

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY
HELD ON MARCH 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 7:00 P.M on March 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 regular meeting held February 2nd, 2026.

Councilman Goebel makes a motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting held February 2nd, 2026.

Councilwoman Lowe 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 noted that there is one action item for consideration this evening: the adoption of the 2026 CDBG grant application. This

grant will be used to pursue funding for the renovation of the parking lot and improvements to the building. He stated that it is a strong application to move forward. He also shared that a meeting is being scheduled for next week between himself and the Mayor to discuss various upcoming projects. Additionally, a pre-meeting will be held in two weeks to review matters related to the school roof.

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

Councilwoman Paratore makes a motion to open to the public for Ordinance #2026:01

Councilman Goebel seconds the motion

All in favor

Motion Carries

Floor is open to the public for the discussion of Ordinance #2026:01 only.

NO DISCUSSIONS

Councilman Goebel makes a motion to close to the public

Councilwoman Paratore seconds

All in favor

Motion Carries

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

Councilwoman Lowe seconds the motion.

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

Councilwoman Paratore	YES
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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 #2026:32-#2026:38

Councilwoman Paratore makes a motion to accept Resolutions #2026:32-#2026:38

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

**RESOLUTION #2026:32
BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK
COUNTY OF CAMDEN**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK, COUNTY OF
CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE
BOARD OF HEALTH**

WHEREAS, the Borough passed Ordinance #2019-06 on April 1, 2019 which established criteria for appointing Board Members; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health shall consist of a five-member board upon initial appointment shall have staggered terms as follows:

Thomas McFadden- 3-year term (January 5, 2026 to January 5, 2029)

Christopher Stokes- 2-year term (January 5, 2026 to January 5, 2028)

Tomas Whalen - 2-year term (January 5, 2026 to January 5, 2028)

Sheree Martin - 1-year term (January 5, 2026 to January 5, 2027)

Robin Henry - 1-year term (January 5, 2026 to January 5, 2027)

WHEREAS, upon reappointment, each member shall serve a four-year term;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Audubon Park, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the above-individuals are hereby appointed to the Audubon Park Board of Health for the above terms and then upon reappointment serve 4 year terms.

**RESOLUTION #2026:33
COUNTY OF CAMDEN
Earth Day 2026**

WHEREAS, a sound natural environment is the foundation of a healthy society and a robust economy; and

WHEREAS, human activities around the world are causing severe environmental

damage that threatens human health and our planet's ability to sustain a diverse community of life; and

WHEREAS, the knowledge of ways to live in harmony with our environment and methods and technologies to accomplish this end already exist; and

WHEREAS, local communities can do much to reverse environmental degradation and

contribute to building a healthy society by addressing issues such as energy use, transportation, waste prevention, and sprawl; and

WHEREAS, there are sound economic, environmental, and social reasons for local

governments to initiate energy efficiency and renewable energy practices; and

WHEREAS, the environmental realities of our time require humans to make a dramatic

shift in our relationship to the earth; and

WHEREAS, we strive to honor our environmental treasures, preserve open space, promote green practices, and involve the public on all of the important decisions effecting our community's environment; and

WHEREAS, we embrace a commitment to good stewardship in municipal practices; and

WHEREAS, we support all educational efforts to raise conscious awareness about environmental matters involving recycling, clean air, clean water, pesticide use, and all other issues of environmental concern; and

WHEREAS, we have been particularly blessed with a wide variety of magnificent old trees for whose shade, clean air, and enjoyment we give thanks; and

WHEREAS, we seek to mark this occasion by Resolution, to observe Earth Day, on Wednesday, April 22, 2026;

NOW THEREFORE, let it be known that the Borough of Audubon Park recognizes April 22, 2026 as "EARTH DAY" and commits itself to undertaking programs and projects that enhance our community's natural environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough of Audubon Park hereby encourages its

residents to use EARTH DAY to celebrate the Earth and commit to building a sustainable society; and

FURTHERMORE, let it be known that the Borough of Audubon Park commits to the support of programs that further the efficient use of clean, renewable energy within its borders.

**AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CAMDEN
COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION: 2026:34**

WHEREAS, it is hereby established that it is an annual requirement of a Municipality to appoint a voting representative to the Camden County Community Development Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Borough of Audubon Park wishes to continue to be a voting member of said Board; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk is an automatic authorized voting member from above said Municipality to the Camden County Community Development Advisory Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Municipal Clerk - Ryan Giles

is appointed as specified for the Borough of Audubon Park for the term of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 by the Borough Council of above said Municipality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be submitted to Tracy Wilson, Camden County Improvement Authority, 2220 Voorhees Town Center, Voorhees, NJ 08043.

**ARBOR DAY 2026
RESOLUTION #2026:35**

WHEREAS, in 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, 2026 is the 154th anniversary of the holiday and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, trees wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor & Borough Council of the Borough of Audubon Park, County of Camden and State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2026 as the 154th anniversary celebration of **ARBOR DAY** in the Borough of Audubon Park, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all citizens are urged to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well being of this and future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor & Borough Council of the Borough of Audubon Park commend the hard work and accomplishments of the residents of Audubon Park on their celebration of Arbor Day in the Borough of Audubon Park.

RESOLUTION# 2026:36

**BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK
COUNTY OF CAMDEN**

RESOLUTION INCREASING DEFERRED LOCAL SCHOOL TAX

WHEREAS, under the provisions of statute, when a municipality raises school taxes on a school year basis, an amount of not more than fifty percent of the levy may be deferred to the following year, providing no requisition has been made for such amount or any portion of such amount; and

WHEREAS, the *Audubon Borough* School District tax is levied on a school year basis; and

WHEREAS, fifty percent of the school tax levy of the *Audubon Borough* School District levied by the *Borough of Audubon Park* in 2025 is \$ 166,362.50; and

WHEREAS, \$ 159,579.50 of the above amount has previously been deferred, leaving an available balance of \$ 6,783.00 to be deferred.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the *Borough of Audubon Park* hereby desires to defer additional school district tax in the amount of \$ 6,783.00 for the year 2026.

COUNCILMEMBER	MOTION	2ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Audubon Park on **March 2, 2026**.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK AND THE BOROUGH OF OAKLYN RELATIVE TO THE LAWN MAINTENANCE AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TO BE PERFORMED BY THE BOROUGH OF OAKLYN

RESOLUTION #2026:37

WHEREAS, the Borough of Audubon Park (hereinafter “Audubon Park”) is a public entity organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey and located in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oaklyn is a municipal entity organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey and located in Camden County, New Jersey (“Oaklyn”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 *et seq.*, municipalities are authorized to enter into agreements to provide or receive services; and

WHEREAS, Audubon Park and Oaklyn desire to enter into a Shared Services Agreement (“Agreement”) wherein Oaklyn shall provide the duties of lawn maintenance and christmas lights Audubon Park; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Audubon Park finds that such an agreement can be arranged and can be mutually beneficial to both municipalities; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is necessary to permit the Mayor and Borough Clerk of the Borough of Audubon Park to execute such a Shared Services Agreement on behalf of the Borough of Audubon Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Audubon Park, County of Camden, and State of New Jersey, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a Shared Services Agreement, subject to the approval and ratification of the Governing Body, and all pertinent documents wherein Borough of Oaklyn will provide the duties of the lawn maintenance services and christmas lights to the Borough of Audubon Park in the amount of \$8,000 annually, Camden County, New Jersey.

RESOLUTION #2026:38

BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK

COUNTY OF CAMDEN

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2026
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING, BOROUGH OF
AUDUBON PARK, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, the Camden County Improvement Authority provides funding for certain infrastructure improvements or services under Community Development Block Grant Funding; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has chosen to submit an application for Program Year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has agreed to apply for funding for the following project:

“Improvements to the Municipal Building Parking Lot and Maintenance Building”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Audubon Park, County of Camden, State of New Jersey that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Project Description Form for Program Year 2026 along with the Community Development Grant Agreement.

Ryan Giles moves on the budget. He ask for a motion to accept Resolution #2026:39

Councilman Goebel makes a motion to accept Resolution #2026:39

Councilwoman Paratore 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

RESOLUTION #2026:39
BOROUGH OF AUDUBON PARK
COUNTY OF CAMDEN

AUTHORIZING SELF-EXAMINATION FOR 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the *Borough of Audubon Park* has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the **2026** budget year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the *Borough of Audubon Park* that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school Purposes.
 2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).
 3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
 4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated,
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget
- will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.

