

**The minutes of the Regular Public Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook held on April 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM at the Saddle Brook Municipal Complex, 55 Mayhill Street, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663.**

The Council President called the meeting to order.

The Township Clerk called the roll:

Councilman Gierak – present  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – present  
Councilwoman Mazzer – present  
Council President Cimiluca – present

Mayor White – present  
John Schettino – Twp. Attorney – present  
Mr. Klein – Twp. Engineer – present  
Mr. Homsy – Twp. Administrator – present

Council President Cimiluca – Please rise for the salute to the flag and remain standing in memory of Leonard Klein, Father of Township Engineer Robert Klein.

The Council President announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been sent to all council members and to all legal newspapers in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

The Township Clerk announced that the public is hereby advised that any statements made during the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook may not be privileged or protected, and that persons or entities who take issue with such comments, or are offended by same, may and have in the past sought legal redress through the courts.

Any member of the public who addresses the Council speaks for themselves and not for the Council.

Notice is hereby given that beginning January 1, 2026 the complete text of all legal notices required to be published in the township of Saddle Brook shall be obtained or viewed on the Saddle Brook website-saddlebrooknj.us. In addition, the New Jersey Secretary of State will be establishing a legal notice hyperlink page allowing members of the public to find hyperlinks for every municipality. On or about March 1<sup>st</sup> a hyperlink to the Secretary of State's webpage will be published on the municipal webpage as soon as same is available.

Council President Cimiluca – We're going to start off with presentations before we open the meeting to the public. So, I'm going to turn it over to the Mayor for those presentations.  
Mr. Mayor.

Mayor White - Tonight we have the honor of recognizing Tommy Hayes, Tommy Purple Hayes. He's been a lifelong resident and he's done an enormous amount of volunteer work and helped out. I'm going to read he's got so much here that I have to really read it to give him all the credit he deserves. Why don't you come up? Come on up. In Saddle Brook Tom's journey of volunteerism began in 1988 as he first joined Saddle Brook Little League as a baseball coach. He moved up the ranks and coached kids from Little League. He also served as an umpire and chief for a couple of years. He then moved to Babe Ruth League for four years coaching 13 to 17 year olds. In 1990, he volunteered to help Lou Virile form the Challenger Division in Saddle Brook Little League. The effort brought eight teams, over 100 kids with various handicaps to learn how to play baseball. Tom is very proud to be part of this special league and coach these kids. He became the VP Vice President of the Challenger Division. Over the years, he saw his daughter Tracy, and many others develop into real good players. As these players reached 21 years old, they aged out of Little League and needed another source to keep playing. Again, he and his friend Lou Virile helped transition many of these young adults into what was now called the over 21 Special Needs Baseball. Due to his dedication, in 2026, he will be embarking on his 38th year of coaching baseball in Saddle Brook. Tom loves his drumming also, he started playing over 45 years ago. He was intrigued by people participating in drum circles. He wanted to bring his experience to light and make the drum circles into bigger events. In 2005, he wanted to expose the kids in Town to a drum circle. As plans were being made, something happened that changed everything. Hurricane Katrina swept through many southern states, causing billions in damage in our country. Tom decided to make his first Saddle Brook drum circle fundraiser. Along with some help from his friends on October 29th, 2005, he initiated the very first Drums From Heaven. Most drum circles have 10 to 30 people participating. On the first fundraiser, there were approximately a hundred people in attendance. The results brought in \$1,500 to be given to school children in Louisiana for school supplies. Seeing the success, Tommy was inspired to do more. He started doing three or four of these fundraisers in a year, later on reducing it to twice a year because it was a lot of work. After 20 years of Drums From Heaven fundraising, this past October 25th became his last endeavor. It turned out to be the biggest one ever, raising \$6,000 for the beneficiaries. One of them was a 10-year-old Saddle Brook girl with special needs. Over the past 20 years, this charitable effort has raised over \$132,000. He did 40 fundraisers during that span. Many funds were raised for Saddle Brook families in need. Tom has also been volunteering at St. Philip's, the Apostle Church, playing percussion in their church music ministry for over 20 years. Sometimes he has worn two or three hats at one time involving his volunteer work. So, as it goes, Tommy has given half his life to benefit others, and we are all very proud of him. We have this outstanding citizen award plaque presented to Thomas Hayes in recognition of your time, talent, and being a beacon of hope and generosity in our community. With much gratitude, Mayor Robert D. White and Township Council.

Mr. Hayes - Oh man, that's beautiful. Thank you. I have some things I wrote down because I don't want to forget. I'm a little nervous. I don't want to repeat what came from my wife. First of all, I'd like to thank Mayor Bob White and the Council for this recognition. It's my honor to receive this award, if that's what you call that, award. The journey began in 1988 like my wife must have wrote the letter. When I started coaching my son in Little League I managed him you know through Little League and Babe Ruth and in 1989 Lou Virile introduced the Challenger League to me and asked if I would help with that. That

was a life-changing event. Getting involved with not just my daughter but so many kids with disabilities of different sorts and just seeing them out on the field meant a lot to me. At its peak, I think you mentioned this, there were 100 kids with various disabilities that we had. We had eight different teams at the time. It was really something to see. This year I'm beginning, correction, my 39th year. I never thought I'd be doing this for that long but after all these years, I must say it's worth the effort watching the youngsters you know achieve their skills and more importantly seeing them smile and having fun. There's a lot of coaches that are dog eat dog out there and I know some Little League people know it. Our thing was just to have fun and that's what we did. In 2005, like you mentioned, that's when the Drums From Heaven was formed. This brought people together in a unified effort to not only drum and dance, but to do fundraisers for a variety of causes over the years. After 20 years of these fundraising events, I did my last one, as you said, in October of 2025, and it turned out to be the biggest one to date, raising those \$6,000 and happy to say one of the beneficiaries was a Saddle Brook girl, a 10-year-old girl with special needs. It always meant a lot to me whenever I did a fundraiser that if it was people that you were raising money for, it felt good. If you're doing it for an organization, you might get a thank you letter, but when you're doing it for people, it feels good to do that and to be appreciated. So, it was always something that kept me going. Like you said we raised \$132,000 over the years. It was 40 events, but 60 different people or organizations benefited from our fundraising. So, I am proud of these accomplishments and I want to say about volunteering, I think it's an important part of our lives to volunteer. Being able to help others is a positive experience. There are many, many people who talk the talk, but never follow up on things that they say they'll do. So, it takes determination and a lot of patience to follow through on any volunteer effort. I'm proud to say that I think I walk the walk. To close, I'd like to thank Almighty God for giving me the attributes and the will to make my contribution to society. I'm happy I was able to get things done and hopefully make a difference in other people's lives. I pray that I pray that God gives me good health so I can keep doing what I do. So, I'd like to thank my family and friends for their support over the years and for those that came out tonight, I really appreciate that. Again, with deep appreciation, I thank the Mayor and the Council for this award. Thank you.

Mr. Hayes's family comes up to take pictures.

Mayor White - The next presentation we have is for our clerk, Peter Lo Dico. Peter's been working for the Town. He's an institution here seems like he's been here forever, not that long working for the Town, but he's a former Mayor, Council Person, Board of Education. So, he's been in public life a long time, but recently he's done 25 years as a clerk and he was recognized by the Bergen County Clerk's Association. So, we have a plaque the Council and I presented to Peter Lo Dico on the occasion of your 25th anniversary as our Municipal Clerk with recognition of your unwavering support to the Mayor and Council and for invaluable contributions to our community. With much appreciation, Mayor Robert D. White and Township Council.

Mr. Lo Dico – Thank you Mayor. Just like to take this opportunity, to thank the Mayor and Council for this recognition. As the Mayor said, I've been involved, I would say probably over 50 years. Starting in 1972 with the Board of Education and it's been a privilege and an honor to serve the people of Saddle Brook. I think that's the best part of being a Clerk.

