

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **April 4, 2023** at 7:31 p.m. in Council Chambers.

This meeting is in compliance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” as adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by e-mailing the annual schedule of meetings to THE WESTFIELD LEADER, THE UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, THE STAR LEDGER, AND TAP INTO CRANFORD, by posting such annual meeting schedule on a bulletin board in the Municipal Building reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Cranford. Formal Action will be taken at this meeting.

PRESENT: Mayor Brian Andrews
Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis
Commissioner Terrence Curran
Commissioner Kathleen Miller Prunty
Commissioner Gina Black

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

The invocation was led by Commissioner Curran, followed by the flag salute.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Andrews spoke about the benefits of raising children in Cranford and commended the Township’s parents, educators, educational programs and various other volunteer organizations.

Mayor Andrews read the Mayor’s Proclamations:

Calvary Nursery School & Child Care – Week of the Young Child (April 3rd to April 7, 2023)

Whereas, Calvary Nursery School & Child Care, Helen K. Baldwin Nursery School and St. Michael’s Early Childhood Program: in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating April 3-7, 2023 as the Week of the Young Child, and

Whereas, these organizations are working to improve early learning opportunities, including early literacy programs, that can provide a foundation of learning for children in Cranford, New Jersey; and

Whereas, early childhood educators and others who make a difference in the lives of young children in Cranford, New Jersey deserve thanks and recognition of their complex, valuable and demanding work which is essential in our community; and

Whereas, public policies that support early learning for all young children are crucial to young children’s futures;

Now, Therefore, I, Brian Andrews, Mayor of the Township of Cranford, Township Council, County of Union, State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim April 3-7, 2023, as The Week of the Young Child in Cranford, and encourage all citizens to work to make a good investment in early childhood in Cranford, New Jersey.

*Autism Advocacy **

WHEREAS, autism is a pervasive developmental disorder affecting the social, communication and behavioral skills of those affected by it; and

WHEREAS, more children are being diagnosed on the autism spectrum, resulting in rates as high as 1 in 36 children nationally and 1 in 34 in New Jersey, or 2.9% of 8-year old children; and

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive intensive treatment early and as needed, they lead significantly improved lives; and

WHEREAS, individuals with autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community-support services to ensure their health and safety and to support families’ resilience as they manage the psychological and financial burdens autism can present; and

WHEREAS, Autism New Jersey is spearheading an awareness effort in order to educate parents, professionals, and the public about autism and its effects.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Brian Andrews do hereby proclaim April 2022** as NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS (ADVOCACY AND ACCEPTANCE) MONTH in the Township of Cranford and urge all employees and residents to participate in our municipality’s National Autism Awareness Month activities, in order to become better educated about autism and create a better community for individuals with autism.

* Proclamation text provided by the *Autism New Jersey* nonprofit agency.

** should read “2023”

Mayor Andrews invited Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan from the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Union County to the podium.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Union County Day

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford, in Union County, New Jersey recognizes the problem of child abuse and neglect and is committed to helping its victims; and

WHEREAS, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County recruits, trains, supports and supervises community volunteers as advocates for children who have been removed from their home due to neglect or abuse; and

WHEREAS, CASA volunteers ensure children's best interest remain the priority while working toward establishing a safe, stable and permanent home for each child served; and

WHEREAS, CASA has a record of public service protecting the safety and well-being of Union County's foster children, defending them from harm and ensuring they are provided with the court-ordered services they need; and

WHEREAS, CASA establishes and maintains effective relationships with the family court, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP), Child Placement Review Board, Office of the Public Defender, Legal Aid, and other child serving agencies/institutions in order to create a cooperative environment in which to best meet the needs of children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brian Andrews, Mayor of the Township of Cranford, do hereby proclaim:

APRIL 4, 2023

as

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE OF UNION COUNTY MONTH

in the Township of Cranford and urge all residents to become aware of the work and mission of CASA of Union County. Let it be known that we support the education efforts to raise awareness of the CASA program at the local level and the need for community members to provide a voice for the children in foster care.

Ms. Boger-O'Bryan thanked the Township Committee for their support and provided a brief summary of the work being done by the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Union County.

MAYORAL REMARKS

Mayor Andrews provided an update on the Mayors Council for Rahway River Watershed Flood Control. He announced that a two (2) day meeting would take place with the Army Corps of Engineers and elaborated.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Curran – Finance

- Discussed the rise in health care costs and encouraged members of the public to contact their State and Federal representatives regarding this matter.

