

**BOROUGH OF SOUTH TOMS RIVER
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025 7:00 P.M.**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Cradle asked for a moment of silence to recognize and thank all the first responders who have been working on the Jones Road wildfire in Ocean & Lacey Township this past week

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Cradle, Councilman Fennell, Councilman Kosh, Councilman Murray, Councilwoman Rolzhausen, Councilman Ross, Councilman Tom Rolzhausen,

Also present were the Business Administrator Chris Santiago and Borough Atty Chris Dasti

OPEN PUBLIC LAW STATEMENT MEETING

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law NJSA 10:4-6. This meeting of April 28, 2025 was included in a list of meeting notices sent to the Asbury Park Press on November 25, 2024 and advertised in said newspaper and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION (3) Minute Limit per person / Members of the public are free to make statements to the Governing Body. Each participant is limited to three minutes per person. The Chair of the meeting will advise the speaker once their time is concluded.

Councilwoman Fennell made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Rolzhausen.

All ayes.

No public comment

Councilman Ross made a motion to close public comment, seconded by Councilwoman Rolzhausen

All ayes

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Councilman Murray made a motion to open comments from the Public for the 2025 Municipal Budget, seconded by Councilman Ross

All Ayes

Business Administrator/CFO Chris Santiago made a presentation of the 2025 Municipal Budget and the Borough Auditor, Robert Oliwa was in attendance also

No public comment

Councilman Murray made motion to close public comment, seconded by Councilwoman Rolzhausen

All Ayes

VOTE RESOLUTION 2025-85 AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET 2025

Councilwoman Rolzhausen made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-85, seconded by Councilman Ross

Yes: Councilman Fennell, Councilman Murray, Councilwoman Rolzhausen, Councilman Ross, Councilman Rolzhausen, Councilamn Kosh **

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

** Abstaining on all Police Items

VOTE RESOLUTION 2026-86 MUNICIPAL BUDGET 2025

Councilwoman Fennell made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-86, seconded by Councilman Murray

Yes: Councilman Fennell, Councilman Murray, Councilwoman Rolzhausen, Councilman Ross, Councilman Rolzhausen, Councilamn Kosh **

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

** Abstaining on all Police Items

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 14, 2025

Councilman Kosh made a motion to approve minutes from April 14, 2025, seconded by Councilwoman Rolzhausen

All Ayes

ORDINANCE 2025-07 (2ND READING) BOND ORDINANCE FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING \$ 804,850 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$ 532,023 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THERFOR, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH TOMS RIVER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, SATE OF NEW JERSEY

Councilman Murray made a motion to open Ordinance 2025-07 to public comment, seconded by Councilman Ross
All Ayes

No public comment

Councilman Ross made a motion to close public comment, seconded by Councilwoman Rolzhausen
All Ayes

Councilman Kosh made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-07, seconded by Councilwoman Rolzhausen

Yes Councilman Fennell, Councilman Murray, Councilman Rolzhausen Councilwoman Rolzhausen, Councilman Ross, Councilman Kosh **
No None
Abstain ** Abstaining on all Police Items

ORDINANCE 2025-08 (1ST READING) BY TITLE ONLY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 20 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED “CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS”

Public hearing to be May 12, 2025

Councilman Kosh made a motion to approve 1st reading by title only Ordinance 2025-08, seconded by Councilman Ross
All Ayes

ORDINANCE 2025-09 (1ST READING) BY TITLE ONLY AMENDING CURRENT ZONING OF BLOCK 12, LOT 26, 27, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 37 AND BLOCK 14, LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 AND 8

Public hearing to be May 28, 2025

Councilman Fennell made a motion to approve 1st reading by title only Ordinance 2025-09, seconded by Councilman Ross
All Ayes

APPROVAL OF APRIL BILL LIST

Councilman Kosh made a motion to open comments/questions from the public on the April Bill List, seconded by Councilwoman Rolzhausen
All Ayes

No public comment

Councilwoman Rolzhausen made a motion to close public comment, seconded by Councilman Ross
All Ayes

