

BOROUGH OF HAWORTH
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Executive Meeting – Tuesday, December 12, 2023 @ 7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG/PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor and Council convened for this Executive Meeting of the Borough of Haworth on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law, notice of this meeting has met the requirements of the law as part of the Borough of Haworth's annual meeting notice published in The Record on January 23, 2023, posted on the bulletin board in borough hall, and on the Borough website at www.haworthnj.org.

ROLL CALL

Hon. Heather Wasser, Mayor - Present	Lisa Dhamija - Absent
Andrew Rosenberg - Present	Alanna Davis - Present
Glenn Poosikian - Present	Michele Dilorgi – Present
Dina Siciliano - Present	

Staff Present: Borough Attorney Robert T. Regan, Municipal Clerk Jo Anna Myung

Mayor's Report:

As hard as it is for me to believe, this is our last Mayor and Council meeting of 2023. I would like to take that as my opportunity for a quick year in review and to express some much earned gratitude.

Since being sworn in as mayor in January, we as a town and as a governing body & staff have had tremendous change. We said goodbye to long term employees across every single department. And with that, welcomed valued new members to our team who enabled those transitions to go smoothly. This includes our police department, who serve with intelligence and care, not just strength.

We gratefully welcomed new volunteers to the fire, ambulance, and police auxiliary teams—who's membership give of themselves to protect & serve us all year long.

As a community we celebrated holidays together and, also marked solemn occasions.

We rebuilt and are still rebuilding bridges in town. Added sidewalks. And of course, new pickleball courts. We are working hard to make continued improvements as cost effectively as possible. And all kept clean, functioning & beautiful by our DPW.

Thanks to our dozens & dozens of hardworking, dedicated volunteers we celebrated Haworth together; protected its trees and environment; played tennis & pickleball, served and celebrated our senior community, upgraded & planned for continued upgrades of our playgrounds and parks. We continue to offer flu vaccines and wellness challenges and rabies clinics for our pets and provide clear communications about all of this & more on our website and townhall emails. And our 5K is an annual event that has become a tradition thanks to the endurance of the Haworth Runners committee. The race isn't just fun—they gift the proceeds to dozens of entities in and out of town. We had concerts and spooky fun too.

Our library programming is flourishing and one of our longest serving librarians became the official town historian. Our swim club had another blockbuster season and continues to be one of the few success stories in our region. Our businesses & restaurants are packed with residents and non-residents alike. And our real estate market is in high demand as Haworth continues to be a desired home for people coming from near and far.

We have productive and helpful partnerships with our county and state officials as well as the governing bodies of our neighbors.

In short, Haworth is thriving. And that is in no small part thanks to the people sitting to my left and right. Whether you know from your own experiences or hopefully have heard, the people sitting up here are second to none. They love this town and its people and work hard to protect everything that makes it special. I thank you all for your unflagging dedication and the ease with which you work together and with me. Thank you, Councilmembers. And by the way, most of the events you enjoy in town are organized and executed by volunteers—and more are always needed. Send me an email at wasser@haworthnj.org if you're looking ways to get involved. Cheers to you all and may we have continued successes to celebrate. Happy holidays to and I wish peace and prosperity for us all in the new year.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT:

Dr. Jeff Pavell on behalf of the Haworth Road Runners presented the 5K Awards to the following organizations:

Dear Mayor and Council

It is my pleasure today to stand in front of you and present our 5K Haworth Road runners committee. Over the past 12 years with your help and support, we have been able to donate around \$300,000 to both our town's worthy organizations and other charities, many of which are represented tonight in the gallery.

Without the help of the Mayor and this town Council, we would not be able to produce such a fine and organized, running road race. The New Jersey chapter of the US track and field association has deemed our race so organized that it granted us the ability to be designated a New Jersey championship race, drawing runners and teams of runners from all over the state of New Jersey and beyond.

These meeting minutes have been approved by the Haworth Mayor and Council on January 14, 2023.

This road race was confirmed developed over 15 years ago as an event to both improve the health of our town and promote a fun activity, all while highlighting the beautiful streets, homes, trees, and open space of our incredible town.

With the help of very generous sponsoring businesses, families, and individuals from the town of Haworth and beyond, our committee has been able to organize one of the largest and best road races in the state of New Jersey and tonight, Once again, we are able to give away over \$20,000 to worthy causes, including our lovely library, our volunteer auxiliary police department, our life saving ambulance squad, our much-needed fire department, and the parent teacher, organization of our excellent elementary and middle school.

