

A WARD 1 TOWN HALL MEETING OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON COMMON COUNCIL, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, WAS HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025, AT 7:00 PM, AT THE BURLINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CORSON POLEY CENTER, 454 LAWRENCE STREET, BURLINGTON, NJ, PURSUANT TO THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT.

A WARD 1 TOWN HALL MEETING was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this Town Hall Meeting was sent to the Burlington County Times and the Trenton Times, posted on the City of Burlington Municipal Building bulletin boards (3) on May 8, 2025, and posted to the City of Burlington Website and Facebook page. Said Notices have remained continuously posted.

Cindy A. Crivaro, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

Governing Body Members present: Dawn Bergner-Thompson, George Chachis, Geneva Rijs, Richard Spaulding, Suzanne Woodard.

Absent: Dave Ballard, Timothy Hutton.

Also present: Mayor Barry Conaway, Administrator Johanna Conyer, Municipal Attorney Christopher Norman, Esq., Police Chief Ryan Elbertson.

### **SALUTE TO FLAG**

Upon the motion of Councilman Chachis, seconded by Councilwoman Woodard, the Public Comments 5-minute time limit rule was suspended. All were in favor.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Open Forum

Pat Dasher-Williams, 340 E. Union Street – spoke of the alleyway behind her home in disrepair and a sink hole in her yard; there are 2 sets of 6 row homes built in the 1800's; while away, the sink hole was filled/repared but another section is starting to collapse; spoke of water damage to her neighbor's home; asked what could be done.

Ms. Conyer explained that the City Engineers and the Public Works Department went out to investigate; there are no city public drainpipes behind the homes; there were no blockages but also no proper outlets; the sink hole was temporarily filled in, but there is a bigger issue; will contact Ms. Dasher-Williams with the Water Superintendent on the line to explain.

Alisha Perry, 342 E. Union Street – spoke of flooding in her basement and damage to her home's foundation; lost her hot water heater and belongings due to the water; contractors said there is nothing they can do until the outside is fixed; stated she has contacted the City but is waiting for a returned call; stated the damage to her home is tremendous.

Ms. Conyer responded that she will contact Ms. Perry.

Alyecia Woods 15 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street – spoke as a recent college graduate; suggested it is difficult for people of her age to find programming and get support in Burlington City; spoke of her education and goals to give back to the community; spoke of the need for more resources.

Mayor Conaway suggested reaching out to the County Library, they have a lot of resources; recommended reaching out to the many non-profits in the City.

Ms. Conyer suggested contacting Burlington City School District, they have internships.

Chief Elbertson said the BCPD will be starting internships next week; there are other programs in City Hall; encouraged Ms. Woods to stop in to inquire.

Councilwoman Rijs commended Ms. Woods for her knowledge and resourcefulness.

Deborah Hoffmaster, 339 Barclay Street – spoke of a fire hydrant located in a parking space between 337-339 Barclay; the curb is not painted and is causing a problem; suggested her car has been hit three times.

Alyecia Woods 15 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street – asked if there are programs to help seniors shovel snow; spoke of lack of programs and support for seniors; asked if there will be an expungement clinic.

Mayor Conaway spoke of the struggles with senior resources and housing.

Chief Elbertson stated they are posted by the Prosecutor Office; there was an expungement clinic recently at Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Suzanne Gallagher, 415 Locust Avenue – spoke in appreciation of the Ward 1 Town Hall Meeting; suggested the City hold neighborhood meetings to get more residents involved; suggested holding them after the Council Meetings.

Councilman Chachis spoke of the difficulty in scheduling the meetings, finding a location and getting the people to attend.

Suzanne Gallagher, 415 Locust Avenue – asked about the status of the floating dock.

Councilman Chachis suggested to speak with Jim.

Mayor Conaway spoke of a grant received by the City many years ago to design a 16 slip dock south of the Burlington Manor; the terms changed where the matching grant had to be \$1 million; the City did not have \$1 million to match; the grant expired; will look at rearranging the docks at the boat area which is an approved dock; if we can get funds that are less than \$1 million we can make the area better; the 16 slips are no longer on the table; there have been ideas of how to get a dock on Burlington Island; the City is not prepared for the permitting process or the financing; however, we definitely need a dock out there (on the Island).

Councilman Chachis thanked everyone for coming.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the motion of Councilwoman Woodard, seconded by Councilman Spaulding, this meeting of May 17, 2025, was adjourned.

---

Cindy A. Crivaro, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

---

Dawn Bergner-Thompson, President  
Common Council