

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY
HELD ON FEBRUARY 2ND, 2026**

A regular meeting of Borough Council for the Borough of Audubon Park, was convened in the Audubon Park Town Center, 2 Road C, Audubon Park, NJ at 7:13P.M on February 2nd, 2026

Mayor Brian Burns called the meeting to order and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Ryan Giles performs a roll call.

Councilwoman Foti	HERE
Councilman Goebel	HERE
Councilman Hassett	HERE
Councilwoman Lewis	HERE
Councilwoman Lowe	HERE
Councilwoman Paratore	HERE

Justin Strausser, Esq. was also present.

Ryan Giles, Clerk, announced this meeting was advertised in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, and complies with all the laws therein.

Ryan Giles asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the reorganization meeting held January 5th, 2062, regular meeting held January 5th, 2026 and special meeting held January 18th, 2026.

Councilwoman Paratore makes a motion to accept the minutes from the reorganization meeting held January 5th, 2062, regular meeting held January 5th, 2026 and special meeting held January 18th, 2026.

Councilman Goebel seconds the motion

All members vote in favor

Motion Carries

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

ENGINEER'S REPORT -

Ryan Giles moved on to the Engineer's Report and asked if there were any questions.

Councilman Goebel inquired about the 2023 Recreation Grant for the pickleball and bocce courts, noting that it is a 100% matching grant.

Ryan Giles stated that he, the Mayor, and Jack had discussed the matter and clarified that their role is not to make financial decisions. He added that the Borough may lose the grant, as the current focus is on the pavilion and other components of that project.

Councilman Hassett asked why there was such a significant difference in bid prices for the roof project.

Mayor Burns confirmed that he spoke with the engineers and that the bidder in question submitted all required documentation and met the project requirements.

Ryan Giles moves on to new business, we have the introduction of Ordinance #2026:01, ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a cap bank (N.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) We need a motion to accept

Councilwoman Paratore makes a motion to accept Ordinance #2026:01

Councilman Goebel seconds the motion

Councilwoman Foti	YES
Councilman Goebel	YES
Councilman Hassett	YES
Councilwoman Lewis	YES
Councilwoman Lowe	YES
Councilwoman Paratore	YES

MOTION CARRIES: VOTE 6-0

***ORDINANCE NO. 2026:01
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)***

WHEREAS, the Local Government CAP Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget

to **2.0%** unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to **3.5%** over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the **3.5%** percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS, the *Governing Body* of the *Borough* of *Audubon Park* in the County of *Camden* finds it advisable and necessary to increase its **CY 2026** budget by up to **3.5%** over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the *Governing Body* of the *Borough* of *Audubon Park* in the County of *Camden* hereby determines that a **1.5%** increase in the budget for said year, amounting to **\$ 6,687.06** excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government CAP Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the *Governing Body* of the *Borough* of *Audubon Park* in the County of *Camden* hereby determines that any amount authorized herein above that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the *Governing Body* of the *Borough* of *Audubon Park* in the County of *Camden*, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the **CY 2026** budget year, the final appropriations of the *Borough* of *Audubon Park* shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by **3.5%**, amounting to **\$ 15,603.13**, and that the **CY 2026** municipal budget for the *Borough* of *Audubon Park* be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized herein above that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Ryan Giles moves on to new business, He states the items listed below are considered to be routine by the Borough of Audubon Park and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Ryan Giles asked for a motion to accept Resolution #2026:28-#2026:31

Councilwoman Paratore makes a motion to accept Resolutions #2026:28-#2026:31

Councilwoman Lowe seconds the motion

Councilwoman Foti	YES
Councilman Goebel	YES
Councilman Hassett	YES
Councilwoman Lewis	YES
Councilwoman Lowe	YES
Councilwoman Paratore	YES

MOTION CARRIES: VOTE 6-0

**BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK
COUNTY OF CAMDEN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION 2026:28
RESOLUTION CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual and political development; and

WHEREAS, in 1915 Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted Black Scholar and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week, February 12, 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen so as to coincide with the

birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1976 as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Black History Months calls our Nation's attention to the continued need to battle racism and to build a society that lives up to American ideals;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Audubon Park, in the County of Camden and State of New Jersey do hereby proclaim February 2025 as Black History Month and urge all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture.

**BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK
COUNTY OF CAMDEN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING FOR USE OF FIELD WITH THE AUDUBON SOCCER YOUTH
ASSOCIATION**

RESOLUTION #2026:29

WHEREAS, the Borough of Audubon Park (the "Borough") owns the soccer field located at 2 Road C in the Borough of Audubon Park, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, now and/or formerly known as the "Audubon Park Soccer Field"; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to allow the Audubon Soccer Youth Association to use the Field subject to terms and conditions set forth in the attached Memorandum of Understanding for Use of Field.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Audubon Park hereby authorize and approve the Memorandum of Understanding for

Use of Field by and between the Borough of Audubon Park and the Audubon Soccer Youth Association, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized to execute such documents as may be necessary to implement this resolution, including but not limited to the Memorandum of Understanding for Use of Field in the form attached hereto Exhibit "A."

RESOLUTION #2026:30

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK AND THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN FOR PROJECT SAVE

WHEREAS, the Borough ("Parties"), is a public entity organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the County of Camden ("Parties") is a body politic and corporate of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, statistics have shown a significant number of municipal court defendants suffer from drug and/or alcohol addiction, which has in large measure contributed to the defendant's commission of non-violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, the Parties have studied various measures available to respond to the substance abuse crisis and have worked with each of their police departments and municipal court officials to determine the best way to connect defendants suffering with addiction with information and options for assessment and/or treatment; and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration, the Parties have determined that a cooperative approach to implement the Project SAVE program, a voluntary substance abuse treatment referral and intervention strategy for municipal court defendants arrested for non-violent crimes, would offer the Parties an effective and efficient means providing these services; and

WHEREAS, the County authorized Shared Services Agreements with participating municipalities for a Project SAVE Program for a term of three years from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, after review of the benefits and successes of the Program, the Parties have determined to continue the Project SAVE Program; and

WHEREAS, to continue with the Project SAVE Program, the Parties have decided to enter into a Shared Services Agreement to authorize the county to procure a vendor on behalf of the Municipality for this Purpose; and

WHEREAS, the term of the Agreement will be for a period of three (3) years, commencing on or about January 1, 2026 and terminating on December 31, 2028; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement is authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq. ("Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act") which permits two or more local units to enter into an Agreement for any service which any party to the Agreement is empowered to render within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that their mutual public purposes and their best interests will be promoted by the execution and delivery of this Shared Services Agreement pursuant to the powers conferred by the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act; and

WHEREAS, the Project SAVE Program for the term stated herein is at no cost to the participating municipalities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Audubon Park, County of Camden, State of New Jersey that it hereby approves and authorizes this Agreement with the County of Camden; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honorable Brian Burns, Mayor of the Borough of Audubon Park, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documentation necessary to effectuate the acceptance of said Agreement.

AWARDING CONTRACT RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2026:31

WHEREAS, the Borough of Audubon Park has advertised for, and received bids for the purpose of the Replacement of the Municipal Building Roof; and

WHEREAS, the qualified low bid of \$114,085.00 was received from Winchester Roofing Corp. of Gibbsboro, New Jersey;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Audubon Park Borough, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that a contract in the amount of \$114,085.00 for the Replacement of the Municipal Building Roof is hereby awarded to Winchester Roofing Corp of Gibbsboro, New Jersey, conditional upon the following:

1. That a certificate has been received from the Municipal Treasurer stating that funds are available for this Contract.
2. That the bid documents and bidding procedures have been reviewed and approved by the Municipal Solicitor.
3. That the presiding officer of this body be and is hereby directed to sign for and on its behalf the Contract for said services.
4. That the clerk of this body be and is hereby directed to seal said Contract with the corporate seal of this body and attest to the same.
5. This Resolution hereby authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to endorse the Contract document.

