



Regular Meeting \* October 8, 2024 \* 4:30 p.m.

**ALLENTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
8 N. MAIN STREET  
ALLENTOWN, NJ**

[www.AllentownBoroNJ.com](http://www.AllentownBoroNJ.com)

**Broadcasted Live on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/92916865023>.**

**Meeting ID: 929 1686 5023. Or dial in at 1-646-558-8656.**

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ALLENTOWN**

**MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** was made by Mayor Thomas C. Fritts at 4:32 p.m.
2. **SALUTE OF THE FLAG** was led by Fritts.
3. **COMPLIANCE STATEMENT** was read by Municipal Laurie A. Roth, "In compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act", Chapter 231, PL. 1975, Section 5, adequate notice has been given of this meeting by posting a Notice in a public place, on the bulletin board inside Borough Hall, on the Borough's website Allentown Boro N-J dot com, the Borough's Facebook page, the Borough's Twitter account and by transmitting a Notice to two newspapers, THE TIMES and the ASBURY PARK PRESS as required by law."
4. **ROLL CALL** was performed by Roth. **ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Council President DeKranes (virtual), Councilman Elder, Councilman Drennan, Councilwoman Johnson, and Councilwoman Darling. **ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** Mayor Fritts. **OTHERS PRESENT INCLUDED:** Municipal Clerk Laurie A. Roth and Attorney Greg Cannon.
5. **MAYOR'S UPDATE** - *Mayor Thomas C. Fritts -*
6. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**- *Limited to three (3) minutes per citizen. State name and address clearly for the record. None.*
7. **CONSENT AGENDA**  
*(All matters listed hereunder are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any person may request that an item be removed for separate consideration).*
  - A. Approval of the Regular Minutes: July 9, 2024 (5PM), July 9, 2024 (7PM)
  - B. Approval of the Executive Minutes: July 9, 2024
  - C. Approval of Ralph Bensel III's Blue Emergency Light Permit
  - D. **Resolution, 287-2024**, Supporting Allentown's Request to Close Main Street, Between Church and High Streets, for Halloween

**RESOLUTION 287-2024  
BOROUGH OF ALLENTOWN**

**COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ALLENTOWN BOROUGH'S REQUEST TO CLOSE SOUTH MAIN STREET (CR 524), BETWEEN CHURCH STREET (CR 526) TO HIGH STREET (CR 539), HALLOWEEN PENDING FURTHER APPROVAL FROM MONMOUTH COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Allentown Borough has public safety concerns about the amount of trick-or-treaters celebrating Halloween on Main Street during Halloween; and

**WHEREAS**, Allentown Borough would like permission to close South Main Street, between Church Street and High Street on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> between the hours of 5PM and 8PM; and

**WHEREAS**, the closure would be completed by the Allentown Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, police officers and fire police will be on hand to direct traffic and assist with the detour; and

**WHEREAS**, signs will be posted to make motorists aware of the closure and resulting detour; and

**WHEREAS**, the detour would take residents from Church Street (CR 526), to Waker Avenue (CR 526), to Sharon Station Road (CR 539A), to Allentown- Davis Station Road/High Street (CR 539) and a copy of the map with the detour will be sent to Monmouth County Traffic and Engineering; and

**WHEREAS**, a copy of this resolution will be sent to Upper Freehold Township to alert them to this closure; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Allentown, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, the road closure request of South Main Street, between Church Street and High Street, on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> between the hours of 5PM and 8PM is approved pending further approval from Monmouth County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to Monmouth County Traffic and Engineering and Upper Freehold Township.

	Offered	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President DeKranes				None	None	X
Councilman Elder			X			
Councilman Drennan			X			
Councilwoman Johnson		X	X			
Councilman Payson			X			
Councilwoman Darling	X		X			
Mayor Fritts						

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Receipt of Financial Reports for September 2024 from the Chief Financial Officer
- B. Receipt of Completed Best Practice's Inventory from the Chief Financial Officer (*under separate cover*)
- C. Receipt of Online Auction Memorandum from the Chief Financial Officer
- D. Receipt of Senior Advisory Council Meeting from Municipal Liaison to the County's Coordinating Council Betty Elder
- E. Receipt of Administrator Roth's Letter to Monmouth County Regarding Closure of South Main Street for Halloween
- F. Receipt of Monmouth County Engineer Joe Ettore's Letter Regarding the Closure of South Main Street for October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>
- G. Receipt of Monmouth County Engineer Joe Ettore's Letter Regarding the Installation of the Allentown Business Community Association's Banner for the Fall Festival
- H. Receipt of the Approved Emergency Appropriation Paperwork for Greenbelt Legal and Engineering from the Division of Local Government Services (\$50,000)
- I. Receipt of Reevaluation Order from the Monmouth County Board of Taxation

