

**REGULAR MEETING  
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
April 09, 2026**

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Gerety with a salute to the flag. Roll call was recorded as follows:**

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

**Also Present:** Mayor Tapp, Chief Financial Officer Cifaloglio, City Clerk Heath, City Solicitor Smith, and City Engineer Schneider

**Absent:** Administrator Frost

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**Open Public Meetings Act:**

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to two local newspapers. The agenda has been posted at City Hall and on the City’s website, somerspointgov.org.

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**Communications:**

None

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**Mayor’s Report:**

Mayor Tapp thanked the Somers Point Police Athletic League along with Kate Mackenzie, Amanda Forshaw, the Police Department, and Fire Department on another successful Easter Egg Hunt. Mayor Tapp then reminded the public of upcoming city events being held including The City Wide Clean Up, The City-Wide Yard Sale, The 126<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sub Marine Service, Grounds for Sculptures hosted by The Garden Club, Bayfest, and Gregorys 80<sup>th</sup> year celebration.

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**Administrator’s Report:**

None

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**Solicitor’s Report:**

None

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**Engineer's Report:**

City Engineer Schneider reported on the Paving Project that is expected to start concrete work next week from Third Street to Bay Avenue.

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**Committee Reports:**

None

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**Approval of Minutes:**

On the motion of Council Member Shields, seconded of Council Member Dill, and carried to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 3/12/2026,3/26/2026 and Executive Session Minutes of 3/26/2026 as to content only.

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**Ordinances:**

**Ordinance No. 11 of 2026**

*(First Reading/Introduction)*

**M/S-** Johnston/Dill

This Ordinance was adopted by a unanimous vote of all present.

**No. 11 of 2026**

**An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 10 of 2026 to Correct a Typographical Error Appearing in the Ordinance Preamble**

**WHEREAS** Ordinance No. 10 of 2026 granting authority to establish a Restricted Parking Zone in front of a Bay Avenue Residence in Somers Point, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS** in one of the preamble paragraphs to said ordinance there was a typographical error which identified the property address as 824 Bay Avenue instead of the correct address of 827 Bay Avenue, which was correctly identified elsewhere in the ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED THAT:**

Section 1. The single reference in the preamble to Ordinance No. 10 of 2026 containing the typographical error identifying the address of the subject property as 824 Bay Avenue is amended to 827 Bay Avenue.

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Section 2. All other terms, conditions, and provisions in Ordinance No. 10 of 2026 remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. To the extent any clause, phrase, sentence, paragraph, or provision of the Ordinance shall be declared invalid, illegal, or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication according to law.

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**Ordinance No. 12 of 2026**  
*(First Reading/Introduction)*

**M/S-** Dill/Shields

This Ordinance was adopted by a unanimous vote of all present.

**No. 12 of 2026**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 169, "LITTERING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE," ARTICLE I, GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 169-11, ENTITLED "CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS," OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SOMERS POINT**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Somers Point has determined that construction and demolition sites may create conditions that allow litter, debris, and other materials to be dispersed onto adjacent properties and public rights-of-way; and

**WHEREAS** the City Council finds it necessary to establish clearer standards for the containment and management of construction debris in order to protect public property, neighboring properties, and the general welfare of the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

**SECTION 1.**

Chapter 169, "Littering and Property Maintenance," Article I, General Provisions, Section 169-11, entitled "Construction Debris," is hereby amended to read as follows:

**§ 169-11. Construction Debris.**

It shall be unlawful for any property owner, agent, or contractor having responsible charge of a construction or demolition site to permit the accumulation of litter, debris, or trash before, during, or after completion of any construction or demolition project.

Accordingly, any property owner, agent, or contractor having responsible charge of a construction or demolition site shall comply with the following requirements:

**A. Containers for Debris.**

Adequate containers shall be provided for flyable materials and non-flyable debris and/or trash at locations on the construction or demolition site convenient to the active area of construction or demolition. Such containers shall be maintained and emptied with sufficient frequency to prevent spillage or the wind-driven transport of materials or debris from the site.

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**B. Perimeter Barrier and Soil Control.**

A solid wood fence or other barrier approved by the City, with a minimum height of two (2) feet where applicable, shall be installed as necessary to contain debris, sediment, and other materials and to prevent their migration off site.

All soil and sediment control measures shall comply with the Vegetative and Engineering Standards, Chapters 1 through 32 inclusive, promulgated pursuant to the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act of 1975, as amended (N.J.S.A. 4:24-39 et seq.), and the New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 2:90-1.1 et seq.).

**C. Portable Toilets.**

Where portable toilet facilities are utilized, such units shall be located entirely within the construction fencing on the subject property, with the entrance door facing away from the street right-of-way. Under no circumstances shall a portable toilet be placed within any municipal or county street or State highway right-of-way.

**D. Responsibility for Cleanup of Adjacent Areas.**

The property owner, agent, or contractor having responsible charge of a construction or demolition site shall ensure that all sidewalks, streets, public rights-of-way, and adjacent properties remain free of construction debris, litter, dust, or other materials originating from the construction or demolition site on a daily basis. Any such materials that migrate beyond the limits of the construction site shall be removed promptly. Failure to remove such materials upon notice from the City shall constitute a violation of this section; and The Public Works Department Supervisor is authorized to cause the removal of such items and the cost of such removal shall be certified by the Supervisor to the Chief Financial Officer of the City and shall be charged to the property owner or the contractor responsible for the site. If the cost is not paid within ten days following issuance of an invoice to the owner and contractor, the cost shall constitute a lien upon the property and shall be added to the assessment for taxes in the next quarterly tax bill.

**E. Violations and Penalties.**

Any property owner, agent, or contractor who violates any provision of this ordinance shall, upon conviction in Municipal Court shall be subject to the General Penalty provisions set forth in Article II General Penalty of the Somers Point Municipal Code Sections 1-15 through 1-19 with a minimum fine of \$100 for each initial offense.

**F. Acknowledgement.**

The issuance of a zoning permit or construction permit shall constitute acknowledgment of, and agreement to comply with, the provisions of this section.

**G. Enforcement**

The provisions of this Section may be enforced and notice of violations may be issued by any member of the Somers Point Police Department, the Somers Point Fire Department, the Somers Point Construction Official, Code Enforcement Officer, Zoning Official, or their designee(s).

**SECTION 2.**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**SECTION 3.**

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance.

**SECTION 4.**

This ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication as required by law.

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Council Member McGuigan motioned, Council Member Dill seconded to bring Ord No. 9 of 2026 back to the table for public hearing/adoption at the next meeting.

Council President Gerety called for a roll call vote which was recorded as follows

McGuigan – Yes  
Dill- Yes  
DePamphilis-No  
Shields-Yes  
Slaughter-No  
Johnston-No  
Gerety-Yes

The Second Reading/Public Hearing will be held at the next Council Meeting.

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**Resolutions:**

**Public Portion Resolutions:**

Council President Gerety Pulled Resolution No.130 of 2026 from tonight’s agenda.

Council President Gerety duly opened the meeting to the public.

Bill Collins of Somers Point asks for clarification on Resolution No. 129 of 2026.

Hearing nothing from the public, the public portion was duly closed.

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**Resolution No. 128 of 2026**

**M/S-** Dill/Johnston

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

Mayor Tapp, Council Member McGuigan, Johnston, DePamphilis, and Gerety complimented the owners of Gregory’s on their great success in the 80 years of operating Gregory’s Restaurant.

Mr. Gregory then expressed his gratitude for all the support the Mayor and Council of Somers Point showed him during his years operating Gregory’s Restaurant.

**No. 128 of 2026**



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recreation to the highest responsible bidder therefore upon such terms and conditions as it may prescribe; and

**WHEREAS**, at a meeting of the Governing Body held on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 the City Clerk was authorized to advertise an Authorization RFP for Lease of Marina Slip (Resolution 84 of 2026); and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Somers Point received proposals on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2026, for the lease of the Municipal Pier space and Slip at Higbee Avenue for use as a charter watercraft facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Somers Point Board of Recreation has expressed their support for this program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Green Acres Program has indicated no objection to this conditional use with the understanding that this is not considered to be the ultimate, exclusive use of the property in the future.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that the City Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to enter into a lease agreement with David Weber, T/A The Duke O’Fluke. The period of the lease shall be from April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 until April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2028 subject to the terms and conditions of the Lease agreement which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

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**Resolution No. 130 of 2026**

**M/S-**

**No. 130 of 2026**

**PULLED**

**Subject: Awarding Bid for the Ocean Avenue Stormwater Repairs**

**Introduced By: Council Member Dill**

**WHEREAS**, on March 27, 2026, the City of Somers Point received bids for the Ocean Avenue Stormwater Repairs; and

**WHEREAS**, South State, Inc., of Bridgeton, New Jersey was the lowest responsible bidder; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Engineer’s office has recommended that the City award the contract to Arawak South State, Inc., of Bridgeton, New Jersey in the amount of \$857,360.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the NJDEP must also concur with this resolution awarding a contract to South State, Inc., of Bridgeton, New Jersey in the amount of \$857,360.00

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

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- 1.) The Contract for the Ocean Avenue Stormwater repairs is hereby awarded to South State, Inc., of Bridgeton, New Jersey in the amount of \$857,360.00
- 2.) The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a formal contract with South State, Inc., of Bridgeton, New Jersey signing on behalf of the City.
- 3.) The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign all necessary forms required by NJDEP.

