



BOROUGH OF RED BANK

90 MONMOUTH STREET ♦ RED BANK ♦ NJ 07701

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ♦ REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JULY 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 the following into record:

1. Proclamation: National Ice Cream Month
2. **Mayoral Appointment:** Historic Preservation Commission: Louis Almerini, Class C Member, appointed to fill the unexpired term created by the resignation of Anthony Setaro (term expires December 31, 2027).
3. **Mayoral Appointment:** Historic Preservation Commission: Matthew Cummings, Class A Member, appointed to fill the unexpired term created by the appointment of Louis Almerini to the Class C position (term expires December 31, 2028).
4. **Mayoral Appointment:** Shade Tree Committee: Carolyn Robertshaw appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Bill Brooks (term expires December 31, 2028).
5. **Mayoral Appointment:** Shade Tree Committee: John Connolly appointed as Alternate No. 1 to fill the unexpired term of Carolyn Robertshaw, expiring December 31, 2026.

PRESENTATION- NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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

No one came forward.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 7/9/2026- Regular Meeting minutes- Councilmember Jannone motioned to approve the minutes; Councilmember Forest seconded the motion. A voice vote confirmed all in favor.
2. 7/9/2026- Executive Session minutes- Councilmember Bonatakis motioned to approve the executive session minutes; Councilmember Jannone seconded the motion. A voice vote confirmed all in favor.

ORDINANCES

1. **Final Reading/Adoption:** Ordinance 2026-22, ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 530: “RENT CONTROL” OF THE BOROUGH’S REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES TO UPDATE AND CLARIFY THE BOROUGH’S RENT CONTROL REGULATIONS

Councilmember Facey-Blackwood offered a motion to open the public hearing for Ordinance No. 2026-22, seconded by Councilmember Forest. A voice vote confirmed all in favor.

Mayor Portman asked if anyone had any questions or comments, no one appearing he asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Councilmember Forest offered a motion, seconded by Councilmember Jannone. A voice vote confirmed all in favor.

Mayor Portman asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance. Councilmember Bonatakis offered a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Facey-Blackwood. A roll call vote confirmed all in favor.

2. **First Reading/Introduction: Ordinance 2026-23,** ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 680: “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” AT SECTION 680-35: “SCHEDULE I: NO PARKING” TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATIVE NO PARKING LOCATIONS

Deputy Mayor Triggiano motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-23 on first reading and to authorize the notice of approval and public hearing to be held on August 13, 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 August 13, 2026.

RESOLUTIONS: Deputy Mayor Triggiano motioned to approve resolutions 26-151 through 26-163 under Consent Agenda; Councilmember Yuro seconded the motion. A roll call vote confirmed all in favor.

26-151 RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS

26-152 RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR GRAFFITI REMEDIATION REQUIRED BY BOROUGH OF RED BANK

26-153 INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET- CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948- FY 2025 Bulletproof Vest Grant \$6,046.46

26-154 INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET- CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948- Office of the Secretary of Higher Education- Career Accelerator Internship Grant Program \$12,000.00

26-155 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RED BANK TO ENTER INTO A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH TO PROVIDE THE ITAX MAP/COLLABORATION CENTER SYSTEM (TAX MAP CONVERSION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES)

26-156 APPROVING THE BYLAWS OF THE MONMOUTH MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

26-157 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WATER SEWER CREDITS/REFUNDS (BLOCK 54, LOT 9.12)

26-158 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AN IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT POSTED BY ALL THINGS VIC, LLC FOR THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LOCATED AT BLOCK 4.01, LOTS 1-3 & 26.02

26-159 ADOPTING THE RED BANK COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN

26-160 RESOLUTION OF AWARDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROPOSAL FOR THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR COUNT BASIE BLEACHERS RENOVATION

26-161 RESOLUTION OF AWARDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROPOSAL FOR THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR BRIDGE AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

26-162 RESOLUTION OF AWARDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROPOSAL FOR THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR LEAD SERVICE LINE REPAVING PROJECT

26-163 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PLACE-TO-PLACE TRANSFER OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO. 1340-33-016-010

DISCUSSION AND ACTION FOR 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.

Phil Blackwood, Chestnut St: Mr. Blackwood provided comments regarding the Borough's Climate Action Plan, noting that the plan is intended to be an implementation and action plan but questioned whether certain actions align with the Borough's existing goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations by 50% by 2030. He specifically referenced alternative fuel vehicles, renewable energy for municipal facilities, and green building initiatives, and suggested that the plan include more specific implementation measures, including replacement of fleet vehicles, clean energy procurement, and energy-efficient upgrades to existing facilities.

Councilmember Facey-Blackwood: Clarified that the intent of the plan was not to reduce or alter the Borough's climate goals. She stated that the Borough would follow up with the consultant who prepared the plan to review and address the comments.