Besides these staples of our town, we have been able to donate to other charities and organizations including our local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops-who each year volunteer for a race - and many other charities and organizations, including that of our seniors, and a camp for kids with cardiac issues. This year we will be making a special donation to purchase a cardiac defibrillator for use in our town as purchased by the Haworth board of health.

We are so proud that we have become part of the beautiful, diverse, and intricate fabric that makes up the wonderful town of Haworth, New Jersey, and thank you, our mayor and council, for supporting us, and for the fire department and police department, and ambulance crew for being present each year and helping us create what we feel is the best running road race in New Jersey.

I'd like to call up our board, who work throughout the year to create this event. Ed Koch, after I am done, will also describe the meaning of having a championship, running road race in Haworth.

Heather Pavell, who serves with Jo Ann Larson and Meryl Schreiber in both all aspects of the finances of our race as well as administration, and event registration, Jeanie Miller, whose hard work, enthusiasm, and ideas for this race have propelled it to where it is and who has helped us both advertise and create all of our signage, Wendy Weiss, who has both worked to create and monitor our children's fun run and who has worked to help us advertise and has written amazing articles about Haworth and our race, Jaime Heit, who has garnered support for the event and worked with Ms. Schreiber to organize each volunteer and each sponsor for the day, and Neil Epstein who works tirelessly throughout the year to both mark the race course and almost 24 hours continuously the day before and on race day. Lastly, I want to both congratulate and give accolades to Ed Koch who over the past 40 years has been both a world-class runner, US track and field official and represents the town of Haworth nationally on both many committees for road running as well as an official at some of the nation's and international track and field events. Mayor and Council - I present our 5K Haworth Road runners committee with me, Dr. Jeff Pavell, as it's a race Director.

Mr. Ed Koch communicated that it is important to get the State Championship title because athletes earn top points which gets tallied at the end of the year, and get honored at the biggest social event for Road Runners; which is the State banquet in Edison every year. The Road Racing scene in New Jersey has the Grand Prix all year but the State Championship earns them more points. Haworth is not as big as Paramus and Ridgewood but they have built a strong reputation over the years as a high-quality event, and this is the first time ever that Bergen County had three State Championships. In the road racing scene, there are five different categories. The State had so much faith in Haworth, they gave us Open Men and Masters Men. Haworth Road Runners have put in their top choice entry application bid for Open Women and Masters Women, and will know in January 2024 whether their entries are accepted.

Ms. Meryl Schreiber announced the 5K Award recipients:

- Haworth HSA
- Friends of the Haworth Library
- Haworth Fire Company
- Haworth Volunteer Ambulance Corps
- Haworth Police Auxiliary
- Hope with Heart
- Haworth Boys Scouts of America Troop 73
- Haworth Hope Fund
- Haworth Seniors
- Closter Food and Assistance Board
- Haworth Girls Scouts
- Haworth Board of Health Defibrillator

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Steven Jureller, 124 Harrison Street – inquired about the dog licensing process and why pet owners are required to provide rabies vaccination forms every year when the form they submitted in prior years provides the same information. **Municipal Clerk Myung** responded that it is State Law that rabies vaccinations are valid through November 1st of the licensing year and without proof, pet license applications cannot be accepted and renewed. Currently, there are no records on file of previous rabies vaccination certificates in the Clerk's office, and the only way to get access to those records is when payment is received for processing.

No further comments from the public. Public comments closed.

ORDINANCE 23-23: (ADOPTION) TO AMEND CHAPTER 5 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HAWORTH ENTITLED "ANIMAL CONTROL"

These meeting minutes have been approved by the Haworth Mayor and Council on January 14, 2023.

MOTION BY: Councilwoman Poosikian

SECONDED: Councilman Siciliano

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 5 of the Code of the Borough of Haworth, Animal Control, Section 5-2, Dog Licenses, Subsection 5-2.6, Fees, be and is hereby amended to read as follows:
§ 5-2.6 Fees.

The person applying for a dog license shall pay the following fee:

a. Neutered/Spayed Dogs.

Borough License Fee	\$11.80
State Registration Fee per license	1.00
Pilot Clinic Fund	.20
	\$13.00 Total

Neutered/Spayed Cats.

Borough License Fee	\$10.00
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b. Unneutered Dogs and Cats.

