

**BOROUGH OF FOLSOM  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
August 13, 2024**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:37 PM**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG LED BY MAYOR GLENN SMITH**

**OPENING STATEMENT:** *Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the directives of the “Open Public Meetings Act”, pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice of this meeting has been advertised in the Hammonton Gazette and Atlantic City Press and has been posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board showing the time and place of said meeting.*

**ROLL CALL:** Councilpersons: Conway, Whittaker, Norman, Hoffman and Blazer

**Absent: Councilman Porretta**

**Also present:** Mayor Glenn Smith, Clerk Patti Gatto, Solicitor Angela Costigan, and CJ Kaenzig from Polistina & Assoc.

**APPROVAL OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES July 9, 2024**

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Councilman Whittaker*

*There was a roll call vote with ayes all.*

**APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES July 9, 2024**

*A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Blazer and seconded by Councilman Hoffman*

*There was a roll call vote with ayes all.*

*Vince Sera, Mayor of Brigantine came before Mayor and Council to look for support in opposing the Industrial Offshore Wind Project.*

*Diane Eby (1213 Mays Landing Rd.) and Frank Calletta from the Disabled American Veterans presented the Borough of Folsom with a new Eagle for the American Flag.*

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: *No comments***

**CLERK’S CORRESPONDENCE:**

*Borough Hall Offices will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2024 in observance of Labor Day.*

*Next E-Waste Day is September 14, 2024 from 8:00AM to 1:00PM at 1461 Backline Rd.*

*Annual Shred Day is scheduled for September 28, 2024 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM*

**ORDINANCES: None**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Consent Agenda: All matters listed under Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by this Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

**BOROUGH OF FOLSOM**

**RESOLUTION #2024-69**

**A RESOLUTION PROPOSING THAT RAILROADS ALWAYS MAINTAIN ACCURATE, ELECTRONIC INFORMATION ABOUT RAIL HAZMAT SHIPMENTS IN A TRAIN**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Egg Harbor River Council was established to manage the long-term protection of the natural, cultural, and recreational values for which the Great Egg Harbor River and Bay were designated by Congress in 1992: and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association (GEHWA) serves as the host organization for the local management and implementation of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River, and is the recipient of federal funds from the National Park Service through Cooperative Agreements: and

**WHEREAS**, there are twenty-three railroad crossings over the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries, seventeen of which are active: and

**WHEREAS**, there have been derailments in Ohio, Montana, and Pennsylvania that have been hazardous to both the public and the environment: and

**WHEREAS**, the USDOT has proposed a new rule aimed at improving public safety and preventing environmental impacts by strengthening requirements governing railroads' provision of hazardous materials information to responders during a hazmat incident: and

**WHEREAS**, first responders in the Great Egg Harbor Watershed currently do not know what is being transported in train cars: and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that first responders and municipal emergency managers know accurate and updated information on what is in train cars passing through their towns so that they are prepared to respond in order to minimize hazards to the public and the environment.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Folsom Council of the Borough of Folsom, at its August 13, 2024 Regular Meeting, supports the USDOT proposal that would require railroads to always maintain-and update in real-time—accurate, electronic information about rail hazmat shipments in a train that would be accessible to authorized emergency response personnel and required to proactively “push” that information to authorized local first response personnel as soon as the railroad is aware of an incident involving any hazardous materials.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copy of this resolution be forwarded to Congressman Jeff Van Drew and all twelve river council municipalities

**(TABLED)**

BOROUGH OF FOLSOM  
RESOLUTION #2024-70

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FOLSOM VIGOROUSLY OPPOSING  
THE INDUSTRIAL OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Governor Phil Murphy continues to push for approval of two massive offshore wind turbine projects at the Jersey Shore (Atlantic Shore Offshore Wind and Offshore Wind 1, LLC) spanning more than 100,000 acres of undeveloped ocean adjacent to and which will be starkly visible from the public's beaches and coastline (collectively "Industrial Offshore Wind Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's Energy Master Plan is the result of only the governor's executive orders and not a policy debated, examine, approved

**WHEREAS**, the facts set forth as below establish that the proposed Industrial Offshore Wind Project on public property will industrialize the Atlantic Ocean and New Jersey Shore ("Shore") in exchange for extreme electricity rate hikes, significant damage to the environment and marine life, the degradation of the Shore, significant job loss, devastation of the State's fishing and tourism industries, millions in lost State tax revenue, and enormous financial cost to the State's residents.