Mr. Blackwood: Asked whether the document would be updated and whether the consultant would receive his comments.

Councilmember Facey-Blackwood: Confirmed that the consultant would receive the comments and requested that Mr. Blackwood provide any additional detailed feedback he had identified.

Councilmember Bonatakis: Explained that the plan was reviewed and found to be consistent with the Borough's existing policies and initiatives. She noted that the plan categorizes actions by priority and includes initiatives already underway, adding that it serves as an additional framework rather than replacing existing goals or policies.

Borough Manager Gant: Stated that his understanding was that the consultant, Blue Sky, reviewed the Borough's existing policies and that the plan was intended to run parallel with those efforts. He advised that staff would review the comments provided and determine whether any updates were warranted.

Councilmember Bonatakis: Added that the Borough is ahead of many municipalities in assessing, adopting policies, and implementing sustainability initiatives. She noted that the plan is intended to align municipal efforts with State goals and support continued progress.

Councilmember Facey-Blackwood: Confirmed that the Borough was open to making minor revisions to further clarify the plan and connect the actions to existing goals.

Borough Manager Gant: Stated that staff would provide the consultant with the meeting comments for review and determine whether revisions were necessary.

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

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Bonatakis*: Recognized the recent appointments and new members of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), noting their experience and participation in statewide historic preservation efforts. She highlighted HPC members' attendance at a state historic preservation conference, including the Vice Chair's participation on a panel, and noted the Commission's continued work toward required preservation training.

She thanked the governing body for adopting updates to the Borough's rent control ordinance, noting that the changes modernize and clarify protections for both tenants and landlords, including provisions addressing tenant harassment.

*Zoom recording became inaudible from 20:32 until 21:44

Councilmember Yuro Provided an update on the new wayfinding signs implemented by RiverCenter, noting that additional businesses may be added and encouraging interested businesses to participate. He highlighted the signs as a positive first step in improving navigation throughout the Borough. He also noted new storefront activity, including the upcoming opening of Insomnia Cookies, and highlighted upcoming music and events contributing to another active weekend in Red Bank.

Councilmember Facey-Blackwood: Provided updates on sustainability initiatives, including the Shade Tree Committee's tree canopy program, which aims to increase tree coverage in areas identified through the Borough's heat map. She thanked Council for appointing a new STC member and recognized former member Bill Brooks for his more than 50 years of service. She also announced upcoming Environmental Commission initiatives, including National Night Out outreach, Plastic Free July, and discussions with the train station redevelopment team regarding native plantings and environmentally friendly landscaping.

Councilmember Forest: Councilmember Forest reported attending the Red Bank Borough Public Schools and Red Bank Regional Board of Education meetings, noting discussion of a proposed cell phone policy in public schools. He also announced upcoming Parks and Recreation programs, including sound healing and meditation classes at the Senior Center, the Summer Youth Rock Show at the Marine Park Bandshell, the continuing summer movie, Zumba, and jazz series, and the West Side Jazz concerts at Johnny Jazz Park in August.

Councilmember Jannone: Councilmember Jannone reported that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee continues planning the annual Dog Days event in September, including sponsorship outreach and site planning at Marine Park. She also announced that the Library will open at 11:00 a.m. on July 27 due to staff development and highlighted its ongoing summer programs and activities. She noted that the Mayor's Wellness Committee is preparing for the August 15 Lunch Break picnic and backpack distribution for students returning to school..

Deputy Mayor Triggiano: Deputy Mayor Triggiano announced a regional vigil to be held on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. at Johnny Jazz Park to honor victims of ICE-related violence. She invited community members to attend, reflect in solidarity, and bring flowers or another meaningful offering for the memorial.

Mayor Portman: Mayor Portman encouraged residents to participate in the Shade Tree Commission's free tree program, describing his own experience planting a tree at his property after coordinating with the Commission. He outlined the simple process and noted the tree is growing well and will provide shade at the corner of Harrison Avenue and John Street.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Borough Manager's Report: Borough Manager Gant reported that interviews for the Human Resources Manager position will be scheduled soon. He announced that the Safe Streets for All pedestrian and bicycle safety survey is available online and encouraged public participation. He also announced temporary, grant-funded openings for a Senior Wellness Program Coordinator and a bilingual Administrative Secretary through the Senior Wellness Grant. Additionally, he welcomed the Borough's new bilingual Violations Clerk and announced that the Red Bank Police Department will host a Junior Police Academy for children ages 9–12 from August 24–28.

Council Comments: Councilmember Forest commended the Police Department's Special Officers for their visible presence and positive impact in the downtown, Broadwalk, and park areas, noting a significant improvement in managing unauthorized traffic. Borough Manager Gant confirmed that the Special Officers are assigned to patrol the downtown and Borough parks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

ADJOURNMENT: 7:04 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moss, RMC
Borough Clerk