

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 February 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Present

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

Absent

Councilman Michael Cecere  
Councilman John King

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 D'Avella moved, Councilman Sullivan seconded approval of the minutes of December 16, 2025, January 20<sup>th</sup> and February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

And was carried on call of the roll:

Ayes

BJ D'Avella  
Carolyn Goldman  
Maggie O'Connor  
William Sullivan

Nays

None

Absent

Michael Cecere  
John King

Abstain

None

Committee Discussions

Public Affairs

- Annual Approval of Garden Club Plant Sale Signs

The Administrator received a request from the Garden Club to have signs placed in two locations, one at the corner of Roseland Avenue and Runnymede Road and the other at the Essex Fells Pond. They would be erected on May 1<sup>st</sup> and removed on May 11<sup>th</sup> after the Annual Plant Sale.

*All were in Agreement.*

- Borough Property Purchase Request

The borough received a request from a property owner at 320 Runnymede Road to purchase a piece of land owned by the municipality.

Discussion ensued and the Mayor asked the Administrator reach out to the Assessor to make him aware of the request and ask for his input on the matter.

The administrator will report back to council at the next meeting.

*All were in Agreement.*

**Finance & Personnel**

- **West Essex Referendum**

**Mayor Davis informed council about a meeting he and the sending district mayors had with West Essex Regional High School Executive Staff about a referendum they are planning on placing on the ballot. More information to follow as the matter progresses.**

**Mayor Davis asked the Clerk to report on written communications.**

**The Clerk reported receipt of the following:**

**A. Written:**

**January 2026 Department Reports:**

- **Construction Department Cash Receipt & Permit Fee Log Report**
- **Police Department and Municipal Court Report**
- **Comcast – Use of Municipal Right-of-Way - \$9,840.75**
- **Verizon Franchise Fee - \$26,731.38**
- **Zoning Board of Adjustment – 2025 Annual Report**
- **Resident Appreciation Note – Dick Gibbs, 29 Maple Lane**

**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 Sullivan moved, Councilman D’Avella seconded, approval of the following resolutions on consent:*

**2026-44**

**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.

<b><u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Fund No.</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Current	5-01	\$25,424.20
Current	6-01	\$1,241,499.67
Borough Capital	C-04	\$37,144.78
Water	5-05	\$34,007.27
Water	6-05	\$84,215.98
Grant	04	\$0
Water Capital	C-06	\$256,484.68
Animal Control	T-10	\$123.60
Trust	T-11	\$8,806.54
Payroll	T-13	\$147,986.72
	T-16	\$0

And was carried on call of the roll:

Ayes  
BJ D'Avella  
Carolyn Goldman  
Maggie O'Connor  
William Sullivan

Nays  
None  
Abstain  
None

Absent  
Michael Cecere  
John King

On motion made by Councilwoman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Sullivan and approved unanimously by the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Francine T. Paserchia  
*Municipal Clerk*