

**TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS  
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 7, 2026**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Foster called the meeting to order and the Township Clerk stated adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by forwarding a copy to the Courier News, Star Ledger and posting on the Township website, at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting, all in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act

**ROLL CALL**

The following Council members were present:

John Foster

Bill Machado

Andrew Moran

Susan Poage

Also present were:

Township Administrator: Liza Viana

Township Clerk: Angela Lazzari

Township Attorney: Scott Salmon

Township CFO: Diane Sherry

Absent:

Mayor Angie Devanney

Alvaro Medeiros

Margaret Illis

**FLAG SALUTE**

Mr. Foster asked everyone present to stand for the Flag Salute.

**CONFERENCE SESSION**

1. Debt Presentation – Heather Litzbauer, NW Financial, presented.

*Mr. Foster opened the floor to questions from the public.*

Joe Iadanza, 923 Mountain Avenue, asked about financial responsibilities for Connell. Heather and Liza responded.

2. 2026 Municipal Budget Presentation – Liza Viana and Diane Sherry presented.

Mrs. Poage and Mr. Foster discussed with Liza and Diane.

*Mr. Foster opened the floor to questions from the public.*

Sai Akiri Bhargavi, 146 Robbins Ave., had a question about slide 6 from presentation. Liza and Diane responded.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting March 16, 2026, August 26, 2024, July 23, 2024, March 19, 2024

Mover: Mr. Foster  
Seconder: Mrs. Poage  
Ayes: Mr. Foster, Mr. Machado, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Poage  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Mr. Medeiros, Mrs. Illis  
Result: Approved

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION**

Ordinance 2026-05

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)

Mover: Mr. Machado  
Seconder: Mrs. Poage  
Ayes: Mr. Foster, Mr. Machado, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Poage  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Mr. Medeiros, Mrs. Illis

**INTRODUCTION OF 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

*Resolution 2026-146*: Resolution authorizing the approval of the 2026 Municipal Budget for introduction and establishing May 5, 2026, as the date of public hearing and final adoption.

Mover: Mr. Moran  
Seconder: Mrs. Poage  
Ayes: Mr. Foster, Mr. Machado, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Poage  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Mr. Medeiros, Mrs. Illis

**CITIZENS HEARING**

*Opening of the Citizens Hearing*

Mover: Mrs. Poage  
Seconder: Mr. Foster  
Ayes: Mr. Foster, Mrs. Illis, Mr. Machado, Mrs. Poage  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Mr. Medeiros, Mrs. Illis

***Mr. Foster read a statement regarding the procedures for public comment.***

***Mayor Devanney arrived at 7:20pm***

Natasha Joly, 60 Orion Rd., asked about funding for the Lower Columbia Field and also asked about a contract with Berkeley Heights BOE. Liza and the Mayor responded.

Debbie Varnerin, 20 Wardle Ave., responded to the questions/comments on the Columbia Field project.

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Natasha Joly, 60 Orion Rd., reapproached to talk further about the field project

Patricia Robertson, 31 Highland Circle, had additional questions about the field project. Debbie Varnerin reapproached and responded.

Tom Foregger, 14 Dorset Rd., had budget questions as it pertains to the Levy cap. Diane and Liza responded.

Sai Akiri Bhargavi, 146 Robbins Ave., asked about NJDEP permits (Lower Columbia) and whether we have something in writing stating they are not required. Debbie Varnerin and Liza responded.

David Sankel, 75 Grandview Ave., spoke about budget management.

Joe Iadanza, 923 Mountain Ave., asked what will happen after the Mayoral election with regard to electing a new Council member. The Mayor responded. He also had Tax map questions. Mr. Foster responded. His question on the Bill List was answered by Mr. Moran and Liza.

Sai Akiri Bhargavi, 146 Robbins Ave., had additional questions about police vehicles and officers on the payroll. Frank Mea, Police Chief, Mr. Moran, responded.

Tom Foregger, 14 Dorset Rd., had questions about the Library appropriation and Police vehicles. The Mayor and Police Chief, responded.

*Closing of the Citizens Hearing*

Mover: Mrs. Poage  
Secunder: Mr. Foster  
Ayes: Mr. Foster, Mrs. Illis, Mr. Machado, Mrs. Poage  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Mr. Medeiros, Mrs. Illis

**CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Township Council and will be enacted upon by one motion; 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.

Resolution No. 2026-

- 147. Resolution approving Bill List dated April 7, 2026, in the amount of \$1,238,358.29.
- 148. Resolution to establish a change fund for the Recreation Department.
- 149. Resolution authorizing the refund of tax overpayments for various properties within the Township.

- 150. Resolution authorizing a list of firms qualified to provide professional engineering services for special projects to the Township pursuant to the RFQ process.
- 151. Resolution authorizing the Clerk to proceed with going out to bid for the Lower Columbia Park project.
- 152. Resolution adopting a cash payment rounding policy.
- 153. Resolution authorizing the contract change order for the Improvements to Middle Way and Winchip Road project.
- 154. Resolution authorizing the contract change order for the Improvements to Deerpath Lane project.
- 155. Resolution authorizing the contract change order for the Sherman Avenue Revitalization project.

Motion to adopt Consent Agenda Resolutions 2026-147 through 2026-155

Mover: Mr. Foster  
Seconder: Mr. Moran  
Ayes: Mr. Foster, Mr. Machado, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Poage  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Mr. Medeiros, Mrs. Illis  
**Result: *Adopted***

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION**

*Public Hearing and Final Adoption scheduled for April 21, 2026*

Ordinance 2026-06

ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE TO PRO-RATE RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE FEES FOR NEW BUSINESS OWNERS AND ESTABLISH A FEE FOR EXPIRED LICENSES.

Approval of Ordinance for Introduction

Mover: Mr. Machado  
Seconder: Mr. Foster  
Ayes: Mr. Foster, Mr. Machado, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Poage  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
**Result: *Approved***

**TOWNSHIP COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Council members provided Council Reports and Committee updates.  
Mayor Angie Devanney and Ms. Liza Viana provided the Administration reports.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Contract negotiations – Free Acres  
Potential Litigation

**Motion to enter Executive Session**

Mover: Mr. Foster  
Seconder: Mrs. Poage  
Ayes: Mr. Foster, Mr. Machado, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Poage  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Mrs. Illis, Mr. Medeiros

*At 8:34pm Council entered Executive Session*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Foster and all were in favor.  
(9:44 p.m.)

**Approved: April 21, 2026**

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**Angela Lazzari  
Township Clerk**