



MINUTES
BOROUGH OF EMERSON
MAYOR & COUNCIL
February 3, 2025
7:30 PM
BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1 Municipal Place, Emerson, NJ 07630



I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor DiPaola welcomed everyone to the February 3, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Emerson Governing Body. She said the meeting was being videotaped and could be viewed from a link on the Borough website. The Borough is aware of some issues with the public access television broadcast and is actively working on fixing this problem. The meeting was also being live-streamed on YouTube.

This meeting of February 3, 2026 was adequately noticed and in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act on January 12, 2025 and noticed to The Record and Ridgewood News newspapers; posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and remained continuously posted as required under the Statute.

Fire Chief Joseph D. Mara led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor DiPaola asked for a moment of silence for Emerson resident Finn Raae and Rose Ann Truppi, widow of former Emerson Mayor, Harvey Truppi.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Danielle DiPaola (by telephone), Council President Ashley Rice, Councilwoman Ashley Sayers, Councilman O'Neil Ellis, Councilwoman, Nicole Argenzia, Councilman Michael Timmerman, Councilwoman Megan Ciolino

Also Present: Borough Attorney John McCann, Borough Administrator Michael Carelli, Borough Clerk Triessa DeSimone

III. EXCUSED ABSENCE OF THE GOVERNING BODY

All Council members were present.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS & CITATIONS

- Black History Month
- American Heart Health Month

Mayor DiPaola announced February is Black History Month as well as American Heart Health Month and in honor of American Heart Health Month Borough Hall will be illuminated in red as a reminder to take charge of your health, through regular checkups, healthy lifestyle choices and managing risk factors.

All proclamations will be available on the website.

V. APPOINTMENTS

Mayor DiPaola appointed Michael Carelli as the Borough Administrator through a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Pompton Lakes.

Motion to confirm the appointment of Michael Carelli as Borough Administrator through a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Pompton Lakes was moved by Councilwoman Argenzia, **seconded** by Councilman Ellis. Carried by a roll call vote of 5-0.

YES: Ciolino, Argenzia, Ellis, Rice, Timmerman

Mayor DiPaola asked for Council President Rice to conduct the Swearing in Ceremony for the Emerson Volunteer Fire Department.

Council President Rice congratulated all of the incoming officers and executive board members on their new positions. She stated “We are so proud to have such a dedicated team of firefighters in Emerson and we appreciate your unwavering commitment to answer the call of duty no matter the hour of day or night. I’d also like to point out that we are making Emerson history tonight, our new Fire Chief, JD Mara, is the first 3rd generation Fire Chief in Emerson history. His grandfather, Joseph F. Mara was Chief in 1975 and his father, Joseph R. Mara was Chief in 1996. Congratulations on making history!”

Council President Rice invited the 2026 Line Officers to the dais and administered their Swearing in Ceremony. Councilwoman Ciolino held the bible and the officers took their oaths, followed by photos with congratulations from the Council and those in attendance.

- **Sworn in Emerson Fire Department 2026 Officers:**
 - **Chief of Department:** Joseph D. Mara
 - **Assistant Chief:** Anthony J. Sottile
 - **Senior Captain:** Logan Castrovillari
 - **Junior Captain:** Ryan Smith
 - **Senior Lieutenant:** Ronald Solimando
 - **President:** Joseph Solimando
 - **Secretary:** James McDermott

Councilwoman Sayers arrived at 7:50pm.

VI. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Motion to approve the January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes made by Councilwoman Ciolino, **seconded** by Councilwoman Argenzia. Carried by a roll call vote of 6-0

Roll call:

YES: Ciolino, Argenzia, Ellis, Rice Timmerman, Sayers

Motion to approve the January 20, 2026 Closed Session Meeting Minutes (*not for release to the public at this time*) made by Councilwoman Ciolino, **seconded** by Councilwoman Argenzia. Carried by a roll call vote of 6-0

Roll call:

YES: Ciolino, Argenzia, Ellis, Rice Timmerman, Sayers

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VIII. FINANCIAL BUSINESS

None.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XI. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

XII. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

XIII. REPORTS

Mayor DiPaola's report was read by Council President Rice:

- Dog and Cat license applications for 2026 were due by Friday, January 30th. There is a grace period for applications received and postmarked by February 12th. Applications received thereafter will have the \$25 late fee imposed. Applications can be found on the Borough's website under the Health Department page at www.emersonnj.gov/health and were also included in the Garbage and Recycling Newsletter. Please contact Mary at 201-262-6086 ext. 1213 with any questions.
- 2026 Commuter Parking Permits for parking on Emerson Plaza East are available now at police headquarters, Monday through Friday 8:30am to 7:30pm. The Resident fee is \$250.
- First quarter taxes were due February 1st with a grace period through February 10th. If you have any questions, please reach out to the tax office at 201-262-6086 extension 1211.
- No-Knock Registration Forms are available on the website and in the 2026 Garbage & Recycling Newsletter. Please note there is a \$5 fee for the decal for anyone under 65 years old. It is free for anyone 65 and older. Although it doesn't pertain to nonprofit, charitable, religious and political groups, being on this registry prohibits licensed solicitors from knocking on your door.