**9. OLD BUSINESS- None.**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Resolution, 288-2024**, Authorizing Roberts Engineering Group, LLC, to Perform Additional Sewer Easement Permit Work (\$10,000))

**RESOLUTION 288-2024  
BOROUGH OF ALLENTOWN  
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ROBERTS ENGINEERING GROUP, LLC, TO PERFORM ADDITIONAL  
SEWER EASEMENT PERMIT WORK**

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to have Roberts Engineering Group, LLC, complete additional work on the Borough's sewer easement; and

**WHEREAS**, Roberts Engineering Group, LLC, said the work required may be completed in the amount not to exceed \$10,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sewer Standing Committee supports this recommendation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has provided a certificate of an availability of funds in the amount not to exceed \$10,000; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Allentown, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that Roberts Engineering Group, LLC, is authorized to complete additional work on the Borough's sewer easement in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chief Financial Officer and the Borough Engineer.

**CERTIFICATION OF SUFFICIENT AVAILABLE LEGALLY APPROPRIATED FUNDS**

Sewer Utility Fund

Engineering

Account #4-07-55-502-000-239

Amount Not to Exceed \$10,000

Dated: October 8, 2024

June D. Madden, Chief Financial Officer

	Offered	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President DeKranes				None	None	X
Councilman Elder			X			
Councilman Drennan			X			
Councilwoman Johnson		X	X			
Councilman Payson			X			
Councilwoman Darling	X		X			
Mayor Fritts						

- B. **Resolution, 289-2024**, Requesting Approval for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue and Appropriation Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (\$832.26)

**RESOLUTION 289-2024**

**BOROUGH OF ALLENTOWN**

**COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE  
AND APPROPRIATION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.40A:4-87  
(FY2024 BULLETPROOF VEST)**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A.40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any local unit when such item shall have been made available by any public or private funding source and the amount therefore shall not have been determined at the time of adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A.40A:4-87 further provides that the Director may approve the insertion of an appropriation item of an amount equal to any such special item of revenue making such item of revenue available for expenditure; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Allentown has been provided funds from the FY 2024 Bullet Proof Vest Grant in the amount of \$832.26 and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allentown, request the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of this amount as revenue with an offsetting appropriation; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allentown, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, as follows:

# 10-08-24 MEETING MINUTES

1. That the Mayor and Council do hereby request an amendment to the 2024 Budget to provide the insertion of a special item of revenue in the amount \$832.26 by Director of the Division of Local Government Services, which is now available as a revenue from: Miscellaneous Revenue: (Special Item of general revenue anticipated with prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services) FY2024 Bulletproof Vest Grant: \$832.26
2. That the Mayor and Council do hereby further request an appropriation of an equal sum under the caption of: General Appropriations: (Operations excluded from CAP) FY2024 Bulletproof Vest: \$832.26
3. That two certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, the Borough Auditor and the Borough Chief Financial Officer.

	Offered	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President DeKranes				None	None	X
Councilman Elder			X			
Councilman Drennan		X	X			
Councilwoman Johnson	X		X			
Councilman Payson			X			
Councilwoman Darling			X			
Mayor Fritts						

Councilman Drennan made a motion to amend the agenda to add **Resolution 292-2024**, Approving the Historic Preservation Commission Form to the meeting agenda. Councilman Elder seconded the motion. Councilman Payson, Council President DeKranes, Councilman Elder, and Councilman Drennan said yes. Councilwoman Johnson and Councilwoman Darling said no. The Mayor was absent.

C. **2024 Best Practices Inventory Discussion-** Administrator Laurie A. Roth reviewed the entire Best Practices Inventory with the Governing Body. The Borough scored 42 out of a 35. The Borough will receive all of their State funding.

D. **Wind Turbine Discussion-** Kemani Scott recapped how this became a discussion item. He provided a handout to all parties to follow while he spoke.

The economic impacts of this renewable energy is \$2.21 per month increase to all parties. The United Kingdom has windfarms even closer to their shoreline and there has not been a drop in tourism. There is a net negative carbon footprint from this type of energy. The impact on marine life would adjust as the animals become aware of where the windfarms are. Also, during the pandemic there was less traffic in the ocean. Now that normal life has resumed, loss of marine life may be attributed to this increase in traffic. It is also smart to explore other forms of energy like this in a State that is the densest in the country.

Councilman Elder said he appreciated Scott taking the time to go over this. He's not opposed to windfarms, only windfarms that are in the ocean. He believes that nuclear power is best. He does not like the loss of marine life. He also has concerns of what the impact of the \$2.21 increase would mean to lower income families.

10-08-24 MEETING MINUTES

There was minor discussion by the Governing Body. They decided to not take action on this bill since there was not a consensus and this did not affect the greater Allentown area.

- E. **Resolution, 292-2024**, Authorizing New Historic Preservation Commission Form

**RESOLUTION 292-2024**

**BOROUGH OF ALLENTOWN**

**COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE NEW HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Historic Preservation Review Commission became the Historic Preservation Commission with the adoption of Ordinance 03-2021; and

**WHEREAS**, due to this change and the adoption of new Historic Preservation Commission guidelines, the application form needed to be updated; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Allentown, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, that the new Historic Preservation Commission application is approved.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this application will replace the old application in the front office of Borough Hall, in the Upper Freehold Township Zoning Office, and on the Borough's website.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this resolution will be sent to the Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission.

	Offered	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President DeKranes			X	None	None	None
Councilman Elder			X			
Councilman Drennan	X		X			
Councilwoman Johnson			X			
Councilman Payson		X	X			
Councilwoman Darling			X			
Mayor Fritts						

- 11. PUBLIC COMMENT-** *Limited to three (3) minutes per citizen. State name and address clearly for the record.* There was no public comment.

- 12. Resolution, 290-2024**, Authorizing the Payment of Bills on October 8, 2024

**RESOLUTION 290-2024**

**BOROUGH OF ALLENTOWN**

**COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR OCTOBER 8, 2024**

10-08-24 MEETING MINUTES

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Allentown that bills be paid as appear on the Bill List dated October 8, 2024, in total as follows:

CURRENT FUND	\$346,407.79
WATER OPERATING FUND	\$ 46,945.35
SEWER OPERATING FUND	\$ 42,280.30
GRANT FUND	\$ 0
ANIMAL TRUST FUND	\$ 0
TRUST FUND	\$ 1,721.76
RECREATION TRUST FUND	\$ 2,763.00
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$ 19,638.18
WATER CAPITAL FUND	\$ 4,910.75
SEWER CAPITAL FUND	\$ 0
OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND	\$ 9,919.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$474,586.13</b>
<b>PAYROLL (SEPTEMBER, 2024)</b>	<b>\$116,804.08</b>

	Offered	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President DeKranes			X	None	None	None
Councilman Elder			X			
Councilman Drennan		X	X			
Councilwoman Johnson	X		X			
Councilman Payson			X			
Councilwoman Darling			x			
Mayor Fritts						

**13. Resolution, 291-2024, To Enter Executive Session**

**RESOLUTION 291-2024**

**BOROUGH OF ALLENTOWN**

**COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, PL 1975, 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 on October 8, 2024.



10-08-24 MEETING MINUTES

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Allentown, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of an action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters.
2. The general nature of the subject matters to be discussed is as follows:

**CONTRACTUAL:**

None

**LITIGATION:**

The Allentown Village Initiative Parades and Assemblies Permit  
(Potential) Monmouth County Re-evaluation Order

**PERSONNEL:**

None

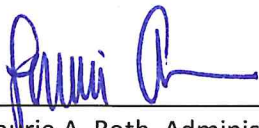
	Offered	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Council President DeKranes			X	None	None	None
Councilman Elder		X	X			
Councilman Drennan			X			
Councilwoman Johnson			X			
Councilman Payson			X			
Councilwoman Darling	X		X			
Mayor Fritts						

Executive Session started at 5:35PM. It ended at 5:57PM.

**14. OTHER BUSINESS-** None.

**15. ADJOURNMENT-** Council President DeKranes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Drennan seconded the motion. All present said aye. The meeting ended at 5:57PM.

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Laurie A. Roth, Administrator/Municipal Clerk

Date Approved: *November 12, 2024*