

THE WORK SESSION OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON COMMON COUNCIL, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026, AT 7:00 PM, IN THE CITY HALL, 525 HIGH STREET, BURLINGTON, NJ, PURSUANT TO THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT.

This meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of April 14, 2026, was included in a list of meetings notice sent to the Burlington County Times and the Trenton Times and advertised in said newspapers and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on January 7, 2026, and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Cindy A. Crivaro, RMC
Municipal Clerk

The Municipal Clerk advised the public of the location of the two fire exits: one on the left after exiting the Council Chamber and the other being the entrance to the building.

Governing Body Members present: Dave Ballard, Dawn Bergner-Thompson, George Chachis, Richard Spaulding, Mary Wirth, Suzanne Woodard.

Absent: Clayton Long.

Also present: Mayor Barry Conaway, Administrator Johanna Conyer, Municipal Attorney Justin Strausser, Director of Public Works Bill Curry, Police Chief Ryan Elbertson.

SALUTE TO FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phil Augustyn, 307 High Street- spoke of the Food Truck Tuesday events; announced that tickets for the Garden Club are now on sale.

PRESENTATION(S)

Block Party Ordinance – Chief Ryan Elbertson

Chief Elbertson reported that the city currently does not have a block party ordinance; presented a summary of the proposed ordinance, including a review of the related application and petition process, and critical safety considerations.

Consensus: None. For consideration only.

Friends of Burlington Island – Pat Mulhern

Mr. Mulhern shared an update on cleanup efforts at Burlington Island, noting that a previous cleanup was completed as a joint venture with the Board of Island Managers. The Friends of Burlington Island are now planning their next cleanup and are requesting that the City provide an excavator operated by the Department of Public Works. The project is expected to span two days. Metals collected from the previous cleanup are already staged in two piles awaiting pickup.

The group intends to fundraise \$16,500 to cover the cost of a barge and push/pull boats, with the total project estimated at approximately \$22,000. Discussion followed regarding insurance coverage. It was also noted that Allied Recycling had staged dumpsters on the island in 2019, sorted metals, and retained the proceeds from valuable materials. The Friends of Burlington Island extended an open invitation to city officials to participate in the upcoming cleanup.

Consensus: None. For information only.

Class 5 Retail Cannabis Business, 1137 Bordentown Road - Hashery, Len Coleman

Mr. Coleman presented (PowerPoint) Hashery LLC's proposal to open a cannabis retail dispensary (Class 5) in the City. Explained that Hashery is a national cannabis company with operations in California and New Jersey, covering cultivation, distribution, product development, manufacturing, and retail sales. Highlighted their existing Hackensack location, opened in December 2023, as proof of the company's success — serving approximately 1,000 customers per day, generating roughly \$2 million in monthly revenue, employing 52 people, and consistently ranking in the top 3 for gross revenue among independent dispensaries in New Jersey. Identified Route 130 as a prime location due to its high visibility and strong traffic flow. Outlined a proposed investment of \$1–\$1.5 million, noting that the storefront would transition cannabis sales from unregulated sources to a fully NJCRC-compliant retail operation. Noted that key features would include age verification through NJ databases, lab-tested products, and 24-hour on-site security. Emphasized that the location would keep City residents shopping locally, providing direct economic benefit to the city rather than neighboring municipalities. Stressed that Hashery's commitment to community engagement, pointing to their Hackensack track record, which includes hosting educational classes on medicinal cannabis benefits, running charity drives with Hackensack Meridian Health, conducting annual food drives, hosting Christmas toy drives, and supporting organizations such as the Eileen Torricelli Institute for Breast Care and local childcare centers. Discussion ensued regarding financing, delivery of products, sales tax revenue, and 2% local municipal tax on all sales back to the city.

Consensus: All were in favor of moving forward with a Resolution of Support at the next meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

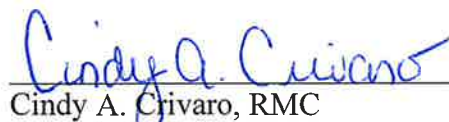
Councilman Chachis asked for the status of the two “infill” projects.

BA Conyer said they are not moving forward.

President Bergner-Thompson and Mayor Conaway spoke of upcoming events.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon the motion of Councilman Chachis, seconded by Councilman Ballard, this meeting of April 14, 2026, was adjourned.



Cindy A. Civaro, RMC
Municipal Clerk



Dawn Bergner-Thompson, President
Common Council