

The minutes of the Special Public Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook held on May 7, 2026 at 5:30 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 – present
Councilwoman Sanchez – absent
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
Steve Wielkottz – Twp. Auditor - present

Council President Cimiluca – Please rise for the salute to the flag.

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 1st 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 – Tonight is a special meeting it's to introduce the 2026 Municipal Budget. With us, we have the Township's Auditor, Steven Wielkottz, and we're going to hand it over to him so he can give us some highlights, low lights whatever we have to do with a little of both on the budget and there will be a motion to introduce the

budget. Just for everyone's knowledge, there will be the public hearing on the budget at our regular meeting June 18th. That'll be a 7 o'clock meeting.

Mr. Wielkotz - Tonight, as Council President Cimiluca said, you have the 2026 Municipal Budget for introduction. The process is you introduce it, it goes to the State, they go through a review process, and then we have a scheduled public hearing on the introduced budget on June 18th at the regular meeting. With any kind of luck, we'll actually get the okay from the State by then in order to adopt the budget at that time after the public hearing. So, 2026 I'm sure you've read the articles in the newspaper about surrounding communities, about the County. It's been a challenging budget year. I understand, your school district as well has had a challenging budget year. In a sense we're kind of lucky that the Township is not a member of the State health benefits plan, you have private healthcare. Whereas a few years back, people thought that that that was a detriment, State health benefits premiums went up 35% in 2026, which is a big reason why some surrounding municipalities and school districts are having a bigger issue with their budget and the level of their anticipated tax increase just because of that piece of the puzzle. Here we have our challenges as well. On the appropriation side it's a 5.61% increase in appropriations. Now I say appropriations specifically not spending because most of the things that are increasing are things you have no control over. You get a bill you pay the bill. The biggest driver in this budget is Passaic Valley Sewer. It went up \$650,000 but there is a silver lining which I'll get to. But that \$650,000 relates to 34.5% of the total increase in appropriations for 2026. Similarly pension contributions are seven and a half percent of the total increase. Other insurances, liability and workers comp are 13.3% of that increase. Salaries which are contractual are 32.8% and then everything else, all the things that you control, all the recreation, parks, Board of Health, Police Department, Fire, EMS, that increase is nine and a half percent of the total increases. It's \$181,000 out of almost \$1.9 million are the things that you physically can have a decision on whether you provide it or don't provide it. The goal of the budget always is to provide the same or better services every year and not cut any services and not lay people off and do some of the things that some of the surrounding communities and school districts have had to do because of the crisis we're in relative to the economy, healthcare, inflation so having said all that the 1.9 increase in appropriations requires an increase in revenue. The tax piece of that is \$1.1 million because we've been able to in a couple of ways when I mentioned Passaic Valley Sewer there's a food company that moved into Town a couple of years ago that now has kicked in and is part of that big increase in the Passaic Valley bill. On the other side of that we direct bill sewer charges to those larger entities. That creates a new revenue in the budget of \$400,000 which is a big offset to the 650 increase in the sewer bill. In addition we sold the piece of property earlier last month I guess we closed the old Municipal Complex and we're using \$251,000 of those proceeds in this year's budget to help offset some of the enormous increases in appropriations that you have no control over. So when we get all said and done the municipal tax increase to the average residential assessment which was \$476,319 in 2025 and through the reassessment process is now \$500,567 in 2026. That increase for the year for 12 months is \$186.97 which is I'll give you some surrounding town information. Bergenfield \$404, Englewood \$255, Fair Lawn \$385, Hackensack \$557, Teaneck \$486, Washington Township \$343. Those are average increases in each of those towns for 2026.

Councilman Accomando - That's just municipal taxes.

Mr. Wielkotz - Just municipal taxes. Correct. So, we're \$186.97 which everything I've seen throughout the first couple of months of this year and every budget I've looked at and every newspaper article I've read about any town or any school district they're laying people off. They're cutting programs. They're a mess. We're in good shape. We have surplus. We're using three million in this budget like we did last year. We now have the sale of property money which we'll use to help even offset some of the ridiculous increases in appropriations like health insurance and liability insurance to kind of even that out and to the best of our ability give the taxpayers a break because this could have easily have been the same as Maywood which was \$311 easily. We've got some other tools that some other towns don't have. We've been fiscally responsible as long as I've been here and as long as the Mayor's been the Mayor and the majority of you have been on the Council and this is the result. The result is yes we have to raise taxes everybody's raising taxes but we are raising taxes a lot less than the towns around us and then our own school district because of the things that have been set in place budgetarily and economically over the course of time. So with that I ask if any of the Council members or the Mayor have any questions.

Council President Cimiluca - I'm going to start. So I'm going to ask a question that we're probably going to be asked and I have been asked before. We sold the property and we said it at the last meeting was \$1.6 million plus there were other concessions including parking and billboard, moving the monument. There's was a bunch of other stuff, but moneywise it's \$1.6 million. Where does that go?

Mr. Wielkotz - That goes in a reserve. We're using 251,000 of the 1.6 in this budget as revenue to offset some of the increases in appropriations that we have no control over and we'll continue to use that money ratably and responsibly over the next few years to do the same.

Council President Cimiluca – So it's a decision to not take 1.6 million, take everything and just put it toward the budget. Where we're doing it over a certain number of years.

Mr. Wielkotz – Correct because taking it all at once would be fiscally irresponsible. It would falsely reduce the taxes this year. What are you gonna do next year? And mind you we have a tax levy cap to contend with that sets the maximum amount of taxes you can raise year to year and I'll tell you I've got a handful of towns they still haven't introduced a budget because they can't get under the tax levy cap. Because costs are out of control. So you know there's a serious problem statewide right now that at some point is probably going to require some sort of legislative relief because the tax levy cap was in 2010 two percent. In 2026 what's going up only 2%, almost nothing. Then on the spending side the same thing, the cap is three and a half percent. In some of these smaller municipalities, that three and a half percent is a couple hundred thousand dollars and salaries are going up more than that because, you know the binding arbitration bill sun shined eight years ago. It's never been renewed. So contracts right, wrong or indifferent, are more than 2% yet there's a cap at 2%. So yeah, there's a whole set of circumstances here kind of like a perfect storm and again, I've been doing this a long time and I've never seen so many people having such a problem balancing a budget.

Council President Cimiluca – Just one other from me and maybe this is for Mr. Homsí and not for you, but with that enormous increase from actually I got two questions but with the enormous increase from the sewer commission is there a reason given for such an exponential increase?

Mr. Homsí - So one thing to keep in mind that yes, that's correct our increase is 650,000 roughly from year to year. Of that 650 about 330 is strictly just the one entity which we will be billing them for to raise that. So about 300,000 a little over 300,000 increase year to year that's just you know for their cost of business and our consumption just to keep their operations and continue their operations, capital improvements, salary and wages health benefits and so on and so forth is that's really how it's simply computed by their end.

Council President Cimiluca – Okay, so are we consuming more or they just have they've got a budget crisis and they've got to raise their funds to fuel their increase in operating costs and salaries and things like that?

Mr. Homsí - It's probably a mix of both, but probably more the latter.