- The next senior meeting is on February 12th at 12 noon. New members are welcome. I encourage our seniors to join this vibrant and active group with many social events and fun activities planned.
- The senior bus is available to residents age 55 and up and to those with special needs. It runs each week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please contact the Deputy Clerk, Samantha at 201-262-6086 x1201 to book a ride.
- The first Bergen County Utilities Authority Household Hazardous Waste Collection of 2026 will be held on Saturday, March 7th from 9am to 3pm, rain or shine, in Moonachie. Please visit www.bcuu.org for all the details.
- Mark Your Calendars and Get Your Unwanted Paper Documents Ready! We will be having a mobile shredding day in collaboration with the BCUA on Saturday May 16th from 9 AM to 1 PM at Borough Hall.
- I encourage our residents to sign up to receive emergency notifications and other Borough information through our RAVE Alert System at www.emersonnj.gov/RAVE. And, as always, more information on all of our events and current news is posted on the borough website at www.emersonnj.gov/news or our Facebook and Twitter pages.
- Punxsutawney Phil did see his shadow on Monday, Feb. 2, which means, according to the legend, six more weeks of winter are on the way.
- February is American Heart Health Month and this Friday, February 6th is National Wear Red Day to help raise awareness for cardiovascular disease.
- On Tuesday, February 17th at 6:00PM, the Borough will be holding our 2nd "Welcome Ramadan Crescent Moon Lighting Ceremony". Please join us, along with our Muslim residents, on the front lawn of Borough Hall to mark the start of Ramadan as a community. All are invited. Light refreshments will be served.
- The next regular meeting of the Governing Body will take place on Tuesday, February 17th at 7:30 PM.

Borough Administrator reported:

Mr. Carelli stated that he is meeting department heads, getting to know the staff and learning about their needs. He is looking forward to working with everyone.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to open the meeting to comments from the public was **moved** by Councilwoman Argenzia, **seconded** by Councilman Timmerman and carried unanimously.

Mr. William Bierman began speaking at 8:03 pm. Mr. Bierman, a former Library Board Trustee served on the Board with Mrs. Francesca Ianora. Mrs. Ianora was recently honored by the Mayor and Council for her 105th birthday and Mr. Bierman wanted to share his thoughts about Mrs. Ianora's many professional and personal accomplishments. Mr. Bierman expressed his admiration for Mrs. Ianora and wishes her many more years of life referring to her as the First Lady of Emerson. Mr. Bierman concluded his statement at 8:13 pm. Mayor DiPaola thanked Mr. Bierman for sharing his kind thoughts about Mrs. Ianora.

With no more requests, **Motion** to close the meeting to comments from the public was **moved** by Councilwoman Argenzia, **seconded** by Councilman Ellis and carried unanimously.

XV. RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT AGENDA

Matters listed below are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Council and one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member requests an item be removed for consideration.

- CA 76-26 Authorize Police Chief Mark Savino to Serve as Representative to The Bergen County Public Safety Communications Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2026
CA 74-26 Authorize Re-Appointment and Grant Tenure to Scott Wickersheim as the Construction Code Official in the Borough of Emerson

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Resolutions No. 76-26 and No. 74-26 was **moved** by Councilman Timmerman, **seconded** by Councilwoman Argenzia. Carried by a roll call vote of 6-0:

Roll call:

YES: Ciolino, Argenzia, Ellis, Rice, Timmerman, Sayers

There was a ministerial error in numbering resolutions. Resolution CA 76-26 is out of numerical order to correct the error.

XVI. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter closed executive session at 8:15 pm to discuss matters exempt from the public as duly noticed by Resolution No. 75-26 was **moved** by Councilwoman Ciolino, **seconded** by Councilwoman Argenzia and carried by a roll call vote of 6-0:

Roll call:

YES: Ciolino, Argenzia, Ellis, Rice, Timmerman, Sayers

Personnel	N.J.S.A. 10.4-12b (8)
Contract Negotiations	N.J.S.A. 10.4-12b (4)
Litigation/Redevelopment Update/Attorney-Client Privilege	N.J.S.A. 10.4-12b (7)

The Borough reserves the right to return to Open Session and, if appropriate, take formal action.

XVII. RECONVENE

Motion to reconvene was **moved** by Councilwoman Sayers, **seconded** by Councilwoman Argenzia and **carried** unanimously at 8:27 p.m.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, at the request of Mayor DiPaola a motion to adjourn was **moved** by Councilwoman Ciolino **seconded** by Councilwoman Rice and carried unanimously at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Triessa DeSimone, RMC
Borough Clerk