

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
ESSEX FELLS, ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Held at the Essex Fells Municipal Building in said Borough on January 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Present

Mayor Edward A. Davis
Councilman BJ D'Avella
Councilman John King
Councilwoman Maggie O'Connor
Councilman William Sullivan

Absent

Councilman Michael Cecere
Councilman Greg Hindy

Also Present

Borough Administrator/Borough Clerk Francine T. Paserchia
Borough Attorney Robert Oostdyk

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order. He stated that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law (Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975) notice of this meeting was transmitted to The Progress and The Star Ledger and was filed with the Borough Clerk and is posted on the Bulletin Board of the Borough Hall.

Mayor Davis led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

Councilman King moved, Councilman Sullivan seconded approval of the minutes of January 2, 2024

And was carried on call of the roll:

Ayes

BJ D'Avella
John King
Maggie O'Connor
William Sullivan

Nays

None

Abstain

None

Absent

Michael Cecere
Greg Hindy

Committee Discussions

Public Works

- Borough Engineer – Project Updates
 - 2021 and 2022 NJDOT Projects – Process of closing out with the State.
 - 2023 – Contractor is assembling and discussing some additional items.
 - 2024 NJDOT Project – Field Survey & Mapping near completion. Next steps – February will Design and March Submit to DOT for approval.
 - Steam Topo/Borough-wide topo – Should have by end of the month.
 - Stream Study – to begin after Topo received.
 - Fellswood/Fellscresc – Private pipes draining onto Municipal Roadways – Draft letter to homeowners to be circulated prior to sending.
 - Gordon Road – Private pipes draining onto Municipal Roadways - Letter sent to homeowners – will follow up.

Mayor Davis asked the Clerk to report on written communications.

The Clerk reported receipt of the following:

A. Written:

December 2023 Department Reports:

- **Construction Department Cash Receipt & Permit Fee Log Report**
- **Police Department and Municipal Court Report**
- **State of New Jersey, Notice of Process, State Development and Redevelopment Update**
- **Elected Officials Risk Management Seminar – *Reminder***

Mayor Davis said if there were no objections to the above, they will be placed on file. Hearing no objection, it was so ordered.

Councilman King moved, Councilwoman O'Connor seconded, approval of the following resolutions on consent:

2024-41

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH M. WENZEL, ESQ. AS PROSECTOR AND JAMES POMACO, ESQ. AS PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE NORTH CALDWELL, ESSEX FELLS AND VERONA SHARED MUNICIPAL COURT

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:8-18.1 (now repealed and currently N.J.S.A. 2B:12-1) since January 1, 1991 and continuing to the present, the Borough of Essex Fells and the Borough of North Caldwell have consolidated the use of the Municipal Court accommodations and personnel which the Township of Verona joined in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Shared Municipal Court Services Agreement provides that appointments of Court personal are to be made by the Borough Council of the Borough of North Caldwell subject to confirmation by Essex Fells and Verona; and

WHEREAS, North Caldwell has advised Essex Fells of the appointment of Joseph M. Wenzel, Esq. and as Prosecutor and the appointment of James Pomaco, Esq. as the Public Defender of the Shared Municipal Court for one year appointments for 2024; and

WHEREAS, said appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Borough Council.

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

1. Consent is hereby given to the appointment of Joseph M. Wenzel, Esq. as Prosecutor and James Pomaco, Esq. as Public Defender for the shared court Essex Fells effective January 1, 2024 and continuing through December 31, 2024, subject to the acceptance of contract terms and the consent of the Township of Verona.

2. The Mayor and all other officials of the Borough of Essex Fells are hereby directed and authorized to take any and all necessary and appropriate actions to carry out the subject and intent of this Resolution.

3. Upon execution by the parties, a copy of the subject agreement shall be maintained by the Borough Clerk for public inspection.

2024-42

Authorization for Payment of Bills

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Essex Fells that;

WHEREAS, the bill list as attached has been presented by the Chief Finance Officer for payment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Essex Fells that the bill list as presented is approved.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Current	3-01	\$70,097.61
Current	4-01	\$765,859.07
Borough Capital	C-04	\$95,671.48
Water	3-05	\$48,094.91
Water	4-05	\$25,717.49
Grant	04	\$0
Water Capital	C-06	\$394,207.30
Animal Control	T-10	\$0
Trust	T-11	\$12,135.75
Payroll	T-13	\$18,931.77

On motion made by Councilman D'Avella seconded by Councilman Sullivan and approved unanimously by the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Francine T. Paserchia
Municipal Clerk**