Council President Cimiluca – Okay.

Mr. Wielkotz - Yeah. Part of it is you have this com new newer company in Town that's a food processing.

Mr. Homsí – Yeah, food manufacturing.

Mr. Wielkotz - That creates an inordinate amount of sewage. That's a big reason that's probably 300 plus thousand dollars of the \$650,000 increase. But now we get to direct bill them for their portion of the Passaic Valley bill so that generated a new revenue in the budget to help offset the cost of the increase. But listen, all the sewer agencies have raised their rates because they have the same issues. Healthcare going up 20 to 30 to 35 percent. Salaries, inflation, every government, every authority, every business is facing the same challenges.

Council President Cimiluca – And last for me, you had mentioned about the insurance cost and the state went up 30 something. State health benefits went up 30.

Mr. Wielkotz – Thirty five percent.

Council President Cimiluca – Did you calculate I kind of see ours went up a few hundred thousand. Do you know what percentage that comes out to?

Mr. Homsí - So ours it's we this year with through our health benefits consultant, our health broker negotiated and we redesigned our plan design which allowed our premium to go down with the same level of benefit but that included using and reliance more on the difference card. So technically the premiums did not increase but the use of the difference card will but there's no it's hard to they have a percentage it's a complicated formula that

I don't have with me in front of me right now but that's the premiums technically if you look strictly at the health premiums have gone down from year to year.

Council President Cimiluca – I thought I saw that we're up like \$300,000.

Mr. Homsy - You saw the account for the difference card. So that line includes those items in prescription which are separate.

Mr. Wielkotz - But you're nowhere near I mean entities in State health benefits have seen the premiums go up over 100% the last four years and they've already released information that State health benefits going to go up in 2027 somewhere between 10 and 20% that's their best guesstimate. So again, there's no end in sight with healthcare.

Councilman Gierak - With your last statement Mr. Wielkotz some of the residents at home may be thinking to themselves0\ well, how come the Board of Ed isn't going to a private plan? Could you speak to that at all?

Mr. Wielkotz - Well, it's simple. Nobody will take them. Entities that were able to get out of State health benefits got out and either went to private went to the Bergen County BMED fund, but you have to get accepted by another company and depending on your loss rating depends on if another company would underwrite your policy.

Councilman Gierak - So basically what you're saying is a lot of the districts are bad risks and nobody wants to insure them kind of.

Mr. Wielkotz - Generally speaking yes, it's that they're their history is such.

Councilman Gierak - It's a loss for them if they underwrite them.

Mr. Wielkotz - Correct.

Councilman Gierak - I was just wondering Mr. Wielkotz could you give us a breakdown in regards to Municipal, what percent, Board of Ed, what percent, County, what percent? Do you have those numbers?

Mr. Wielkotz - I don't know if I have that with me.

Councilman Gierak - Because I was watching the Board of Ed budget hearing on Monday night and their health benefits, they're in State health benefits and they're going up substantially. I guess the percent that you mentioned about 35%.

Mr. Wielkotz takes out his phone to use his calculator to figure out the percentage.

Mr. Wielkotz - The Municipal tax levy is 35% of the total.

Councilman Gierak – Okay and I think the County is usually around nine or ten percent or so and the remainder.

Mr. Wielkotz - It's a little over 10%.

Council President Cimiluca – We've got a little for the library and then the rest is Board of Ed.

Mr. Wielkotz - Library is minimal it's peanuts and the school board is.

Councilman Gierak – I know the Board of Ed their increase is \$399 for the average house.

Mr. Wielkotz - Board of Ed is over 54% of the total tax levy.

Councilman Gierak – Okay. And then just one final question overall how would you rate our overall financial situation here in Saddle Brook from the municipal standpoint?

Mr. Wielkotz - Again, I think I said it earlier that you're in good shape. You've been in good shape for a number of years. You were in good shape before COVID. We got through COVID like everybody else we struggled a little bit but we were you know everybody got the federal money to help. Unlike some other governments, we didn't piss away the federal money we used it wisely and we came out of COVID in as good or better shape than we were beforehand and we continue to operate and generate surplus every year and take that surplus and put it back into the budget and honestly we haven't had certainly haven't had a bad year like some of these towns that are going up five and six hundred dollars for municipal taxes only. We've done a very good job of you know everything gets done in moderation and by the way that includes where we sit and the money we spent you spent in order to buy and redo and to open up this facility that by every measure was sorely needed in this Town. The previous Borough Hall from the day you moved in was never big enough so you done a lot of great things with managing the tax levy and the amount you charge. I mean, you think about it this way for 2026 the average taxpayer is going to pay \$4,154.71 for police, fire, emergency DPW, which includes sewer, snow, roads, parks. You've got a nice gym next door, a nice court next door so everything that you provide as a community to the community is less than \$4,200 for the year. That's a pretty good deal.

Councilman Gierak – That's it I'm good thank you Mr. Wielkotz.

Mayor White - Through the chair. The surplus because a lot of times we get different department heads and you know competing for dollars of course they're looking for more money. They think that when they hear surplus and a lot of people do, I understand They think oh, that's extra money we could just use, you know, that we could just grab at any time. That it's there and it's basically that's what it's there for. It's almost like if you if we run short we just go there and take that out of the surplus. Can you explain the importance of surplus?

Mr. Wielkotz - Sure.

Mayor White - Basically why aren't we taking we're using 250 why aren't we taking 500 or why aren't we taking the whole thing?

Mr. Wielkotz - We're using 2.6 million. Last year we used 2 million 591 we're using 2.6 million out of an available 2 million 765. So we use our surplus we generate it and then we put it back into the budget and we've been doing that for as long as we've been here and if you remember Mayor, when you and I first got here the surplus in Saddle Brook was like \$200,000.

Mayor White - What do we have left after what we use?

Mr. Wielkotz - Altogether the surplus is 3 million 164. We're using 2.6 so there's about \$564,000 most of which you can't use because it's not cash surplus under the definition. We've got some deferred charges, special emergencies that were pledged against some of the surplus. So, we use most of it and we've been doing that for years.

Mayor White - But doesn't to the fact that we need we need to generate surplus when we look to bond money, the bond rating, doesn't that have an impact?

Mr. Wielkotz - Well, it all has an impact on the bond rating. I mean, we just sold notes, we rolled over notes last month. We got rated again by Moody's Investor Services, which is the largest rating agency in in the United States. We got the highest rating on the note issue called a MIG one. We're an A1 community. We're doing fine, but you can't be broke and then try to go out and sell debt and get close to the best rate there is in the market that day. Again, when you were first elected and I first got hired, we had no surplus we had no money you had nothing and you guys have built up millions of dollars over the years and then you take those millions of dollars and you put it back in the budget to help offset the cost which is what you're supposed to do.

Mayor White - So that's the fiscally responsible thing to do.

Mr. Wielkotz - Correct.

Council President Cimiluca – I'm going to ask what I think is an obvious question. If we're using \$2.5 million out of a \$3.1 million surplus then we put money into the budget to build up the surplus again doesn't that kind of cancel each other out? Is there is that just accounting magic or something.