1. The Industrial Offshore Wind Project turbines include up to 300 massive wind turbine structures, each as high as the Eiffel Tower (1,000ft+) and almost as wide as tall (900ft+). The closest turbine structures will be located approximately 8.5 miles from the coast and clearly visible to residents and tourists who live or travel to the Shore for the environment, unspoiled views, and way of life. The turbines will be among the largest, tallest, and closest-to-a-coastline ever built. In 2006-08, when the areas were designated for offshore wind energy, proposed tower heights were approximately 200 to 400 feet, and rotor diameters were under 328 feet. By analogy, when the plan was hatched essentially 300 single-family houses were to be built at the Shore and it is now a proposal for a cityscape comprised of 300 immense and imposing skyscrapers.

2. An independent analysis concludes that the cost of the Industrial Offshore Wind Project will exceed \$100 billion and raise electric customer rates by 55% for residential customers, 70% for commercial customers, and 85% for industrial customers. For context, in 2024 wholesale power purchase prices are roughly \$55 dollars per megawatt-hour, whereas the Board of Public Utilities recently approved contracts for offshore wind with a price of \$144 per megawatt-hour. In addition, the costs associated with transmission upgrades to distribute the electricity are forecast to increase progressively from \$1 per megawatt-hour to roughly \$40 per megawatt-hour by 2047.

3. Studies establish that the Industrial Offshore Wind Project will convert a pristine public natural and economic resource into a mammoth industrial eyesore in exchange for a

catastrophic loss in tourism revenue, jobs, and property values, and, therefore, will be a significant economic burden imposed upon all State residents. A 2024 study prepared by Tourism Economics, an Oxford Economics Company (“Oxford Report”), establishes that the Offshore Wind Project will cause losses for the Long Beach Island municipalities of approximately 835,000 annual visitors, \$450.2 million in tourism spending, a total economic impact (loss) of \$668.2 million, and a total loss of State and local tax revenue of \$80.3 million. Studies further show at least 25% of beachgoers would switch beaches to avoid the visual blight caused by the Industrial Offshore Wind Project. Moreover, as admitted by the federal government, the fishing industry will be diminished by the resultant navigational hazards, habitat conversion, fish aggregation, migration disturbances, and space-use conflicts.

4. Studies establish that the testing, construction, and operation of the Industrial Offshore Wind Project, though sold as green energy, has and will significantly damage the environment. There is little doubt it has and will continue to negatively impact the behavior of marine fish and mammals, including causing confusion, compelling them to swim ashore, and preventing them from diving and feeding (since the start of sonar surveying and seismic testing an unprecedented number of marine mammals have washed ashore and died). There is also no question it will cause significant environmental and wildlife damage onshore.

5. Studies support the conclusion that the Industrial Offshore Wind Project will not reduce global warming or CO2 emissions. In fact, Harvard University found that the installation of scores of wind turbines in concentrated areas will actually raise surface temperature, especially in the immediate area of the turbines. The Harvard researchers concluded, “[t]he direct climate impacts of wind power are instant, while the benefits of reduced emissions accumulate slowly. If your perspective is the next 10 years, wind power actually has – in some respects – more climate impact than coal or gas.” Further, the Oxford Report establishes that offshore wind energy production is the most expensive form of renewable energy produced on a large-scale.

6. The Industrial Offshore Wind Project fails to include any ongoing funding for the ultimate removal/decommissioning and/or replacement of the turbines, which means at the end of their useful life the companies could decline to remove them and either go out of business or file for bankruptcy. The State’s residents, therefore, will likely be forced to either live with over 200 decaying Eiffel Towers in their ocean off their Shore or pay the costs associated with removing them.

7. The sole conclusion is that the Industrial Offshore Wind Project is designed to be funded by all State residents and businesses, significantly higher electricity rates and significant loss of jobs and tax revenue, will cause environmental and wildlife devastation, will irreparably damage the tourism, fishing industries, and overall State economy in the form of higher overhead energy costs, will not produce actual green energy, and the State’s residents will be left to pay for the removal of or live with the massive, decaying turbines. Indeed, if it is built, the State’s residents will trade their priceless and pristine natural and hard-earned economic resources for a significantly higher cost of living and significantly lower quality of life and environment, and, incredibly, without the purported green energy benefits.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the FOLSOM COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOLSOM, County of ATLANTIC, State of New Jersey, and in accordance with the foregoing Recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference, that the BOROUGH OF FOLSOM vigorously supports legitimate green and renewable energy projects, but vigorously

opposes the non-green Industrial Offshore Wind Project due to its real and present threat to the health, environmental, and financial health, welfare, and safety of all State residents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the BOROUGH OF FOLSOM will petition the leaders in the state legislature to put a halt to all work on offshore wind projects and will ask the legislative leaders to empanel a body of lawmakers, energy experts, environmentalists and electric generation experts, consumers, fisherman and other stakeholders to develop a practical, effective, long-term energy plan for New Jersey's future, and;