People come in, they need help, they're looking for direction, and the clerks are usually the first people, first contact for the residents. So again, it's been a privilege to serve as Clerk in this Town and to live in this Town. Thank you.

Mayor White - Next we have Operation K9 Beethoven. They're going to do a presentation. They're a group that helps veterans that are in need where they come back with PTSD and other types of disorders and they provide them with service dogs and for companionship and for any help they might need. So Ed, go ahead.

Ed Ebel - I'm a member of the organization known as Operation K9 Beethoven. Generally what I do on my end is I help them review a lot of the documentation and stuff from our veterans when they apply for a potential of getting a service dog. This organization retrieves animals from shelters and rescues and stuff like that and has them evaluated and when they determine a dog is acceptable for training to be a potential service dog they will send them to a trainer make that evaluation and then at second to that is then try to find a veteran to match with it. as we can just imagine it's probably easier to find the dogs than it is to find a veteran that will admit that they would get help from a dog. So, it's quite a challenge. So, generally what we like to do from you guys is if you're aware of any kind of veterans that may benefit from having a service dog, please have them contact our organization. This is the founder, RP Cortez. He's the president and founder and he's going to tell you a little more about the three different levels of dogs that they take care of.

Mr. Cortez - We're not breed specific we just take them out of shelters, rescues, and we train them and we pair them with a veteran also. We also have a therapy dog team. We go to special needs schools, we go to hospitals, we go to VA homes. We were with Mayor White a couple times at a mass at the VA home. So that's really what we that's really what we do.

Mr. Ebel - So do we use up our three minutes?

Council President Cimiluca – Well, you're not on the clock, but can you introduce us to our K9 friends here?

Mr. Cortez - This is Beethoven he's the founder and why we're doing everything. He is a service dog and a therapy dog. He started out as a therapy dog and now he's a service dog and that's Maddie with Don. This is Chase with Barbara and then Luna with Louise and Gary.

Mayor White – Thanks for coming in and telling us what you do.

Mr. Ebel – Thanks for the opportunity to let us explain what we're all about.

Council President Cimiluca – Sir, if you know if you can tell me because some people don't know if you know the difference between an emotional support animal and a service animal.

Mr. Ebel – There's a hell of a difference.

Barbara the Trainer - So a service dog has to provide a task for the person. It could be medical alert um something like diabetes, seeing eye dog. An emotional support dog is mostly for somebody at home. Emotional support dogs do not have the same right as a service dog so they are different things. Our therapy dogs have an insurance policy so that way when we do go into the VA, hospitals, nursing homes, the schools, we are protected in case something happens, you know, the dog may scratch or, you know, if they have a bad day, so we are covered. So like I said, a service dog provides a task. It has to be a task train. Like I said, high blood pressure, some people have POTS, with the veterans, crowd control you know somebody with anxiety that's also like a PTSD dog that crowd control they kind of create a barrier so you know if somebody gets nervous they kind of create that barrier for that veteran or that person that has that that way you know they don't like people too close to them.

Mr. Ebel - And to answer that question service dogs they're working when they're a service dog when they have the best time service they're working so the owner of the service dog would ask that you don't approach the dog unless you request whether you can or not okay, that dog is there for protection most of the time. With the other type of animals, they're there for emotional support. They want to get fluffed up they love it. So when we go in the veterans home, for example, that's what they're there for. They're there to bring joy and happiness to all these that could really use it.

Council President Cimiluca – Thank you very much appreciate the info. Thanks for your service everyone. We'll take a couple of minute break before we open to the public in case anyone wants to take pictures.

The Council takes a five minute recess.

Council President Cimiluca – Okay, I'm going to call the meeting to order again and entertain a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierak – yes

Councilman Accomando – absent

Councilwoman Sanchez – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

Council President Cimiluca – yes

Council President Cimiluca – Meeting is now open to the public. Anyone wish to address the Council please come forward, state your name and address.

John Manzo of 179 Market Street comes forward. I just want to say congratulations Pete. I've known him forever and we refer to him as Saddle Brook's Google. You want an answer and you get it almost immediately you know and he's irreplaceable you know. I don't know what's going to happen to the Town when he retires but congratulations Pete.

Mr. Lo Dico – Thank you.

Council President Cimiluca – Anybody else want to address the Council?

Thomas Van Winkle of 128 Lincoln Avenue comes forward. I want to congratulate everybody who is recognized tonight. Pete Lo Dico has been here forever as was said before seems like but you really do an amazing job for the Town. It's really hard to put into words like what you've meant to Saddle Brook and everything you've contributed to our Town. So hope you're here for many more years to come and hopefully you don't retire too soon but again congratulations. Congratulations to Tommy Hayes on his recognition I mean I've been very fortunate to go to his drum circles over the years as fundraisers. He really is a very sincere person really is always looking out for the greater good of others. Also congratulations to everyone from Operation K9 Beethoven I want to thank for all they do all their work as well. Okay let's start with the Mayor's Youth Group update. So looking back since the last meeting we participated in the Easter Celebration. The kids helped out with the photo area, the egg garden and also the library craft area that they had. So, it's great collaboration, great partnership going on between a multitude of different organizations to make the Easter Celebration the success that it was. I also want to acknowledge Tyler Posey and Raphael Gonzalez for all their help in capturing everything with their photos and videos as well. They really did an amazing job of that. Okay looking ahead the Mayor's Youth Group we're inviting them to participate with the Green Team this Saturday. They're doing a workshop which I'm sure our Green Team Chair probably I'm assuming is going to come up and talk about. They're going to have a workshop about light pollution and then we're going to have the star night this Saturday night. So we invited the Youth Group to attend that. Our Green Team Chair, Steve Mariconda, did attend the last Mayor's Youth Group meeting and spread the word about that. The Mayor's Youth Group is also going to collaborate with the Green Team to do the cleanup at Tricentennial Park and they're also going to clean under the Route 80 underpass on Saddle River Road. So, they will be doing that Saturday, April 25th at 11:00. We're also going to have our regularly scheduled Mayor's Youth Group meeting here in the Council Chambers on May 16th, which is the third Saturday in May at 10:30 here. And we're also planning on possibly, participating in the Memorial Day Parade on May the 24th so there's a lot happening with the Mayor's Youth Group we have such a great group of kids who really care about serving others and giving back to our community and community service. That being said, thank you very much.

Steve Mariconda of 24 Harrison Avenue comes forward. Chair of the Saddle Brook Green Team. As Tom mentioned, we have the Green Team Thursday really. We have some events coming up. I have some flyers over there. This Saturday well because this week is Light Pollution Awareness Week or International Dark Sky Week so we're just spreading some awareness about that. On Saturday, I'm doing a presentation at the library at 3 p.m. free Grumpy's Pizza if you want to come. I'll be talking about light pollution and then at 8:00 PM we're going to have a like an astronomy star party we're gonna have some telescopes and stuff. That'll be at Smith School so feel free to come to that. We have flyers over there by the meeting agendas. Then the following Saturday, the 25th, we're going to team up with the Mayor's Youth Group and do a cleanup for celebrating Earth Day. So we're gonna start at Tricentennial Park, which is, you know, at the corner of Saddle River Road and Platt Avenue. And then we're going to go across Platt Avenue

under the highway there's some stuff there. Don't worry we're bringing waivers It's going to be great. All right thank you guys.

Gerry Taylor of 318 Schepis Avenue comes forward. Township Council candidate. I have a couple of questions with a previous ordinance. The one with the temporary signs 1794-25 where it states in there no bigger than 9 square feet as far as the sign goes and then you're saying about a \$500 fine, yada yada but right now on the corner across from the Kugler's Funeral, we have a sign that's definitely a lot bigger than a 9 square feet and with that being said, what happens to all the congratulations to the students and happy birthday signs that get put up on the lawns and what about the stork sign? That's more than nine square feet. So, why did we change this sign all of a sudden? Why, if somebody could answer that, why we have nine square feet versus previously?