Animal Population Control Program	\$3.00 Additional Fee
	\$16.00 Total

c. Dangerous Dogs.

NO CHANGE

Section 2. Chapter 5 of the Code of the Borough of Haworth, Animal Control, Section 5-16, Vaccination and Licensing, Subsection 5-16.9, Fees, be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 5-16.9 Fees. A license shall be issued after payment of a fee of Ten (\$10.00) Dollars for each spayed/neutered cat and a fee of Sixteen (\$16.00) Dollars for each unneutered cat. The fee for the renewal of a license shall be the same as for the original. All licenses shall expire on January 31, of the year following the calendar year in which it was issued, regardless of the date upon which it was issued.

Section 3. Inconsistent Ordinances Repealed.

All ordinances or parts which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed, but only to the extent of such inconsistencies.

Section 4. Severability.

If any section, sentence or any other part of this Ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not effect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance but shall be confined in its effect to the section, sentence or other part of this Ordinance directly involved in the controversy which such judgment shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective Date.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Rosenberg, Poosikian, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

MOTION APPROVED

ABSENT: Dhamija

RESOLUTION 097:12'2023 – MODEL LOCAL UNIT CIVIL RIGHTS

A RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE BOROUGH OF HAWORTH'S CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ALL OFFICIALS, APPOINTEES, EMPLOYEES, PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTERS, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT COME INTO CONTACT WITH MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS

MOTION BY: Councilwoman Siciliano

SECONDED: Councilman Poosikian

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Borough of Haworth to treat the public, employees, prospective employees, appointees, volunteers and contractors in a manner consistent with all applicable civil rights laws and regulations including, but not limited to the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 as subsequently amended, the New Jersey Law against Discrimination, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Conscientious Employee Protection Act, and

WHEREAS, the governing body of Borough of Haworth has determined that certain procedures need to be established to accomplish this policy

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ADOPTED by the Borough of Haworth that:

Section 1: No official, employee, appointee or volunteer of the Borough of Haworth by whatever title known, or any entity that is in any way a part of the Borough of Haworth shall engage, either directly or indirectly in any act including the failure to act that constitutes discrimination, harassment or a violation of any person's constitutional rights while such official, employee, appointee volunteer, or entity is engaged in or acting on behalf of the Borough of Haworth's business or using the facilities or property of the Borough of Haworth.

Section 2: The prohibitions and requirements of this resolution shall extend to any person or entity, including but not limited to any volunteer organization or inter-local organization, whether structured as a governmental entity or a private entity, that receives authorization or support in any way from the Borough of Haworth to provide services that otherwise could be performed by the Borough of Haworth.

Section 3: Discrimination, harassment and civil rights shall be defined for purposes of this resolution using the latest definitions contained in the applicable Federal and State laws concerning discrimination, harassment and civil rights.

Section 4: The Council shall establish written procedures for any person to report alleged discrimination, harassment and violations of civil rights prohibited by this resolution. Such procedures shall include alternate ways to report a complaint so that the person making the complaint need not communicate with the alleged violator in the event the alleged violator would be the normal contact for such complaints.

Section 5: No person shall retaliate against any person who reports any alleged discrimination, harassment or violation of civil rights, provided however, that any person who reports alleged violations in bad faith shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

Section 6: The Council shall establish written procedures that require all officials, employees, appointees and volunteers of the Borough of Haworth as well as all other entities subject to this resolution to periodically complete training concerning their duties, responsibilities and rights pursuant to this resolution.

Section 7: The Council shall establish a system to monitor compliance and shall report at least annually to the governing body the results of the monitoring.

Section 8: At least annually, the Council shall cause a summary of this resolution and the procedures established pursuant to this resolution to be communicated within the Borough of Haworth. This communication shall include a statement from the governing body expressing its unequivocal commitment to enforce this resolution. This summary shall also be posted on the Borough of Haworth's web site.

Section 9: This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Section 10: A copy of this resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Haworth in order for the public to be made aware of this policy and the Borough of Haworth's commitment to the implementation and enforcement of this policy.

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Rosenberg, Poosikian, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

MOTION APPROVED

ABSENT: Dhamija

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 098:12'2023 – TRANSFER OF BUDGET

MOTION BY: Councilman Rosenberg

SECONDED: Councilman Poosikian

WHEREAS, there exists a need to make transfers in the 2023 Budget Appropriations, and there exists balances from which to make said transfers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Haworth that the Chief Financial Officer hereby be authorized to make the following transfers to the 2023 Budget Appropriations.

