

CITY OF BRIGANTINE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 20, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sera called the meeting to order at 5:03 P.M.

FLAG SALUTE & OPENING PRAYER

Mayor Sera led the flag salute followed by opening prayer by Deputy Mayor Bew.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Acting City Clerk advised that the meeting notices covering this meeting have been sent and posted as required under the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.

ROLL CALL

- Mayor Sera
- Deputy Mayor Bew
- Councilman Haney
- Councilman Kane
- Councilman Lettieri
- Councilman Riordan
- **Councilman Virgilio (Absent)**

PROFESSIONALS PRESENT

- Tige Platt, City Manager
- John Doring, Superintendent of Public Works
- Paul Fuller, Chief of Fire Department
- Steve Ward, Police Captain
- George Morris, City Solicitor
- Christine Murray, Acting City Clerk

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2025-192— Executive Session *Skipped — No closed session held. No formal action taken.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the August 6, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes **Motion:** Councilman Lettieri, **Seconded:** by Councilman Kane. **Roll Call:** All present voted Aye; Councilman Riordan Abstain; Councilman Virgilio absent.

APPROVAL OF BILL REQUISITION LIST

Motion: Deputy Mayor Bew **Seconded:** Councilman Lettieri **Roll Call:** All present voted Aye; Councilman Virgilio absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- Brooks Garrison, 204 15th Street North referenced Ordinance No. 22 during public comment. City Solicitor George Morris advised Mr. Garrison that a separate formal public hearing would be held for comments specific to the ordinance.
- Mayor Sera closes the Public Portion

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 21 of 2025 – Public Hearing and Adoption Mayor Sera read the following Ordinance as entitled **Motion:** Councilman Kane **Seconded:** Councilman Haney

**Bond Ordinance Providing for
Various Improvements to the Water and Sewer Utility in and by the City Of Brigantine, in
the County of Atlantic, New Jersey, Appropriating \$10,125,000 Therefor and Authorizing
the Issuance of \$10,125,000 Bonds or Notes of the City to Finance the Cost Thereof. Mayor
Sera opened the public hearing.**

Roll Call: All present voted Aye; Councilman Virgilio absent **Motion Carried.**

Ordinance No. 22 of 2025 – Public Hearing and Adoption Mayor Sera read the following Ordinance as entitled **Motion:** Councilman Kane **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Bew

**Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Capital Improvements in and by the City of
Brigantine, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey, Appropriating \$17,300,875 Therefor and
Authorizing the Issuance of \$16,435,831 Bonds or Notes of the City to Finance Part of the
Cost Thereof.**

- Mayor Sera stated that Ordinance No. 22 includes funding for a new clubhouse at the Links Golf Course. The current clubhouse will remain in use until the new one opens, after which it will be demolished and the site restored to open space.
- Mayor Sera opened the public hearing.

Public Comment

- Brooks Garrison, 204 15th No. Expressed support for Ordinance No. 22. Advocated for investment in bulkhead extensions along 14th Street.

- Lorie Goldschmidt, 1415 East Brigantine Avenue advocated for bulkhead protection to safeguard the homes located in that area.
- Jim Dougherty, 1413. East Brigantine advocating for the bulkhead protection.
- Dr. Michael Coates, 218 5th St No supports Mr. Garrison protect for the storms and emphasized storm protection.
- No further comments, Mayor Sera closes the public portion

Council Comments

- Councilman Haney asked City Manager Tige Platt whether any funding in Ordinance No. 22 was designated for the Round House. City Manager Platt responded that no funding was specifically allocated for the Round House in this ordinance.

Roll Call: All present voted Aye; Councilman Virgilio absent

Ordinance No. 23 of 2025-Public Hearing and Adoption Mayor Sera read the following Ordinance as entitled: **Motion:** Councilman Haney **Seconded:** Councilman Lettieri.

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 210-37, Article II of the Code of the City of Brigantine
Portion as it Relates to Fees.

- Mayor Sera noted that the pickleball pricing structure had been updated.

Roll Call: All present voted Aye; Councilman Virgilio absent

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2025-193 A Resolution Granting Tax Exemption for Permanently Disabled Veteran Owned Residential Property – Block 6701, Lot 2 **Motion:** Councilman Lettieri **Seconded:** Councilman Kane.

Roll Call: All present voted Aye; Councilman Virgilio absent.

Resolution 2025-194 Amending the City of Brigantine’s 2025 Municipal Budget to Include a Special Item of Revenue and Appropriation from the State of New Jersey’s “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” Labor Day Enforcement Grant **Motion:** Deputy Mayor Bew **Seconded:** Councilman Haney.

Roll Call: All present voted Aye; Councilman Virgilio absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Sera read Consent Agenda **Motion:** Councilman Kane, **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Bew.

Items included:

- Goodbye Summer Bonfire
- Eagles Tailgate I & II
- Surf Fishing Derby
- Rosie Pose Workshop

Roll Call: All present voted Aye; Councilman Virgilio absent.

COUNCIL MANAGER / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- Tige Platt highlighted the food truck festival and the move to Hannaman Park
- Deputy Mayor Bew reported that the Brigantine Softball Wiffle Home Run Derby drew a strong turnout from both residents and visitors. She thanked the Public Works and Recreation Departments for mini golf a success.
- Councilman Haney reported a well-attended meeting at the Third and Fourth Ward. Congratulates Putt Putt Paradise on the opening. Congratulated Trevor Cohen and family on the MLB draft.
- Councilman Kane noted the success of the recent putt-putt event and praised the ongoing Brigantine cleanup efforts. Moorings meeting went well.
- Councilman Riordan thanked residents for attending and expressed appreciation for the community's continued engagement. Economic committee and cultural arts committee are moving forward.
- Mayor Sera thanked John Doring and recreational staff on mini golf. Inquired about Boat Ramp is closure.
- John Doring said he hoped by Friday, dependent on the tide
- Mayor Sera urged residents to check the City's website for safety updates and reminded everyone to stay out of the water until lifeguards confirm conditions are safe due to dangerous rip currents. Mayor Sera noted that the City is working with the DEP under CAFRA jurisdiction on the bulkhead extension. While progress is stalled, the City continues to support the project and advocate for residents. He clarified that the promenade is under county control, with work expected next year. Bulkhead improvements are underway in other areas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Frank Congemi, 605 West Shore Drive concerned with beach erosion.
- Mayor Sera explained more erosion is happening with added nor'easters every year. Noted the freeze on beach front erosion funds at federal level. Federal Government is looking into ways to slow erosion.
- Ann Phillips 405 27th Street thanks council for going to meetings requested. Requested increased enforcement of speeding violations.
- Mayor Sera acknowledged speeding concerns and clarified that enforcement is at the discretion of police officers under state statute. A traffic detail is active.

- Brooks Garrison thanked council for meeting at the Golf Course. Discussed the jurisdiction oversight of the Seawall.
- Mayor Sera emphasized the need to work with mandatory outside agencies to move the project forward.
- Councilman Riordan mentioned the extended timeframes involved when coordinating with outside agencies.
- Deputy Mayor Bew added that she has observed officers actively issuing tickets and confirmed that enforcement has been underway.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Deputy Mayor Bew, **Seconded:** Councilman Lettieri. Meeting adjourned at 5:49 P.M. All present voted Aye; Councilman Virgilio absent.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Murray Acting City Clerk