**ALSO, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the BOROUGH OF FOLSOM is encouraging all other **municipal and county** elected officials to examine the financial and environmental impact of the governor's wind turbine plan and its impact on homeowners and businesses, and to call on the state legislature to put a halt to ALL offshore wind projects until such time as an energy panel, described above is formed and develops a practical, effective, long-term energy plan for New Jersey's future.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, *Senator Vince Polistina, Assembly representatives Donald Guardian and Claire Swift*, Governor Murphy, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

PASSED ON: August 13, 2024

### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Patricia M. Gatto, Municipal Clerk for the Borough of Folsom do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. #2024-70 was duly adopted by the Borough of Folsom at their regular meeting held on August 13, 2024.

### **RESOLUTION 2024-71 BOROUGH OF FOLSOM**

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO EXTEND THE THIRD QUARTER 2024 GRACE PERIOD**

**WHEREAS**, there was a delay in receiving the certification of the 2024 tax rate from the Atlantic County Board of Taxation and, therefore, the Borough of Folsom will need to extend the grace period of the third quarter 2024 tax installment; and,

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.4 allows for an extension of the interest free period for the third quarter installment of taxes that being twenty -five days after mailing of the last tax bill, after which interest will accrue from August 1, 2024.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Folsom, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to extend the grace period for the third quarter 2024 due to the delay in the certification of the tax rate.

**BOROUGH OF FOLSOM**

**RESOLUTION # 2024-72**

**A RESOLUTION TO SELL BLOCK 2505, LOTS 1642,1643 and 1644**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Folsom is the owner of certain real property located on Block 2505, lots 1642, 1643 and 1644 which property is not needed or required for municipal use; and

**WHEREAS**, the lots are less than the minimum size required for development under the municipal ordinance and are without capital improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, these lots were included in a public sale which was held on July 5, 2021 for contiguous property owners and on July 21, 2021 for the general public pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13; and

**WHEREAS**, no offers to purchase the real property located on Block 2505, lots 1642, 1643 and 1644 were made at that time; and

**WHEREAS**, an offer of \$1,000.00 per lot was made by Rachael Speakman; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Borough of Folsom deems it in the best interests of the residents of the Borough of Folsom to accept the bid and sell the property in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Folsom that the offer for Block 2505, lots 1642, 1643 and 1644 is accepted and that the property be sold for the amount of \$1000.00 per lot or \$3,000.00 total.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk and the Mayor are authorized to execute any and all closing documents to effectuate the sale.

**RESOLUTION 2024-73  
BOROUGH OF FOLSOM**

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A.40A:87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any municipality when such items shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Folsom in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024 in the sum of \$8,302.36, which is now available from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Clean Communities Grant Fund.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the like sum of \$8,302.36 is hereby appropriated under the caption Clean Communities Grant

**BOROUGH OF FOLSOM  
RESOLUTION #2024-74**

A Resolution to Rescind Resolution #2024-64

**WHEREAS**, at its meeting of July 11, 2024, the Council of the Borough of Folsom passed Resolution #2024-64 to authorize the acceptance of the proposal from AJR Masonry, LLC for the Falcon's Nest Park Dugout Improvements (Contract #33) in the amount of \$22,801.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Falcon's Nest Park Improvements and the Falcon's Nest Dugout Improvements will be a combined project and will be advertised and bid at a later date; therefore, the proposal and Resolution #2024-64 must be rescinded;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Resolution #2024-64 is hereby rescinded.