Inside CAP:

To:	Clerk – SW	\$ 13,500.00
	Clerk - OE	\$ 4,500.00
	Police – SW	\$ 10,000.00
	Police – OE	\$ 14,000.00
	Aid to Volunteer Ambulance Corps - OE	\$ 10,000.00
	Fire Dept – OE	\$ 6,000.00
	Senior Citizen Van Driver	\$ 1,500.00
	Utilities – Natural Gas	\$ 3,000.00
	Snow Removal – SW	\$ 25,000.00
	Mayor & Council – OE	\$ 1,000.00
	Computer Maintenance – OE	\$ 2,500.00
	OSHA/Hepatitis B – OE	\$ 750.00
	Total	\$ 91,750.00

Inside CAP:

From:	Streets & Roads – SW	\$ 75,000.00
	Construction Official – SW	\$ 9,000.00
	Finance – SW	\$ 5,000.00
	Planning Board – OE	\$ 2,750.00
	Total	\$ 91,750.00

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Rosenberg, Poosikian, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

MOTION APPROVED

ABSENT: Dhamija

Haworth EMS and Fire Stipend Program – Councilmen Rosenberg explained that this is an incentive program to get and retain volunteers. He and Councilman Poosikian have received narratives from both Fire and Ambulance Corps on record keeping details and will be meeting this Thursday to discuss the program. The goal is to implement the stipend program in January 2024.

2023 NJDEP Municipal Stormwater Tier A MS4 General Permit – Appended in the minutes is a recommendation letter from Borough Engineer Christopher Statile to adopt two new ordinances: 1) Non-Municipal road salt storage with private contractors, and 2) Tree Removal restitution.

Motion by Councilman Rosenberg, and **Seconded by** Councilman Rosenberg to accept the letters and work toward completing each tier. Approved by all those present to accept the recommendation and approve the Municipal Stormwater Tier A MS4 General Permit.

Transition from “.org” to “.GOV” domain – Awaiting State to open request portal to get process started.

Mayor Wasser communicated that the three new ordinances regarding Field Permit Fees, Towing and Storage Service License Fees and Deputy Custodiam of Government Records will be introduced in 2024 so they could be adopted within the same calendar year.

These meeting minutes have been approved by the Haworth Mayor and Council on January 14, 2023.

RESOLUTION 100:12'2023 – CANCELING CURRENT FUND UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS

MOTION BY: Councilman Rosenberg

SECONDED: Councilman Poosikian

WHEREAS, the following 2023 Current Fund budget appropriation balances remains unexpended; and **WHEREAS**, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the unexpended balances may be credited to Surplus.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Haworth that the below listed unexpended balances be cancelled:

<u>Unexpended Budget Line-Item</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
BCUA – Flow Charges	\$.63
Debt Service	\$ 105.72
Total	\$ 106.35

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Rosenberg, Poosikian, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

MOTION APPROVED

ABSENT: Dhamija

RESOLUTION 101:12'2023 CANCELLING SWIM POOL UTILITY UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATION

MOTION BY: Councilman Rosenberg

SECONDED: Councilman Poosikian

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-60 provides for the cancellation of unexpended budget appropriation balances prior to the end of the year, and;

WHEREAS, the following Swim Pool Utility Operating budget appropriations balances remain unexpended:

<u>Unexpended Budget Line-Item</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salary & Wages	\$ 1,871.82
Statutory Expenses	\$ 128.15
Other Expenses	\$ 1,900.00
Debt Service	\$.49
Total	\$ 3,900.46

WHEREAS, it is necessary to cancel so that the unexpended balances may be credited to Surplus;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the above listed unexpended balances of the Swim Pool Utility Operating Fund be canceled.

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Rosenberg, Poosikian, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

MOTION APPROVED

ABSENT: Dhamija

Councilman Rosenberg conditionally approved Resolution 102:12'2023 subject to determining how the funds would be split between the General Fund and the Swim Pool Fund.

RESOLUTION 102:12'2023 – RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH A DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR DONATIONS FOR TENNIS ACTIVITIES PER NJSA 40A:5-29

MOTION BY: Councilman Rosenberg

SECONDED: Councilman Poosikian

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance; and

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:5-29 provides for receipt of donations by the municipality to provide for the operating costs to administer this act; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides the dedicated revenues anticipated from the Donations from Tennis Activities are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth, County of Bergen, New Jersey as follows:

1. The Governing Body does hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures of the Donations from Tennis Activities NJSA 40A:5-29
2. The Clerk of the Borough of Haworth, County of Bergen is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this Resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Rosenberg, Poosikian, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

MOTION APPROVED

ABSENT: Dhamija

RESOLUTION 103:12'2023 – LEAGUE RESOLUION REGARDING WORKERS COMPENSATION (V.2)

MOTION BY: Councilwoman Siciliano

SECONDED: Councilwoman Davis

WHEREAS: Local Government is facing the largest budget increase for property/casualty insurance since the mid-1980s; and

WHEREAS: The property/casualty budget for the typical municipality has already experienced a 20% to 25% increase since 2021 and will experience another 12% to 20% increase in 2024; and

WHEREAS: New Jersey now has the highest workers' compensation premium rates in the country based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

WHEREAS: Workers' Compensation escalated because New Jersey judges are now reopening cases up to four and five times, whereas in the past they rarely reopened a case more than once; and

WHEREAS: Workers' Compensation also escalated because of a 2021 Department of Labor decision that directed workers' compensation to pay many accidental disability claims that previously were paid by the pension plans; and

WHEREAS: Another recent law created a presumption that firefighters diagnosed with cancer are eligible for workers' compensation; and

WHEREAS: During the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Legislature approved a law that made COVID contracted by first responders and essential employees compensable under New Jersey's workers' statute resulting in the COVID cost per employee being the second highest in the country; and

WHEREAS: Liability has increased because of the erosion of Title 59 protections in New Jersey's courts. Judges are now reluctant to grant summary judgement dismissing even frivolous claims because of the 2021 New Jersey Supreme Court decision in Gonzalez v. Jersey City; and

WHEREAS: The recent amendment in the sexual molestation statute of limitations also increased Title 59 liability costs. In some cases, towns are being sued based on allegations going back to the 1970s; and

WHEREAS: Property premiums are increasing rapidly because the world-wide frequency of large natural disasters has almost tripled since 2000. New Jersey alone was hit with Hurricane Irene in 2011, Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and Tropical Storm Ida in 2021; and

WHEREAS: Property insurance premiums are also indexed to replacement values that have jumped because of supply chain issues and the labor shortage; and

WHEREAS: Cyber liability premiums have more than doubled in recent years. Organizations without strong cyber risk controls are finding it difficult to purchase any coverage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NEW JERSEY LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES THAT: The Legislature is urged to adopt budget and levy cap exemptions for property/casualty insurance and claims; and The Administration and the Legislature should not adopt additional legislation or regulations that will increase municipal claims without a thorough and complete analysis of the cost; and The New Jersey Department of Labor, the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs should meet with representatives of municipal government to discuss ways to reduce property/casualty costs.

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Rosenberg, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

(No): Poosikian

ABSENT: Dhamija

MOTION APPROVED

RESOLUTION 104:12'2023 AUTHORIZE CANCELLATION OF TAX DELINQUENCIES OF LESS THAN \$10.00

MOTION BY: Councilman Poosikian

SECONDED: Councilwoman Siciliano

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-17.1 provides that a municipality may authorize the cancellation of Tax Delinquencies of less than Ten (\$10.00) Dollars.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth have adopted a resolution authorizing the cancellation of property tax delinquencies under \$10.00;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to process, without any further action on the part of the Governing Body, the cancellation of any property tax delinquency of less than (\$10.00); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified Copy of this Resolution be provided by the Municipal Clerk to the Tax Collector and the Chief Financial Officer.

Block	Lot	Property Location	Balance
908	1	481 Haworth Ave	2.26
1310	4	157 Owatonna St	2.18
1403	27	40 Owatonna St	.05
1611	5	229 Franklin St	3.51
TOTAL			\$8.00

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Poosikian, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

(No): Rosenberg

ABSENT: Dhamija

MOTION APPROVED

DPW CONTRACT – Councilman Poosikian communicated that the proposed DPW contract encompasses salary research from what surrounding towns are paying, with a separate provision to allow for flexibility in order to retain higher skill level employees, and updated from 12 steps to 10 steps salary tier. There is a typo in the top end which should be \$55k - \$90K; not \$99k. In addition, the Fire stipend is off the table as the contract is providing a higher rate. Councilman Poosikian thanked his committee during negotiations and commented that DPW acted fairly and respectfully; and these negotiated numbers are indicative of respecting the hard work they're doing.

MOTION BY: Councilman Poosikian

SECONDED: Councilwoman Siciliano

To accept the new DPW Contract subject to adjustment of \$90K as top range effective January 1, 2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Rosenberg, Poosikian, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

MOTION APPROVED

ABSENT: Dhamija

CONSENT AGENDA: The following resolutions are considered routine and non-controversial, and will be voted on by one vote. If any Council Member wishes to remove any items from the consent agenda, and request an individual vote, they may do so.

RESOLUTION 105:12'2023 Refund of Escrow for Pool Application

MOTION BY: Councilwoman Davis

SECONDED: Councilman Poosikian

WHEREAS, the property owner, submitted an inground pool application for 229 Franklin Street, Haworth, NJ 07641 on June 6, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the property owner submitted an escrow of \$1,000.00 for engineering fees; and

WHEREAS, the property owner has requested a release of the remaining escrow; and

WHEREAS, the construction permit #23-122 was issued a certificate of approval and closed on September 5, 2023; and

WHEREAS, C. Statile Engineering does not have an outstanding invoice balance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council that the following escrow release be made:

<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>EXPENDED</u>	<u>REFUND</u>
229 Franklin Street Haworth, NJ 07641	229 Franklin Street Block 1611 Lot 5 Proposed inground pool	\$1,000.00	\$422.50	\$ 577.50

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Connect One Bank be instructed to close this account.

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Rosenberg, Poosikian, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

MOTION APPROVED

Absent: Dhamija

RESOLUTION 106:12'2023 – Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from 11/28/2023

MOTION BY: Councilman Poosikian

SECONDED: Councilman Rosenberg

At this meeting of the Haworth Mayor and Council held on December 12, 2023 to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Rosenberg, Poosikian, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

MOTION APPROVED

Absent: Dhamija

RESOLUTION 107:12'2023 – Approval of Closed Session Meeting from 11/28/2023

MOTION BY: Councilman Poosikian

SECONDED: Councilman Rosenberg

At this meeting of the Haworth Mayor and Council held on December 12, 2023 to approve the Closed Session Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Rosenberg, Poosikian, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

MOTION APPROVED

Absent: Dhamija

RESOLUTION 108:12'2023: Approval of Bills and Claims

MOTION BY: Councilman Poosikian

SECONDED: Councilman Rosenberg

At this meeting of the Haworth Mayor and Council held on November 28, 2023, to approve the bills and claims of which are appended.

ROLL CALL VOTE (Ayes): Rosenberg, Poosikian, Siciliano, Davis, Dilorgi

MOTION APPROVED

Absent: Dhamija

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Phil Lospalluto, 180 Beacon Street – Inquired about the pathway on Madison Avenue because it was rough on the feet, and whether it was contributing to the water drainage issue. **Councilman Poosikian** replied that the pathway was created for vehicle access to the sewage and man-hold. The town also had an excess of stones that needed to be relocated. This is not a walking passage but it can be available for that. In response to the back-end field flooding, we've experienced at least 3 days of heavy rain and it exposed some problem areas. DPW dug up a trench with an excavator and laid down a large pipe to alleviate the flooding issue. They will lay down additional stones to the moist and muddy area after leaf season sometime in January.

Unidentified Speaker interjected and complained about speeding on Madison Avenue and his concerns over children and dog owners walking along Madison Avenue. He requested for additional stop signs in the area, or a four way stop sign. There are approximately 10 different streets in Haworth with speeding issues. **Mayor Wasser** replied that they are constantly meeting to discuss various solutions with the Police Department to alleviate speeding in all the problem locations.

Cindy Erfurt, 187 Pine Street – also expressed concerns about speeding in Haworth and stated there should be more police presence in the area and giving out tickets. Ms. Erfurt recommended the town to install a stop sign going in both directions. There is no sign at the corner for drivers traveling from Schraalenburg to Knickerbocker. **Councilman Rosenberg** agreed this was a good idea and will investigate this recommendation.

Closed public comments.

CLOSED SESSION None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilman Poosikian

SECONDED: Councilman Rosenberg

Approved by all present to adjourn the meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth at 8:33 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jo Anna Myung
Municipal Clerk/Borough Administrator