

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-1460

**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 24 “OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION”
SECTION § 24-2 “OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE”, AND REPEALING
SUBSECTION § 2-8.4 “PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE” OF CHAPTER 2
“ADMINISTRATION” OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF BRANCBURG TOWNSHIP,
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, the Open Space Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation Committee currently operate as separate and distinct Committees; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee wishes to include the duties and responsibilities pertaining to the development, operation, maintenance and use of parks within the Township to the Open Space Advisory Committee and repeal Subsection § 2-8.4 of the Municipal Code that created a separate and distinct Parks and Recreation Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Branchburg, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Municipal Code of Branchburg Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, is hereby amended as follows: **New language is underlined thus and deletions are indicated with strikethroughs ~~thus~~.**

Section 1. Chapter 24 “Open Space Conservation”, Section § 24-2 “Open Space Advisory Committee”, of the Municipal Code of Branchburg Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, is hereby amended as follows:

§ 24-2 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

§ 24-2.1 Committee Established.

There is hereby established an Parks and Open Space advisory Committee to review and recommend the acquisition of lands within the Township for the purposes described in Subsection 24-1.2 and the development, operation, maintenance and use of such lands and parks located within the Township. ~~The words "advisory eCommittee" when used singularly in this eChapter shall refer to the Parks and eOpen sSpace advisory eCommittee.~~

§ 24-2.2 Membership, Appointment, Term.

a. The ~~Advisory~~ Committee shall consist of:

1. ~~The Township Engineer~~ A member of the Township Committee appointed by the Township Committee;
2. The Chair of the Township Planning Board or the Chair's designee;
3. A member of the Township Environmental Commission to be appointed by the Township Committee;
4. The Township Director of Recreation;
5. The Mayor or Mayor's designee;

6. The Township Administrator; and

7. Up to five (5) ~~Three~~ members of the general public to be appointed by the Township Committee.

b. The Chair of the Planning Board or the Chair's designee and the member of the Environmental Commission shall have terms which coincide with the terms of their respective appointive offices. The Township Administrator, ~~Township Engineer~~, and the Director of Recreation shall serve as members of the ~~Advisory~~ Committee as long as the Administrator ~~Engineer~~, and Director of Recreation are employed by the Township in their respective capacities. The Mayor or the Mayor's designee shall serve as a member of the ~~Advisory~~ Committee during the Mayor's term of office. The members of the general public shall serve one (1) ~~two~~-year terms.

§ 24-2.3 Duties and Functions. The Committee shall perform the following duties and functions:

a. ~~The Advisory Committee shall~~ Prepare and submit to the Township Committee an open space map for the Township. The map shall include an inventory of open space within the Township. The map shall also include an evaluation and priority ranking of each such open space.

b. ~~The Advisory Committee shall~~ Assist the Township in the establishment of a program to catalog the status of privately owned open space within the Township and record the Township's progress with respect to open space preservation.

c. ~~The Advisory Committee shall~~ Provide guidance and support to the Township Committee and Planning Board on issues and matters of open space.

d. ~~The Advisory Committee shall~~ Periodically review its functions and submit a recommendation to the Township Committee as to whether additional duties should be assigned or delegated to the ~~Advisory~~ Committee.

e. The Mayor or the Mayor's designee shall serve as the Chair of the ~~Advisory~~ Committee, the Planning Board Chair or the Planning Board Chair's designee shall serve as Vice Chair of the ~~Advisory~~ Committee and the Township Administrator shall serve as the Secretary of the ~~Advisory~~ Committee. The Secretary of the ~~Advisory~~ Committee shall maintain minutes of the committee meetings and records of the proceedings of the ~~e~~Committee.

f. ~~The Advisory Committee shall~~ Meet at least once quarterly and from time to time as it deems necessary to meet its responsibilities. The ~~advisory e~~Committee shall present its activities and findings to the Township Committee annually before the end of each year.

g. ~~The Advisory Committee shall~~ Offer opinions on open space purchases to be considered by the Township Committee.

h. ~~The Advisory Committee shall have~~ Perform such other duties as the Township Committee may assign to it from time to time.

i. Study the development and improvement of all types of parks, playgrounds, recreation spaces and open spaces within the Township, new and existing, and the proper maintenance thereof.

j. Study the present and future need for parks, playgrounds, recreation spaces and open spaces which will be of benefit to all residents of the Township.

k. Provide an annual report to the Township Committee on the status of the Township's parks, playgrounds, recreation spaces and open spaces, and the improvements thereon.

l. On a periodic basis, evaluate the Township Master Plan Open Space and Recreation Element, and make appropriate recommendations to the Township Committee.

Section 2. Subsection § 2-8.4 “Parks and Recreation Committee” of Chapter 2 “Administration” Section § 2-8 “Recreation Department”, is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with reserved as follows:

§ 2-8.4 ~~Parks and Recreation Committee.~~ Reserved.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall be construed so as not to conflict with any provision of New Jersey or Federal law. In the event of any inconsistencies or conflicts between this Ordinance and existing ordinances of the Township, the provisions of this Ordinance shall apply.

Section 4. If any provisions of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions, which shall be deemed severable therefrom.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption, passage and publication according to law.

INTRODUCED/PASSED ON FIRST READING: *08-28-2023*

ROLL CALL VOTE				
COMMITTEE MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
YOUNG	✓			
SCHWORN	✓			
BEATRICE	✓			
COLUMBUS				✓
OWENS	✓			

PUBLISHED: *08-31-2023*

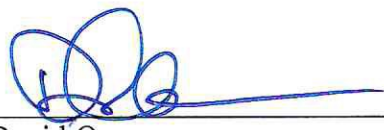
ADOPTED: 09-11-2023

ROLL CALL VOTE				
COMMITTEE MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
YOUNG	✓			
SCHWORN	✓			
BEATRICE	✓			
COLUMBUS				✓
OWENS	✓			

ATTEST:



Gregory Bonin
Township Clerk



David Owens
Mayor