Vote by Governing Bodey for April Bill List 2025

Councilman Kosh made a motion to approve the April Bill List, seconded by Councilwoman Rolzhausen

Yes Councilman Kosh **, Councilman Fennell, Councilman Murray, Councilman Rolzhausen, Councilwoman Rolzhausen, Councilman Ross

No None

Abstain ** Abstaining on all Police Items

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Cradle showed drawings a new Logo for the Borough and asked Council to give their opinion of the drawing. Another drawing will be available to Council by Friday, April 18th

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION (Resolutions, Appointments, and Consent Agenda) Three (3) minute limit per person

Councilwoman Rolzhausen made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilwoman Rolzhausen
All Ayes.

No public comment.

Councilman Fennell made a motion to close the public session, seconded by Councilman Murray. All ayes.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed below are routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these matters. If any discussion is desired by the governing body, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Resolution 2025-87 Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #24-00003 in amount of \$ 1,435.41

Resolution 2025-88 Authorizing setting payment of exempt taxes

Resolution 2025-89 Authorizing shared service agreement with Ocean County Prosecutor's Office

Resolution 2025-90 Appointing EB Employee Solutions, LLC, DBA as the Difference Card to provide HRA Services

Councilwoman Ross made a motion to approve the resolutions, seconded by Councilman Rolzhausen

Yes: Councilman Fennell, Councilman Kosh **, Councilman Murray,
Councilwoman Rolzhausen, Councilman Ross, Councilman Rolzhausen

No: None

Abstain: ** Abstaining on all Police Items

MONTHLY REPORTS

Mayor Cradle – Report attached

Mayor Cradle has been discussing the homeless situation in Ocean County with County Departments and will keep residents informed. The Mayor and Council are working on a new Logo for the Borough of South Toms River. The upcoming Spaghetti dinner for the 100th Anniversary which the South Toms River Optimist club is sponsoring will be on Sunday, May 18th and there will be (3) seatings for dinner. Food is being donated by Luigi's Deli. All proceeds from the dinner will go to the Centennial of the Borough

Councilman Fennell Attended Neighborhood watch and benches are back to Brookforest Park

Councilman Murray Attended East Egg Hunt at the Recreational Center and attended negotiation meeting

Councilman Rolzhausen Attended East Egg Hunt (Easter Bunny), DPW meeting, negotiating meeting

Councilwoman Rolzhausen Attended neighborhood watch , Police Unity fundraiser at Harry's BBQ, East egg hunt at recreational center, Police committee meeting

Councilman Kosh Attended DPW meeting and neighborhood watch

Councilman Ross Attended negotiation meeting. The Finance committee worked with the CFO on the Budget and thanked the CFO, Chris Santiago for all his work. Recreational Center is working on the upcoming summer camp, Farmer's Market will be at Mathis Plaza again from May-Sept from 10am-4pm. The 1st annual car show will be in June 1st from 10am to 2pm by the Optimist Club and the STR First Aid Squad at the recreational center. The Optimist club will be sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, May 18th with 3 different ties for dinner. All food is being donated by Luigi's Deli Market and 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the 100th Centennial Celebration in 2027 for the Borough.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Toms River have determined to enter in to closed session in accordance with the provisions of NJSA 10:4-12b - Any pending, ongoing or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation, including attorney-client privilege. The public will be informed of the discussion within forty-five days of the conclusion (NJSA 10:413)

ADJOURNMENT TIME: 7:30 PM

Councilman Fennel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Ross
All ayes.



Jamie Jubert CMR, Deputy Municipal Clerk / Borough of South Toms River



Borough of South Toms River

INCORPORATED MAY 3, 1927

BOROUGH HALL, 19 Double Trouble Road, SOUTH TOMS RIVER, NJ 08757
TELEPHONE (732) 349 - 0403
FAX (732) 349 - 1407

DESK OF MAYOR
REV. OSCAR L. CRADLE, SR.

Monthly Report April 28, 2025

① discussing with County Officials about homeless in O/County

② Logo - wants Council discuss and give Mayor their choice
③ thanked Crystal & Sandy for the Spaghetti dinner.

