

**BELMAR
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

JANUARY 27, 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 bulletin board of the Municipal Building and filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Belmar.”

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Our troops and their families, first responders

PRESENTATIONS:

- Aiden Gebhardt made a new flag disposal box as his Eagle Scout Project, which will be placed in the 6th Avenue lobby of Borough Hall.
- Resolution Honoring Valdamier’s Salon was presented for celebrating 25 years of service.
- Roy Childers, Chairman of the Harbor Commission gave a PowerPoint presentation of a Year in Review of the Belmar marina.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:

- Councilwoman Kinney thanked DPW for all their hard work with this past snowstorm. There seemed to be an issue with snow removal at the Belmar Housing Authority. Mayor Buccafusco stated the BHA is not a Borough property, it is up to the Commissioners to provide for snow removal. However, traditionally DPW has helped as a courtesy with plowing, but it is up to them to shovel. Asked everyone to be patient as it was a lot of snow and ice. Encouraged everyone to remove snow around the fire hydrants. Mr. Kane stated he and Billy Musto, Superintendent of DPW, will meet with BHA to address this. Mr. Musto thanked all of the residents who listened to the Nixle alert and moved their cars off the streets. Councilman DeBlasio encouraged everyone to remove snow from the sidewalks if they haven’t done so in case there is another storm within the next week.
- Councilman Moroney referred to resolution 2026-42 and asked what the organization does. Mayor Buccafusco read excerpts from the CDBG contract. Mr. Kane explained how the CDBG committee reviews applications for funding. Councilman DeBlasio was concerned that Mr. Kane representing Belmar when he is an elected official in Freehold may be a conflict. Mr. McGill will look into it. Mayor Buccafusco pointed out that the entire committee made up of all Monmouth County municipalities votes.

PETITIONS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Buccafusco offered a motion to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2025 meeting, which was seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Donovan, Kinney and Buccafusco

Mayor Buccafusco offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026 meeting, which was seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Moroney, DeBlasio, Donovan, Kinney and Buccafusco

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Councilwoman Donovan: Environmental Commission working on community energy plan, which includes an energy audit of Borough buildings. Awarded a Resilient NJ grant with other municipalities for a planning study in the amount of \$292,773.25; the Borough will get \$25,000. Belmar Elementary School Spelling Bee finals are this Thursday. Parade fundraiser this weekend at Bar A. She gave out a fundraiser shirt to Joe McEvoy for spelling the word “silhouette” correctly.

Councilwoman Kinney: Shade Tree Commission planting trees on Main Street between 10th and 12th Avenues. Will be adding mulch and fertilizer to all the trees on Main Street. Junior Guard registration starts February 1st. Baseball and softball clinics start February 1st. Thanked WNBA player and former resident Marina Mabrey for

a \$5,000 donation to the recreation basketball program.

Councilman DeBlasio: Planning Board met January 12th, approved one application, another one for the project at 5th and Main Street was started and will continue at the February 9th meeting.

Councilman Moroney: Thanked DPW, Police, EMS and Fire Departments for their work during the past snowstorm.

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

Councilwoman Kinney offered a motion to close the public session, which was seconded by Councilman DeBlasio and approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA - 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.

Councilwoman Kinney offered a motion to adopt the following resolutions:

- No. 2026-31 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**
- No. 2026-32 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF PORTABLE RADIOS
PURSUANT TO THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT (EMW-2024-
FG-01427)**
- No. 2026-33 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUNDS**
- No. 2026-35 RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR LIBRARY FAÇADE
IMPROVEMENTS**
- No. 2026-36 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR COUNTY OF
MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ROUTE 71 (MAIN STREET) BRIDGE
OVER SHARK RIVER PROJECT, BOROUGH OF BELMAR AND AVON-BY-
THE-SEA SUPPORTING THE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT BY THE NEW
JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
- No. 2026-37 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFERS OF APPROPRIATION
RESERVES**
- No. 2026-38 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES FOR CERTAIN RECREATION
PROGRAMS**
- No. 2026-39 RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE NW FINANCIAL TO CREATE AND MANAGE
THE BOROUGH'S PILOT DATABASE**
- No. 2026-40 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND ADOPTING THE CENTRAL JERSEY
MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND'S 2026 SAFETY INCENTIVE
PROGRAM**
- No. 2026-43 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GRANT APPLICATION WITH NJ
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