Council President Cimiluca – Well, we we'll give you your three minutes and if someone wants to respond, it's not fair to you that we take up your time.

Mr. Taylor - Okay all right and secondly, hopefully that'll be answered. Secondly, with the old Town Hall, is that a done deal as far as somebody bought that property and all?

Council President Cimiluca – Yes, it's if you went past it, it's being torn down as we speak.

Mr. Taylor - Well, I haven't been down that way I don't go down that way it's too much traffic. Is it public knowledge how much we got paid for that?

Council President Cimiluca – Yes.

Mr. Taylor - And can we say it?

Council President Cimiluca – 1.6 million.

Mr. Taylor - That's all.

Council President Cimiluca – There's additional conditions.

Mr. Schettino – Forty indoor parking spaces indefinitely and they have to maintain the structure. So they're building a forty underground indoor parking space which has an estimated value according to our engineer between 1 million and \$1.2 million so that's added value to that. They're also going to keep as open space the triangle part of the property, maintain it, landscape it, and put a Town sign up.

Mr. Taylor – The electric sign is still going to be there.

Mr. Schettino – A digital sign and they also agreed and they already did it. They relocated the monument and redid the area where the Police Monument is now located. So there was significant other benefits and the anticipated ratable for the property based upon today, you know, we all know taxes go up every year, but based upon today's number is slightly over \$320,000 a year.

Mr. Taylor – Now, what about as far as the traffic though? Right now, you can't get over the hill going to the light now and then you're going to add on more units. Plus, what about the Police Department? Where are they going to park?

Mr. Schettino – Don't take this wrong, but there was a detailed presentation made before the Planning Board, I guess maybe two months ago, where all that testimony was provided, traffic studies, where the police were going to park all of that. I mean, to the Council President's point, I don't think it's right to take up all this time going through the Planning Board presentation.

Mr. Taylor – Well, I definitely would love an answer on the temporary signs because we're in a political season right now. Okay thank you.

Council President Cimiluca – John, just I know we've got some more comments maybe some more comments, but could you talk about the sign ordinance and its temporary nature, the size? It wouldn't affect any of those temporary you know congratulations Nicole for graduation.

Mr. Schettino – First of all this ordinance as you indicated it's for temporary signs not for permanent signs. Permanent signs are still governed by the ordinance that's in existence. I don't know what requirements are the zoning is presently but if those signs that you're referring to are up and they're permanent they must be permitted otherwise the Zoning Officer would consider it a violation. As to the temporary signs, what we did is we did a study of surrounding communities to see what they typically allow in terms of the size of a temporary sign. Some were less than 9 square feet very few, if any, were more because on commercial properties, they don't look bad but on residential properties, many communities as to why they reduced the size to 9 feet felt they were unsightly and took away from the aesthetics of their neighborhood. So nine square feet is pretty large. I mean I can't speak to Saddle Brook, but I know in the community where I live and communities that surround it where I drive through nine square feet would cover graduation signs, would cover birthday signs, would cover political signs. So 9 square feet I mean it's not there's no science to it. Could it have been six square feet? Yes. Could it have been 12 square feet? Yes. But they felt nine square feet was the appropriate size to restrict it to.

Council President Cimiluca – Okay. And just to put in perspective, I can't see from here, but I would think that the TV monitors that you're looking at are probably about that, maybe a little less. So, we're talking about on private property on your you know, on someone's lawn. That's a that's a pretty damn big sign to have on a lawn.

Robert Kugler resident of Saddle Brook comes forward. I just want to publicly acknowledge and thank the Mayor and Council, the Police Department, especially Mayor Bob White and all the Council Members that were on the Council since the inception of the Police Memorial. This year will mark 26 years that we have publicly had a ceremony. Yes, in 2020 and 21 because of COVID it was very limited but for 26 years we met at that monument. It was dedicated in 2001 but this year is going to be very special and I come here to basically publicly thank the Mayor and Council for your support, Police Chief John Zotollo members of the Monument Committee because it's a very meaningful ceremony and I'm sure all of you know it, but maybe the public starts to know it right now that that

monument has now been relocated to the front of the Police Department. It looks beautiful. Not only is the monument there and where it rightfully should be, but obviously the Police Department wasn't there in 2001, but it stands there today in front of the Police Department and the grounds are very beautiful. They just laid pavers and every year on May 15th, we have a ceremony and it's going to be a very meaningful ceremony like they all were. But being in front of the Police Department, I just wanted to say that and I've been involved being down there many times since it's been relocated and it looks beautiful. It's a beautiful monument. It's a beautiful testament to the men and women who served the Police Department. I'm very honored that I was a member of the Police Department for many years and very honored to attend that ceremony for the for this inception for 26 years now. So publicly, I thank you for your support. I thank Mayor White for arranging for the not only the relocation but the pavers and making it beautiful. I look forward to this year's ceremony and many ceremonies to come. So, thank you very much.

Council President Cimiluca – Chief can you just remind everyone the date and the time.

Mr. Kugler - Usually it's May 15th every year. It'll be 12:00 noon on May 15th. I think the Mayor was going to announce it at the end.

Omar Rodriguez Saddle Brook resident comes forward. if I can just be allowed one extra minute. I just want to thank Pete Lo Dico for the great job over 50 years when I just came over three decades ago one of the first ones I met, Pete, very helpful. I spoke to the Mayor briefly not long ago and I'm just here to officially tell him directly as a candidate for Mayor that I would like to debate him at least five times, five different topics that he can choose from. We could do it right here just one on one cameraman Pete Lo Dico checking the time one hour. You can choose the topics. One of the topics that I can propose, but you can come up with yours once a month. It could be low-income housing development and overdevelopment. What is the vision that we have for the Town? What's going on? Another topic can be the taxes and water rates. What is the portion that commercial and industrial properties got to pay? And what is the portion for residential? On the same topic, we can touch about the revaluation. The revaluation by the state law is every 10 years. A company came right here and sold the idea that with a reassessment every two years, our taxes are going to be kept low. Is it working? That's something that we can talk debate it because at the end of the day after 12 years as Mayor you might get reelected and you can pick up some of my ideas and if I get elected as mayor I might pick up some of your ideas and the beneficiary will be the residents of Saddle Brook you will be a better Saddle Brook. Another topic could be the Road Program shared services why the Road Program when I was a sitting councilman I wrote an ordinance that any utility company that break any road, they will have to repave it the entire street from corner to corner. But I can see that it's not being enforced. Sharing services why not get together with other towns? One, two, three, four towns by sold by the bulk. We can actually make contracts with the garbage. We can give contracts with recycling to lower the cost. Then based on that development overdevelopment low-income housing like on Rosol Lane 60 homes that are low-income housing why don't we discuss about safety in the future why don't we discuss about sewer pipes, pump station, infrastructure, schools impact if any, emergency services another topic can be too many but I just I know I'm going to be running out of time and this is the problem with the four minutes. That's what I hope that we can go into

a debate on a forum. But just real quick on the topic that the Mr. Attorney just discussed it. They just sold it for \$1.6 million 60 units. We were here we were told one.

Council President Cimiluca – Mr. Rodriguez your time is up.

Mr. Rodriguez – Just 10 seconds.

Council President Cimiluca – I'll give you 10 seconds.

Mr. Rodriguez – Next town over a block from Saddle Brook, they sell one acre, 58 units for \$5.5 million. I believe that when we sold it for 1.6, we should have kept 100 by 100 for the police parking space and sell it to a proper price and then build our own parking space. Thank you very much for your time. But hopefully, mayor, I hope to hear from you. You can call Bob Kugler. We'll set up the day and the time.