**BOROUGH OF FOLSOM  
RESOLUTION #2024-75**

A Resolution to Rescind Resolution #2024-63

**WHEREAS**, at its meeting of July 11, 2024, the Council of the Borough of Folsom passed Resolution #2024-63 to authorize the acceptance of the proposal from Angerman Landscape Construction Co. for the Falcon's Nest Park Improvements (Contract #32) in the amount of \$67,974.05; and

**WHEREAS**, the Falcon's Nest Park Improvements and the Falcon's Nest Dugout Improvements will be a combined project and will be advertised and bid at a later date; therefore, the proposal and Resolution #2024-63 must be rescinded;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Resolution #2024-63 is hereby rescinded.

*A motion to approve Resolutions #2024-95 thru #2024-75 excluding #2024-70 was made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Councilman Blazer*

*There was a roll call vote with ayes all*

*Councilman Whittaker made a motion to table resolution #2024-70 until further research can be done and seconded by Councilman Conway.*

*Conway-Y Whittaker-Y Norman-Y Hoffman-N Blazer-Y*

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** No report

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** *Glenn asked Angela to compose an Ordinance for next month's meeting limiting butterfly habitats to back yards. Glenn reminded residents that the kids will be back in school soon so please use caution when driving and enjoy the rest of the summer.*

**FIRE REPORT:** *Al Norman read Fire Chief report*

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

### **NJDOT FY 2023 Resurfacing of Erie Road, Cherokee Road, Mohawk Drive & Seneca Lane**

All drainage and concrete work have been completed. We have recommended issuing a partial payment to Arawak in the amount of \$84,084.60 for Payment Application No. 1 Arawak is scheduled to complete milling, paving, and all other remaining work in late August or early September.

### **NJDOT FY 2024 Resurfacing of Fenimore Drive, Lenape Terrace & Mohawk Drive**

Think Pavers has completed all work on the project. We have recommended issuing a partial payment to Think Pavers in the amount of \$3,828.37 for Payment Application No. 2. We will conduct the final site inspection with NJDOT in the next few weeks, and will prepare the final payment documents for September.

### **NJDCA FY 2023-2024 Local Recreation Improvement Grant Projects**

The Borough has received \$110,000 in Local Recreation Improvement Grant funding for improvements to Falcon's Nest Park (\$50K in 2023 and \$60K in 2024). Due to several factors, the Borough has rescinded the award of the previous two contracts, Falcon's Nest Park Field Improvements and Falcon's Nest Park Dugout Improvements.

Instead, we will be incorporating the proposed improvements from these two projects, along with improvements to the asphalt walkway, into one collective project. We will prepare the plans and specs required for public bidding, submit the plans and specs for approval, receive bids at the end of the month, and award at the September meeting so the work can be completed this fall. The Borough will also benefit from an administrative and construction management standpoint by completing all of the work under one contract.

### **South Pinewood Drive Concrete Curbing**

The contractor, LC Concrete, began the curb work on Monday, August 12 and anticipates completing the work on Wednesday, August 14.

### **Eighth Street Bridge (BV-02) Replacement**

Atlantic County held a pre-construction conference for the bridge replacement project on Tuesday, July



30. The County, NJDOT, consultant engineer (French & Parrello Associates), and contractor (South State) were present to discuss the initiation of the project. Mayor Smith, John LaPollo and I were present on behalf of the Borough. It is anticipated that Eighth Street will be closed between Mays Landing Road and Second Road from September 2024 thru April 2025.

**COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Councilman Conway:** *Greg stated he received a request from the Disabled American Vet's to help with grants. They are looking for help in researching grants. They would like to install air conditioning. Greg reported that the Cub Scouts are looking for members. Greg is looking to hold another street clean up day on October 5, 2024.*

**Councilman Norman:** *No report*

**Councilman Porretta:** *No report.*

**Councilman Whittaker:** *Jim read the safety report.*

**Councilman Hoffman:** *Jim discussed the status of the house on 14<sup>th</sup> Street.*

**Councilman Blazer:** *No report*

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: NO COMMENTS**

**PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF:** \$587,940.06 and \$16.00

*A motion to approve payment was made by Councilman Norman and seconded by Councilman Whittaker*

*There was a roll call vote with ayes all*

Mayor Smith reminded the public that all other monthly reports are on file in the minute book.

Please visit the Borough of Folsom website at [folsomborough.com](http://folsomborough.com) for updated Borough information and the Borough of Folsom Facebook page.

The next regular meeting of Mayor and Council will be held on Tuesday, **September 10, 2024** starting with a workshop meeting at 6:00 pm and continuing immediately thereafter with the regular meeting in Borough Hall, 1700 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Folsom, NJ

With no other discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Gatto  
Municipal Clerk