Mr. Wielkotz - Again to a certain extent but again a budget's a plan you fund it as best you can. There's the reserve front collect the taxes which is a hedge against not collecting all your tax money which you never collect all your tax money every year. And you know, we're in a pretty good rhythm here where we're able to last year we used 2 million 591 we generated 2 million 892. So we had a little bit better year than maybe the year before. So you never want to get to the point where you're going to use 2.6 and only regenerate a million dollars because then how do you make up on the revenue side that difference?

Council President Cimiluca – Do we know what the projected surplus is going to be after this budget?

Mr. Wielkotz - We haven't done a formal projection but again it's pretty systematic. You know you've got good taxpayers in town they pay their taxes. We didn't take a hit like

other towns did in 2025 in collections. Our delinquent balance for 25 is pretty similar to what it was at 24. So you know we're in a pretty good program where we use it, we regenerate it, and we use it again.

Council President Cimiluca – So, you expect it to be around 3 million again?

Mr. Wielkotz - I see no reason why it wouldn't be.

Council President Cimiluca – Okay.

Councilman Gierak – I keep reminding Jimmy to watch every penny so yeah it'll be there, don't worry about it. Right?

Mr. Homsy – Yeah.

Councilwoman Mazzer - If I may I'd like to know what number are we using for the average home assessment?

Mr. Wielkotz - It's the 500,567.

Councilwoman Mazzer - Okay thanks.

Mr. Wielkotz - Which is based on the reassessment 426.

Mayor White – So what is the percentage of the increase?

Mr. Wielkotz – 4.42 which again when you read those articles about surrounding I mean Hackensack was 10 and a quarter Hoboken 18.9%.

Mr. Schettino - Do you know how much of the 4.2% as you stated earlier is due to the health insurance and the pension and that aspect of it of the 4.2?

Mr. Wielkotz - It's about 89.5%.

Mr. Schettino - So 89.5% of the 4.2% increase basically.

Mr. Wielkotz - Are things we can't control. That's it again when we look at that the last few years when we looked at that other expense side of it the things that you control as a Governing Body the increase and or decrease from year to year has been very small versus the things that are going up enormously that you can't control. So each year the things that you can look at and you know whittle away at or you know take away ten dollars here and twenty dollars here in order to get to a balanced budget. You've done that and you continue to do that.

Council President Cimiluca – You're going to be here June 18th to answer any questions from the public.

Mr. Wielkotz – I will.

Council President Cimiluca – Excellent. Any other questions from Council?

Mr. Homsy - Through the Chair if you don't mind. Mr. Wielkotz we have an introduction of an ordinance tonight establishing a cap bank. Do you mind just explaining what that accomplishes and what that does as it relates to budgeting and finance?

Mr. Wielkotz - The cap bank ordinance has been around forever and what it does it allows you the State sets the cap rate October November of the previous year for the subsequent year. For 2026 they set it at 2%. I'm not sure how they got to that, especially in this economic condition but it's 2%. You're allowed by ordinance to increase that to three and a half% which you've done every year since I've been here. That I venture to say out of the 566 municipalities in 21 counties in the State just about everyone as a matter of course passes that ordinance because it just gives you the most financial flexibility that you could have in order to preserve if there's any bank from previous years to carry over to the next years. This year's budget is \$518 under the cap at three and a half percent. And that's because of all of the things we talked about that are going up enormously that are all contained within that three and a half cap base. So it's really a perfunctory activity to do it. It makes the most sense because but when you did it last year you preserved a \$221,000 bank from 2025 that carried to 2026 which helped us get within the appropriation cap in this year's budget.

Councilman Accomando – You said when we got elected I got elected with the Mayor 12 years ago we had tax appeals from we got elected from 2014 we had tax appeals from 2006. Do we have any tax appeals now?

Mr. Wielkotz - The tax appeals now again I can't speak for our friend over here but tax appeals my understanding is they're pretty much non-existent because we've been in the rolling reassessment program for the last five or six years where everybody gets and again we were getting killed by the commercial properties. If we had not done and we had a whole long discussion five or six years ago about whether we should or shouldn't do the rolling reassessment program by utilizing that tool and keeping the commercials and industrials at 100% it pretty much cuts out their ability. They can file an appeal, but it certainly cuts out their ability to get any kind of huge decrease because they're already at market value. Oh, yeah. I forgot about that. We had to go to the State and do a refunding bond ordinance and we had to refund hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Councilman Accomando – It was eight years of tax appeals that were never taken care of.

Mr. Wielkotz - Yeah. Well, you know, it's like Montclair Board of Ed put it in a drawer and nobody knows.

Council President Cimiluca – Okay so as you're going to depart we're going to make a motion to introduce the 2026 municipal budget and then there'll be a public hearing in June 18th.

Mr. Wielkotz - Correct.

Council President Cimiluca – And there are other resolutions that go along with that you've laid that out in the letter that you had sent including the cap bank and the equal opportunity resolution all those kind of things that goes part and parcel with the introduction of the budget.

Mr. Wielkotz - Correct.

Council President Cimiluca – Thank you for your assistance and your information. So, I'll entertain a motion to introduce the 2026 municipal budget for the Township of Saddle Brook.

Motion: Councilman Accomando

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Sanchez – absent

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

Council President Cimiluca – yes

Council President Cimiluca – So the 2026 municipal budget for Saddle Brook has been introduced and it's going to be sent to the State.

Mr. Wielkotz - It'll be uploaded to FAST tomorrow morning.

Council President Cimiluca – Awesome thank you for coming thank you for the information and we'll see you on June 18th.

Mr. Wielkotz - I wouldn't miss it for the world.

Council President Cimiluca – I'll entertain a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilman Accomando

Second: Councilwoman Mazzer

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Sanchez – absent

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

Council President Cimiluca – yes

Council President Cimiluca - The meeting is now open to the public anyone wish to address the council and the Mayor please come up state your name, your address and be happy to hear you. As you know there is a three minute limit on public comments

Roy Jancio of 506 Lyster Avenue comes forward. I was here last time we just want to know we had some communication back and forth emails I don't want to get into all that we just want to know the results of the survey and where do we go from here on the parking issue?

Mayor White - I think Mr. Homsy has the results.

Mr. Homsy - Through the Chair just if you want me to share those now I can. We do have a portion of the meeting later on under old business for the update, but whatever you prefer.

Council President Cimiluca – We don't want to keep them if they can get the information now.

Mr. Homsy – For Lyster Avenue we received 12 of the surveys back of about 15 homes that are on that street 10 of those 12 stated they want resident parking only and then 2 of those 10 stated they want no parking restrictions. So of the 12, 10 want resident parking and two prefer no parking restrictions at all. That included the one that I received tonight.

Council President Cimiluca – Did you have any other well you still got your time.

Mr. Jancio - Okay so my next question is where do we go from here?

Council President Cimiluca – I would say that we're going to discuss it a little further and see what that would entail. Again, be careful what you wish for. I always say this to anybody who comes here and asks for things like that like parking and restrictions and things like that because you're also restricting yourself. We've got to determine how if we do it, how we would do it, what mechanism we'd use. We have are you captain now? Lieutenant Buchak, I keep giving you raises or promotions here so Lieutenant Buchak is here. I know that there have been some issues in other towns that I know of where somebody has an overnight guest they go to park. Sometimes they know the overnight guest is going to be there but sometimes it's a you know 12 midnight decision to have an overnight guest and they park on the street and they get a ticket because there's no resident parking. My understanding is we'd have to work something out and get something developed with the Police Department that somebody on that street that has the resident parking permit can call in and say, "Listen, my Aunt Nelly is coming in from Iowa and she's going to be here and she's going to be overnight can we get exemption?" You know and it's got to be limited. They can't be there for two weeks but there would be limited exemptions for some guests. So it's not something that can be done overnight but we will be looking into it and seeing what the best thing is and maybe the best thing is to confer with other towns that have that to see exactly how they implemented it and I'm sure that there were bad things that happened in the beginning and what kind of kinks that they worked out.

Mr. Jancio – Is there any kind of time frame on this has the process started already? Three months, two months?

Council President Cimiluca – You're here talking about it we're here talking about it probably a couple months. I mean that's just the way government works.

Mr. Jancio – Couples two?

Council President Cimiluca – A couple months because you know when we you'd have to have an introduction and then wait for.

Mr. Jancio – I understand there's a process. I'm just we're just trying to get a time frame.

Council President Cimiluca – I would say a couple of months.

Mr. Jancio – Mr. Cimiluca it's not good.

Council President Cimiluca – No I get it Mr. Mr. Wille has my cell phone. I see videos, I see pictures, I know you guys are in a bad spot over there so we're going to do everything we can to help.

Mayor White – Mr. Jancio it's mostly bad after 2:00, right?

Mr. Jancio – Yeah because the signs they can't park on the streets till 2:00.

Mayor White – Right?

Mr. Jancio – Then there are shifts that come in and then it's all night. I mean, my daughter's husband died unfortunately and we had the grandbaby there and they slam the doors her dogs bark wakes up the baby. It's not good, you know.

Council President Cimiluca – We have been in contact with the business that Mr. Wielkotz talked about and Mr. Homsy talked about in order to increase their have them voluntarily increase their parking. There's no reason to me there's no reason they can't use the back end of their parking lot that they wanted to park trucks on that they don't need to park trucks on park there. To me there should be enough room for them to park all their vehicles there. I agree they shouldn't be on the street.

Mr. Jancio – So a couple two or three months?

Council President Cimiluca – I would say two or three months is a fair estimate.

Nancy Murray of Pine Avenue comes forward. Two things one East Rutherford by my mother's house is near the train tracks and all the bus stops. They have allotted two visitor parking passes for each homeowner that requests them and you hang the tag in the car. That's a solution that they use right now because I have one when I visit her once a week. My issue for coming here is the work that PSE&G is doing with the paving and the milling and the notification that wasn't really good the first for the curbs. The notification was non-existent on Pine Avenue for the curbs. They showed up 7:00 on a Monday morning there was no 48 hours not even Sunday night before cones out like we were told and there was a bunch of us running out at 7:10. I ran out with wet hair and just threw on something to

move my car because they were coming around we figured they were going to tow. It's just not I got a hold of the superintendent that was there and let them know that I didn't think it was appropriate. I said if you go up a few more blocks you're going to get to the Mayor's house. So learn from your mistake here that you don't do it a couple blocks and don't be so disrespectful of the residents and give them the notice that you promised them. So now we've got seven and eight for the milling and I understand my street was milled today but we're all assuming seven and eight means you're going to mill, then you're going to pave and I don't think so because they milled all of Wilson they've milled and started milling all the streets and we don't know when they're going to pave. I don't leave at 7:00 in the morning for work I leave at like ten to nine so I need to be able to get out of my driveway so they just got to be a little bit more considerate I think when they give us notice because they give us an email from PSE&G and they put the signs out but sometimes the signs aren't correct and then you're trying to figure out, okay, what's the next date? How many more days is it going to be? That's all just a little more consideration and that would probably be.

Council President Cimiluca – They're gonna do your street tomorrow.

Ms. Murray - No they just milled my street today.

Mayor White - They're gonna do all the milling first and then they're going to come and pave but originally the concrete that that was the Town Mr. Klein maybe you can speak to that.

Ms. Murray – That was terrible because they dug up the street and they dug up the grass they put the curb in and when I came home from work I was parked down on Schepis and I had to climb over in heels one single board that allowed me to get over a big hole and where they put the curbing in and then the next day they took the curb was done. They took the boards away and I am kind of just jumping from sidewalk to curb to street to get through and the funny thing about that notice was that first day the woman across the street her husband walks with a cane and they had to go out and he literally had to walk down the block over somebody's yard with his cane. I actually stopped before I left for work to see if he needed any help because she was parked over here he had to go that way you couldn't cross the streets. It was just inconsiderate I think that's all with the curbing.

Council President Cimiluca – We're going to defer all the paving issue questions and hopefully answers to Mr. Klein.

Ms. Murray – Yeah just it's just consideration.

Mayor White - You know I do know because I've been getting notifications as you as you said but Public Service I've been getting I've gotten texts messages. I got something on my door but it did kind of explain what they were doing with the milling.

Ms. Murray – They explained it, but then they put the dates out and then the dates don't always hold and so then you're kind of confused. Are they just going to extend it a day? What are they going to do?

Council President Cimiluca – All right you know what while we're on that topic and it's fresh in everyone's head I'm just it's still open to the public anyone else wants to come up but for now I'm going to defer to Mr. Klein. Can you give us an update on paving and issues that you've heard and that you're hopefully solving?

Mr. Klein - So first off that issue you described I passed on to the contractor so that it wouldn't it would be improved when he went to each of the streets and I didn't hear any complaints after that but they're now finished with their work. So, they're finished gone. As far as PSE&G, they're milling and paving a lot of streets. They did a lot of gas main work. They're milling and paving a lot of streets which is a good thing because they're paying for it and we are not. Their milling started in that area their paving will start at some juncture I believe next week I'm not sure where. They have a schedule out there but they will give out notices again when they're going to pave your street. Sometimes they give you two dates because they're not exactly sure how far they'll get with the milling for example on one day they have a pretty good idea how much, but it's not an exact science. So if the exact science is not knowing exactly when they're going to be, you know, on this part of the street or that part of the street. So it's a two-day that's why they kind of schedule it for two days but paving it this will go on in Town pretty much for the whole month of May. It's about a month's worth of paving. And again, they'll give out notices when they're going to pave but no they're not paving yet. So if your street's milled you're fine for now to get in and out drive as need be and then you'll get noticed again when they are going to pave.

Council President Cimiluca – Well so milling obviously milling comes before the paving but we had an issue a couple of years ago with a contractor that milled and then it took forever to pave and you know I got my house power washed and then you know two weeks later it was like it was in a soot factory.

Mr. Klein - I remembered that and I emailed I sent out an email to PSE&G I believe and their contractor too to make sure that they sweep and to keep the roads cleaned do dust control if they have to. So I this contractor that we're dealing with I think is a little better so hopefully if there's an issue we'll get cooperation and if I hear otherwise or I hear there's issues we'll reach out to them and get them to correct it.

Council President Cimiluca – I know I don't know if there were signs posted by Nancy's street. I know that yesterday the day before there were signs on almost every telephone pole on my street saying emergency no parking 7 am to whatever 7 pm for next Monday and Tuesday. So obviously I'm going to have to move my you know do something in between. I work from home on Monday so I'm going to have to you know do something with the car but that's for milling.

Mr. Klein - Yes the first the first time you're going to get a notice is going to be for milling. The second time you get a notice that'll be for paving.

Council President Cimiluca – Okay.

Mr. Klein - So even if it says two days the first time for the first notice it's milling. It may be the first day it may be the second day. It's not going to be milling and then paving the next day.

Council President Cimiluca – Okay. Anybody else wishes to address the council? Seeing no one else sir would you like to address the council? I'll entertain a motion to close the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilman Accomando

Second: Councilman Gierrek

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierrek – yes

Councilman Accomando – absent

Councilwoman Sanchez – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

Council President Cimiluca – yes

Council President Cimiluca – Meeting is now closed to the public and we'll go with comments. Mayor you want to start?

Mayor White - Yes thank you. I just want to thank Steve Wielkots for coming tonight and doing a good job with the budget explaining everything, answering questions. I want to thank all our professionals Mr. Homs as well for preparing the budget, helping to prepare it. Vince Buono our CFO as well. Mr. Klein is going to probably bring this up when he speaks but I just want to talk about the park update. The Mayhill Street tennis courts and pickleball courts are finished. We need the pickle ball nets. They ordered the wrong size. so they should be in Monday. That was a little snafu there but they look great they really do. The color the blue and the green it looks very nice and so the pickleball is a good addition. It'll be two new pickle ball courts. So we eliminated one of the tennis courts. We had four now we have three which is sufficient. The big thing there was talking to the High School that they have enough courts because I guess their season is in the fall. So we spoke to them and they were fine with the three courts.

Council President Cimiluca – And just to add on to that, what we made the decision to do is of the tennis courts and making it the pickle ball, we tried to take it as far away from the residential area and put it closer to Mayhill because I've honestly never played pickleball but what my understanding is that it's not a tennis ball. It's hard and it makes a sound and we've heard from other places from a lot of retiree places down in Florida that they go crazy because there's so much there's many pickleball courts and there's a lot of noise. So what we tried to do is take it as far away as possible from the residential area behind them.

Mayor White - Yeah that was that was a good decision to do because I've already had some people that thanked me for that but also in regard to parks Kern Street playground the playground's complete. The ground is done. There looks like there's still a few things that need to get done I know they poured the concrete walkway up to it but Mr. Klein will go into that. It looks like it's 98% done to me but I'll let Mr. Klein handle that and also the

Veterans Field the house that was there has been demoed. It's down and they're going to start soon on the splash pad. So we're happy about that. The Senior Lunch Program I just want to give a little update with that. It's really going very well. We're getting quite a few three days a week, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. We're getting between 40 and 50 seniors that are coming it doesn't have to be a senior but seniors that are coming to eat lunch there. So it's going very well so far. So I want to thank the Senior Center, Karen D' Arminio is doing a great job there as the Director and all the other employees. It's a big change it's a lot of paperwork but they're doing very well. I just want to mention too unfortunately sometime earlier this week, I think it was on Tuesday there was a crossing guard that was hit and killed in Woodland Park so I had the Chief put out a Facebook post and an Instagram post just telling people, telling residents, telling parents, anybody that's driving around in a school zone please be careful. You know it's they do a good job but it's a dangerous job of being a crossing guard and so please try to be mindful of that and be courteous and be patient and I know taking your kids to school sometimes it's you know there's a lot of traffic especially early in you know arrival and dismissal but please do your best to be safe. I also want to mention we have 250th anniversary signs. I'm going to show you they're lawn signs that the Town purchased. We purchased a hundred of them I think we're going to need more but what we're doing is we're selling them for \$10 minimum of \$10 cash and we're going to take the proceeds and we're going to give it to the VFW half to the VFW and half to the American Legion. They both you know could use the funds especially the VFW with the parade and all and I ask anybody out there that could any business that any business person from Town that might you know that could donate to the parade to write a check to the VFW. They're always you know it's a good thing. The Town does donate probably quite a bit half for half the parade. It's really the VFW's parade but you know the Town of course takes part in it. So I think the signs they're we just started selling them Monday. We can get them at the Rec Center when the Rec Center is open but we already sold I think 40 signs in two days two three days. We also with this 250th anniversary we have along Market Street we have a banner. We also have flags I don't know if you've noticed on all the Town buildings. It's a smaller flag that goes underneath on the bottom it says 250th anniversary. It's a small United States like when you walk out you could see it on the flag pole on the right but they're really nice and we've gotten a lot of compliments about that. You know we want to celebrate it's a big thing 250th year is we should be proud. You know we all be proud to be Americans. I also want to mention that the VFW installation dinner is this Saturday. I think most of us are going this Saturday May the 9th at the VFW. That's an annual thing where they install their officers. Also the Memorial Day Parade and ceremonies are Sunday May the 24th. For us it's a long day because they start in the morning at 9 at the American Legion at Welcome Road. They have different ceremonies at each location. Then we go to the Fire Department then the Ambulance Corps then the VFW at 12, and then at 1:00 we meet by the Korean War Monument which is on Fairlawn Parkway. This year we have a monument for Captain McFarland who passed away last year. We named that island after him. The circle we call it McFarland Circle now we got an actual monument that's near the sign. So we wanted to put something more permanent there so at one o'clock we'll do a little ceremony there at the Korean War monument and the parade starts at 1:30. A couple of other things. Arbor Day Columbia Bank I want to thank them they donated they started this last year for Arbor Day they donated a tree. This year we put it at Tricentennial Park it's a dogwood that was done on Monday, April the 27th. So thank you to Columbia Bank for that. The Mayor's Youth Group did a cleanup this past Saturday Earth Day at

Tricentennial Park clean up and planting. We also planted a Christmas type tree that we got from the County. I want to mention that Vandersande Field Opening Day the County did work at Vandersande Field which is behind Coolidge School. The High School baseball team plays there but they turfed the infield and they put grass natural grass sod on the whole outfield. It looks really nice and the High School played their first game there. It was a County Tournament game which they won. They're doing fantastic this year both the boys baseball and girls softball are doing very well. They have a winning record and I think this is the first time they made it into that tournament in years so congratulations to them. I just want to mention we don't have any of our firefighters here but International Firefighters Day was May the 4th so I want to thank all our firefighters, volunteers, they do a great job. The Saddle Brook High School softball Home Run Derby is Saturday the May the 16th from 11 to 3 please go out and support them that's at Smith Field. Also, the Marriott Hotel believe it or not they're having their 60th anniversary. They've been here 60 years. Nick you probably remember when it went up right? Remember when we used to go there when the pro football teams used to play and they used to all the pro football teams used to stay at the Marriott because it was close to Yankee Stadium. Back then that's where they played the Giants played and the Jets. Where did the Jets play?

Mr. Schettino - I think at Shea.

Mayor White - Shea you're right anyway we have a Sensory Friendly Craft Night on May the 27th. Our Community Partnership Committee is doing that. That's that evening at I think 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. here at the Recreation Center. Lastly we have a Summer Concert Friday, June the 5th I forget who's playing. I think I might have it.

Council President Cimiluca – The Benjamins.

Mayor White - The Benjamins it's a Friday night so hopefully it'll be a nice evening. That's it.

Councilman Accomando - Well just like the Mayor said I'd just like to thank the professionals and everyone up here. We do it respectfully, responsibly, without yelling and getting out of control which says a lot about us that we could work together to come to an understanding. The gentleman from Lyster Ave thank you for coming here. Anybody who comes here and expresses their feelings it's great to know that you can come here because we don't always see what happens on social media. Anybody could complain on social media oh this Town sucks they don't do this they don't do that but Mr. Wille I got to tell you as long as I've been here you've been coming up here and complaining about something or bringing something to our attention and we try and get it done. So, thank you guys for doing that because it makes us aware of what's going on. I don't really have much other to say than Happy Mother's Day.

Councilwoman Mazzer - I'd just like to shout out to Pete Lo Dico who spent his birthday in the hospital. I wish him well and speedy recovery buddy and also happy Mother's Day to everybody. This year I have a new title I'm a great grandma. So happy Mother's Day to all the moms, grandmothers, stepmoms, and great grandmothers.

Councilman Gierak – It's that it's that time of the year budget season and we always watch every nickel. We do our best it's not always easy we're taxpayers too we don't want to raise the taxes any more than we need to. So we're doing our best I want to thank all of our professionals for doing such a good job. I know any increase is not welcomed. I think this could have been a lot worse and I appreciate what's going on here. The Mayor did a great job Mr. Homsy always does a good job. Also I just want to mention Pete we could probably count on one hand how many meetings he's missed in the past 30 plus years. So our thoughts are with him and we're just hoping for a speedy recovery for Pete and finally Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there. Thank you.

Council President Cimiluca – Couple of things. You know, it's funny the Mayor had mentioned how good the baseball and softball teams are doing. I was with a friend last night and I said, "Hey, I just saw something on Facebook about the Saddle Brook baseball team they played 17 games. What do you think their record is?" and he said, "0 and 17." and I was like, "No, they're 13 and four or 14 and three," which is amazing. We actually have the coach of the high school baseball team Garrett Luna here and so I thank him for coming and also condolences on your aunt. It's very sad story. I'm going to defer to Jimmy Homsy he talked about the quiet train the quiet zone things like that about the train some an individual who lives by Chelsea and it kind of backs up to the to the train tracks over there and he had indicated that there's some regulations that you can look at. I mean it's a book that thick about federal regulations on that but you did speak to him and I just wanted to let him know that you know we didn't ignore him. I think you spoke to him and spoke to somebody else in government that kind of can guide us where if anywhere we can go and see if we can do anything.

Mr. Homsy – Yeah looking into the quiet zone process. It is as you mentioned very complex very thorough. It can require engineering and construction not sure who that responsibility falls on or if it's something done in conjunction with the transit system. That is something again we're at the kind of early stages of looking into, but I'm going to be working with the Police Department to assist with their contacts there to begin that process to better understand step by step what that entails.

Council President Cimiluca – Thank you. The Mayor had mentioned Tricentennial Park and thank you to Columbia Bank for helping out. There are park benches there are slabs there that have not been filled with park benches and I believe it's \$500 if you want to donate \$500 and you can have a bench dedicated or in your own name or dedicated to somebody. Mayor mentioned about the crossing guard in Woodland Park. My understanding is that she actually pushed children out of danger and was struck and killed and she was an elderly lady as a lot of crossing guards are mostly retired folk but every year we go down to the League of Municipalities and we have a seminar basically by our JIF, the Joint Insurance Fund and every year they say the same thing the number one most dangerous job in government is a crossing guard and again a lot of them are elderly. You might see them doing their job and they might look like they're moving a little slow so give them a little slack. I know it's stressful you want to get your kids on time but I can't tell you how many times I've seen and I've heard of just people just being so disrespectful to senior citizens that are doing their job. I mean yeah they're getting paid but they're not getting paid a hell of a lot and again they're in danger. They're you know inches from cars and there's people parking all over the place and they want to get their kids there, and

they don't give a crap. So just take a second take a deep breath treat them with the respect that they deserve. One thing June 5th is that it's a Friday night last year we had a nice Friday night concert. I forget the I think it was the Nerds and we had our largest attendance because they're a band that has a following and the Benjamins is the same way. You'll see the Benjamins playing up and down the Jersey Shore all summer long. We're happy to have them and I'm going to try my best I tried last year and it was not successful to try and get at least one more concert and I'd like to get some of our local bands to see if they would come out and we could do a night with our local bands. The issue is do they share their equipment and I have to work that out because I think they're very proprietary with their equipment. Somebody might not want the other guy to use his drum set or his amplifier but I'm going to try and smooth that out the best I can talking to a couple of our local bands that you've seen playing in bars and all over the place. One thing that the Mayor didn't mention I'm sure that just slipped was this sorry, next Friday a week from this Friday a week from tomorrow on May 15th at 12:00 noon we'll have the Police Memorial Service at the Police Station. Usually it's at Town Hall which is leveled but we got the contractor that is doing that has purchased that property to move the Police Memorial over to the Police Station where I personally I thought it always belonged and we'll be doing it there at 12 noon right.

Mayor White – Yes and then the lunch afterwards too at the VFW.

Council President Cimiluca – Happy Memorial Day or I mean it's very we have this thing is it Happy Memorial Day. I mean it's a Memorial Day It's a sad thing but we all know that we're having a parade. I mean we're not having a parade to sit there and be very glum. So everyone enjoys the parade. So it's the unofficial start of summer but main thing is we have to remember who that parade is for, for the people that have served and have lost their lives in service. Mother's Day is Sunday for those who have still have their moms you know love them to death and for those who lost their moms just please remember them on that day. Thank you very much and I think we're going to go into ordinances. First reading on ordinance uh 1803-26.

ORDINANCES

3. ORDINANCE # 1803-26 – FIRST READING

Council President: The next order of business is the introduction of

CALENDAR YEAR 2026 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

be passed and adopted on first reading.

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

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

Council President: Direct the Township Clerk to read the resolution regarding passage and adoption on first reading.

Clerk: Then reads the resolution as follows:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL THAT:

CR# 526-77

CALENDAR YEAR 2026 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

heretofore passed on first reading, be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the June 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached at the Municipal Complex, 55 Mayhill Street and that at such time and place all persons interested be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance according to law, with a notice of its introduction and passage on first reading and of a time and place when and where said ordinance will be further considered for final passage.

Motion: Councilman Gierak

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierak – yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Councilwoman Sanchez – absent
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.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Sanchez – absent

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

Council President Cimiluca – yes

*** MINUTES**

NONE

*** RESOLUTIONS**

TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK TO SUBMIT A
GRANT APPLICATION TO THE 2026 BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND FOR
MUNICIPAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

CR# 526-78

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund (“County Trust Fund”) provides matching grants to municipal governments and to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the development or redevelopment of outdoor municipal recreation facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Saddle Brook desires to further public interest by obtaining a 1:1 matching grant of approximately \$175,000 from the County Trust Fund to fund improvements to the Playground Structure and Surfacing at 5th Street Park with a total project cost of approximately \$350,000; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Saddle Brook has reviewed the County Trust Fund Program Statement, and the Trust Fund Municipal Program Park Improvement application and instructions, and desires to make an application for such a matching grant and provide application information and furnish such documents as may be required; and,

WHEREAS, as part of the application process, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Saddle Brook held the required Public Hearing to receive public comments on the proposed park improvements in the application on May 7, 2026 and,

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen shall determine whether the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the County Trust Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the County Trust Fund in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the County of Bergen for the above named project and ensure its completion on or about the project contract expiration date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Saddle Brook:

1. That it is hereby authorized to submit the above completed project application to the County by the deadline of April 24, 2026, as established by the County; and,
2. That, in the event of a County Trust Fund award that may be less than the grant amount requested above, the Mayor and Council have, or will secure, the balance of funding necessary to complete the project, or modify the project as necessary; and,
3. That the Mayor and Council is committed to providing a dollar-for-dollar cash match for the project; and,
4. That only those park improvements identified and approved in the project application, its Trust Fund contract, or other documentation will be considered eligible for reimbursement.
5. That the Mayor and Council agree to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and,
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Sanchez – absent

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

Council President Cimiluca – yes

**GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH
THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
COMMISSION'S**

**“Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in
Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964”**

CR# 526-79

FORM OF RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit's hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,” *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Governing Body of the Township of Saddle Brook, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit's hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Sanchez – absent

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

Council President Cimiluca – yes

TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR INCREASE IN RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES PERCENTAGE

CR# 526-80

WHEREAS, the Township of Saddle Brook collected only 98.32% of 2025 taxes due to a significant cancellation of taxes due to tax appeals, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Saddle Brook's average collection percentage for the prior 3 years is 98.76%, as calculated below, and

	<u>Collection Percentage</u>
2025	98.32
2024	98.42
2023	<u>99.55</u>
Total	<u>296.29</u>
3-Year Average	98.76%

WHEREAS, the lower percentage collected in 2025 has an effect on the "Reserve for Uncollected Taxes" in 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body desires to anticipate 98.65% collection for 2026, to help reduce the "Reserve for Uncollected Taxes", with prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services be requested to anticipate 98.65% collection of taxes in 2026 in calculating the "Reserve for Uncollected Taxes".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Director of Local Government Services.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gieriek

Roll Call:

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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK

CR# 526-81

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-135 authorizes the appointment of a Deputy Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook has determined that it is necessary for the efficient operation of municipal government to appoint a Deputy Municipal Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Municipal Clerk shall perform such duties as are prescribed by law and as may be assigned by the Municipal Clerk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Appointment:

Frank Barrale is hereby appointed as Deputy Municipal Clerk for the Township of Saddle Brook.

2. Term:

The term of appointment shall be from May 1, 2026 until a successor is duly appointed.

3. Duties:

The Deputy Municipal Clerk shall perform all duties as required by New Jersey statutes, including but not limited to assisting the Municipal Clerk, acting in the absence of the Municipal Clerk, and maintaining official records.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer, Municipal Clerk, and all appropriate parties.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Sanchez – absent

Councilwoman Mazzer – yes

Council President Cimiluca – yes

*** CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE

*** APPLICATIONS**

NONE

*** REPORTS**

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

Council President Cimiluca – We talked about Lyster Avenue. Is there any other old business that we'd like to go over at this point?

Mayor White - No I think we're we covered it.

Council President Cimiluca – We covered it during comments. We covered definitely Lyster Avenue we are going to be talking about that and see maybe what we can do is Mr. Homsy I'm going to throw that in your lap if we could just see what other towns that have resident parking have done. What kind of stickers or nowadays everything is digital you have got to give your license plates. You know, again it may infringe on your freedom because you're giving a lot of information to some to a government agency but again that's something that we're going to work on.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Accomando - Through the chair with the parking permits. I grew up in Lodi so as you did but I think by the time you left the parking passes were gone.

Council President Cimiluca – What's that? When I started there, there were no cars. They were just inventing cars.

Councilman Accomando - So what we did is we had to have a sticker on primary cars for their household and if somebody was staying overnight you just called in and gave the license plate number and it was good for usually two days. Anything after two days you had to call back.

Council President Cimiluca – I actually was there when they started that and I and I know that there were some people just like I said there were some let's put it Playboys that had frequent overnight guests a variety of overnight guests and they just didn't want to tell the police who was sleeping over and it caused a little bit of a problem but they solved it

Councilman Accomando - But the only problem with the parking passes for non-residents is it's an additional cost at the Town opposed to just calling up the Police Department and saying listen this is my address this is my tag number to be staying overnight. It's an inconvenience to you guys but it's a lot less cost than to making 50, 60, 100 more tags whatever the cost.

Mayor White – Decals or something.

Council President Cimiluca – I would just think that the way it's going to work is if there's two people who live there you're going to get two. If there's you know five people that drive and you got five cars you're going to get five and then like you said maybe we can do a call in just so when they go down that road and I know listen it's a small street. I don't expect there to be a lot of action over there but they can call in and say you know it's you know XYZ123 that's going to be an overnight guest we're there for a day or two.

Councilman Accomando - Or honestly just take your car out of the driveway and let your guests use the driveway.

Council President Cimiluca – There's ways to do it right.

Mr. Homs - Through the Chair if you don't mind.

Council President Cimiluca – Yes sir Mr. Homs.

Mr. Homs - If you want I can meet with some of the PD representatives and come up with maybe a couple of recommendations for the Council consideration.

Council President Cimiluca – Sure General Buchak maybe. Under new business I just I saw something are we sending someone to the County on Monday for the allocation application?

Mayor White – Yes we had the meeting it was a Zoom meeting.

Council President Cimiluca – It happened already.

Mayor White – Yeah it happened not for the allocation, just to vote for the officers.

Council President Cimiluca – Okay you know because it made it seem like if we didn't show up on the 15th we would get shut out.

Mayor White – No they're very they're very strict with that now no we're good.

Council President Cimiluca – I was going to say if you don't have anyone to go it's 4:30 I'll attend if you need me.

Mayor White – That one is you have to you have to go there it's in person.

Council President Cimiluca – So, we have somebody going.

Mayor White –Yeah.

Council President Cimiluca – Any other new business? We kind of bypassed Mr. Klein is there any other thing that you want to talk about parks maybe or general engineering stuff?

Mr. Klein – Kern Park is done it's being used. I was there earlier today. There were little children using it and parents sitting on the benches which have been returned and bolted down. I just asked the contractor to do a little bit of top soiling on the you know along the walkway but it's available to be used. Nothing to add with the pickle ball courts.

Council President Cimiluca – Monday we're thinking we're going to have the nets.

Mr. Klein – I was told they're going to arrive Monday. Then they have to be installed I don't know if they're going to be installed Monday or Tuesday but I will keep on them.

Council President Cimiluca – We have our pickleball aficionados that are I'm sure waiting there with their paddles.

Mr. Klein – With the Spray Park as was mentioned the house is down. The contractor is out there starting his form work he's going to be doing the plumbing work. He gave me a schedule I would expect that around the end of school year is looking like when more realistic when it's going to be done which is fine. That's when the kiddies come out and they'll want to use it and then the last one that'll come out will be the basketball court on Fifth Street. We submitted a grant request to have that playground replaced as well in Fifth Street this is the Fifth Street Park.

Council President Cimiluca – Okay.

Mr. Klein – There'll be a basketball court there constructed and then the playground that's there now we put in a grant request to have it replaced and that's it.

Council President Cimiluca – I was going to ask you about Fifth Street. There's going to be parking a couple of parking spaces in there.

Mr. Klein – Yes.

Council President Cimiluca – So it's going to be partially paved and then.

Mr. Klein – There'll be an entrance It'll be paved. It'll be paved up to about five parking spots and then the basketball court.

Council President Cimiluca – I'm going to bring it up now since we're kind of in new business Mayor and everybody are we utilizing that trailer that used to be Fire and Recreation that's when you go into in the Veterans Field the parking lot like when you walk in.

Mayor White - Yeah it's being used but it's mostly storage and some of the different sports use it the commissioners.

Council President Cimiluca – My thought is especially when you're going to well there's always a need for parking and we may have an issue with Nourison you know who knows. Is there a way that we can think about or maybe put our heads together and see if we take that out how many more spaces we can get in that lot. We've got plenty of storage room here and see if we can maybe or reconfigure it so this way it's not in that area maybe get 10 more parking spaces out.

Mayor White – We can get a few more.

Council President Cimiluca – Maybe we can talk to Mr. Gallo and recreation and Mr. Homsy and Mr. Klein and see if it's worth it to do it. If it's not really serving that much of a purpose it may be time to get rid of it. It is old and dumpy looking too. Anything else under new business? Anybody else?

Mr. Homsy – Sorry I apologize through the Chair there is one.

Council President Cimiluca – You know what? You may have a new a new feature here and that is the Business Administrator like telling what's going on in your professional life report. Like a BA report maybe we'll do that.

Mr. Homsy – It's all Saddle Brook.

Council President Cimiluca – Huh?

Mr. Homsy – It's all Saddle Brook.

Council President Cimiluca – Obviously it's all Saddle Brook but anything that's coming up that we don't that we haven't talked about that you know of because you're the BA and you're like the guy you're the contact person.

Mr. Homsy – I'll stew on that for the next moment or two but there is one item of old business that I'm going to refer to Mr. Schettino to give an update on a legal matter that has recently been resolved.

Mr. Schettino - Yes so I guess over a year ago a complaint was filed a complaint was filed by a resident contending that a decision that was made by our Zoning Board was discriminatory and for whatever reason they also included the governing body even though the decision was made by the Zoning Board and we received a decision today that said there was no discrimination in dismissing the complaint that was filed.

Council President Cimiluca – Awesome. Are you stewed?

Mr. Homsy – Yes. One item actually more than a few items in this budget that was introduced tonight. One item that it will actually be in the capital budget but that one item that we're it's been kind of years in the making that we're proud to have installed and it's not really much of a forward-facing product but it's really the lifeline of our financial system is our financial actual software product that we use to implement taxes keep track and issue taxes and bills and water bills and all that. We currently use a company called Munidex and we will through the support of everyone and also all the departments and supervisors we'll be upgrading that to Edmunds for many different reasons. This will provide us the best efficient and effective services and product in the market that 90 plus of the communities in New Jersey use. This will bring us up to you know to current standards current technology. So it will help the staff it will help the residents and we're excited to implement that. That will begin the transition takes about a year we're a few months into that transition so it'll be some point in early to mid-2027 but I'm excited that that's free up their time. They're actually very excited usually employees aren't always open to change and especially a software system. They're very open and excited for this change which will come early next year.

Council President Cimiluca – Financially I mean does it cost a lot more?

Mr. Homsy - It's just really just the upfront costs but year-to-year it's comparable in terms of cost but in terms of functionality and providing a better more efficiency to the staff it will save them a ton of time and it will be better it's a lot more reliable and robust.

Council President Cimiluca – Time is money we all know this, right?

Mr. Homsy - For the residents as well.

Mayor White - Our IT guy is supporting it 100%.

Council President Cimiluca – Anything else happening that the Township should be aware of? Your time to shine my friend.

Mr. Homsy - We have put it on social media and it's a big issue that all the communities are facing in New Jersey the Ebikes. That law I believe in June or July will become able to enforce. So we'll be sharing that but that is a large a very forward-facing issue that you know the residents and riders should be aware of that the PD will be out enforcing when that when the time allows.

Council President Cimiluca – Do you have to have?

Mr. Homsy - There's certain definitions but you will have to have a license, registration, insurance.

Council President Cimiluca – Commander Buchak is here is there also a helmet required?

Mr. Homsy - I think some will require I don't know about all of them but some will because there's different definitions of different depending on the speed and so on and so forth but some will require I believe.

Council President Cimiluca – I think it goes by how many miles per hour the bike can go has different type of.

Councilman Accomando - I guess maybe a training bike has to wear a helmet why shouldn't somebody on a scooter go a lot faster than a training bike.

Council President Cimiluca – I don't disagree with you but our people in the legislature who enacted it if it's in there then it's in there but I believe that they do have to wear it.

Mayor White – On that note I spoke to the Chief he's going to do some kind of roadside educational program. Have officers that are on the side pulling them over and talking to them and explaining the law.

Council President Cimiluca – That's part of our Community Policing. Okay anybody else before we open the meeting to agenda items?

Mayor White - I just want to wish everybody a Happy Mother's Day I forgot that and wish Pete well. I went to see him last night he's in good spirits.

Council President Cimiluca – I talked to him yesterday and he sounded a lot better than he sounded two days before. So you know best of luck to him get back soon and I want to commend Mr. Barrale who's done a fantastic job here. A little golf clap for you. I'll entertain a motion to open the meeting to the public on agenda items only.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

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

Council President Cimiluca – Meeting is now open to the public on agenda items. Anyone wishes to address the Council and the Mayor on any agenda items? Seeing none I'll entertain a motion to close the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilman Accomando

Second: Councilman Gierak

Roll Call:

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

Council President Cimiluca – Any final comments besides happy Mother's Day and enjoy your Memorial Day and be safe out there?

There are no more comments.

Council President Cimiluca – Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Councilwoman Mazzer

Second: Councilman Gierak

Roll Call:

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Barrale, RMC
Deputy Clerk

Andrew M. Cimiluca
Council President

Approved: