

**REORGANIZATION MEETING
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
January 2, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

City Clerk Heath, acting as Temporary Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the 2026 Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and City Council.

Open Public Meetings Act

The Temporary Chairman announced pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to two local newspapers. The agenda has been posted in the City Clerk's Office and on the City's website at www.somerspointgov.org.

Oath of Office

Newly re-elected City Council Member Ward 1 Sean McGuigan was called forward and sworn in by Atlantic County Commissioner Maureen Kern, while his wife Theresa, Son Colin, and Daughter in Law Jordan held the bible.

Newly elected City Council Member Ward 2, Morgan Slaughter was called forward and sworn in by her father, Former Mayor John DiMaria while her son Ryder held the City's bible.

They each received a round of applause from the audience.

Nomination and Election of a President of Council

Temporary Chair Heath called for the nomination and election of President of Council for the year 2026. Council Member Gerety was nominated by motion of Council Member Johnston and seconded by Council Member DePamphilis. There being no further nominations, the nominations were declared closed. Council Member Gerety was then elected President of City Council by a unanimous roll call vote of those present. Council President Gerety received the gavel with a round of applause.

Nomination and Election of a President Pro-Tempore

Council President Gerety then called for the nomination and election of a President Pro-Tempore for the year 2026. Council Member DePamphilis nominated Council Member Johnston, seconded by Council Member Slaughter. There being no further nominations, Council Member Johnston was elected as President Pro-Tempore by unanimous roll call vote of those present.

Roll Call

Present: Dill, Johnston, McGuigan, Slaughter, DePamphilis, Gerety

Absent: Haberkorn

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Also Present: Mayor Tapp, Administrator Frost, Clerk Heath

**Resolution No. 1 of 2026
M/S- Dill/Johnston**

Council President Gerety welcomed Thomas Smith back as the 2026 Municipal Solicitor.

No. 1 of 2026

Subject: Appointment of Municipal Solicitor

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point has identified a need for a Municipal Solicitor for 2026; and

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S. 19:44A-20.4 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

1. Thomas G. Smith, Esq., be and hereby is appointed as Municipal Solicitor for the City of Somers Point for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, inclusive.
2. This Agreement is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because public bidding is not required for said service.
3. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an Agreement with Thomas G. Smith, Esq., in connection with these services, and, upon execution, the contract will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.
4. As indicated in the Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a fair and open process, further public notice per N.J.S. 40A:11-5.(1)(a)(i) is not required.

Flag Salute

City Council President Gerety led the audience in the salute to the U. S. Flag.

Invocation

Police Chaplain Louis Strugala offered the invocation.

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Council President Gerety thanked Louis Strugala for his inspiring words.

Council President Gerety welcomed and recognized Senator Vincent Polistina, Assemblyman Don Guardian, County Commissioners Maureen Kern, John Risley and June Burns, Former Mayor John DiMaria, Former Council Members Karen Bruno, Mike Owen, and Carl D'Adamo, Former Sherriff Jimmy and Retired Police Officer Gary Gray.

Members of City Council Address the Public

Council Member DePamphilis congratulated returning City Council Member McGuigan, newly elected Council Member Slaughter along with newly elected Council President Gerety, he looks forward to working with them this year.

Council Member Johnston expressed how serious she takes her position as an elected official. She then welcomed new Council Member Slaughter and congratulated Slaughter, McGuigan, and Gerety on their elections. Council Member Johnston is optimistic about the upcoming year and doing more great things for the City of Somers Point.

Council Member Dill welcomed new Council Member Slaughter before congratulating Council Member McGuigan on his re-election. He then went on to thank the Public Safety Department, Egg Harbor Township Emergency Medical Services, Somers Point Administration, Employees, Public Works, Municipal Engineer, Volunteers, and Committee members.

Council Member McGuigan thanked his wife and family for all the support they give him during his endeavor to serve the community. He stated he is honored and humbled to serve and plans to continue working hard for the citizens of Somers Point. Council Member McGuigan went on to thank the City Employees, Volunteers, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works and Office of Emergency Management, lastly, he welcomed Council Member Slaughter.

Council Member Slaughter voiced her gratitude to the community, her family and friends for trusting and believing in her as she ran for office. Slaughter is excited to work cohesively alongside City Officials, Employees and Residents and plans to serve the community with integrity, transparency and dedication to make Somers Point a better place to live and raise families.

Council President Gerety thanked everyone who attended the Reorganization Meeting, before noting the importance of volunteers and the need for young people to get involved with the community.

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Mayor Dennis Tapp Addresses the Public

Mayor Tapp reflected on the progress made in 2025 by the Council and the community to keep Somers Point growing and thriving. Mayor Tapp talked about the great accomplishments met in the Housing Development and Infrastructure. Mayor Tapp then talked about the growing business district with many new businesses opening in the upcoming year which helps keep Somers Point financially strong. He then thanked all City Officials and Employees. In closing Mayor Tapp welcomed Council Members Slaughter, and McGuigan, before personally wishing his grandson Killian a Happy Birthday and Grandson Dillinger a speedy recovery as he is set to have emergency surgery.

Proclamations:

The following proclamations were read by Mayor Tapp.

No. 1 of 2026

Subject: Appointing Historic Preservation Commission

WHEREAS, the City Council by Ordinance has established a Historic Preservation Commission in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-107 et seq. as more specifically set forth in Section 114-202 in Article XXVIII of Chapter 114 of the Somers Point Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Somers Point Historical Commission currently consists of seven regular members and two alternate members; and

WHEREAS, it is the jurisdiction of the Mayor to make said appointments to the Commission; and

WHEREAS, it has also been determined that for a seven-member Commission, at least one member shall be a Class A member, one member shall be a Class B member and a third member shall be either a Class A or a Class B member so that a total of at least one less than a majority shall be of Classes A and B; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Dennis Tapp wishes to reappoint Tara McGinnis as a Class A Member with a term expiring December 31, 2027; and Mayor Dennis Tapp wishes to reappoint William Dunfee as a Class C Member with a term expiring December 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Dennis Tapp wishes to reappoint Debi Argent as Alternate Member Number 2 with a term expiring 12/31/2027; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Dennis Tapp wishes to reaffirm the following appointments with the term expiration dates designated below

BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT the Historic Preservation Commission consists of the following members with their terms of office noted:

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CLASS A	EXPIRATION OF TERM
Tara McGinnis - Regular Member	December 31, 2027
CLASS B	
Donna Mohr - Regular Member	December 31, 2026
Levi Fox – Regular Member	December 31, 2026
CLASS C	
William Reinert - Regular Member	December 31, 2026
Marian McVeigh - Regular Member	December 31, 2026
William Dunfee – Reg. Member	December 31, 2027
Lynn MacEwan – Regular Member	December 31, 2026
ALTERNATES	
Vacant (Alt. No. 1)	December 31, 2027
Debi Argent (Alt. No. 2)	December 31, 2027

No. 2 of 2026

Subject: Appointing Planning Board Members

WHEREAS, due to the expiration of terms of Michael R. Sweeney, Howard Dill and Gerald “Max” Slusher, I, Mayor Dennis Tapp hereby appoint Stephen Hornig to Class II with a term expiring December 31, 2026. I, Mayor Dennis Tapp hereby reappoint Howard Dill Class III, with a term expiring 12/31/2026. I, Mayor Dennis Tapp hereby reappoint Gerald “Max” Slusher to Class IV with a term expiring December 31, 2029.

BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT the Planning Board as of this date consists of the following members with the expiration of terms noted:

CLASS I	EXPIRATION OF TERM
Mayor Dennis Tapp	Term of Office
CLASS II	
Stephen Hornig	One (1) Year Term 12/31/26
CLASS III	
Howard Dill	One (1) Year Term 12/31/26
CLASS IV	
Jack Shields	December 31, 2027
Brian Cotton	December 31, 2028
Gerald “Max” Slusher	December 31, 2029
Paul Striefsky	December 31, 2027
Vince Lombardi (Alt. No. 1)	December 31, 2028

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John O'Connor (Alt. No. 2)

December 31, 2028

No. 3 of 2026

Subject: Environmental Commission Appointments

WHEREAS, vacancies exist on the Somers Point Environmental Commission due to the expiration of the terms and resignations of certain members; and

WHEREAS, I, Mayor Dennis Tapp hereby reappoint Pam Demarco and Linda Keyser for terms expiring December 31, 2028; and

THE SOMERS POINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION shall consist of the following members with the expiration of terms noted:

Pam Demarco	December 31, 2028
Linda Keyser	December 31, 2028
Sue Seckinger	December 31, 2026
Paul Ludgate	December 31, 2026
Jack Shields	December 31, 2026
Bill Reinert	December 31, 2027
John Helbig, (Chair)	December 31, 2027

No. 4 of 2026

Subject: Appointing Veteran's Advisory Board

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council for the City of Somers Point established, by virtue of Ordinance No. 7 of 2019 and under the authority of *N.J.S.A. 40A:1-1 et. seq.*, a Veterans Advisory Board for the City of Somers Point for the purpose of keeping the Mayor and Council informed of developments regarding veterans and for the purposes of coordination of Veteran related activities, issues, parades and developments which, in effect, affect the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor is desirous of appointing to said Veterans Advisory Board those members of the community whose qualifications meet those specified by said Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the citizens that are hereby proclaimed to be members of the first Veterans Advisory Board within the City of Somers Point have served their Country honorably and with distinction and will be of benefit to the Mayor and Council in addressing and promoting the

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needs and affairs of veterans within our City for the betterment of our community and are otherwise eligible to serve on the Veteran’s Advisory Board.

WHEREAS, Morgan Slaughter is now a member of City Council and is appointed as a liaison, and

WHEREAS, I, Mayor Dennis Tapp hereby appoint Robert Hauser to this vacancy, with the term to expire 12/31/2026, and;

WHEREAS, I, Mayor Dennis Tapp, hereby reappoint Thomas Innocente and Ron Bird with terms expiring 12/31/2028

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dennis Tapp by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Somers Point, County of Atlantic and State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim that effective immediately the following persons shall be and are hereby appointed as members of the Veterans Advisory Board for the terms and positions so specified:

Members	Expiration of Term
Thomas Innocente (U.S. Navy/U.S. Army Reserve)	12/31/2028
Ron Bird (U.S. Navy)	12/31/2028
John L. Glasser, Jr. (U.S. Air Force)	12/31/2027
Robert Hauser (U.S. Navy)	12/31/2026
Phil Huber (U.S. Army)	12/31/2027
William Bobon (Marine Corps.)	12/31/2026
Fred Fontana (U.S. Air Force)	12/31/2026
Larry Lemieux (U.S. Marine Corps)	Ex-Officio Member
Howard Dill (U.S. Army Reserve)	City Council Liaison
Morgan Slaughter (U.S. Air Force)	City Council Liaison

No. 5 of 2026

Expressing Appreciation to American Legion Post 352 Commander Larry Lemieux for His Leadership in the Hometown Hero Banner Campaign

WHEREAS; the City of Somers Point recognizes the importance of honoring the brave men and women who have served our nation in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS; the Hometown Hero Banner Campaign has provided a meaningful and visible tribute to these individuals, fostering community pride and remembrance; and

WHEREAS; Commander Larry Lemieux of American Legion Post 352 has demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment in organizing and overseeing this campaign; and

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WHEREAS, through his efforts, numerous banners have been displayed throughout the city, ensuring that the sacrifices and service of our local heroes are recognized and celebrated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Dennis Tapp, Mayor of the City of Somers Point hereby extend heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Commander Larry Lemieux for his exemplary service and leadership in making the Hometown Hero Banner Campaign a success; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that a copy of this proclamation be presented to Commander Lemieux as a token of the City's appreciation.

No. 6 of 2026

Honoring Judge Freed

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point recognizes and honors individuals who have dedicated themselves to the service of our community with integrity, professionalism, and unwavering commitment; and

WHEREAS, Judge Howard E Freed Esq. has faithfully served as Municipal Judge for the City of Somers Point for 14 years, presiding over the Municipal Court with fairness, impartiality, and respect for the law; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Judge Howard E Freed Esq. has exemplified the highest standards of judicial conduct, ensuring that justice was administered with compassion and consistency, thereby earning the admiration and gratitude of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, his dedication has contributed significantly to the safety, order, and well-being of our community, and his leadership has left an enduring impact on the administration of justice in Somers Point; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement from Somers Point, we wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for his years of service and commitment to the principles of justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dennis Tapp, Mayor of the City of Somers Point, do hereby proclaim January 2, 2026, as a day of recognition for Judge Howard E Freed Esq., and extend the City's deepest gratitude for his 14 years of distinguished service as Municipal Judge.

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No. 7 of 2026

Honoring Philip Gaffney

WHEREAS, Philip Gaffney faithfully served the City of Somers Point for many years as a dedicated member of law enforcement, rising to the rank of Police Captain. After his retirement from the police force, Philip Gaffney became the Coordinator of the Office of Emergency Management, ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished 14 years as Coordinator of the Office of Emergency Management, Philip Gaffney has demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and commitment to public service, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues, community members, and elected officials alike; and

WHEREAS, his tireless efforts in emergency preparedness and response have strengthened the resilience of Somers Point, safeguarding lives and property during times of crisis and exemplifying the highest standards of civic responsibility; and

WHEREAS, as Philip Gaffney retires as Coordinator of the Office of Emergency Management, we recognize not only his years of dedicated service but also the lasting impact he has made on our community through his integrity, compassion, and unwavering dedication to duty.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dennis Tapp, Mayor of the City of Somers Point, do hereby proclaim January 2, 2026, as a day to honor Philip Gaffney for his outstanding contributions to the City of Somers Point and extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Resolutions:

No. 2 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Johnston

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

Mayor Tapp and Council Member McGuigan thanked the Volunteer Fire Department Officers for all the hard work and dedication.

No. 2 of 2026

Subject: Fire Department Officers

WHEREAS, the members of the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department have recommended the following officers; and

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WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Somers Point wishes to confirm said recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the officers of the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department are as follows, with their terms noted hereon:

CITY FIRE CHIEF (3 Yr. Term – Exp. 12/31/28) Michael C. Sweeney

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF (3 Yr. Term – Exp. 12/31/28) Jay Loder

Asst. Chief (1 year) Exp. 12/31/26	James Somers
Asst. Chief (1 year) Exp. 12/31/26	Patrick Winkler
Captain (1 year) Exp. 12/31/26	Timothy Welsh
Captain (1 year) Exp. 12/31/26	Robert Blaine
Lieutenant (1 year) Exp. 12/31/26	Christopher Martin, Jr.
Lieutenant (1 year) Exp.12/31/26	Donald Dunleavy
Fire Marshall (3 years) Exp. 12/31/28	Grae Ayers
Asst. Fire Marshall (1 year) Exp. 12/31/26	Kimball Feinstein
Safety Officer (1 year) Exp. 12/31/26	Robert Blumberg
Safety Officer (1 year) Exp. 12/31/26	Michael Iannace

Clerk Heath proudly swore in the Volunteer Fire Department Officers, which was met with a round of applause.

No. 3 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Slaughter

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 3 of 2026

**Subject: Appointments/Harbor Master and Deputy Emergency
Management Coordinators**

WHEREAS, it is the duty of Mayor Dennis Tapp to make certain appointments to various offices in the City of Somers Point as their terms expire.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following list of appointments made by Mayor Tapp on the first day of January 2026, be confirmed at this time by the City Council.

HARBOR MASTER

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1 Year Term (Expires 12/31/26)

Mike Kedziora

**MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR, OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

3 Year Term (Unexpired Term Expires 12/31/26)

Chief Robert Somers

**DEP. MUNICIPAL COORDINATORS, OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

1 Year Terms (Expire 12/31/26)

Jack Shields
Mike Kedziora
Vacant

Clerk Heath proudly swore in the Harbor Master and Deputy Emergency Management Officers, which was met with a round of applause.

No. 4 of 2026

M/S – Gerety/Dill

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 4 of 2026

Subject: 2026 Temporary Budget

WHEREAS, 40A:4-19 provides that if any contracts, commitments or payments are to be made prior to the adoption of the budget, the governing body shall, by resolution adopted within the first 30 days of the beginning of the fiscal year, make appropriations to provide for the period between the beginning of the fiscal year and the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the total of the appropriations so made shall not exceed 26.25% of the total of the appropriations made for all purposes in the budget for the preceding fiscal year excluding, in both instances, appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges, and capital improvement fund; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Somers Point City Council that the following temporary appropriations attached to this resolution in the amount of \$5,061,000.00 for the Current Fund and \$763,000.00 for the Utility Fund be made for the period beginning January 1, 2026, and ending with the adoption of the budget for the fiscal year.

No. 5 of 2026

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M/S – Dill/Slaughter

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 5 of 2026

Subject: Zoning Board Appointment

WHEREAS, City Council reappoints Shawn Rowan with a term expiring December 31, 2029; and Mike Owen to the unexpired term of Alternate No. 2 with a term expiring December 31, 2029.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, New Jersey that the Somers Point Zoning Board of Adjustment is constituted as follows:

MEMBER	EXPIRATION OF TERM
Doug Gilbert	Dec. 31, 2027
Joseph Craddock	Dec. 31, 2028
Shawn Rowan	Dec. 31, 2029
John Helbig	Dec. 31, 2028
Elizabeth Lawler	Dec. 31, 2026
Mike Kedziora	Dec. 31, 2027
Rex Granus	Dec. 31, 2026
Alternates:	
Harry Kent (No. 1)	Dec. 31, 2026
Mike Owen (No. 2)	Dec. 31, 2029

No. 6 of 2026

M/S – Gerety/Owen

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 6 of 2026

Subject: Appointment of Municipal Prosecutor

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point desires to appoint Adam Barker, Esq., as Municipal Prosecutor, effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026; and

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WHEREAS, this contract is awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S. 19:44A-20.4 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

1. Adam Barker, Esq., be and is hereby appointed as Municipal Prosecutor for the City of Somers Point for the period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.
2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an Agreement with Adam Barker, Esq., for the calendar year 2026. Upon execution, a copy of the contract will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.
3. This Agreement is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because public bidding is not required for said service.
4. As indicated in the Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a Fair and Open process, further public notice per N.J.S.A. 40A:11.5.(1)(a)(i) is not required.

No. 7 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Johnston

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 7 of 2026

Subject: Appointment of Public Defender

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point wishes to appoint Frank Lentz, Esq., as Municipal Public Defender, effective January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, this contract is awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S. 19:44A-20.4 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

5. Frank Lentz, Esq. be and hereby is appointed as Municipal Public Defender for the City of Somers Point for the period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.
6. This appointment is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Local Public Contract Law because public bidding is not required for said service.

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7. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an Agreement with Frank Lentz, Esq., for the calendar year 2026. Upon execution, a copy of the contract will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.
8. As indicated in the Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a Fair and Open process, further public notice per N.J.S.A. 40A:11.5.(1)(a)(i) is not required.

No. 8 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Johnston

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 8 of 2026

Subject: Contracting with Municipal Accountant

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires an annual audit to be conducted by a registered municipal accountant; and

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S. 19:44A-20.4 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

1. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an Agreement with Leon Costello, RMC, of Ford, Scott & Associates for the calendar year 2026 to conduct the 2025 annual audit and assist with the preparation of the 2026 Financial Statement, 2026 Debt Statement and 2026 Budget. Upon execution, a copy of the contract will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.
2. This Agreement is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because public bidding is not required for said service.
3. As indicated in the Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a Fair and Open process, further public notice per N.J.S.A. 40A:11.5.(1)(a)(i) is not required.

No. 9 of 2026

M/S – DePamphilis/Slaughter

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This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present with Dill abstaining.

No. 9 of 2026

Subject: Class III Planning Board Appointment

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in Class III category of the Somers Point Planning Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council appoints Council Member Howard Dill to the Class III category of the Somers Point Planning Board for a one-year term expiring December 31, 2026.

No. 10 of 2026

M/S – Dill/DePamphilis

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 10 of 2026

Subject: Recreation Commission Appointments

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 1 of 1975 authorized the establishment of a Board of Recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Somers Point may appoint not less than three (3) nor more than seven (7) members as Commissioners to said Board of Recreation; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Dennis Tapp wishes to re-appoint Larry Randor, who’s current term has expired on December 31, 2025, to a new five-year term, expiring on December 31, 2030, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the above appointment is hereby confirmed by the City Council.

THE RECREATION COMMISSION, as of this date, consists of the following members with their expiration dates noted:

MEMBER	EXPIRATION OF TERM
Donna Shields	December 31, 2026
Larry Randour	December 31, 2030

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Brandon Adams	December 31, 2026
Michael Stanton	December 31, 2029
Chris Marshall	December 31, 2027
Matt Endicott	December 31, 2028
Michael Stewart	December 31, 2028

No. 11 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Slaughter

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 11 of 2026

Subject: Appointment of Tax Appeal Attorney

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point has identified a need for an attorney for Tax Appeal Matters for 2026; and

WHEREAS, this contract is awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S. 19:44A-20.4 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

Thomas G. Smith, Esq., be and hereby is appointed as Tax Appeal Attorney for the City of Somers Point for the period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

1. This appointment is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because public bidding is not required for said service.
2. This appointment is not exclusive during the term of this contract, and that the City Council reserves the right to award work of the exact or similar nature as the work described herein to any other qualified professional, at its sole discretion.
3. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an Agreement in connection with these services, and, upon execution, the Agreement will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.
4. As indicated in the Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a Fair and Open process, further public notice per N.J.S.A. 40A:11.5.(1)(a)(i) is not required.

No. 12 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Slaughter

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

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Council Member Johnston acknowledged the excellent service the City has received from Kates Schneider Engineering year after year and expressed her excitement to have them appointed again.

Council President Gerety agreed with Council Member Johnston.

No. 12 of 2026

Subject: Appointing City Engineer

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of City Engineer; and

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S. 19:44A-20.4 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

1. Greg Schneider of the firm of Kates Schneider Engineering, LLC, hereby is re-appointed as Municipal Engineer for the period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026; and
2. This appointment is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service”, under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because public bidding is not required for said service.
3. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an Agreement with Greg Schneider of Kates Schneider Engineering, LLC, in connection with these services, and, upon execution, the Contract will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.
4. As indicated in the Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a fair and open process, further public notice per N.J.S.A. 40A:11.5.(1)(a)(i) is not required.

No. 13 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Johnston

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 13 of 2026

**Subject: Contracting with Polistina & Associates for Engineering Services
Regarding Somers Point Sewer Utility**

WHEREAS, there exists a need for engineering services in connection with the City of Somers Point Sewer Utility; and

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WHEREAS, this Contract is being awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S. 19:44A-20.4 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, as follows:

- 1) Vincent Polistina of Polistina & Associates hereby is re-appointed to provide the engineering services necessary in connection with the City of Somers Point Sewer Utility for the year 2026.
- 2) The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an Agreement with Vincent Polistina in connection with these services, and, upon execution, the Agreement will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.
- 3) This appointment is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because public bidding is not required for said service.
- 4) As indicated in the Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a Fair and Open process, further public notice per N.J.S.A. 40A:11.5.(1)(a)(i) is not required.

No. 14 of 2026

M/S – Dill/DePamphilis

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 14 of 2026

Subject: Appointment of Bond Counsel

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point has identified a need for Bond Counsel for 2026 and

WHEREAS, this Contract is being awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S. 19:44A-20.4 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

5. McManimon, Scotland, & Baumann, hereby is appointed as Bond Counsel for the City of Somers Point for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, inclusive.
6. This Agreement is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because public bidding is not required for said service.
7. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an Agreement with McManimon, Scotland, & Baumann, in connection with these services, and, upon execution, the Agreement will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.

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8. As indicated in the Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a fair and open process, further public notice per N.J.S.A. 40A:11.5.(1)(a)(i) is not required.

No. 15 of 2026

M/S – Johnston/Dill

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 15 of 2026

Subject: Appointing Attorney to Represent the City of Somers Point in Matters Involving New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing and Fair Housing Act Matters, Regulations and Compliance

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point has identified a need for an attorney to provide advice, counsel and representation to the City of Somers Point on matters involving New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing and Fair Housing Act matters, regulations and compliance including but not limited to certain matters pending before the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City of Somers Point to appoint counsel to undertake and perform such services and provide such advice, counsel and representation as the City Council shall from time to time direct, but in any event not for a period to exceed calendar year 2026; and

WHEREAS, this contract is awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S.19:44A-20.4 et. Seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

1. Michael J. Edwards, Esq., is hereby appointed as an attorney to represent, advise and counsel the City of Somers Point on certain matters involving New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing and Fair Housing Act matters, regulations and compliance including but not limited to certain matters pending before the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey; and
2. This appointment is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Local Public contracts Law because public bidding is not required for said service.
3. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an Agreement with Michael J. Edwards, Esq., to undertake and perform such services and provide such advice, counsel and representation as the City Council shall from time to time direct, but in any event not for a period to exceed

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calendar year 2026. The Agreement will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.

As indicated in the division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a Fair and Open process, further public notice per N.J.S.A. 40A:11.5.(1)(a)(i) is not required.

No. 16 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Slaughter

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 16 of 2026

Subject: Somers Point Arts Commission Appointments

WHEREAS, the Somers Point Arts Commission was established by Ordinance No. 13 of 2006; and

WHEREAS, vacancies exist on the Somers Point Arts Commission due to the expiration of the terms of the members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following members are hereby appointed with their terms expiring December 31, 2026:

Donna Mohr, Co-Chair
Lois Gregory, Co-Chair & Secretary
Shana Kestrel, Treasurer
Karen Sutherland
Christine Toland-Ulrich
Margie Gerety
Ginny Swift
Dan Myers
Kelli Karver
Karen Cleighton, Advisory Member
Mike Owen, Advisory Member

No. 17 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Slaughter

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This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 17 of 2026

Subject: Green Team Advisory Committee

WHEREAS, The City of Somers Point strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, and improve working and living environments as steps to building a sustainable community that will thrive well into the new century; and

WHEREAS, The City of Somers Point hereby acknowledges that the residents of Somers Point desire a stable, sustainable future for themselves and future generations; and

WHEREAS, by endorsing a sustainable path, the City of Somers Point is pledging to educate itself and community members further about sustainable activities and to develop initiatives supporting sustainable local government practices; and

WHEREAS, The City of Somers Point desires to focus attention on “Green” issues, so the City Council established a Green Team Advisory Committee pursuant to Ordinance No.21 of 2009; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, by the City Council of Somers Point that the following persons are hereby appointed to Green Team Advisory Committee:

<i>1 Year Term Expires on:</i>	<i>Name</i>
December 31, 2026	Jack Shields
December 31, 2026	Pam Demarco
December 31, 2026	Linda M. Keyser
December 31, 2026	William Reinert
December 31, 2026	Sue Seckinger
December 31, 2026	John Helbig
December 31, 2026	Paul Ludgate

No. 18 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Johnston

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 18 of 2026

**REORGANIZATION MEETING
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
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Subject: Appointing Planner and Grant Consultant

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point has identified a need for a Planner and Grant Consultant to provide advice, counsel and representation to the City of Somers Point on matters involving planning and grant opportunities; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City of Somers Point to appoint a Planner and Grant Consultant to undertake and perform such services and provide such advice, counsel and representation as the City Council shall from time to time direct, but in any event not for a period to exceed calendar year 2026; and

WHEREAS, this contract is awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S.19:44A-20.4 et. Seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

4. James M. Rutala Associates, LLC, is hereby appointed as a planner to represent, advise and counsel the City of Somers Point on certain matters involving planning, grant opportunities and grant writing; and
5. This appointment is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Local Public contracts Law because public bidding is not required for said service.
6. This appointment is not exclusive during the term of this Contract, and that City Council reserves the right to award work of the exact or similar nature as the work described herein to any other qualified professional, at its sole discretion.
7. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an Agreement with James M. Rutala Associates, LLC, to undertake and perform such services and provide such advice, counsel and representation as the City Council shall from time to time direct, but in any event not for a period to exceed calendar year 2026. The Agreement will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.
8. As indicated in the division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a Fair and Open process, further public notice per N.J.S.A. 40A:11.5.(1)(a)(i) is not required.

No. 19 of 2026

M/S – Johnston/Dill

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

Council Member McGuigan conveyed his appreciation for Louis Strugala Police Chaplain.

No. 19 of 2026

Subject: Appointing Reverend Louis Strugala – Police Chaplain

**REORGANIZATION MEETING
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WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council of the City of Somers Point to appoint Pastor Louis Strugala as the Police Chaplain for the Somers Point Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Strugala is in good standing as an ordained clergyman with basic training as a chaplain; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Strugala has agreed to serve on as a volunteer in the role of the Police Chaplain without rank, salary, or any other benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Police Chaplain will report to and be directed by the Chief of Police, his duties shall include, but not be limited to, assisting the department with Death Notices, station house adjustments, confidential counseling of any Police Officer who seeks such counseling, and any other duties that maybe assigned by the Police Chief;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that Pastor Louis Strugala is appointed as the Chaplain of the Somers Point Police Department by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, to serve in that capacity until December 31, 2026.

It is further **RESOLVED** that the City Council of Somers Point conveys their gratitude and appreciation to Pastor Strugala for agreeing to service in this role.

No. 20 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Johnston

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 20 of 2026

Subject: Resolution Authorizing an Award of Contract for Extraordinary Unspecified Services to Professional Benefits Consultants Inc for Insurance Consultant Services Related to the Program Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40a:11-5(1)(A)(I) And N.J.A.C. 5:34-1.1 Et Seq.

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point, sought proposals for insurance consulting services, with said services being of the type which are extraordinary and not amenable to typical specification processes; and

WHEREAS, the scope of the aforementioned services is enumerated in more detail in the attached proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i), provides for the award of extraordinary unspecified services, without engaging in the bidding process, where such services are defined as “means services which are specialized and qualitative in

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nature requiring expertise, extensive training and proven reputation in the field of endeavor” pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-1.2; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Local Finance Notice AU 2002-2, insurance consulting services are listed as potential extraordinary unspecified services; and

WHEREAS, the City Administrator /Qualified Purchasing Agent, Jason Frost, and Chief Finance Officer, Shana Kestrel, have reviewed this matter and recommend the award this contract to Professional Benefit Consultants Inc; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this Contract is one year or less, with the contract term to run from the commencement of the consulting services; and

WHEREAS, City Council deems it in the best interests of the City to award a contract to Professional Benefit Consultants Inc to provide the services delineated in the proposal and wishes to provide its approval to the award of contract; and

WHEREAS, such award of contract shall be in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 and the provision of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 are not applicable, and

WHEREAS, the availability of funds has been certified by the Chief Financial Officer who shall make an appropriate entry into the City’s encumbrance system pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.1 and 5.2; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contract for “Professional Services,” without competitive bids and the contract itself, must be available for public inspection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, County of Atlantic and State of New Jersey that an award of insurance consulting services related to an evaluation of our health insurance plan is hereby made to Professional Benefit Consultants of 1601 New Rd #100, Northfield, NJ 08225, in an amount to be paid as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Mayor and/ or City Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to execute any necessary Services Agreement where applicable, with Professional Benefit Consultants Inc; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Administrator, shall execute the necessary certifications required for an extraordinary unspecified services procurement as mandated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-2.3(b) if needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Extraordinary Unspecified Service” in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) and N.J.A.C. 5:34-1.1 et seq. of the Local Public Contracts Law because these services are services which are specialized and qualitative in nature requiring expertise, extensive training and proven reputation in the field of endeavor and meet the guidelines of Local Finance Notice AU 2002-2.

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M/S – Johnston/Dill

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 21 of 2026

Subject: Appointment of COAH Municipal Planner

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point has identified a need for a Fair Housing Act Municipal Planner (COAH Municipal Planer) for the period commencing upon appointment and for a term not to exceed one year to assist the City in developing and presenting a Compliance Plan to the New Jersey Superior Court for approval and acceptance; and

WHEREAS, this contract is being awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S. 19:44A-20.4 et. seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

9. Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc., be and hereby is appointed as COAH Municipal Planner for the City of Somers Point for the period January 1, 2026, through a term to end not later than December 31, 2026, inclusive.
10. This agreement is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because public bidding is not required for said service.
11. This appointment is not exclusive during the term of this contract, and that City Council reserves the right to award work of the exact or similar nature as the work described herein to any other qualified professional, at is sole discretion.
12. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc., in connection with these services, and, upon execution, the contract will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.
13. As indicated in the Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a fair and open process, further public notice per N.J.S.A. 40A:11.5 (6) is not required.

No. 22 of 2026

M/S – Dill/DePamphilis

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 22 of 2026

Subject: Appointing Labor Attorney

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point has identified a need for a Labor Attorney for the year 2026: and

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WHEREAS, this contract is awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S.19:44A-20.4 et. Seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

9. Barker, Gelfand, James, & Sarvas., is hereby appointed as Labor Attorney for the City of Somers Point for the period of January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.
10. This appointment is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Local Public contracts Law because public bidding is not required for said service.
11. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Barker, Gelfand, James, & Sarvas in connection with these services and upon execution, the agreement will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.
12. As indicated in the division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a Fair and Open process, further public notice per N.J.S.A. 40A:11.5(6) is not required.

No. 23 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Johnston

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

Council Member McGuigan personally thanked Judge Freed for the thankless job he has done.

No. 23 of 2026

**Subject: Accepting the Resignation of Howard E. Freed, Esquire as
Municipal Judge for the City of Somers Point**

WHEREAS, Municipal Judge Howard E. Freed was reappointed as Municipal Judge for the City of Somers Point on January 5, 2024, by way of Resolution No. 36 Of 2024;

WHEREAS, his reappointment was for a three-year term through December 31, 2026;
and

WHEREAS, Judge Freed has elected to resign from his position effective December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to accept Judge Freed’s resignation after his many years as the Municipal Judge for the City.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council of the City of Somers Point hereby accepts the tender of resignation of Judge Howard E. Freed from the position of Municipal Judge for the City of Somers Point effective December 31, 2025.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Somers Point hereby publicly thanks Judge Howard E. Freed for his many years of dedicated service to the City of Somers Point.

No. 24 of 2026

M/S – Dill/Johnston

This resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of those present.

No. 24 of 2026

Subject: Appointing Marc J. Nehmad as Municipal Judge for the City of Somers Point to Fill the Unexpired Contract Term for Judge Howard E. Freed, Esq.

WHEREAS, due to the resignation of Municipal Judge Howard E. Freed, Esq. from the City of Somers Point Court; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 2B:12-4 provides for the appointment of a Municipal Judge for a term of three years which appointment was made by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Dennis Tapp, wishes to appoint Marc J. Nehmad, Esq., to the position of Municipal Judge in the City of Somers Point to fill the unexpired contract term for Howard E. Freed, Esq, whose term is set to expire on December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has duly considered said appointment and intends by this resolution to confirm same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that the appointment of Marc J. Nehmad, Esq., to the position of Municipal Judge for the period aforesaid be and hereby is confirmed.

Consent Agenda:

On the motion of Council Member DePamphilis, seconded Council Member Johnston and carried to approve the Consent Agenda regarding the following resolutions.

No. 25 of 2026

Subject: Authorizing Agreement with Public Works Supervisor Guy Martin

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- Gulph Mill Road Pump Station - \$107,650
- Defeo Lane Stormwater Replacement - \$75,800
- Exton Road Stormwater Pump Station - \$72,625
- Exton Road Shoreline Stabilization - \$53,500
- Pierson/Dawes Stormwater Improvements - \$22,900
- Bay Avenue Outfalls and Living Shoreline Proposal - \$109,450
- Outfall Improvements - \$38,200
- Schoolhouse Drive Stormwater Pump Station - \$21,000
- Pacific Avenue Pump Station Replacement - \$42,915
- Ocean Avenue Stormwater Improvements - \$86,275
- Stormwater Pipe Slip Lining - \$101,800

WHEREAS Kates Schneider is a professional engineering firm duly licensed in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS Kates Schneider agrees to comply with all the NJDEP requirements including NJDEP Engineering Services Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Somers Point authorizes Dennis Tapp or the successor to the office of Mayor to execute a contract substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** with Kates Schneider Engineering in an amount of \$731,615 to engineering service for the eleven projects listed above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Somers Point agrees to comply with all applicable federal, State, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations in its performance pursuant to this contract.

No. 27 of 2026

Subject: Resolution Authorizing a Contract with NJDEP Planning & Design Grant Program

Introduced by: Council Member Dill

WHEREAS the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) provides Planning & Design Grants; and

WHEREAS to be eligible for up to \$2 million in grant funds the applicant must be a disadvantaged community and have an eligible project associated with the grant with an application in H2Loans; and

WHEREAS the Governing Body of the City of desires to further the public interest by entering into a contract with the State of New Jersey in the amount of approximately \$731,615 to fund the following design and permitting projects:

- Gulph Mill Road Pump Station - \$107,650
- Defeo Lane Stormwater Replacement - \$75,800
- Exton Road Stormwater Pump Station - \$72,625
- Exton Road Shoreline Stabilization - \$53,500
- Pierson/Dawes Stormwater Improvements - \$22,900
- Bay Avenue Outfalls and Living Shoreline Proposal - \$109,450

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- Outfall Improvements - \$38,200
- Schoolhouse Drive Stormwater Pump Station - \$21,000
- Pacific Avenue Pump Station Replacement - \$42,915
- Ocean Avenue Stormwater Improvements - \$86,275
- Stormwater Pipe Slip Lining - \$101,800

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Somers Point authorizes the Mayor to:

- a) execute a contract with the State in an amount not less than \$0 and not more than \$731,615, and
- b) to execute amendments as indicated below:
 - a. any amendments thereto
 - b. any amendments thereto which do not increase the Contractor’s obligations
 - c. no amendments

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Somers Point authorizes and hereby agrees to a match of 0% of the Total Project Amount, in compliance with the match requirements of the contract. The availability of the match for such purposes, whether cash, services, or property, is hereby certified. 0% of the match will be made up of in-kind services (if allowed by program requirements and the contract).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Somers Point agrees to comply with all applicable federal, State, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations in its performance pursuant to the contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the officers, officials, and professionals of the City of Somers Point to take all actions necessary or desirable to effectuate the intent of this Resolution and the contract.

No. 28 of 2026

Subject: Referral of the Historic Landmark Designation of 926 Shore Road, Block 1813, Lot 19 (Referred to as 920 Shore Road in this Resolution and on the City Tax Maps) to the Planning Board

WHEREAS, the Somers Point Historic Preservation Commission has received and reviewed the report titled “Somers Point Local Historic Landmark Nomination for 920 Shore Road” dated September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, at a properly noticed Public Hearing on October 8, 2025, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the report, heard from the Owner and the public, and found that the report includes the following information required for designation: photographs of the proposed landmark; a copy of the municipal tax map detailing its location; and a physical description of the proposed landmark. Furthermore, the report demonstrates that the proposed landmark has significance meeting the Section 2 criteria of the Somers Point’s Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 114 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, 920 Shore Road (Block 1813, Lot 19), is located on the east side of Shore Road on the corner of Annie Avenue and Shore Road. The property is directly across from the site of the Somers Mansion, a National Historic property owned by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. To the northeast is a parking lot (part of Block 1813, Lot 19) bounded by Annie Street. And

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to the southwest of 920 Shore Road are two residential structures. The remainder of Block 1813 is primarily residential, ending at Bay Avenue; and

WHEREAS, 920 Shore Road meets the Historic Preservation Ordinance criteria for local recognition for its “character interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City; and

WHEREAS, 920 Shore Road deserves local recognition for its representation of the quiet, understated character that distinguished development in Somers Point from the showier resorts to the south and north. The development of Somers Point as a bayfront community which drew limited attention throughout the 20th century is best illustrated by both its historic collection of bayside bungalows and by the development of Shore Road as its commercial and hospitality center and the anchor of its connection to the north and south. 920 Shore Road, a handsome, understated Victorian structure, represents how architecture can reflect the feel and traits of a community like Somers Point that evolved in its own, distinct style, which separate it from other shore resorts; and

WHEREAS, the Somers Point Historic Preservation Commission recommended that the building located at 920 Shore Road be designed as a Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Somers Point Code, Chapter 114, City Council shall refer the Landmark Nomination Report to the Planning Board, which in turn shall report back to City Council within sixty (60) days.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council of the City of Somers Point refers the Nomination Report for the building, located at 920 Shore Road (Block 1813, Lot 19) to the Planning Board for review.

No. 29 of 2026

Subject: Authorizing Chief Financial Officer and City Administrator to Pay Required Bills

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the operational needs of the City may require certain bills to be paid prior to the opportunity for individual review and approval by City Council during the calendar year 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that the City Administrator and Chief Financial Officer are hereby empowered to pay those bills which they deem necessary, on an as-needed basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said authorization is expressly conditioned upon the availability of sufficient funds, and all bills so paid will be presented to City Council by separate listing at the first meeting subsequent to payment.

No. 30 of 2026

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Subject: Adopting Cash Management Plan

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Local Fiscal Affairs Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:5, et seq. requires that municipalities adopt a Cash Management Plan which is designed to assure, to the extent practical, investment of local funds in interest bearing accounts and other permitted investments; and

WHEREAS, the Cash Management Plan must include:

- 1) The designation of a public depository or depositories
- 2) The authorization for investments as permitted by various applicable laws
- 3) The annual submission of the Cash Management Plan to the governing body, which must be approved by a majority vote.
- 4) An annual audit of the Cash Management Plan
- 5) That when an investment is in bonds which mature in more than one year, a determination that the maturity approximates the prospective time when such funds are needed

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that the Cash Management Plan attached hereto and made a part hereof is hereby adopted for the year 2026.

No. 31 of 2026

**Subject: Appointing Risk Management Consultant for Atlantic County
Municipal Joint Insurance Fund & Municipal Excess Liability JIF**

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Somers Point has resolved to join the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund and the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund, each a self- insurance pooling fund, following a detailed analysis; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of said Funds require that each Municipality appoint a **RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT** to perform various professional services as detailed in the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws indicate a fee not to exceed six percent (6%) of the Municipal Assessment which expenditure represents reasonable compensation for the services required and was included in the cost considered by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, this contract is awarded through a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S. 19:44A-20.4 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, the governing body has determined to secure these services as an exception to a fair and open process pursuant to N.J.S. 19:44A-20.5; and

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

1. Glenn Insurance of Absecon, New Jersey be and is hereby appointed Risk Management Consultant for the period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026, in accordance with 40A:11-5; and
2. This appointment is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because public bidding is not required for said service.
3. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Glenn Insurance in connection with these services, and, upon execution, the contract will be attached to this resolution and become a part hereof.
4. As indicated in the Division of Local Government Services Local Finance Notice 2006-7, because this is awarded through a Fair and open process, further public notice per N.J.S.A. 40A:11.5.(1)(a)(i) is not required.

No. 32 of 2026

**Subject: Appointing Fund Commissioner and Alternate Fund
Commissioner**

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point is a member of the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, hereinafter referred to as the FUND; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the FUND require that in the manner generally prescribed by law, each member shall appoint one (1) Fund commissioner to the Fund. Each Fund commissioner shall be either a member of the local unit's governing body or one of its employees and that no individual may serve as Fund Commissioner for more than one (1) member; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 11:15-2.6 states that a Fund Commissioner who is a member of the appointing local unit's governing body, shall hold office for two years or for the remainder of his/her term of office as a member of the local unit's governing body, whichever shall be less; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 11:15-2.6 states that a Fund Commissioner who is an employee of the appointing member shall hold office at the pleasure of the member and can be removed by the member at any time without cause; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Somers Point recommends the appointment of Shelby Heath to serve as Fund Commissioner and Allison Giampapa as Alternate Fund Commissioner in accordance with the FUND Bylaws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that it does hereby appoint Shelby Heath as Fund Commissioner and

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Allison Giampapa as Alternate Fund Commissioner to the Atlantic County
Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.

No. 33 of 2026

Subject: Sponsoring Various Memorial/Remembrance Services

WHEREAS, various Memorial and Remembrance Services are held in the City of Somers Point on property owned by the City; and

WHEREAS, these events are not for profit activities, are not for the purpose of raising or soliciting funds and are solely for the purpose of honoring our veterans who gave of themselves for the good of our Country; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Somers Point believes it to be in the best interest of our citizens to sponsor these Memorial Events held on City owned property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that the following Memorial and Remembrance Services held in the City of Somers Point to the extent held on property owned by the City of Somers Point shall be sponsored, endorsed and approved by the City:

Saturday,	April 18, 2026	Submariner Anniversary-Submariner Memorial Park at 1:00 P.M.
Monday;	May 25, 2026	Memorial Day Parade - Shore Road to Patriots Park with ceremony at Patriots Park at 11:00 A.M.
Friday,	September 11, 2026	911 Remembrance Day, Patriots Day at Patriots Park at 5:30 P.M.
Friday,	September 18, 2026	POW-MIA Recognition Day at Patriots Park at 7 P.M.
Wednesday,	November 11, 2026	Veterans Day - Patriots Park at 11 A.M.
Sunday,	December 6, 2026	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at William Morrow Beach at 1:00 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Administrator is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Municipal Joint Insurance Fund.

No. 34 of 2026

Subject: Re-appointing Public Agency Compliance Officer

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WHEREAS, the State Affirmative Action Office, Department of the Treasury, requires that an official person be designated as a liaison and to serve as a Public Agency Compliance Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby re-appoints Municipal Clerk, Shelby Heath, to act in this capacity for the City of Somers Point.

No. 35 of 2026

Subject: Setting Interest Rates for Delinquent Taxes

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 permits the governing body of a municipality to fix the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes or assessments and sewer charges;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, that:

1. In the event that payments of taxes or assessments and sewer charges are not paid on the due date, but are paid within a period of ten (10) days in the case of taxes, or thirty (30) days in the case of assessments and sewer charges, the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to charge no interest on all such delinquent payments.

2. In the event that payments of taxes or assessments and sewer charges are not paid within ten (10) days in the case of taxes, or thirty (30) days in the case of assessments and sewer charges, the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to charge interest at the rate of eight percent per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18 percent per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00 to be calculated from the date the tax or assessment was payable until the date of actual payment.

3. N.J.S.A. 54:6-67 specifically provides that a governing body may fix a penalty to be charged to a taxpayer where there is a tax and/or other municipal charge delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 at the end of any calendar year on a given parcel of real estate; and

4. That a penalty equal to six percent of the amount of any delinquency in taxes and other municipal charges on a given parcel of real property shall be and is hereby imposed where the delinquency exceeds \$10,000.00 at the end of each calendar year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a true copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector.

No. 36 of 2026

Subject: Authorizing the Mayor and/or the Administrator of the City of Somers Point to Sign Certain New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Department of

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Transportation Permit Applications and Other Routine Project Documents on behalf of the Sewer Utility for Projects Approved and Authorized by the Governing Body of the City of Somers Point

WHEREAS, from time to time it is necessary for the Sewer Utility Engineer and the City Engineer to submit permit applications and other routine project documents to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) on behalf of the City for Sewer Utility Projects approved by City Council; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Mayor and/or the Administrator of the City of Somers Point to sign such routine applications and documents on behalf of the City, and

WHEREAS, in submitting such applications and documents to the NJDEP and/or NJDOT it is necessary to reference the enabling resolution granting such signing authority to the Mayor and/or Administrator; and

WHEREAS, it has been brought to the attention of City Council that such an enabling resolution must be adopted:

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby **RESOLVED** by the Somers Point City Council that Dennis Tapp, in his capacity as Mayor of the City of Somers Point and Jason Frost in his capacity as City Administrator are hereby authorized to execute such applications and documents as may from time to time be prepared by the City or Sewer Utility Engineer as necessary to be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and/or New Jersey Department of Transportation associated with any and all permits and permit applications required for approved City projects without necessity of any further approval from this governing body.

It is further RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be provided to the City Engineer, the Sewer Utility Engineer and the Code Enforcement Office Secretary.

No. 37 of 2026

Subject: Mandating Direct Deposit of Net Pay for All Employees of the City of Somers Point

WHEREAS, since its effective date of July 1, 2014, N.J.S.A. 52:14-15f has allowed the governing body of a municipality to determine by the adoption of a resolution or ordinance, as appropriate, to provide for the mandatory direct deposit of net pay for all employees of a municipality; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point has previously offered to its employees the election having their net pay directly deposited to a banking institution of their choice; and

WHEREAS, the direct deposit of paychecks has become an acceptable manner of handling payroll for businesses, as well as public entities; and

WHEREAS, the direct deposit of employees' pay will reduce employee time and costs relative to the issuance of hardcopy paychecks; and

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WHEREAS, the Auditor of the City of Somers Point, has recommended the enactment of a resolution or ordinance mandating such direct deposit of the pay for the City’s employees; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid statute specifically allows for exceptions to be made to the mandatory direct deposit by a municipality; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body recognizes the usefulness and cost savings associated with a mandatory direct deposit policy for the City’s employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE City Council of Somers Point that effective September 1, 2021, all pay for City employees, unless excepted out by the City Administrator upon a request by an employee, shall be made by direct deposit to a banking institution of the employees’ choice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City’s Chief Financial Officer shall take all such steps to effectuate this mandatory direct deposit policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this mandatory direct deposit policy shall remain in effect until such time as further modified or rescinded the Common Council of Somers Point.

No. 38 of 2026

Subject: Designating Council Meeting Dates

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Somers Point that the dates listed below be designated as the time for regular Council Meetings for the year 2026 and said meetings shall be held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Services Building and convene at 7:00 p.m., prevailing time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Somers Point that the dates listed below be designated as the time for Work Sessions and Executive Session as needed for the year 2026 and said work sessions and Executive Sessions shall be held immediately subsequent to the completion of the regularly scheduled Council meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the above meetings are scheduled in conjunction with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975 and the City Clerk is hereby directed to post a copy of this Resolution on the appropriate Bulletin Boards in the Municipal Buildings for the public’s information, and to the City’s website, as well as to furnish local newspapers with a copy of this Resolution not later than January 10, 2026.

Meeting Dates

January 22, 2026	Regular Mtg	July 9, 2026	Regular Mtg.
February 12, 2026	Regular Mtg.	July 23, 2026	Regular Mtg.
February 26, 2026	Regular Mtg.	August 27, 2026	Regular Mtg.
March 12, 2026	Regular Mtg.	September 10, 2026	Regular Mtg.
March 26, 2026	Regular Mtg.	September 24, 2026	Regular Mtg.
April 9, 2026	Regular Mtg.	October 8, 2026	Regular Mtg.
April 23, 2026	Regular Mtg.	October 22, 2026	Regular Mtg.
May 14, 2026	Regular Mtg.	November 12, 2026	Regular Mtg.
May 28, 2026	Regular Mtg.	December 17, 2026	Regular Mtg.
June 25, 2026	Regular Mtg.		

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Vineland Daily	Ocean City Sentinel	Asbury Park Press
The Press of Atlantic City	Municipal Services Building	
The Current	somerspointgov.org	Cape May County Herald

No. 39 of 2026

Subject: Designating Official Newspapers

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that the Vineland Daily Journal, Ocean City Sentinel, The Press of Atlantic City, The Asbury Park Press, Cape May County Herald and The Current be and are hereby designated as the legal newspapers for the City of Somers Point for a period of one year commencing January 1, 2026.

No. 40 of 2026

Subject: Financial Depositories

WHEREAS, the following financial institutions are enumerated as depositories of City funds:
Fulton Bank, Somers Point, NJ
Sturdy Savings Bank, Somers Point, NJ
New Jersey Cash Management Fund, Jersey City, NJ

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point as follows:

1. That funds of the City of Somers Point which may be on deposit at any of the above enumerated financial institutions may be withdrawn on checks, drafts, advises of debit, notes or other orders for the payment of monies bearing any two signatures of the following individuals: Dennis Tapp, Mayor; Shelby Heath, City Clerk; Jason Frost, City Administrator, Chief Financial Officer; Shana W. Kestrel, and the financial institution shall be and is authorized to honor and pay the same whether or not they are payable to bearer or to the individual order of any of the approved signatories.
2. That the financial institution is hereby directed to accept and pay without further inquiry any item drawn against any of the City's accounts with the financial institution bearing the signature or signatures as authorized above or otherwise, even though drawn or endorsed to the order of any signatory signing or tendered by such signatory for cashing or in payment of the individual obligation of such signatory or for deposit to the signatory's personal account and the financial institution shall not be required or be under any obligation to inquire as to the circumstances of the issue or use of any item signed in accordance with the resolutions contained herein, or the application or disposition of such item or the proceeds of such item.

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3. That any one of such signatories is authorized to endorse all checks, drafts, notes and other items payable to or owned by the City for deposit with the financial institution, or for collection or discount by the financial institution; and to accept drafts and other items payable at the financial institution.
4. That the above-named signatories are authorized and empowered to execute such other agreements, including, but not limited to, special depository agreements and arrangements regarding the manner, conditions, or purposes for which funds, checks, or items of the City may be deposited, collected, or withdrawn and to perform such other acts as they deem reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of these resolutions.
5. That the authorities hereby conferred upon the above-named signatory shall be and remain in full force and effect until written notice of the revocation thereof shall have been delivered to and received by that financial institution at each location where an account is maintained. Any such notice shall not affect any items in process at the time notice is given.
6. That the City Administrator and Chief Financial Officer be and are hereby empowered to establish and maintain the accounts they deem necessary at any of the above enumerated depositories.

No. 41 of 2026

Subject: Appointing Certifying Agent

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission require that the City of Somers Point designate a certifying agent for payroll reports and other matters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that Shelby Heath is hereby designated as said certifying agent to the Civil Service Commission.

No. 42 of 2026

Subject: Authorizing the Somers Point Tax Assessor in Conjunction with Somers Point Special Tax Counsel to Settle and Compromise Certain Real Property Tax Appeals Pending Before the Atlantic County Board of Taxation or the New Jersey Tax Court

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WHEREAS, from time to time the Tax Assessor is presented with an opportunity to compromise, settle or otherwise dispose of certain tax appeals pending before the Atlantic County Board of Taxation or the New Jersey Tax Court; and

WHEREAS, for reasons of efficiency this Governing Body has determined that the Tax Assessor should not be required to present each such settlement to this body for approval; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City to authorize the Tax Assessor in conjunction with Special Tax Counsel to enter into and consummate such settlements,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Taxing District of Somers Point that the Tax Assessor, in consultation with the Somers Point Special Tax Counsel is hereby authorized to settle or otherwise dispose of matters pending before the Atlantic County Board of Taxation or the Tax Court of the State of New Jersey without the prior authorization of this Governing Body when the amount of the settlement results in an assessed value which will not reduce the amount of the property tax payment due to the City of Somers Point by more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for any such property in any single tax year.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that any settlement in excess of that threshold shall require the prior approval of this Governing Body.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Assessor in combination with the Special Tax Counsel shall render a quarterly written report to Council and the City Administrator, or on such more frequent basis as the Administrator or Council liaison may from time to time request, identifying those cases settled, all agreed upon assessment reductions, and the aggregate impact upon the property tax revenues to be derived by the City as a result of such settlements.

No. 43 of 2026

Subject: A Resolution of the City of Somers Point, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey Authorizing a Contract with AmeriHealth Administrators

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point has decided to withdraw from the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program effective January 1st, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point wishes to establish a partially self-funded Health Insurance Program for the provision of health care coverage for eligible employees; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somers Point wishes to engage the services of AmeriHealth Administrators to administer the Program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a contract between the City of Somers Point and AmeriHealth Administrators in accordance with their proposal.

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New Business:

Solicitor Smith read Charles Haberkorn’s resignation letter to the City Council. City Council discussed and agreed to have a resolution prepared to fill the vacancy.

On the motion of Council Member Jonston, seconded of Council Member DePamphilis and carried to approve the acceptance of resignation letter from Council Member Haberkorn.

Discussion of Bills:

Administrator Frost reported a Bill List dated 12/31/2025 in the amount of \$84,580.06.

Public Portion:

The meeting was duly opened to the public.

Hearing nothing further from the public, the public hearing was duly closed.

Payment of Bills:

M/S: Dill/Johnston

The Bill List was approved by a unanimous vote of those present. A complete list of bills is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Public Portion:

The meeting was duly opened to the public.

Hearing nothing further from the public, the public hearing was duly closed.

Comments from the Governing Body:

Mayor Tapp announced his grandson’s surgery was successful.

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Adjournment

Having no other business, on the motion of Council Member Dill, seconded by Council Member Johnston and carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Heath, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk
Approved: 1/22/2026