Tommy Hayes of 227 Floral Lane comes forward. I just wanted to say one other thing since people are announcing events that are coming up. As you all know, America will be celebrating 250 years this year. So, I don't know how many years we've been doing it, Mayor, but as long as I know you've been doing fireworks, my Drums From Heaven team has been entertaining everybody in the park before the fireworks. So, we are planning on being there July 3rd. If people are coming and coming to sit and watch the fireworks, come a little early and see what we do. It's a good feeling to beat the drums and dance a little bit and loosen up and forget about your troubles. So, July 3<sup>rd</sup> when you're coming out for the fireworks, come a little early. The fireworks are over the lake to the left of the parking lot that's where we do our thing so you're all invited Saddle Brook. Come and see what it's all about. Thank you.

Sylvia Zottarelli of 236 Lanza Avenue comes forward. I want to start off Mr. Hayes, I don't know you but congratulations. Pete I do know you very well deserved congratulations. I'd like clarification on the sign issue because my daughter gets every year across the lawn a Happy Birthday. Is that not going to be allowed anymore? If anybody has a baby, are they not going to be allowed to put the stork signs up? Is each letter going to be considered a sign and are the consequences going to be the same for all of the signs that are in locations that they shouldn't be? Like there's two right now. There's one on Saddle River Road and Mayhill it's for a detail company. Have no idea who it is. Nobody notices those. There's one over by Franklin School, but it's a Happy Birthday sign is it an issue.

Council President Cimiluca – The Happy Birthday signs are not going to be a problem. In regard to the other signs, the signs that are kind of put next to the sidewalk, those are not supposed to be permitted and we'll, make sure or I will make sure that, our Property Maintenance Official on his rounds takes care of that. Those are kind of you know it's one of my pet peeves is that people just put up these little signs saying you know car wash here or detailing that they're not supposed to be there that those are not permitted. So I will get the Property Maintenance Officer on that. So I appreciate the information. Anyone else wish to address the Council. Seeing no one will entertain a motion to close the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierak – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

Mr. Schettino - Council President, there were a couple of misstatements that were made if I may be allowed to provide the correct information.

Council President Cimiluca – Sure, we'll do that now.

Mr. Schettino - First, with respect to comments regarding Public Service when they do work on our roads, it's the same ordinance that every town in New Jersey has. You can't compel if Public Service makes a 4 by 4 hole in the road you legally you cannot require them to pave the whole street curb to curb. They have to do a certain percentage of the road based upon the percentage of their road work. They either have to do half the road or they have to do curb to curb. In many communities they switch and trade. When the town has its own road program, they may say to Public Service, we rather you do this street and then they do the whole road curb to curb and then they do a half a road on the other street. In any event, that's controlled by ordinance, any ordinance that a town has as what was stated here that if they did any work, you could make them pave curb to curb. I could assure you Public Service would never in a million years agree to that. It would be illegal to try to make them do that. They would challenge it in court. You'd spend more money fighting it than it would cost to pave the road and you would be unsuccessful. As to the re-evaluation that he talked about, it's not every 10 years. I sat on the Bergen County Tax Board, so I'm very familiar with the tax laws. When the ratio of a town, you're supposed to be assessed at 100% of value because the sales property values go up, they go down. We're in a real estate boom right now for residential properties. So, when the value, if you're assessed at less than 15% of the true value, eventually you will be ordered by the County Tax Board to do a re-evaluation. Sometimes they last 10 years, sometimes they only last 5 years. It depends upon the fluctuation of the market. The benefit of doing the annual assessment is that if you have properties and it's typically intended to impact a commercial properties that if they were assessed 10 years ago and let's say just for example they were assessed at a million dollars and today they're worth \$4 million. If you didn't have the annual assessment, you had to wait for a townwide re-evaluation until they were assessed at their true value. So essentially residential property owners were bearing more of the tax burden. The annual evaluation was never intended nor is it capable of reducing property taxes. Its focus is to make sure every property owner is assessed at 100% of their value to the extent that they can and also to reduce the number of tax appeals which of course has a negative impact on the town in terms of defending them and in terms of having to fund them in case they lose the case. I think there was oh and as to the sale of the municipal property that was advertised. I know some of you who have been at these meetings have probably heard this but that was publicly advertised on two occasions. Real estate agents were notified that that property was for sale. Nobody was willing to purchase and develop that property for anything less than over 120 units which

was unacceptable to the community. Yes, they would have received a lot more money if they allowed 120 units, but they refused to do so. So, what was negotiated basically was a developer who came forward, agreed to all the requirements that you may have heard me mention before, including others. You know, there were a great deal of restrictions on the development of that site no entrances off of Harrison, all indoor parking, so nobody had to see vehicles and it was negotiated openly and fairly and that was the highest and best price that could be obtained based upon the solicitation from other developers who were not interested other than overdeveloping the site and one last thing I'm sorry now that I'm thinking of what he said in terms of the affordable housing that was statewide. A plan was put in place had the individual been coming to the meetings we had multiple presentations by the attorney who handled that. Every town is required to have a plan in place. They were required to have it in place I believe it was March 15th. By March 15th, every community in the State of New Jersey had to have an affordable housing in place. We met that deadline. It was a lot of work by this Governing Body to get the number reduced. It was a lot the affordable housing called for a lot more units than was eventually agreed to. The plan was accepted by the courts and this now this community has now received what is called immunity from a builder's lawsuit where a builder could have come in without this plan in place and forced an overdevelopment of a site. Think I covered everything.

Council President Cimiluca – And we just saw in in the paper this the other day that Westwood is getting hit with the builder's remedy suit of 300 units on a site that definitely cannot handle 300 units because they didn't have their plan in place.

Mr. Homsy - Through the Chair. I apologize to interject. I think one important point is to add on just one last piece is as it relates to the sale of the old Town Hall is that there is also zero tax abatement, no pilots, no breaks, no nothing as a terms as it comes to taxes. They pay 100% of their assessed value. There's no deal in regards to the taxes of that property.

Council President Cimiluca – We actually, you know, people when the Ed's property was sold, it looks nice I mean, everyone said, "Wow, that looks really nice." So, we did reach out to that developer who developed over there and said, "Hey, you want to take a look at uh across the street." I personally was hoping that they could build almost like a mirror image of that. I thought it would look good for the Town but there was no interest. We had another developer come in like you said with 120 or 140 units. Another developer gave a whole presentation but was not as good as the one that we ultimately decided upon so, that's it. In terms of, let's see Council comments. Well, we'll start with the Mayor.

Mayor White - Thank you. I have a proclamation about autism awareness month. I just want to before if I forget, I just want to address Ms. Zottarelli. I saw those today and I did call the Police Department, I called the Chief. You know, you bring up a good point. I mean, any of these ordinances are only as good as if they're enforced. So the Police Department, the Building Department, they have to enforce them. So with that being said, I have a proclamation in recognition of Autism Awareness Month.

Mayor White reads the proclamation:

*Office of the Mayor  
Proclamation  
In Recognition of  
Autism Awareness Month*

WHEREAS, globally since 2008, Autism Awareness Day is April 2<sup>nd</sup> and is observed throughout the month. The day often features educational events for healthcare workers, teachers, parents, and children with autism; and

WHEREAS, Autism is a neurological disorder that interferes with normal function of the human brain and can affect anyone, regardless of ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and

WHEREAS, symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal and nonverbal communication; and

WHEREAS, a variety of public and private organizations and agencies strive to provide quality care, support and services to children and adults with autism to help enable them to live as independently as possible and reach their full potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026, I Robert D. White, Mayor of the Township of Saddle Brook, do hereby proclaim April Autism Awareness Month. I urge all residents to become educated and informed about programs, services, and opportunities to help support individuals with autism.

Signed and sealed before me on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, two thousand and twenty-six.



Robert D. White, Mayor

Mayor White - My comments, I'm going to start with the budget. I'm just going to ask our BA Jimmy Homsy to talk a little bit and give us a little update on where we are, where we're at with the budget.

Mr. Homsy - Thank you, Mayor. The budget is set to be presented and not considered but presented and discussed by the Council at the next workshop meeting in May. I think that's the 7th and we're doing some final touches to it with the CFO and auditor. So that'll be forthcoming.

Mayor White – Thank you. Capital improvements, we got a lot going on the tree streets, the water was done, it was tied into Wilson. The four streets, Maple, Spruce, Larch, and Pine were all tied into Wilson, which helps with water quality. Now they're going to be paving those four streets and they're starting now on Pine with the concrete work. Also, Third Street was paved last week. Mayhill Street Park the tennis and pickle ball courts are going to be lined, I believe, next week. We've already got some people calling wanting to with the nicer weather they want to use the courts. So, that should be done next week. Kern Street Park is just about complete it's just the ground surface needs to be finished and I think they're going to be doing sidewalks over there. Mr. Klein correct me if I'm wrong. Also the splash pad they're starting to demolition the house, but they're at this point they're doing asbestos removal and they're getting prepared to demo it. Ordinances we have a second reading on water meters, the large industrial type water meters, the 2 and 1/2, the 3 inch meters we're raising the price on that because they've gone up tremendously and just to catch up with we don't really put too many of them in, but when we do, we want to make sure that we're not losing money on the deal. Past events, I want to congratulate the winners recreation teams. We had the fifth and seventh grade Boys Basketball Champions that came in also the cheerleaders came in the minis they won the nationals and the global event that they attended. They had an undefeated season. Also the wrestling we did that on a separate date all the wrestlers that made the State tournament were also there was a pizza party and they were also given proclamations as well. The Spring Easter Celebration was April the 4th. I want to thank everybody that participated it went very well. The library was involved the Women's Club the Mayor's Youth Group. I thank all them for helping out our Projects and Activities Coordinators Shannon Accomando and Christine Genuario. The Little League Parade and Opening Day was Saturday, April 11th, this past Saturday it went very well. I thank the Fire Department for participating the Police Department, DPW, all helping out there, keeping us safe. Today, the Senior Center, they had the Senior Prom it's the second year they did it. It went very well great job. I stopped by there seniors had a good time with that. I want to thank two sponsors, Ferraro Spine and Rehabilitation and Mazzer Plumbing. Jason Mazzer donated to that. Some upcoming events, Softball Opening Day is this Saturday, April the 18th at Veterans Field. It goes all day from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Also, as Steve Mariconda said, we have the Light Pollution Seminar at the library 3:00 to 4:30 and later on that night, the Astronomy Night Star Party is 8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Smith Field. I want to thank Toni Violetti and the Board of Education for allowing us to use the field. Mayor's Youth Group, we have the cleanup this was mentioned at Tricentennial Park on Saturday, April 25th, 11:00 a.m. Tricentennial Park, tree planting, the compliments of Columbia Bank. They're going to plant a tree there on April 27th at 10:00 a.m. last year, they, planted a tree over by Kern Street Park. May the 15th is our Police Memorial, as the Chief mentioned, at Saddle Brook Police Headquarters 12:00 noon and afterwards we're going to meet at the VFW for a lunch across the street. Thank you Chief for the compliment. It really did come out very nice, but it always belonged there and it looks better there, too because it's closer to the building. It doesn't look so where it was too close to me. It was too close to the street where it was. Some other things, Summer Rec

Camp it's going to go this year for a month June 29th to July 31st. So if you want more information about that you can call the Rec Department or go to the Rec Facebook Page. Lyster Avenue I just want to mention that you know we're considering doing resident parking only. We've had residents there complaining about the parking and Chefler Foods some of their employees parking on the street and so we're considering that but tomorrow we're going to be sending out surveys. That's a short street, but we just want to make sure that the residents there know what they're getting into with the resident parking and the stickers and you know, it's easy for us to do, but then you know, there's issues there because issues in the sense of that, you know, what do you do with somebody that has a visitor? You have got to provide some kind of placard for that visitor, an overnight visitor that parks. You know you if you change cars and you don't get the sticker and you know they're going to have the responsibility they're going to have to come to Police Headquarters and you know pick up the sticker. So there's you know there's a little bit involved in it. I think it could work but you know I just want them to be aware and want them as a you know the whole block to want to do this. There's a couple of people that are really pushing it and I don't think it's necessarily a bad idea. Also the Walmart, the Saddle Brook Mall, the Police Department's been, we have Lieutenant Buchak here tonight, but they've been monitoring that. They've met with the management company, they met with Walmart, so they're trying to stay on top of that and also the, Building Department, with the dumpsters, you know, they're not enclosed. They've been trying to keep them on their toes with that and as I said, you know what it's only as good if the police and the enforcement has to be there. Whether it's the Building Department, if you're not enforcing it and not looking at it, they're going to take advantage that's just human nature. So, we have to stay on top of that. Happy Mother's Day to everyone it's May the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday so thank you.

Councilwoman Mazzer - First and foremost, I want to congratulate Pete. I heard another hat was added to your list of names there. Google, Historian, PACO, let's see, Board of Ed, Mayor, Council I could go on and on and on but the one I cherish the most, is friend. I thank you because you're a great friend, mentor, and you make our life so much easier.

Mr. Lo Dico – Thank you it's my pleasure.

Councilwoman Mazzer - Also to Tom Hayes and his family thank you, Tom for your love and dedication to our Township. You certainly have walked the walk that's for sure. As far as, the Mayor mentioned everything that's going on, but we do have a townwide garage sale May 15th, 16th, and 17th. So if anyone would like to register, it always helps with advertising. Go to our website and get yourself together. Okay, that's it for me right now.

Councilman Gierak - Good evening everyone. Congratulations to the honorees Tommy Purple Hayes, Pete Lo Dico, Operation K9 Beethoven. Tommy always does a great job raising money for so many organizations, so many individuals. Pete obviously you know it's no secret everything that you've brought to the Township for decades and I consider you a very close friend so the honorees congratulations. I also want to recognize the Mayor, Jimmy Homsy and all the department heads. I know they're working very hard on the budget. I met with Mr. Homsy this past week. I know he's crunching numbers every day to try to get that number down as far as he can get it so I appreciate that, Mr. Homsy thank you. Finally, Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there. Thank you.

Councilwoman Sanchez - I would like to congratulate all the honorees as well. Pete, obviously, thank you for all your dedication and service to the Town. Tom Hayes, what you have done is commendable and you have definitely made a difference in so many lives and it does take a special person to do what you do so thank you. K9 Beethoven, I think that's a really nice service to offer the veterans so I will definitely be spreading the word on that because I think that's great. As Steven and the mayor mentioned, the Light Pollution Presentation at the library at 3 pm and the Star Party at 8:00 pm at Smith on April 18th. They should be great events so, if you can join us, please do. With that being said, I do have a proclamation that I'm going to read from the Mayor in recognition of Light Pollution Awareness Week.

Councilwoman Sanchez reads the proclamation:

*Proclamation  
Office of the Mayor  
In Recognition of  
Light Pollution Awareness week*

WHEREAS, Eight percent of the world's population, including New Jersey residents, live under light pollution, hindering the experience of natural darkness, which is vital for ecological and health benefits. This emphasizes the urgent need for heightened awareness and action; and

WHEREAS, light pollution in New Jersey, including Bergen County, poses economic and environmental challenges, wasting approximately three billion dollars yearly; and

WHEREAS, studies further demonstrate a seventeen percent increase in light pollution in urban areas in New Jersey over the past decade, exerting adverse effects on wildlife, disrupting ecosystems, and contributing to health issues among the population; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Saddle Brook acknowledges April 13<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup> as Light Pollution Awareness Week, aiming to raise awareness about light pollution and promote responsible outdoor lighting practices.

Now therefore, on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026, I Robert D. White, Mayor of the Township of Saddle Brook, in recognition of Light Pollution Awareness Week, encourage all Saddle Brook residents to adopt practices that contribute to the preservation of our natural night sky, fostering a healthier environment for the well-being of both humans and wildlife.

**Signed and sealed before me on  
this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, two thousand  
and twenty-six.**



**Robert D. White  
Mayor**

Councilwoman Sanchez - One more thing. A very happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful mothers out there.

Council President Cimiluca – Before I forget Happy Mother's Day. The recipients of the presentations tonight. Tommy I've known for a long time. He actually is a neighbor. He lives around the block from me does an awesome job with the Drums from Heaven and with the Challenger League for years so God bless him for all he's done. Ed Ebel with the K9 Ed's another guy who seems to be relentless. He's just got an engine that never stops he just keeps doing it and it's great. Whatever we can do obviously to help our veterans there should be high on our very high on our list of people that we need to acknowledge and we need to assist. There was somebody else that got a presentation tonight. Who was it oh, wait Pete. I gotta tell you, I've been on the Council it's going on 18 years and before that, I was just a pain in the butt that came to the meeting and got yelled at and yelled at people. Pete is somebody that you can call pretty much anytime I've called him on Saturday, Sundays, he doesn't care and regardless of whether what party you're in, whether you're Republican or Democrat, Independent, didn't matter. Pete treated you with respect. He answered your questions if you needed something, he got it for you so, he doesn't play party politics at all and that's one of the reasons I love this guy. So, thanks for everything that you do I appreciate it.

Mr. Lo Dico - Just want to make a quick comment. As Council President Cimiluca has mentioned, sometimes it's very difficult you sit here, new Council comes on, new Mayor comes on I was in both positions and you have to build up trust with the Clerk, different people that you're working with. Sometimes it forms into a very special friendship. Sometimes you wonder how you even got involved with an Andrew Cimiluca but seems to work out when he calls. The main thing is we all work together and that goes I've always been in awe going back to my schoolboard days with PTAs. The volunteers we have in this Town our volunteers second to none from emergency services, coaches they keep programs going civic organizations. We now have the Green Team that we started. So again, my thanks to all of you helping out Saddle Brook. Thank you.

Council President Cimiluca – I just wanted to say we got a letter from uh Mr. Ibrahim about the railroads and we're going to talk about that just so you know that we didn't just not think about what you wrote to Mr. Ibrahim, who was concerned about the noise horn honking, the noise from the transfer of the freight trains going back and forth. I intend to bring that up at our next work session. He mentioned something about a quiet zone. I had no idea it's some kind of it's something that we might be able to get some kind of dispensation from the feds because they control the railroads so, it's been very difficult. As everyone knows, the Town gets cut off when freight trains come through and we've tried for years to do it and we've contacted them to do it at in hours, which doesn't really have major effects. We don't like them doing it at 7:00 in the morning, 5:00 in the afternoon. Those are horrible times during rush hour and that's happened. I believe it's been a little better we've been able to do that. Just getting them to fix the railroad tracks on Midland Avenue took years really for them to look at it and acknowledge that there was a problem there, but they finally did it so people say local government moves slow. Well, if we move slow, we're like Usain Bolt compared to the Federal Government. So Mr. Ibrahim, we didn't forget about you. We will be talking about your issue at our next meeting. I'm going to defer a couple of things to Mr. I'm going to ask some questions

actually to our professionals. Mr. Schettino on one of your points that you made was about the rolling reassessments. Mr. Schettino, have you seen a decrease since we've been doing the rolling assessments? One of the reasons that we do it is to not eliminate but reduce the amount of tax appeals. Have you seen the number of tax appeals decrease since we've enacted the rolling reassessment?

Mr. Schettino - I can't speak specifically to this community because I don't we have a separate tax attorney, but I know in other communities that I do that I am involved with the tax appeals, the towns that have the annual assessments, they do get less appeals, but even more importantly than that, most courts move very slowly, but the tax court moves exceptionally slowly. So what happens is if a property owner, typically a large commercial property owner, by the time their case is heard, it could be up to five years that they're looking for a deduction for and when five years accumulate, if they're successful, some towns get hit with having to refund over two or three million and it causes a significant strain on the municipality. So the annual assessment, not that it eliminates that from happening, but it greatly reduces the likelihood of a town having to pay a multi-million dollar refund to a commercial property owner.

Council President Cimiluca – Thank you, sir. I'm going to direct my next query to our engineer, Mr. Klein. First of all, condolences on the passing of your dad. I know that that's a horrible thing to go through. Can you give us an idea about the timeline and the progress of both the street pavings and our numerous recreational projects and give us kind of a timeline of when it's going to start, when it's going to end, things like that to the best that you can do it.

Mr. Klein – Sure. First off, thank you all for the tribute to my father to start off. He was his life was something to celebrate. He was 96 and mostly healthy but thank you for the tribute to start off. As far as the projects I'll start off with the playground at Kern Place. The playground itself is built the surfacing has been poured the contractor just has to do some cut some sidewalk, redo the sidewalk, reinstall the benches that were there, a couple miscellaneous things, and then that'll be done. Speaking with him today, he thought it will be ready for use by the end of next week. Mayhill, the tennis courts and pickle ball courts contractor is out there doing the color coating again, if all goes well, weather cooperates, they'll be able to finish for you in time for use by the end of next week as well. The spray park as the Mayor mentioned, the demo of the house has begun with asbestos abatement inside. Soon enough, you will see the outside of it also removed and then they'll begin with the work of installing the spray park. All the equipment is in the Town's possession. I am hoping things go well enough that it'll open early summer. I'm really hoping for Memorial Day. We'll see how it goes. Third Street has been paved the tree streets are currently the contractors currently out there doing a lot of concrete curb replacement. Also, ADA ramp compliance on the crosswalks along Schepis in preparation for PSE&G to pave the roads sometime next month. As far as PSE&G is concerned, they are it's looking like they're going to probably be paving roads most of the month of May. We're going to get a schedule. We've ironed out the roads that they're going to do and we're trying to set up a preconstruction meeting with them next week and get a schedule from them what's going to be paved when and when they're going to start. They're also going to be shortly starting the what appears to be the last gas main replacement project. At that point, most or all of the Town will have had its gas replaced. Something that

probably wouldn't have been done if they had to pave every street curb to curb. Instead, you know, they would have gone to other towns and done gas replacements instead. They were able to do it here and that's a good thing having new and modernized gas mains throughout Town. That last project will we have a pre-construction meeting for that scheduled next week as well and we'll get a schedule. Fifth Street Park will be under construction probably sometime this summer. Floral Lane is another road that that will be under construction fairly soon. We'll have to work out, you know, schedule with the school and all so that we don't interfere with them and I think that's basically it.

Council President Cimiluca – Again, PSE&G is picking up the paving for the tree streets.

Mr. Klein - Yes.

Council President Cimiluca – Okay I'd like to congratulate now Captain Joseph Camilleri, veteran just recently promoted to Captain and Lieutenant Anthony Davanzo recently promoted. You know, you're old when kids that were your kid went to Midget Pee-Wee Football with are now Captains and Lieutenants in the Police Department so, man I've aged. Lastly Tommy Hayes mentioned about volunteerism, and I got to tell you, volunteerism is very important. I look out and I look around and I just see a sea of volunteers. I mean, I'm just looking out there Gerry Taylor out there, he was on the Board of Ed for 12 years thankless job. Sylvia's been a president of Board of Ed, currently on the Board of Ed for a long time 12 years. Chief Wenzel, Chief of the Fire Department, John LaGuardia, coach, Tommy Van Winkle with the Mayor's Youth Group, Steve Mariconda with the Green Team, Sarah with the Ambulance Corps. Who else am I going? Lieutenant and sergeant. Oh, I was wrong. I gave them promotions ahead of time. I got Buchak are you a captain now? He's not even a captain. Okay, so it's Lieutenant It's Lieutenant Camilleri and Sergeant Davanzo I'm sorry. Let's just say I'm ahead of my time because in a couple of years that's the way it's going to be but did I miss anybody? I mean, everyone here has volunteered. It's a great feeling to get to do it and we couldn't survive this Town luckily has a great group of volunteers and that's the way we get things done. So and thanks to everybody out there to all the volunteers and we will go into ordinances.

## **ORDINANCES**

### **1. ORDINANCE # 1802-26 SECOND READING**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 203 ENTITLED “WATER” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK REGARDING CERTAIN FEES CHARGED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

Council President Cimiluca asked that a motion is in order that the Township Clerk proceed to give same ordinance a second reading.

Motion: Councilman Gierck

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierak – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

The Township Clerk then reads the ordinance by title on second reading:

**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 203 ENTITLED “WATER” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK REGARDING CERTAIN FEES CHARGED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

Council President Cimiluca – A motion is in order that the Public Hearing on this ordinance be opened.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierak – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

Council President: Announces that the public hearing on this ordinance is open and that all persons interested may now have the opportunity to be heard.

Council President (after all persons have had an opportunity to be heard) states motion is in order that the hearing on this ordinance be closed.

Motion: Councilwoman Sanchez

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierak – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

Township Clerk then reads the resolution as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that the ordinance entitled:

**CR# 0426-71**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 203 ENTITLED "WATER" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK REGARDING CERTAIN FEES CHARGED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

does now pass on second and final reading and that the Township Clerk be directed to advertise said Ordinance or Title thereof, in the press, together with a notice of the date of passage of said ordinance according to law.

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierak – yes

Councilman Accomando – absent

Councilwoman Sanchez – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

Council President Cimiluca – yes

The Township Clerk reads the following:

**All items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered routine and non-controversial by the Township Council and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Council member(s) so requests it, in which case the item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. The one motion signifies adoption of all resolutions, receive and file letters, correspondence, reports and approval of minutes and applications.**

Council President Cimiluca – Guess we'll go into the consent agenda. I just wanted to make a correction to the minutes of February 19th it indicates that I had said something about the average speed on Fifth Street when we did our speed study was 5 miles an hour under the posted speed limit is actually the average speed that they detected was 5 miles an hour over in the speed limit. That's why I am in favor and we are looking into getting a speed hump on Fifth Street at near the park over there. We're working with the engineer and did we send out the survey over Mr. Homsy? Did we send out the surveys on the speed study? No, that's okay. So, we're going to get out a survey to the residents that are around that area, the ones that will be affected by it. I believe from 46 to President and then I think some of the it's because it's going to be near Capitol. Uh we got a couple houses on capital. We're going to be sending it out seeing what they think about it. I think it's a good idea. I think the numbers bear it out. So with that correction we'll make a anyone have a motion to approve the does anyone let's see not part of consent agenda is the March 5th Special Meeting. So other than the March 5th meeting payment of bills what's that and the payment of bills and payment of bills. Is there a motion to approve the consent agenda?

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

**\* MINUTES**

**1. FEBRUARY 19, 2026 REGULAR MEETING**

**THE FOLLOWING IS NOT PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

**2. MARCH 5, 2026 SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING**

Motion: Councilwoman Sanchez

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – abstain  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

**\* RESOLUTIONS**

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**CR# 426-72**

Professional Services Contract-Risk Manager

WHEREAS, there is a need in the Township of Saddle Brook for a Risk Manager;  
and

WHEREAS, the Township of Saddle Brook previously published a Request for Qualifications for the position of Risk Manager; and

WHEREAS, a duly constituted evaluation committee recommended that Alamo Insurance, be awarded the professional services contract to serve as the Risk Manager from 1/1/2026-12/31/2026; and

WHEREAS, Alamo Insurance, was previously appointed Risk Manager to the Township of Saddle Brook for the term 1/1/2025-12/31/2025; and

WHEREAS, the Township now wishes to enter into a professional services agreement with Louis Alamo as required by law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Township Clerk be and hereby are authorized and directed to execute the attached Professional Services Agreement with Luis Alamo as required by law.

2. This contract is awarded for the following reasons: There is a need for a Risk Manager within the Township of Saddle Brook; the service to be rendered constitutes a professional service as defined by New Jersey law; the Township did publish a request for qualifications to which the contract recipient responded; and the contract recipient was recommended by the Evaluation Committee to be awarded the professional services agreement as Risk Manager.

**3. Compensation for this position shall be as set forth in the Professional Services Agreement attached hereto.**

4. The within contract has been awarded pursuant to a “fair and open process” pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et. seq.*

5. The award of this contract is subject to the certification of availability of funds by the Township’s Financial Officer.

6. A copy of this Resolution and a copy of the attached contract shall be made available for public inspection as required by law.

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – absent

Councilwoman Sanchez – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - yes

Council President Cimiluca – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**CR# 0426-73**

**BE IT RESOLVED** BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT THE PROPER WARRANTS BE DRAWN AND THAT THE ATTACHED BILLS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE BILLS NOT APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL, BE PAID TOTALING **\$6,348,886.85** PROVIDING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE AND ALL BILLS SUBMITTED COMPLY WITH N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 ET. SEQ AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE STATUTES.

**THESE ARE THE BILLS PAID THROUGH OFF LINE CHECKS.**

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer - yes  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

**THE FOLLOWING IS NOT PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**CR# 0426-74**

**BE IT RESOLVED** BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT THE PROPER WARRANTS BE DRAWN AND THAT THE ATTACHED BILLS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE BILLS NOT APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL, BE PAID TOTALING **\$629,941.72** PROVIDING FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE AND ALL BILLS SUBMITTED COMPLY WITH N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 ET. SEQ AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE STATUTES.

Motion: Councilwoman Sanchez

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – recuse  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

**\* CORRESPONDENCE**

**1. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT – LIRI MIFTARI – PLUMBING SUB-CODE OFFICIAL**

*Township of Saddle Brook*  
*Office of the Mayor*

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
55 Mayhill Street  
Saddle Brook, N.J. 07663



Tel: (201) 587-2902  
Fax: (201) 587-2961  
mayorwhite@saddlebrooknj.gov

**Robert D. White**  
**IN GOD WE TRUST**

**MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT**

**APPOINTMENT OF PLUMBING SUB-CODE INSPECTOR**

In accordance with the provisions of Article II, Section 2, (d) of the Administrative Code,  
I, Robert D. White, Mayor of the Township of Saddle Brook, do hereby appoint:

**LIRI MIFTARI**

as Township Sub-Code Inspector effective March 25, 2026, and which shall expire  
on December 31, 2026.

Dated: March 20, 2026

  
**ROBERT D. WHITE**  
**MAYOR**

C-1

2026 MAR 20 PM 12:41

**2. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT – LT. MARC BUCHAK – DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR**

*Township of Saddle Brook*  
*Office of the Mayor*

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
55 Mayhill Street  
Saddle Brook, N.J. 07663



Tel: (201) 587-2902  
Fax: (201) 587-2961  
mayorwhite@saddlebrooknj.gov

**Robert D. White**  
**IN GOD WE TRUST**

**MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT**

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR**

In accordance with the provisions of Article II, Section 2, (d) of the Administrative Code,  
I, Robert D. White, Mayor of the Township of Saddle Brook, do hereby appoint:

**Lieutenant Marc Buchak**

as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator effective March 20, 2026, and which shall expire  
on December 31, 2026.

Dated: March 20, 2026

  
**ROBERT D. WHITE**  
**MAYOR**

C-2

2026 MAR 20 PM 12:41

## **\* APPLICATIONS**

### **Raffles**

1. RA# 1442 – St. Philip’s Church – 488 Saddle River Road – Super 50/50
2. RA# 1443 – St. Philip’s Church – 488 Saddle River Road – Wheels & Games
3. RA# 1444 – St. Philip’s Church – 488 Saddle River Road – Hourly 50/50
4. RA# 1445 – Coccia Foundation – 17 Leswing Avenue – Off Premise 50/50
5. BA# 1446 – Elmwood Park Bombers – 488 Saddle River Road – Bingo
6. RA# 1447 – American Legion Post #415 – 302 Midland Avenue – Pull Tab
7. RA# 1448 – EC Athletics Booster Club – 224 Midland Ave. - Off Premise Merch

### **Massage Therapy**

8. Massage Energy Lab – 49 Market Street – Renewal
9. Deborah Garcia – Massage Energy Lab – 49 Market Street - Renewal

### **Ice Cream Vendor**

10. Mister Softee – 126 Reade St., Englewood, NJ – (Additional Truck & Driver)  
Renewal

## **\* REPORTS**

1. **BERGEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026**
2. **BERGEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026**
3. **DPW MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026**
4. **FIRE PREVENTION MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026**
5. **TAX COLLECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026**
6. **WATER UTILITY MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026**
7. **ENGINEER’S MONTHLY REPORT - MARCH 2026**
8. **BERGEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2026**
9. **CONSTRUCTION CODE OFFICIAL MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2026**
10. **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2026**
11. **DPW MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2026**
12. **WATER UTILITY MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2026**

Council President Cimiluca – Any old business or new business? I know we have separate the agenda it says old business, new business, Council comments. This town generally has since I've been on here kind of gloms them all together. So, Mayor, you have any other things that you wanted to make get out that you didn't say before?

### **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor White - I just wanted to mention too, you mentioned the volunteers. Johnny LaGuardia is also on the Planning Board, too and the biggest volunteer we probably have out there is Thomas Van Winkle. All the events that he goes to taking photos and everything so, we really appreciate it, Tom. Thank you so much for all the time you put in. I just want to mention just briefly about this whole the ordinance with the signs. You know what the big signs become a problem because 4x4 is you know 4x4 you know we thought about saying well maybe we'll allow a 4x4 but we thought about that but the 4x8's are ridiculous honestly you know what on homes and people don't want it I'm telling you it becomes a sign war. You know this candidate gets a sign you know in a good location now the opposing candidate he or she feels like they got to get a sign in that same location and so now they're knocking on doors and you know people what I found is if you ask somebody, they feel pressured they really do. So, they might not want the sign, but they'll put it up. You know what I mean because you kind of put a little pressure on them, and it's not fair to them plus, when they're put up, a lot of times they're put in a location where they obstruct the resident's view or a neighbor's view from pulling out of the driveway or something because the sign's not in a good location, not in a good spot. Plus, those signs are very, very expensive. You know, 4x4 signs that's \$200 a sign. You know what the 4x8's are like double that. It just becomes to me it just becomes ridiculous and look, I know I had to pay for somebody's sprinkler system because the guy that I had putting the signs up ended up going through somebody's sprinkler system with the stakes. So you know, and he didn't know it because at the time it was around October. They already shut the water off of the sprinkler system, but in the spring when they put it on, it was a geyser, so I had to pay for it. I remember he was hitting it like I got a rock there it went through It's just, you know what, I just think overall it's better and a 3x3 sign is big enough. If you want to put your face on there, you want to put your name big, 3x3 is it's a foot shorter than a 4x4 on each side. I don't know I think it's good enough. That's just that's my feeling on it.

Council President Cimiluca – Anybody else with old or new business? Okay so I'll entertain a motion to open the meeting to the public on the agenda items and agenda items only.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierak – yes

Councilman Accomando – absent

Councilwoman Sanchez – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

Council President Cimiluca – yes

Council President Cimiluca – Meeting is now open on agenda items. Seeing no one I'll entertain a motion to close the meeting to the public for agenda items.

Motion: Councilwoman Sanchez

Second: Councilman Gierak

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierak – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

Council President Cimiluca – Lastly, we are going to entertain a motion to go into closed session. Mr. Schettino, can you just give us an idea about the or either you or Mr. Homs we're going into closed session. Is that for that's for litigation.

Mr. Schettino - Litigation and personnel hopefully it will be less than 20 minutes at which time the meeting will reopen to the public you'll be invited back in if you're still here and further action may be taken.

Council President Cimiluca – Motion to go into close session.

## **TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION**

### **CR# 0426-75**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook desires to meet for the purpose of a closed session to discuss litigation and personnel and,

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act does make an exception and allows a public body to hold a closed session to discuss litigation and personnel,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook that the closed session to take place on April 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached at the Municipal Building be closed to the public and the press and that the results of the discussion at the closed session will be released to the public when the reasons for discussing and acting on it in closed session no longer exists.

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierak – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

Council went into closed session at 8:34 pm.

Council returned from closed session at 8:48 pm.

Council President Cimiluca gavels the Council back into session.

Council President Cimiluca – We are back in session Mr. Lo Dico do you have anything for us to do?

Mr. Lo Dico – We have two resolutions.

TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
55 MAYHILL STREET, SADDLE BROOK, NJ 07663

**RESOLUTION CR# 426-76**  
**A RESOLUTION APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE**

**WHEREAS**, Township of Saddle Brook and Township of Saddle Brook Department of Public Works (the “Township Defendants”) and John R. Brucato, desire to resolve and reach a full and final resolution in the matter entitled John R. Brucato, Plaintiff v. Bergman Real Estate Group; Paramus Woodbrook Ventures, LLC; Township of Saddle Brook; Township of Saddle Brook Department of Public Works; et al., Township Defendants filed on or about July 28, 2025 in the Bergen County Superior Court, Docket No. BER-L-5009-25; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plaintiff and Township Defendants have negotiated and reached a settlement in accord with the Settlement Agreement and Release attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Administrator and Township Attorney have reviewed the Settlement Agreement and Release with regard to this matter and recommend the approval of same.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey that the Settlement Agreement and Release attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference with regard to the within referenced matter be and is hereby approved; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Administrator be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached Settlement Agreement and Release on behalf of the Township Defendants; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Clerk be and he is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and Settlement Agreement and Release to the Township’s Insurer; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Attorney be and is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution and Settlement Agreement and Release to Debbie K. Irwin Esq., the attorney representing John R. Brucato, upon its passage.

Motion: Councilwoman Sanchez

Second: Councilman Gierak

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

**TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK  
RESOLUTION**

**CR# 426-77**

**WHEREAS**, Manuel Brenya (“Brenya”), Matthew Esser (“Esser”), Gregory Jacob (“Jacob”) and Michael Stankiewicz (“Stankiewicz”) are employees of the Township of Saddle Brook (“Township”); and

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned employees, through their union representation, the Teamsters Local 560, each filed grievances and demanded arbitration through the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission -- AR-2025-433 (Stankiewicz), AR-2025-434 (Esser), AR-2025-435 (Jacob), AR-2025-436 (Brenya) – alleging that the Township violated the collective negotiations agreement between the Township and the Teamsters Local 560; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township, the Teamsters Local 560, and the four (4) aforementioned employees wish to amicably resolve the aforementioned grievances and resulting demands for arbitration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township’s labor counsel has recommended that entering into the attached Settlement Agreement and Release is in the Township’s best interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township does not admit any liability or wrong doing whatsoever through and by this Settlement Agreement and Release, and is taking this action solely as a matter of business judgment and at the recommendation of its legal counsel;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the governing body of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the Township hereby approves the attached Settlement Agreement and Release between the Township and the Teamsters Local 560, settling all outstanding issues, as more fully set forth in the attached Agreement; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the governing body of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby authorizes the Mayor or his designee to execute the Settlement Agreements and Release and for Township personnel and/or legal counsel to take any actions necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

Motion: Councilwoman Sanchez

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

Council President Cimiluca – Okay any final comments? I just I forgot to mention Christine Wenzel, who's a longtime Board of Ed member and volunteers to live with Herman which she should get paid for that. With that being said I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilwoman Sanchez

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierak – yes  
Councilman Accomando – absent  
Councilwoman Sanchez – yes  
Councilwoman Mazzer – yes  
Council President Cimiluca – yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peter Lo Dico, RMC, CMC  
Township Clerk

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Andrew M. Cimiluca  
Council President

Approved: