



# BOROUGH OF RED BANK

90 MONMOUTH STREET ♦ RED BANK ♦ NJ 07701

## MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ♦ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES APRIL 23, 2026 ♦ 6:30 P.M.

**SUNSHINE STATEMENT** This meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Borough's official newspapers and posted in the municipal building and on the Borough's website. As permitted by the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting is being held in-person and broadcast online via Zoom video meetings. The option to attend via Zoom is a courtesy. If Zoom becomes unavailable and cannot be fixed, the Council meeting will continue in-person only. For those joining us via Zoom, please raise your hand during designated times to be recognized for a comment. Whether you are appearing in person or via Zoom, you must provide your name to be recognized.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** Councilmember Bonatakis, Councilmember Facey-Blackwood, Councilmember Forest, Councilmember Jannone, Councilmember Yuro, Deputy Mayor Triggiano, and Mayor Portman

**Others present:** Gregory Cannon, Borough Attorney, James Gant, Borough Manager, and Mary Moss, Borough Clerk

**Absent:**

### PROCLAMATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Portman read into record the following Proclamation(s):

1. Proclamation- Honoring Jennifer Rigby- 2025 Governor's Educator of the Year- Red Bank Primary School- received by Ms. Rigby
2. Proclamation- Honoring Diana Archila- 2025 Governor's Educator of the Year- Red Bank Middle School- received by Ms. Archila
3. Proclamation- Honoring Joanne Fiore- 2025 Educational Services Professional- Red Bank Borough Public School District- received by Ms. Fiore
4. Proclamation- Honoring Kristen Smith- 2025 NJDOE Exemplary Secondary Educator- received by Ms. Smith
5. Proclamation- Arbor Day- Shade Tree Committee- proclamation received by Mr. Boris Kofman

Councilmember Facey-Blackwood thanked the Shade Tree Committee for its ongoing tree inventory effort, noting that members are surveying street trees throughout the Borough. She also expressed appreciation for the launch of the Tree Canopy Project, which identifies areas with limited shade and encourages residents to plant trees with support from the Committee.

### PRESENTATIONS

### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Deputy Mayor Triggiano motioned to open the floor for public comment on agenda items only; Councilmember Facey-Blackwood seconded the motion. A voice vote confirmed all in favor.

1. Adam Philipson greeted the Mayor, Council, and Borough staff and spoke in support of the proposed ceremonial street naming in honor of the Count Basie Center and its centennial celebration. He clarified that the designation would be ceremonial only and would not require any address changes. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity and noted plans to align the recognition with Count Basie's birthday in August.

Deputy Mayor Triggiano expressed support for the upcoming celebration and appreciation for the clarification that the street naming would be ceremonial only, with no changes to existing addresses or Monmouth Street’s official designation. She noted that the ceremonial signage would still be a meaningful honor for the Basie and thanked Mr. Philipson for the partnership.

Councilmember Forest motioned to close the floor for public comments on agenda items only; Councilmember Facey-Blackwood seconded the motion. A voice vote confirmed all in favor

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. 4/9/2026- Regular Meeting minutes  
Councilmember Jannone would like to make an amendment to the Regular meeting minutes.  
Deputy Mayor Triggiano motioned to table the minutes; Councilmember Facey-Blackwood seconded the motion. A voice vote confirmed all in favor.
2. 4/9/2026- Executive Meeting minutes- Deputy Mayor Triggiano motioned to approve the executive minutes; Councilmember Forest seconded the motion. A voice vote confirmed all in favor

**ORDINANCES**

1. Final Reading/Public Hearing: 2026-09, ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 490: “PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS” TO RENEW REGULATIONS AS TO SIDEWALK SIGNS

Ordinance was introduced April 9, 2026

Deputy Mayor Triggiano motioned to open the floor for the public hearing on Ordinance 2026-09; Councilmember Facey-Blackwood seconded the motion. A roll call vote confirmed all in favor.

No one came forward to comment.

Councilmember Bonatakis motioned to close the floor for the public hearing on Ordinance 2026-09; Councilmember Yuro seconded the motion. A voice vote confirmed all in favor.

Councilmember Jannone motioned to approve the ordinance for adoption; Councilmember Forest seconded the motion. A roll call vote confirmed all in favor.

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2. Introduction: 2026-10, ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY ADOPTING A REDEVELOPMENT(REHABILITATION) PLAN FOR THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON THE BOROUGH’S OFFICIAL TAX MAP AS BLOCK 39, LOTS 30 & 31

Deputy Mayor Triggiano motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-10 on first reading and to authorize the notice of approval and public hearing to be held on May 14, 2026, Councilmember Facey-Blackwood seconded. A roll call vote confirmed all in favor.

Mayor Portman stated that the public hearing on the ordinance would be held on May 14, 2026

3. Introduction: 2026-11, ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 118: “POLICE DEPARTMENT” OF THE BOROUGH’S REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES TO INCREASE AUTHORIZED NUMBER OF CLASS ONE SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Councilmember Jannone motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-11 on first reading and to authorize the notice of approval and public hearing to be held on May 14, 2026, Councilmember Forest seconded. A roll call vote confirmed all in favor.

Mayor Portman stated that the public hearing on the ordinance would be held on May 14, 2026

4. Introduction: 2026-12, AMENDING THE SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK

Councilmember Bonatakis motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-12 on first reading and to authorize the notice of approval and public hearing to be held on May 14, 2026, Councilmember Jannone seconded. A roll call vote confirmed all in favor.

Mayor Portman stated that the public hearing on the ordinance would be held on May 14, 2026

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Councilmember Jannone motioned to approve resolutions 26-84 through 26-94 under Consent Agenda; Councilmember Yuro seconded the motion. A roll call vote confirmed all in favor.

### **26-84 RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS**

### **26-85 RESOLUTION FOR INCREASING YEAR 2026 WATER/SEWER FUNDS TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS**

### **26-86 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF DEVELOPERS' ESCROW ACCOUNT BALANCE TOTALING \$1,621.24**

### **26-87 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZE PAYMENT CERTIFICATE 1 FOR LINDEN PLACE IMPROVEMENTS – NJDOT FY24 (BLACK ROCK ENTERPRISES, LLC)**

### **26-88 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 RELATED TO THE CONTRACT WITH LUCAS BROTHERS INC. FOR 2023 NJDOT HARRISON AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS**

### **26-89 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZE PAYMENT CERTIFICATE #4 FOR 2023 NJDOT HARRISON AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS**

### **26-90 RESOLUTION TO REFUND PARKS & RECREATION REGISTRATION FEE (M. SMART, L. ZMIJEWSKI, R, BABILONIA)**

### **26-91 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK AND SAINT JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (RED BANK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL) AS TO COUNT BASIE PARK AND FIELDS**

### **26-92 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ASSIGNMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FROM CME ASSOCIATES TO ARTHEON**

### **26-93 RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR A CONCESSION LICENSE FOR A FOOD SERVICE PUSH CART AT THE BOROUGH'S RIVERFRONT PUBLIC PARKS AND AUTHORIZING THE READVERTISEMENT OF A REVISED CONCESSION BID NOW PERMITTING THE POTENTIAL AWARD OF MULTIPLE CONCESSION LICENSES**

### **26-94 RESOLUTION CEREMONIALLY RE-NAMING A PORTION OF MONMOUTH STREET AS "BASIE CENTER WAY" IN HONOR OF THE COUNT BASIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND ITS NAMESAKE WILLIAM "COUNT" BASIE**

## **DISCUSSION AND ACTION FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

### ***Proposed applications requesting feedback from Mayor and Council:***

Brian Rice, application for (Active) Membership - Fire Police

Councilmember Facey-Blackwood welcomed the new member to the Fire Police and noted that, as a trained scuba diver, he will assist with water rescue operations.

### ***Proposed Events requesting feedback from Mayor and Council: - NONE***

## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS COMMENTS**

Councilmember Forest motioned to open the floor for public questions & comments; Councilmember Jannone seconded the motion. A voice vote confirmed all in favor.

1. Charles Janjigian, 165 Spring St.: congratulated the Borough on the visible progress at Marine Park and raised questions regarding the Borough's long-term responsibility for maintaining the park, including costs, liability, and upkeep. He also inquired about the reported property tax increase and its contributing factors, as well as solid waste management contracts and rising costs.

Mr. Janjigian expressed concerns about increased development contributing to higher demand on trash and sewer infrastructure and questioned the capacity and condition of existing underground systems. He asked about recent expenditures related to temporary generators at a pump station and ongoing budget appropriations.

Additionally, he raised concerns about infrastructure durability versus cosmetic improvements, particularly at Marine Park facilities. He concluded by relaying concerns from Monmouth Street retailers regarding traffic changes and dissatisfaction with RiverCenter, noting he was sharing their feedback for awareness.

2. Freddy Boynton, Red Bank resident: expressed frustration that ongoing trash and debris issues at a property he previously reported remain unresolved despite assurances they would be addressed. He questioned the delay in enforcement, compared the situation to a fine he previously received for a minor violation, and urged the Borough to take prompt action to clean up the site, particularly with upcoming community events in the area.

3. James Davis, Middletown: provided an update on FC Monmouth, announcing the start of their eighth season in Red Bank. He highlighted an upcoming field trip event for local students and invited the Mayor and Council to attend, as well as a Monmouth County Night game on May 9. He thanked the Borough for its continued support.

Councilmember Forest motioned to close the floor for public questions & comments; Councilmember Jannone seconded the motion. A voice vote confirmed all in favor

## **MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Councilmember Bonatakis;** reported that the Historic Preservation Commission is working on compiling a list of designated historic sites and may recommend formal designation by ordinance. He also shared enthusiasm for the ongoing progress at Marine Park, noting both its visual transformation and significant environmental remediation efforts.

**Councilmember Yuro;** shared positive feedback on the recent Green Fair and highlighted several community updates, including the rescheduling of the Graffiti Jam, the upcoming street fair, new business openings, and the delayed opening of a bookstore. He also promoted the upcoming Red Bank Classic event.

**Councilmember Facey-Blackwood;** reported on attending professional conferences related to electric vehicle infrastructure and street safety, noting Red Bank's recognition for its Complete and Green Streets policy. She also highlighted the success of the Green Fair, including community participation, educational activities, and distribution of native plants.

**Councilmember Forest;** reflected on attending a memorial service for a longtime school staff member and shared Parks and Recreation updates, including upcoming programs such as chair yoga, a sports camp, garden tours, and future classes at the senior center.

**Councilmember Jannone;** provided updates from the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, including an upcoming health seminar and activities from the Green Fair. She also noted corrections to previously announced event dates and shared updates related to animal welfare and library programming.

**Deputy Mayor Triggiano;** discussed attending a Planned Parenthood fundraiser and emphasized access to reproductive healthcare in New Jersey. She also shared information about vocational training opportunities and community resources available through Monmouth County programs.

**Mayor Portman;** provided updates on Eastside Park remediation, highlighted recent community events and cultural activities, and encouraged residents to take advantage of local offerings.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Borough Manager Gant shared updates on sustainability initiatives, including electric vehicle planning and tree planting efforts. He outlined plans for Take Your Child to Work Day and reported progress on Marine Park, with a tentative opening targeted for mid-June. He also mentioned a grant application for a potential FIFA watch party event.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION- NONE**

## **ADJOURNMENT: 7:39 p.m.**

There being no further business, Councilmember Forest offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Jannone. A voice vote confirmed all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moss, RMC

Borough Clerk