- I. Redevelopment
 - A. 4/24/25 – Landfill Meeting

- II. Recycling Committee
 - A. Filled out monthly recycling report (2025) from Ocean County Department of Solid Waste.
 - B. Worked on yearly recycling report (2024) from Ocean County Department of Solid Waste.
 - C. 3/28/25 – Recycling Committee meeting
 - D. 3/28/25, 4/16/25, 4/25/25 – Training session for new Municipal Recycling Coordinator
 - E. 4/11/25 – Recycling Coordinators' Meeting

- III. Other
 - A. 3/25/25 – Centennial Sub-committee meeting
 - B. OCUA Meetings – 3/25/25, 3/27/25
 - C. 3/28/25 – DPW Committee Meeting
 - D. 4/1/25 – Meeting with Seeds of Service & County Officials
 - E. 4-2-25 – Ocean County Mayors' Wellness Campaign Town Hall Meeting
 - F. 4/4/25 – Meeting with Ian regarding Centennial Banner
 - G. 4/10/25 – Meeting with Sandy Ross & Chris Santiago
 - H. 4/16/25 – Mayor's Breakfast
 - I. 4/24/25 – Mtg with Sandy Ross & Chris Santiago
 - J. 4/24/25 – Department Head Meeting
 - K. 4/25/25 - Mtg with AI Techs
 - L. Weddings – 3/26/25, 4/1/25, 4/4/25, 4/21/25
 - M.

4/28/25 Chris did presentation

Borough of South Toms River 2025 Municipal Budget

Presented by: Chris Santiago, CMFO

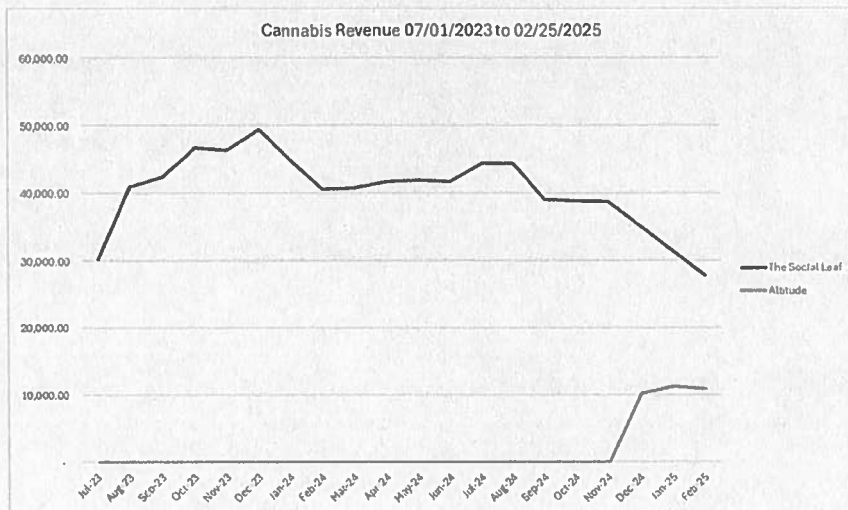
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Municipal Budget Revenues

- The Municipal Revenues Anticipated for 2025 are a total of \$1,946,493.37 which is a decrease of \$986,430.31. If you remove the Grants which we do not have the full years worth for 2025 yet the municipal revenues are an increase of \$192,196.82
- Our largest increases in revenue are:
 - Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) - \$110,000 increase
 - Local Cannabis Tax - \$104,000 increase
 - Surplus - \$47,500 increase
- The excess money from the Cannabis Tax and PILOT program allowed the Borough to add an employee to the Department of Public Works, Expand our Capital Program, as well as stabilize the tax increase on the residents.

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Cannabis Revenue



Cannabis Revenue			
Month	2023	2024	2025
January		44,914.61	42,738.78
February		40,661.81	38,778.18
March		40,852.03	-
April		41,775.11	-
May		41,830.82	-
June		41,802.42	-
July	30,273.55	44,426.52	-
August	41,022.13	44,428.86	-
September	42,406.58	39,141.88	-
October	46,736.33	38,878.33	-
November	46,397.76	38,786.20	-
December	49,440.14	45,482.10	-

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Municipal Budget Appropriations

- The 2025 Municipal Budgets calls for a total of \$5,846,785.73 which is an increase of \$213,268.81 from the Adopted 2024 Budget (5,633,268.81).
- The State has a Statutory 2% cap on the increase of appropriations in which we had to utilize all our Cap Bank from the 2023 and 2024 budgets as well as utilize the Revenue from our PILOT Program with the Lofts to remain under the Statutory Cap. } 2% cap
- Our Largest Budgetary Increases are:
 - Police Salary & Wages - \$101,100 increase
 - Health Insurance Costs - \$88,953 increase
 - Sanitation Salary & Wages - \$34,828 increase

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Capital Program

Year	Capital Plan	Grant Monies +	
		Down Payment	Total Debt
2019	\$137,200.00	\$37,260.00	\$99,940.00
2020	\$469,000.00	\$339,000.00	\$130,000.00
2021	\$606,700.00	\$288,165.00	\$318,535.00
2022	\$652,172.00	\$354,859.00	\$297,313.00
2023	\$511,000.00	\$264,114.00	\$246,886.00
2024	\$577,500.00	\$252,947.00	\$324,553.00
2025	\$804,850.00	\$272,827.00	\$532,023.00

Mayor and Council have expanded our Capital Program for 2025 to ensure that our Borough Employees are Acquiring, Replacing, Repairing the tools necessary to provide more efficient services to the Residents of the Borough of South Toms River.

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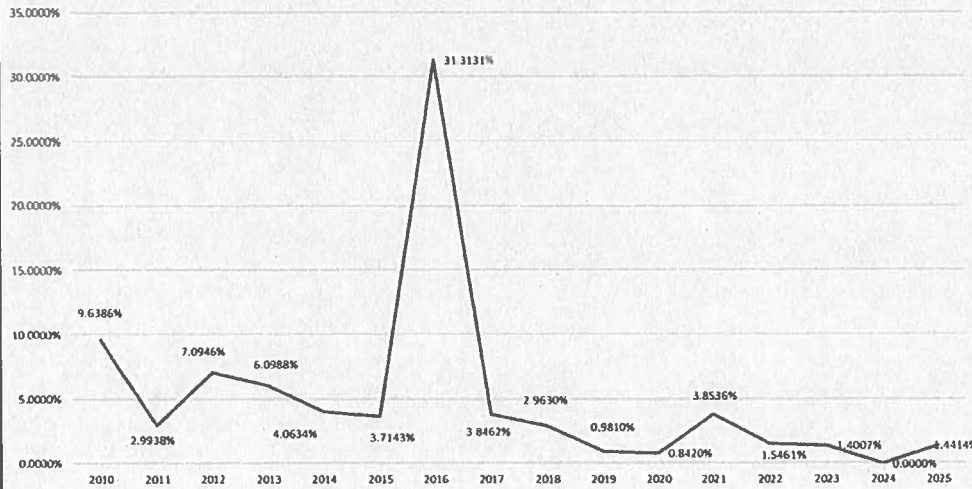
Capital Program Continued...

- The 2025 Capital Program Includes:
 - Two new Patrol Vehicles for the Police Department.
 - Upgrading the Body Worn Cameras worn by our Police Department
 - Increasing the amount of money to supplement our NJDOT Grant for Road Repairs so we can repair more roadway/curbing.
 - Add a Security Camera System to Mathis Plaza parks to improve safety and security measures at the park
 - Acquire Radios for the OEM and First Aid Squad so that they can replace old/expiring radios.
 - Fund the 2nd phase of the Ambulance 378 remount for the First Aid Squad
 - Acquire two Tailgate Spreaders to replace two that are reaching their end of life for Public Works Trucks.

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Tax Rate

Tax Rate Increase 2010-2025



Year	Local Tax Rate	Tax Rate Increase
2020	1.56%	0.8420%
2021	1.62%	3.8536%
2022	1.64%	1.5461%
2023	1.67%	1.4007%
2024	1.67%	0.0000%
2025	1.69%	1.4414%