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**Resolution No. 131 of 2026**

**M/S-** Slaughter/Dill

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

Council Member Slaughter and Johnston hope to change the Ordinance in the future to streamline the application process for anyone Tax Exempt.

**No. 131 of 2026**

**Subject: Taxes Cancelled Block 527, Lot 7**

**Introduced By: Council President Gerety**

**WHEREAS**, the property owner at 62 Defeo Lane (Block 527, Lot 7) is a 100% permanently and totally disabled veteran; and

**WHEREAS**, the owner had previously filed all of the forms and provided all the necessary documentation for tax exemption; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Assessor had previously determined that the owner was entitled to total real estate tax exemption; and

**WHEREAS**, the taxes for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2026 for the aforesaid property were cancelled pursuant to Resolution 68 of 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, said Resolution called for all future tax billings to be canceled; and

**WHEREAS**, the property owner has now made an application for a retroactive tax exemption from the date of the award of the aforesaid 100% permanent and total disability by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, that the above taxes on the property be canceled retroactively to the date of October 28, 2025.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector and the Finance Officer by the City Clerk.

<b>Block</b>	<b>Lot</b>	<b>Qual.</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Year</b>
527	7		Gregory Germeil	\$1951.14	2025

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\$663.57      2026

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**Consent Agenda Resolutions:**

On the motion of Council Member Dill, seconded of Council Member Shields and carried to approve the Consent Agenda Resolutions.

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**No. 132 of 2026**

**Subject:                    Authorizing Execution of 2026 Municipal Aerial Mosquito Control Agreement**

**Sponsored by:          Council President Gerety**

**WHEREAS**, from time to time it may become necessary to perform aerial application of pesticides for mosquito control over certain areas of Somers Point; and

**WHEREAS**, such application should be performed by the Atlantic County Department of Public Works, office of Mosquito Control; and

**WHEREAS**, all pesticides and aircraft utilized are approved for aerial application by State and Federal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Atlantic County Department of Public Works, Office of Mosquito Control shall notify the Somers Point Police Department, the City and local news media prior to any application.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that Mayor Dennis Tapp is hereby authorized to execute the 2026 Municipal Aerial Mosquito Control Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

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**No. 133 of 2026**

**Subject:                    Authorizing Application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the Green Communities Grant**

**Introduced By:          Council President Gerety**

**WHEREAS**, the NJDEP is offering Green Communities Grants to assist local governments in the development of a Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) and conduct an inventory as the basis of this plan. A CFMP is a document for action, guiding

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communities to establish and maintain healthy, safe, and sustainable urban and community forests.;

**WHEREAS**, the grant is for those counties or municipalities that are developing their first CFMP or updating an expiring CFMP and need to conduct an inventory that complies with the updated 2024 CFMP guidelines;

**WHEREAS**, grants up to \$20,000 may be awarded, of which up to \$5,000 can be used for the CFMP development. This will include a partial or full inventory of your municipal trees completed by qualified professionals as well as the preparation of the CFMP Plan.

**WHEREAS**, tree inventory data must be the basis for urban forest management under the NJUCF program guidelines. This includes trees on public property that are municipally owned and/or maintained. Forested parcels within municipal/county boundaries that will be managed should be inventoried.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Body of the City of Somers Point formally supports this application.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to:

- a. Submit a grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection on behalf of the City of Somers Point, and if successful execute any grant agreements.
- b. If awarded, execute a grant agreement with the State for a grant and to execute any amendments thereto which do not increase the Grantee's obligations. The Grantee agrees to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations in its performance pursuant to the agreement.

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**Old Business:**

Council Member DePamphilis and Johnston suggest adding a daily boat ramp pass for purchase. They will research and investigate different options.

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**New Business:**

On the motion of Council Member Shields, seconded by Council Member Dill and carried to approve two Social Affair Permit applications for the Roberts Johnson Post 2189 VFW for events held on 4/30/2026 from 4 P.M.-10 P.M., and 6/13/2026 from 5 P.M.-11P.M.

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**Discussion of Bills:**

Chief Financial Officer Cifaloglio reported a Bill List dated 4/07/2026 in the amount of \$1,207,876.73.

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**Public Portion:**

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Council President Gerety duly opened the meeting to the public.

Maureen Helbig of Somers Point commended Council President Gerety for listening to her suggestion to make the meeting documents more accessible on the City's Website.

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

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**Payment of Bills:**

**M/S:** Dill/DePamphilis

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.

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**Comments from Governing Body:**

Council Member DePamphilis thanked County Commissioner June Byrnes for her attendance at the meeting.

Council Member McGuigan asks for everyone to keep the First Responders in their daily thoughts and prayers.

Council President Gerety sent well wishes to the Harbor Master after his recent emergency surgery.

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**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before City Council, Council Member Dill moved, Council Member Johnston seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Heath, RMC  
Municipal Clerk  
Approved: 4/23/2026