5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

CERTIFICATION OF APPROVED BUDGET

It is hereby certified that the Approved Budget complies with the requirements of law and approval is given pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78(b) and N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.

It is further certified that the municipality has met the eligibility requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.4 and 7.5, and that I, as Chief Financial Officer, have completed the local examination in compliance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6.

Dated: _____

By: _____
John A. Bruno, Jr., Chief Financial Officer

This certification form and resolution of the governing body executing such certification should be annexed to the adopted budget (N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6(e))

Ryan Giles moves on to the introduction of the budget by title only. The Municipal Budget of the Borough of AudubonPark, County of Camden for the fiscal year of 2026 be resolved that the following statement of the revenue and appropriations shall constitute an admissible budget for the year 2026. Be it further resolved that the budget will be published in the official website on www.audubonparknj.org/public_notice.html on March 6th, 2026. Also, if applicable, it will be advertised in the following on-line publication of Retrospect on March 6th, 2026. That the budget is going to be \$974,000 for the amount to be raised by taxation, including the reserve from collected taxes which is Bureau. There's no tax increase, based on the budget of zero increase.

Ryan Giles asked for a motion to accept the budget by title only.

Councilwoman Lowe makes a motion to accept the budget by title only.

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

Ryan Giles states the budget has been introduced. The budget will be available to the public review over the next 28 days.

Ryan Giles moves on to items of discussion, OEM Car

Mayor Burns stated that he has spoken with Chief Beswick, and there is a need for an additional vehicle. He proposed that the Borough consider transferring a vehicle to the Fire Department. He noted that legal requirements would need to be reviewed to ensure proper authorization.

Councilman Goebel inquired about responsibility for maintenance of the vehicle.

Mayor Burns responded that if the Borough relinquishes the title, maintenance would then fall under the responsibility of the Fire Department.

Justin Strausser clarified that the transfer would need to be completed by resolution.

Ryan Giles moves on to the shed.

Brian Burns stated that this matter has already been partially addressed and will be included as part of the grant application. He added that the equipment currently stored in the sheds should also be reviewed and discussed further.

Councilman Hassett reported that he visited the shed over the weekend. He noted a hole in the rear of the blue shed and provided an overview of the equipment he observed inside.

Council then discussed the various pieces of equipment located in the sheds and considered different options for their use and disposition.

Ryan Giles moved on to discuss the Green Team, noting that it is part of the Sustainable Jersey program and typically requires a minimum of three members.

Councilwoman Paratore stated that she met with representatives at the League of Municipalities and noted that the Borough has not yet taken action in this area. She advised that grant opportunities are available through the program and expressed interest in exploring those opportunities. She also stated that she would be willing to serve as a member of the Green Team.

Ryan Giles moves on to bills & vouchers, we need a motion to pay all the bills and vouchers that are in order of \$72,146.24.

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

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

New Board of Health members are sworn in by Justin Strausser, Tom Whalen and Tom McFadden.

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 Paratore makes a motion to open to the public

Councilwoman Lowe seconds the motion

All in favor

Motion carries

Floor is now open to the public

Barbie, Audubon Preschool Principal, stated that she had the pleasure of attending a recent Board of Trustees meeting. She reported that preschool registration has been very active. She also noted that the Celebration Committee has requested assistance in sharing information about upcoming fundraisers. Additionally, she provided an update on kindergarten registration.

Councilman Goebel make a motion to close the floor to the public

Councilwoman Paratore seconds the motion

All in favor

Motion carries

Floor is now closed to the public

Council discussed the “Coffee with Council” event held on February 21.

Councilman Goebel recognized Officer Soriano for her assistance in helping a senior resident during the recent snowstorm.

Councilwoman Paratore spoke about the recent changes to the library hours.

Council also discussed the upcoming joint meeting with the Board of Trustees.

Ryan Giles ask for a motion to adjourn

Councilwoman Lowe makes a motion to adjourn

Councilman Goebel seconds the motion

All in Favor

Motion Carries

Meeting is adjourned at 7:33pm