

**BELMAR  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 14, 2026 – 6:30 PM**

Present: Mayor Gerald Buccafusco, Council President Jodi Kinney, Councilwoman Caitlin Donovan, Councilman Mike DeBlasio, Councilman Kevin Moroney, Borough Attorney George McGill, Business Administrator Kevin Kane and Municipal Clerk April Claudio

“Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to The Coast Star, the official newspaper of the Borough of Belmar, and the Asbury Park Press on December 9, 2025 notice of this meeting was prominently posted on the Borough’s website and filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Belmar.”

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Our troops and their families, first responders and Captain Al Modjeski

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

- Honoring George Komitas – 50 years of service in Belmar Fire Department
- Public Safety Telecommunicators Week
- Arbor Day
- Child Abuse Prevention Month

**RESOLUTION:**

Councilwoman Kinney offered the following resolution for adoption:

**No. 2026-73                    RESOLUTION APPOINTING JOSEPH CLAYTON SERGEANT OF THE  
   BELMAR POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE  
   BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Seconded by Councilwoman Donovan and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Donovan, Kinney, DeBlasio, Moroney and Buccafusco

Chief Scott spoke about Officer Clayton’s rise through the ranks of the Belmar Police Department. Mr. McGill administered the Oath of Office.

**WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:**

The Environmental Commission gave a PowerPoint presentation on their accomplishments and what is planned for 2026. Thanked the Mayor, Council and staff for their support. Mayor Buccafusco spoke about the importance of planting native plants and taking care of lawns to help with all environmental aspects. Councilwoman Donovan invited everyone to reach out to herself or any of the members of the Environmental Commission with any questions.

Councilman DeBlasio asked for an engineering update. Jim Oris, Borough Engineer, stated the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue concrete work has been completed and paving will begin possibly as early as April 20<sup>th</sup> but no later than April 27<sup>th</sup>. The pilings for the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue boardwalk bathroom will begin on Thursday and last for three days. Will be applying for a permit through Monmouth County to place the old 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue bathroom trailer in the street along the boardwalk for the summer while construction continues. Mayor Buccafusco mentioned the possibility of moving the trailer to 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue next year in a similar fashion. The bathroom on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue would take up three parking spaces.

**PETITIONS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mayor Buccafusco offered a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026 meeting, which was seconded by Councilman Moroney and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Donovan, Kinney, DeBlasio, Moroney and Buccafusco

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL:**

Councilwoman Donovan: Tourism Commission meets tomorrow and will be discussing grants and the World Cup. Belmar Farmer’s market begins May 24<sup>th</sup>. Shark River Clean-up on April 25<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> is 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue beach clean-up. Belmar Historical Society held a great event with adjacent historical societies this past weekend. Belmar Cares concert was this past Sunday. Spoke about the importance of breast cancer awareness. Hosting a meeting with FCC, Spring Lake, Spring Lake Heights and Bradley Beach on FCC regulations.

Councilwoman Kinney: St. Patrick's Day Parade was great. Thank you to Police, EMS, Fire, DPW and the parade committee. Recreation program registrations are going on now. Summer Camp and Junior Lifeguard programs are full. Arbor Day is April 24th, both elementary schools will be participating. April 26th the Shade Tree Commission and Environmental Commission have an event called Rooted in Belmar. Eight more trees will be planted around Borough Hall. Announced upcoming events around Belmar Elementary and St. Rose schools. May 9th is Porchfest. Graduation banners for high school students will be coming soon.

Councilman DeBlasio: Planning Board meets on the 20th. Harbor Commission meets on the 21st. April is Autism Awareness month, on the 18th will be the FSOS Plunge for Autism at D'Jais.

Councilman Moroney: ADA Committee held their first meeting of the year on March 31st. Discussed bringing back the disability awareness program. Impressed with the passion and knowledge of the Committee.

**PUBLIC SESSION:** Public Session on resolutions only on the Agenda. We will continue to have a Public Session at the end of this meeting.

None

Councilman DeBlasio offered a motion to close the public session, which was seconded by Mayor Buccafusco and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Donovan, Kinney, DeBlasio, Moroney and Buccafusco

**CONSENT AGENDA #1- RESOLUTIONS:**

All matters listed in the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Councilman Moroney offered the following resolutions for adoption:

- No. 2026-74            RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS**
- No. 2026-75            RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR PYANOE PLAZA IMPROVEMENTS**
- No. 2026-77            RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE COPS IN SHOPS SUMMER SHORE INITIATIVE 2026 GRANT AWARD (Grant #AL- 26-07-02-01)**
- No. 2026-78            RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**
- No. 2026-79            RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**
- No. 2026-81            RESOLUTION PERMITTING SPECIAL EVENTS AS PER BOROUGH ORDINANCE 16-14.4**
- No. 2026-82            RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPOINTING ADDITIONAL VENDORS IN CONJUNCTION WITH UTILIZATION OF THE TAYLOR PAVILION**

Seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Donovan, Kinney, DeBlasio, Moroney and Buccafusco

**CONSENT AGENDA #2- RESOLUTIONS:**

Mayor Buccafusco offered a motion to adopt the following resolutions:

- No. 2026-76            RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONTRACT FOR MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS OF THE WATER AND WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEMS**
- No. 2026-80            RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS DEMPSEY PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

Seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Donovan, Kinney, Moroney and Buccafusco  
ABSTAIN: DeBlasio

## **ORDINANCES:**

### **ORDINANCE 2026-07 *First Reading & Introduction***

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 29, WATER-SEWER UTILITY DEPARTMENT, AND SPECIFICALLY AT SECTION 7.1, WATER/ SEWER RATES OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Councilman DeBlasio offered Ordinance 2026-07 for first reading and introduction, which was seconded by Councilman Moroney.

Councilman DeBlasio asked for an explanation on the ordinance. Councilman Moroney stated it is a 13% increase and felt the auditor should present the need for it before voting. CFO Lorriane Carafa explained the water/sewer utility is not bringing in enough revenue to offset appropriations. She added there are major infrastructure projects that will be required in the next few years that will have to be paid for in the utility.

Mayor Buccafusco explained the water/sewer utility is supposed to be self-liquidating and it is not paying for itself. The money that is short in the utility budget comes out of the general fund. The issue is expenses also known as appropriations have increased significantly. In the long run, the improvements to the infrastructure, specifically the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue sewer lining project going on now, will save Borough money with SMRSA charges. The Borough cannot apply for I Bank loans to do more infrastructure work until the utility is self-sufficient. Also need to plan for 2.5% increases each year moving forward.

Councilwoman Donovan asked if the rates had been previously raised prior to last year. Ms. Carafa replied no. Councilwoman Donovan asked if this isn't done could the utility be sold. Ms. Carafa stated the water could be sold in the future. Councilwoman Donovan suggested putting together information for residents explaining the rates and what assistance programs are available.

Councilman DeBlasio stated there is going to be more usage coming to town, which could help. Ms. Carafa stated they could possibly help but they will not help for this year.

Mayor Buccafusco stated increasing the rates will also increase the surplus for future years. Also, can't anticipate the additional revenue in the budget until we receive it; then it can be anticipated in future budgets.

AYES: Donovan, Kinney, DeBlasio, Moroney and Buccafusco

### **ORDINANCE 2026-08 *First Reading & Introduction***

#### **ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 3 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, AND SPECIFICALLY AT SECTION 3-6 TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Mayor Buccafusco offered Ordinance 2026-08 for first reading and introduction, which was seconded by Councilman DeBlasio and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Donovan, Kinney, DeBlasio, Moroney and Buccafusco

## **PUBLIC SESSION:**

Edward Walp, 1715 ½ River Road, spoke about River Road being filthy and full of debris. Suggested the island near River Road and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue be beautified. Suggested a traffic study be done to make River Road one lane. Speeding is also an issue. Street lighting needs to be modernized and repaired. Mayor and Council should work with State on a maintenance plan.

Neil Scheck, 410 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, agrees more could be done to keep streets clean and would volunteer to help. Also, more could be done to address speeding on Route 35. Encouraged everyone to attend the many wonderful events at the Belmar Arts Council building.

Linda Sharkus, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, suggested the decrease in water/sewer revenue could be due to the decrease in units with the number of rental properties decreasing. Spoke about the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue infrastructure project. She would like to see a website created to report concerns and issues. She would like to get notification of road closures with all of the construction projects going on.

Sylvia Walp, 1715 ½ River Road, reiterated her husband's statements regarding River Road. Asked the Mayor and Council to advocate to the State for improvements.

Councilman Moroney asked Chief Scott to look into getting a speed radar sign. Councilman DeBlasio was concerned with where the sign would fit.

Amy Mednak, 1703 River Road, also spoke about the trash and lighting on River Road.

Adam Mednak, 1703 River Road, expressed the importance of safety.

Maria Rondinaro, 1246 Pine Tree Way, echoed concerns about safety. Belmar Library living history event is this Saturday at Taylor Pavilion and the Poetry Jam is April 30<sup>th</sup>. May 7<sup>th</sup> is the Library celebration of the United States 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thank you to DPW for fixing the stairs at Maclearie Park.

Clare Hayner, 18<sup>th</sup> and B Street, thankful for putting current water meter activity back on the bill. Questioned the political sign regulations in the ordinance. Councilman DeBlasio suggested she attend the Planning Board meeting. Mr. McGill suggested the ordinance be revisited. Ms. Hayner suggested it not be one sign per property but one per race.

Gene Creamer, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, spoke about water infiltration and water/sewer rates for other towns.

Mayor Buccafusco offered a motion to close the public session and adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilman Moroney and approved unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

April Claudio  
Municipal Clerk