Seconded by Councilwoman Donovan and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Moroney, DeBlasio, Donovan, Kinney and Buccafusco

RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED:

- No. 2026-34 RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND CONFIRMING VARIOUS MUNICIPAL
PROFESSIONALS: ARBORIST & AFFORDABLE HOUSING
ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT**

Councilwoman Kinney offered Resolution 2026-34 for adoption, which was seconded by Mayor Buccafusco. There was no discussion needed. Resolution was adopted per the following vote:

AYES: Moroney, DeBlasio, Donovan, Kinney and Buccafusco

**No. 2026-41 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE PROJECT
KNOWN AS 2023 MA IMPROVEMENTS TO FIFTH AVENUE – PHASE I**

Mayor Buccafusco offered Resolution 2026-41 for adoption, which was seconded by Councilwoman Donovan.

Councilman DeBlasio asked Jim Oris, Borough Engineer, for an explanation on this. Mr. Oris stated there were water/sewer services and gas mains that were not properly marked and therefore time was lost. The unit prices in the original bid were used for the additional work in the change order or if something came up that wasn't in the bid the price is negotiated. He stated the water valve wasn't working and the water couldn't be shut off without the insertion valve being used. Councilman DeBlasio asked if the change order affected the completion timeline. Mr. Oris replied no and added the concrete work will begin once the weather breaks and the paving will most likely be in March or April.

Resolution was adopted per the following vote:

AYES: Moroney, DeBlasio, Donovan, Kinney and Buccafusco

**No. 2026-42 RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2026**

Mayor Buccafusco offered Resolution 2026-42 for adoption, which was seconded by Councilwoman Donovan.

Councilman DeBlasio asked his question about a conflict. Councilwoman Donovan stated the Borough has received grants since Mr. Kane has been here so doesn't see a problem. Mayor Buccafusco suggested making the appointment and if Mr. McGill determines there is a conflict it can be changed.

Resolution was adopted per the following vote:

AYES: Donovan, Kinney and Buccafusco

NAYS: Moroney and DeBlasio

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 2026-01 *First Reading & Introduction*

**ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXV, STATE UNIFORM
CONSTRUCTION CODE ENFORCING AGENCY, SECTION 25-1.4 STATE UNIFORM
CONSTRUCTION CODE FEES, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH
OF BELMAR, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY**

Mayor Buccafusco offered Ordinance 2026-01 for first reading and introduction, which was seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Moroney, DeBlasio, Donovan, Kinney and Buccafusco

PUBLIC SESSION:

Councilwoman Kinney asked for an update on the Main Street bridge. Mr. Kane stated DOT reached out to us and Avon about letting them work around the clock to get the bridge open by March 1st, but there are a lot of residents that live nearby. They were told to keep their normal work schedule and do as much as they can. It will be open for parade day and closed again after to allow work to continue and be ready by summer.

Barry Lubin, 15th Avenue, thanked all the professionals who worked through this storm. Asked if cars that didn't move off the street and are snowed in will receive citations.

Mayor Buccafusco suggested discussing ordinance 19-10 with Mr. McGill because some areas need more clarification.

Greg Michellini, 14th Avenue, wished there was a way to notify people to properly dispose and remove of damaged American flags.

Clare Hayner, 18th Avenue, thanked DPW.

Ed Slater, 710 8th Avenue, asked about snow removal at the Belmar Housing Authority. He and a few others have fallen on the ice.

Mayor Buccafusco summarized the discussion that was had in the beginning of the meeting regarding this.

Johana Robinson, 406 9th Avenue, stated she is one of the BHA Commissioners and there are some issues they are working on fixing. Thanked DPW and Councilwoman Donovan and others who came to help.

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

Respectively submitted,

April Claudio
Municipal Clerk