Ryan Giles moves on to items of discussion, Coffee with Council.

Councilwoman Paratore stated that she and Councilman Hassett have been discussing the idea of hosting “Coffee with Council” on a rotating basis. The concept would involve three Councilmembers meeting informally with residents on a Saturday morning. She explained that the gatherings would be completely casual, with no agenda and no official business conducted. The event would be held at the library, with coffee and donuts provided, and would be open to any residents who wish to attend. She noted that attendance would be limited to three Councilmembers at a time to remain in compliance with the Sunshine Act.

Council discussed the proposed time, date, and frequency of the event. It was agreed that the event would be held at 10:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. Council also discussed which members would attend the first meeting.

Mayor Burns directed a question to Justin regarding the procedures for entering into Executive Session.

Justin Strausser provided an overview of the process Council must follow to hold an Executive Session, including the statutory exemptions that permit such a session and the limitations and rights associated with it. He also explained the requirements for issuing a Rice Notice when matters involving specific personnel are to be discussed.

Ryan Giles moves on to bills & vouchers, we need a motion to pay all the bills and vouchers that are in order of \$255,228.20.

Councilwoman Paratore makes a motion to accept bills & vouchers that are in order
Councilman Goebel seconds the motion

Councilman Hassett questions two of the bills, there are two payments for the same payment amount. Westmont

Jamesen Schell responded that one payment is made to Westmont and the other to the Board of Fire Commissioners in Westmont, as part of the Borough's shared services agreement for EMS. She advised that a copy of the contract is available in the Clerk's Office should anyone wish to review it.

Ryan Giles calls the roll call

Councilwoman Foti	YES
Councilman Goebel	YES
Councilman Hassett	YES
Councilwoman Lewis	YES
Councilwoman Lowe	YES
Councilwoman Paratore	YES

Motions carries: Vote 6-0

Ryan Giles moves on to the public portion, he states individuals must state their name and address for the record and respect the five-minute time limit while addressing the Governing Body. He ask for a motion to open to the public

Councilwoman Lowe makes a motion to open to the public

Councilman Goebel seconds the motion

All in favor

Motion carries

Floor is now open to the public

Sandy Allen, Superintendent of the Audubon School District, reported that Barbie was unable to attend the meeting and relayed the notes provided to her. She invited Council to attend and participate in the Early Childhood Advisory Council meetings, noting that all community members and stakeholders are welcome. She also shared that preschool registration information has been distributed and posted on the District website. Ms. Allen thanked the Borough for its efforts in clearing snow and ice and ensuring that school property was safe for families. She requested use of the field for the Preschool St. Jude Bike-A-Thon on May 8th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The community is invited and encouraged to attend. Council discussed a potential scheduling conflict with soccer and stated that they would reach out to Mike regarding the availability of the field on that date.

Councilwoman Lewis directed a question to Ms. Allen regarding school funding. Ms. Allen responded that additional information regarding funding should be available on April 1st or 2nd.

Council also discussed potential addendums they would like to include in the contract moving forward.

Councilwoman Lewis asked Judy DiPasquale to come forward to be presented with a plaque. She thanked Ms. DiPasquale for her many years of dedication and service to the Borough and Council.

Councilwoman Lowe make a motion to close the floor to the public

Councilman Goebel seconds the motion

All in favor

Motion carries

Floor is now closed to the public

Council discussed the seminar attended by several members, noting that it provided a substantial amount of valuable information for governing bodies. They also acknowledged that various additional training opportunities and seminars are available to all Councilmembers.

Council further discussed upcoming library events, including an adult book club.

Ryan Giles ask for a motion to adjourn

Councilwoman Paratore makes a motion to adjourn

Councilman Goebel seconds the motion

All in Favor

Motion Carries

Meeting is adjourned at 7:23pm