation for the grout. "Natural Gray" grout is also an option. Councilman LaBarbera hoped to have the actual grout samples for the next meeting.

A change order for DPW is required. Underneath the current siding (known as T-1-11), it was assumed there was plywood behind it. After the walls were demolished, the plywood stopped at a certain height (it did not go all of the way to the ceiling) and you need to have plywood all the way through. There is 3,800 square feet of plywood missing which has an additional cost of \$60,000; it was an unforeseen as we are renovating the building. The roof is currently being laid. No change order is needed for footings. We do not want the 50-year-old sheathing to remain; it is best to go with new. The change order will come back to the governing body for a decision.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA - RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution No. 2024-76, Executive Session: Personnel and Contract Negotiations

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings, P. L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the

public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body may wish to discuss the following matters:

Personnel

1. DPW Staffing
2. Chief Financial Officer
3. Borough Administrator Position

Contract Negotiation

1. 21 Fair Haven Road

WHEREAS, minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the public be excluded from this meeting.

Offered for adoption by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2. Resolution No. 2024-77, Approve Fire Department Associate Membership/First Aid - John Jarvis

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Fair Haven that John Jarvis, 167 Hunting Lane, Fair Haven, NJ 07704 having been duly accepted as an affiliate member of the Fair Haven Volunteer Fire Co., is hereby appointed to the Fair Haven Fire Department/First Aid Squad.

Offered for adoption by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

3. Resolution No. 2024-78, Appoint Part Time School Crossing Guard - Dale Connor

WHEREAS, there is a need for a part-time School Crossing Guard; and

WHEREAS, Chief Joseph McGovern has recommended that Dale Connor be appointed as a Part Time School Crossing Guard, effective March 26, 2024 at an hourly salary of \$20.50.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fair Haven that Dale Connor is hereby appointed as a part-time School Crossing Guard as noted above.

Offered for adoption by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4. Resolution No. 2024-79, Approve Temporary Emergency Appropriations

WHEREAS, emergent conditions have arisen with respect to the payment of bills in a number of accounts and no adequate provision has been made in a Year 2024 temporary budget for the aforesaid purposes; and

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for the purposes above mentioned; and

WHEREAS, the total temporary emergency resolutions adopted in the year 2024 for the Borough pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, PL 1951 (NJSA 40A:4-20) including this

resolution total **\$4,903,031.85** for the Current Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that not less than two-thirds of all members of the Borough Council of the Borough of Fair Haven, New Jersey affirmatively concurring in accordance with the provisions of NJSA 40A:4-20:

1. An emergency temporary appropriation shall be and the same is hereby made for the following purposes:

Account Number	Description	Amount	Reason
Current Account			
4-01-20-100-101	Administration - Salaries	\$40,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-20-20-101	Municipal Clerk - Salaries	\$25,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-20-130-101	Finance Salaries	\$20,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-20-130-202	Finance - Contractual Services	\$12,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-20-150-101	Tax Assessment - Salaries	\$7,500.00	Temp Budget
4-01-20-150-211	Tax Assessment - Contractual Services	\$5,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-20-155-211	Legal Services - Contractual	\$20,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-20-165-101	Engineering - Salaries	\$50,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-20-165-211	Engineering - Contractual	\$4,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-21-180-101	Planning Board - Salaries	\$3,500.00	Temp Budget
4-01-21-185-101	Zoning Board - Salaries	\$3,500.00	Temp Budget
4-01-21-185-211	Zoning Board - Contractual	\$5,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-21-186-101	Zoning Officer - Salaries	\$10,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-22-209-101	Code Enforcement - Salaries	\$2,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-23-210-228	Insurance - General Liability	\$30,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-23-215-228	Workers' Compensation	\$21,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-23-222-227	Waiver Medical	\$10,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-25-240-101	Police - Salaries	\$300,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-26-290-101	Streets & Roads - Salaries	\$80,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-26-290-208	Street & Roads - Chemicals	\$5,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-26-305-202	Solid Waste - Contractual	\$75,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-26-310-101	Bldgs & Grounds - Salaries	\$2,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-26-310-202	Bldgs & Grounds - Repairs	\$10,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-26-315-235	Vehicle Maintenance - New Equip/Repair	\$10,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-28-370-101	Recreation - Salaries	\$15,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-29-390-104	Library - Salaries	\$10,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-30-405-299	Cell Tower Property Lease	\$12,500.00	Temp Budget
4-01-31-430-276	Electricity - Utilities	\$15,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-31-435-276	Street Lighting - Utilities	\$12,500.00	Temp Budget
4-01-31-440-276	Telephone - Utilities	\$5,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-31-446-276	Natural Gas - Utilities	\$10,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-31-460-276	Gasoline - Utilities	\$10,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-32-465-201	Reclamation Fees - Tipping Fees	\$50,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-36-472-299	PERS - Misc.	\$234,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-36-472-299	Social Security Miscellaneous	\$10,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-36-475-299	PFRS - Misc.	\$565,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-36-477-299	DCRP	\$2,500.00	Temp Budget
4-01-42-200-101	ILSA - FH BOE SLEO III	\$20,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-43-490-101	Municipal Court - Salaries	\$4,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-23-494-202	Recycling Tax - Contractual Services	\$4,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-45-930-299	Bond Interest - Misc	\$200,000.00	Temp Budget
4-01-45-935-299	Notes Interest - Misc.	\$170,000.00	Temp Budget
	TOTAL	\$2,100,000.00	

2. That said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2024 budget under the appropriate titles.

3. That one certified copy of this resolution will be filed with the Director of Local Government Services.

Offered for adoption by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5. Resolution No. 2024-80, Authorize Execution of Tree Inventory Proposal with Arbor Pro (NJUCF Grant)

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission submitted for and was awarded an NJUCF Stewardship Grant in the amount of \$15,000 for a tree inventory to maintain their accreditation status; and

WHEREAS, proposals were solicited and three responses were received for tree inventory and assessment software; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission recommends moving forward with the proposal received from Arbor Pro, 22605 La Palma Avenue, #509, Yorba Linda, California 92887 to conduct Fair Haven's tree inventory (including software) in the amount of \$14,950.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council that the proposal from Arbor Pro be accepted/awarded in the amount of \$14,950 which will be paid through the NJUCF Stewardship Grant.

Offered for adoption by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6. Resolution No. 2024-81, Approve Sidewalk Café Permit - Tavolo Pronto

WHEREAS, Chapter 4-2.1 governs Sidewalk Cafes and Restaurants in the Borough of Fair Haven; and

WHEREAS, Tavolo Pronto, 610 River Road, has filed the appropriate Sidewalk Café License Application and paid the appropriate fee; and

WHEREAS, the Police Chief has reviewed said application and submitted his approval dated March 7, 2024 for said permit as follows:

10 Tables and 40 chairs to accommodate 40 patrons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Fair Haven that the Sidewalk Café Permit is hereby approved and shall be issued by the Municipal Clerk with an expiration date of December 1, 2024.

Offered for adoption by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

7. Resolution No. 2024-82, Approve Sidewalk Café Permit - Dos Banditos

WHEREAS, Chapter 4-2.1 governs Sidewalk Cafes and Restaurants in the Borough of Fair Haven; and

WHEREAS, Dos Banditos, 609 River Road, has filed the appropriate Sidewalk Café License Application and paid the appropriate fee; and

WHEREAS, the Police Chief has reviewed said application and submitted his approval dated March 7, 2024 for said permit as follows:

5 Tables and 20 chairs to accommodate 20 patrons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of

Fair Haven that the Sidewalk Café Permit is hereby approved and shall be issued by the Municipal Clerk with an expiration date of December 1, 2024.

Offered for adoption by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

8. Resolution No. 2024-83, Approve Sidewalk Café Permit – Fairwinds Deli

WHEREAS, Chapter 4-2.1 governs Sidewalk Cafes and Restaurants in the Borough of Fair Haven; and

WHEREAS, Fairwinds Deli, 798 River Road, has filed the appropriate Sidewalk Café License Application and paid the appropriate fee; and

WHEREAS, the Police Chief has reviewed said application and submitted his approval dated March 12, 2024 for said permit as follows:

3 Tables and 9 chairs to accommodate 9 patrons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Fair Haven that the Sidewalk Café Permit is hereby approved and shall be issued by the Municipal Clerk with an expiration date of December 1, 2024.

Offered for adoption by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

9. Resolution No. 2024-84, Payment of Vouchers

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Fair Haven that the vouchers listed for payment on the March 25, 2024 Bill List are hereby approved and the Finance Department is hereby authorized to release payment to the various vendors.

2023 CURRENT FUND ACCOUNT	\$ 2,108.00
2024 CURRENT FUND ACCOUNT	\$ 2,793,214.08
GENERAL CAPITAL	\$ 252,810.08
OTHER TRUST	\$ 219,353.18
	\$ 3,267,485.34

Offered for adoption by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Koch

Affirmative: Councilmembers Cole, DiMiceli, Hoey, Koch, LaBarbera and Olson

Negative: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Reports of Departments

February 2024

-Tax Collector

-Police Department

-Municipal Court

Motion to accept the reports, as submitted, moved by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Koch with Ayes by all present.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

Mayor Halpern opened the meeting to the public for comments or questions at 9:11 p.m. Susan O'Brien, River Road, advised there are no lights in front of the ACME Shopping Center and asked who this should be addressed to. Chief McGovern will speak with the management company for ACME.

Bonnie Torcivia, Battin Road, said she was recently at Bicentennial Hall for the sport swap and there is a crack in the light above the front door that needs to be secured; it looks like it is going to fall out. The bids are being worked on by the Borough Engineer and Architect for the ADA compliance piece. Ms. Torcivia stated the window is falling out and it is historic to the building. Councilman LaBarbera advised there is a stakeholder meeting on Thursday for Bicentennial Hall.

Mrs. O'Brien said she wanted to meet with the Mayor after the last Planning Board Meeting. She asked if he had office hours; he told her to email him anytime she would like to meet. She stated the landing in front of Bicentennial Hall has a step down to get out of the building and it is not up to code. It is dangerous and someone could get hurt; she was advised we will look at it. Mrs. O'Brien said she was on the Brush and Leaf Committee and the only thing discussed for the new cans was the size, not color or shape, etc. She was told that the governing body discussed and made these decisions so that the cans are uniform.

Councilman LaBarbera gave kudos to the Public Outreach and Communication Committee for the information that will be going out to the public regarding the new brush and leaf program guidelines.

Councilwoman Cole said the Grants Committee would like to plant a seed for Open Space, Parks, Planning, etc. and this information will continue being brought to the governing body. There is a deer (Fish and Wildlife) grant/loan for a management program. April 8th is the due date for Grant Discretionary Funding which is new. A 250-word initial letter would need to be submitted with cost estimates; there is a 20% match expressed in many ways including what we have proposed so far. Councilwoman DiMiceli said that it is a long-term process not for immediate needs. The idea is to use this opportunity for our waterfront projects (access to water). There was a request for approval to send a letter to Senator Booker by the next Council meeting. Councilwoman Hoey said this is a discussion for the community i.e. Phase II for facilities. Mayor Halpern said there needs to be something for the Council to look at. He requested the information be sent to Administrator Casagrande who will send it to the governing body for a future workshop. Councilwoman Cole liked Councilwoman Hoey's earlier suggestion to arrive at a set of priorities to attach grant dollars. Councilman LaBarbera also liked what Councilwoman Hoey stated earlier in the meeting regarding guidance provision for the governing body or holding an open house for feedback to set the directive based on specific priorities. Administrator Casagrande advised that we have a five-year strategic plan and grants have to tie to both, the budget and the Borough plan. The example of road improvements was given where the governing body can authorize road projects every single year through NJDOT grants or authorize \$3 million for roads and "pick away at it". You need to see how it is going to impact your budget. Mayor Halpern said that this was not on the agenda and is not appropriate to discuss this evening; although important and a great conversation to have, it is very involved.

Clerk Cinquegrana wished both the Mayor and Mrs. Halpern a/k/a "First Lady of Fair Haven" a Happy Birthday this week. The Mayor said his wife's birthday is the day before his and he shares his birthday with his daughter, Lily. Councilman Olson stated that his birthday is March 27th; everyone wished them a Happy Birthday.

There being no further comments or questions, the meeting was closed to the public at 9:29 p.m.

The Council went into executive session at 9:38 p.m. and this meeting was reconvened at 11:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn moved by Councilmember LaBarbera, second by Councilmember Hoey with Ayes by all present.

Time of Adjournment: 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allyson M. Cinquegrana, RMC
Borough Clerk