Commissioner Miller Prunty – Engineering & Public Works

- Stated that the Green Team would be holding their annual River cleanup and informed members of the public that they could sign up to volunteer for the event at cranfordrivercleanup@gmail.com;
- Announced that the Cranford Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee were working to update the Complete Streets Policy;
- Spoke about the Downtown Management Corporation's (DMC) Parking Study and Streetscapes projects;
- Discussed Resolution No. 2023-162 pertaining to a grant submission to the New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund in connection with a proposed patio repair for the Hanson Park Conservancy;
- Thanked Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Ryan Elliot for his work on researching the Historic Preservation Fund Grant;
- Thanked Cranford volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the Township.

Deputy Mayor Gareis – Public Safety

- Spoke about Resolution No. 2023-159 pertaining to the preparation of an Impervious Cover Assessment;
- Congratulated the Cranford Environmental Commission and the Cranford Stormwater Infrastructure Subcommittee for their work addressing flooding within the Township;
- Thanked Cranford Environmental Commission Chair Jay Stevens, Patricia Vogler, and Cranford Stormwater Infrastructure Subcommittee Chair Ann Dooley for their efforts;
- Discussed his attendance at an open house for the Union County Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Academy in Linden;
- Thanked individuals who participated in and attended the recent Truck Parade and thanked

Cranford Community Connection member Chris Acosta, the Cranford Police Department, and the Cranford Fire Department.

Commissioner Black – Public Affairs

- Discussed Resolution No 2023-157 pertaining to an award of contract for concession rights at the Cranford Canoe Club;
- Spoke about Resolution No. 2023-162 pertaining to a grant submission to the New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund and discussed the importance of the Hanson House Conservancy;
- Provided an update on the 375 Centennial Avenue Recreational Facility;
- Reported that the Recreation & Parks Spring and Summer programing enrollment was “underway”;
- Announced that Cranford West was seeking camp directors;
- Stated that a sprinkler system was being installed at Memorial Park;
- Spoke about the upcoming Centennial Village Group’s “Bunny Hop” event.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Andrews opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Don Smith, 21 Oneida Place – asked for clarification regarding the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) lawsuit and requested that members of the public be provided with regular COAH updates. Mr. Smith spoke about a recent Star Ledger article that discussed rent prices in the State of New Jersey and expressed his concerns for the future of suburban areas.

Jim Carvalho, 9 Orange Avenue – discussed free speech, his brief government work experience and memories from his childhood. He provided background information about a quote by John Adams that Commissioner Miller Prunty had recited at a recent Township Committee Meeting.

William Thilly, 22 Bloomingdale Avenue – expressed his dissatisfaction with the Township’s form of government and suggested the government structure should change; provided feedback about changing Township Committee Closed sessions, allowing residents to discuss and debate matters and allowing residents to submit ordinance requests; spoke about recent rent increases at the Birchwood Park Apartments.

Greg Carey, 25 Locust Drive – discussed his concerns regarding 5G Cell Towers and the Township’s handling of this matter; stated that his concerns had not been addressed and elaborated.

Tom O’Brien, 30 Springfield Avenue – asked questions pertaining to the Comprehensive Parking Study including inquiries regarding vendor selection and project scope. He also expressed concerns about traffic.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Andrews closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gareis and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of May 9, 2022, Conference Meeting of May 10, 2022 and the Official Meeting of October 25, 2022 were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Miller Prunty and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: Commissioner Curran

Absent: None

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOLUTION – By Roll Call Vote

On motion of Deputy Mayor Gareis, seconded by Commissioner Miller Prunty and passed, the following resolution was adopted by **roll call vote**:

Resolution No. 2023-155

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held April 4, 2023 that Carmen Giordino be, and hereby is, promoted to the rank of Lieutenant within the Cranford Fire Department, effective May 1, 2023.

Recorded vote:

04/04/2023

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

On motion of Deputy Mayor Gareis, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the following resolution was adopted by **roll call vote**:

Resolution No. 2023-156

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held April 4, 2023 that Samuel Scher be, and hereby is, appointed as a Probationary Firefighter within the Cranford Fire Department, effective May 1, 2023.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner Curran, seconded by Commissioner Miller Prunty and passed, the Bill List dated April 4, 2023, totaling \$5,742,093.75 was approved for payment by indicated vote of the Township Committee and is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

ORDINANCE – Final Reading and Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 2023-02:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2023-02 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 186, SECTION 2 CONSTRUCTION CODES, UNIFORM FEES”

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper stated that there was a typographical error in section E12 on page 10 of Ordinance No. 2023-02. He stated that “R2” should be “R3” and explained that the error would be corrected.

Said ordinance having been advertised and posted in accordance with law, Commissioner Miller Prunty opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Commissioner Miller Prunty closed the public hearing.

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, said ordinance was adopted by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

ORDINANCE – Introduction

Ordinance No. 2023-04:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2023-04 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD’S CODE APPENDIX, POLICE DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS, PROHIBITING POLICE OFFICERS FROM CONSUMING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, REGULATED CANNABIS, AND DRUGS THAT WILL IMPAIR THEIR ABILITY TO PROPERLY PERFORM THEIR DUTIES”

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Deputy Mayor Gareis, seconded by Commissioner Black, and passed by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black
Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2023-04 to be held May 2, 2023 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on April 13, 2023.

Ordinance No. 2023-05: Removed from Agenda

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

On motion of Commissioner Curran, seconded by Commissioner Miller Prunty and passed, the following resolutions were adopted by consent agenda:

Resolution No. 2023-157:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford advertised for proposals for Concession Rights for the Cranford Canoe Club; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2023, one (1) proposal was received for the aforementioned Concession Rights.

WHEREAS, R. Circelli Services, 13 Mountain Avenue, Warren, New Jersey 07059 submitted a bid at a proposed price of \$5,000.00 for the 2023 summer season and \$5,200.00 for the 2024 summer season;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on this 4th day of April, 2023, that **R. Circelli Services**, be, and hereby is, awarded the contract for the Concession Rights at the Cranford Canoe Club for the 2023 summer season at a proposed price of \$5,000.00 and for the 2024 summer season at a proposed price of \$5,200.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign a contract with **R. Circelli Services** for the 2023 and 2024 summer seasons, with the right to extend the contract for two additional one (1)-year terms for the 2025 and 2026 summer seasons.

Resolution No. 2023-158:

WHEREAS, Local Public Contracts Law 40: A:11-6.1; “Award of Contracts” requires that every contract awarded by the contracting agent for the provision or performance of any goods or services, the cost of which in the aggregate may exceed the bid threshold, shall be awarded only by resolution of the governing body;

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford is authorized by law to purchase goods and services from approved vendors who have been awarded by and have existing contracts with the State of New Jersey and/or authorized Cooperative Purchasing Programs; and

WHEREAS, Servpro of Central Union County, has been awarded an Educational Services Commission of Morris County contract (Educational Cooperative Pricing System, also known as Ed-Data Services, Bid No. 11644);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that **Servpro of Central Union County**, 1094 Globe Avenue, Mountainside, New Jersey, 07092 be, and hereby is, awarded a contract for the Restoration, Service & Remodeling of the Cranford Municipal Building Lower Level at a quoted price of \$40,749.88, under the Ed-Data Services, Bid No. 11644.

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds which are on file in the Office of the Township Clerk and that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. C-04-12-015-101-280; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk, be and hereby are authorized and directed to execute documents in connection with said award of such contract

Resolution No. 2023-159:

**AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF AN IMPERVIOUS COVER ASSESSMENT
TO IDENTIFY IMPERVIOUS SURFACES AND MANAGE STORMWATER**

WHEREAS, impervious surfaces describe how water flows and become stormwater runoff, which picks up pollutants that then impair local waterways; and

WHEREAS, impervious surfaces include paved roadways, parking lots, sidewalks and rooftops that prevent water from soaking into the soil and recharging the ground water; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2010 New Jersey Water Quality Assessment Report, ninety (90) per cent (%) of the surveyed waters in New Jersey are assessed as impaired, indicating that an applicable water quality standard is not being attained, with the most probable source of impairment being urban-related stormwater runoff; and

WHEREAS, the Rahway River has been designated as an impaired waterway; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford has experienced repeated catastrophic flooding accompanied with significant property damage and cost to the Township; and

WHEREAS, a significant driver of flooding in Cranford is the quantity of impervious surface that discharges stormwater directly into the Rahway River; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in impervious cover will reduce the quantity of water discharged into the Rahway River during a major storm and will reduce property damage caused by flooding and improve water quality for the community; and

WHEREAS, the preparation of an Impervious Cover Assessment (ICA) to identify impervious surfaces and allow better stormwater management by eliminating unnecessary impervious surfaces, reducing current impervious cover, or disconnecting impervious cover from flowing directly into local waterways; and

WHEREAS, the Township supports the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program and authorizes the development of a green infrastructure ICA, which will benefit the Township's residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorizes application for and acceptance of the RCE Water Resource Program's proposal to develop an Impervious Cover Assessment for Cranford Township, the cost of which shall be covered by the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium.

Resolution No. 2023-160:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that, effective April 5, 2023, 1) the title for Jaimie Haynes of the Finance Department is changed from Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer to Assistant Chief Financial Officer, and 2) the salary for Jaimie Haynes, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, be and hereby is set at \$88,183.00.

Resolution No. 2023-161:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held April 4, 2023, that the resignation of Marilyn Beltran-Morales, a Communications Officer within the Cranford Police Department, be and hereby is accepted, with regrets, effective March 20, 2023.

Resolution No. 2023-162:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held April 4, 2023, hereby authorizes the submission of an application to the New Jersey Historic Trust for a grant in connection with the 2023 Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund (in connection with proposed patio repairs to the Hanson Park Conservancy); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to sign any and all documents necessary in connection with said application.

Resolution No. 2023-163:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTION OF GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NJDOT) FOR THE CRANFORD PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, hereby formally approves the grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for the Cranford Pedestrian Improvements Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as LTPF-2023-Cranford Pedestrian Improvements A-00067 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Cranford; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement of behalf of the Township of Cranford and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Resolution No. 2023-164:

WHEREAS, the Cranford Jaycees is a local membership and nonprofit organization that makes numerous contributions to the Cranford community through its volunteering, community events and college scholarship program; and

WHEREAS, the Cranford Jaycees annually hosts an Installation Barbeque to acknowledge the Cranford High School Seniors receiving college scholarships from the Cranford Jaycees and swear-in new Jaycees Officers; and

WHEREAS, the Cranford Jaycees has requested the use of Hanson Park for the Installation Barbeque; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford approves the Jaycees' use of Hanson Park on Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. for the Installation Barbeque including the consumption of alcohol, consistent with all applicable State laws, regulations, COVID-19 restrictions, and municipal ordinances.

Resolution No. 2023-165:

SUPPORTING THE 2023 DISTRACTED DRIVING CRACKDOWN

WHEREAS, distracted driving is a serious, life-threatening practice that is preventable; and

WHEREAS, distracted driving can result in injuries and deaths to all road users (motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists); and

WHEREAS, distracted driving occurs when drivers divert their attention away from the task of driving to focus on another activity instead; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 alone distracted driving-related crashes resulted in 3,166 deaths and driver inattention was listed as a contributing circumstance in fifty-one (51) percent of the State's crashes; and **WHEREAS**, in New Jersey, distracted driving was listed as a contributing circumstance in more than 800,000 crashes between 2012 and 2016; and **WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey will participate in the nationwide *2023 Distracted Driving Crackdown* from April 1st through April 30, 2023 in an effort to raise awareness and decrease driver distraction through a combination of enforcement and education; and **WHEREAS**, the national slogan for the campaign is *U**Drive**. U**Text**. U**Pay***; and **WHEREAS**, a reduction in distracted driving in New Jersey will save lives on our roadways; **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township of Cranford declares its support for the *2023 Distracted Driving Crackdown*, both locally and nationally, from April 1st through April 30, 2023, and pledges to increase awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gina Black

- Congratulated Carmen Giordino on his promotion to Lieutenant within the Cranford Fire Department;
- Congratulated Samuel Scher on his appointment as a Probationary Firefighter within the Cranford Fire Department;
- Expressed condolences to Township Clerk Patricia Donahue;
- Spoke about the Week of the Young Child and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Union County Day;
- Shared her personal experience with Autism and discussed the importance of child advocacy programs;
- Wished everyone a Happy Passover and a Happy Easter.

Commissioner Terrence Curran

- Congratulated Carmen Giordino on his promotion to Lieutenant within the Cranford Fire Department;
- Congratulated Samuel Scher on his appointment as a Probationary Firefighter within the Cranford Fire Department;
- Wished Communications Officer Marilyn Beltran-Morales good luck in her future endeavors;
- Wished everyone a Happy Passover;
- Thanked members of the public who participated in the recent blood drive held at the Cranford Community Center;
- Announced that the Summer Pool Membership enrollment had opened;
- Stated that the Township was seeking to hire lifeguards.

Commissioner Kathleen Miller Prunty

- Addressed resident Tom O'Brien and stated that she would compile the answers to his questions and provide them to him at a later date;
- Congratulated newly-appointed Fire Lieutenant Carmen Giordino;
- Welcomed Probationary Firefighter Samuel Scher;
- Extended congratulations to Commissioner Black's niece on her success;
- Wished members of the public a Happy Passover and Happy Easter.

Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis

- Congratulated Carmen Giordino and Samuel Scher of the Cranford Fire Department;
- Wished everyone a happy spring break;
- Wished everyone a Happy Easter and a Happy Passover;

Mayor Brian Andrews

- Welcomed Probationary Firefighter Samuel Scher and congratulated Fire Lieutenant Carmen Giordino on his promotion;

04/04/2023

- Thanked Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan of the Court Appointed Special Advocacy (CASA) of Union County 1) for all of her hard work and 2) for all that CASA does for the community;
- Thanked everyone who participated in the various events that took place throughout the Township over the weekend;
- Wished everyone a Happy Passover and Happy Easter.

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 4, 2023

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk