

The Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hackensack was held at City Hall, 65 Central Avenue, Hackensack, New Jersey, on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 5:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Mayor Gaines called the meeting to order and the Acting Clerk Timothy Hoffman announced, “This meeting is being held in accordance with the “Open Public Meeting Act,” N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice having been published according to law, with a copy on file in the City Clerk’s Office, and a copy posted on the Bulletin Board in City Hall.”

Mr. Hoffman called the roll: Mayor Gaines, Councilwoman Clark-Collins, Councilman Carroll, and Councilman Diaz were present. Deputy Mayor Toomey was absent. City Manager Thomas Freeman was present. City Attorney Richard Malagiere was present. Acting Clerk Timothy Hoffman was present. Deputy City Clerk Allison Saabye was present.

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from December 29, 2025 Special Meeting, January 6, 2026 Meeting, and January 20, 2026 Meeting was offered by Councilwoman Clark Collins, seconded by Councilman Diaz and approved by Mayor Gaines, Councilman Carroll, Councilman Diaz and Councilwoman Clark-Collins.

II. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins			X				
Carroll	X		X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack deem it necessary to discuss certain actions under Section 7b7 & 7b8 of the Open Public Meetings Act which pertains to matters falling within attorney-client privilege, on-going litigation and personnel matters concerning the employment of a current or prospective public employee(s).

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack is of the opinion that such circumstances may presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to discuss the following issues:

- 1. On-going Litigation
- 2. Matters involving attorney/client privilege
- 3. Matters involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property
- 4. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack deem it necessary to exclude the public from this discussion. The

outcome of the discussion will be disclosed within 90 days or at such time as the interests of the City do not require confidentiality.

III. PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATION:

- a. Proclamations – None
- b. Presentations by Groups - None

IV. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FROM PROFESSIONALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Green Acres Pocket Park 155 Main Street: Joe DiFranco, Vice President of Bruno Associates, Grant Consultants – I am here at the request of the Council to provide a brief overview of the Green Acres land acquisition resolution on tonight’s agenda and to assist with any technical questions prior to the public hearing. Tonight represents the culmination of several months of coordination between the City, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and the community to position this project for eligibility under the State’s land acquisition grant program. These efforts reflect the deliberate and forward-looking approach by this administration to expand open space for the residents of Hackensack. What has stood out most to me throughout this process is the level of enthusiasm and engagement from the Hackensack community. The feedback reflects a genuine desire for meaningful open space, and it is rewarding to work with a governing body that is in sync with its constituents and willing to take the steps necessary to turn that vision into a reality. If successfully awarded, this grant would position the city to acquire a strategically located parcel in the middle of Main Street, ultimately transforming it into a unique urban pocket park, at virtually no cost to the taxpayers. The resolution before you authorizes the City to submit a grant application to NJ DEP’s Green Acres program to seek funding for the acquisition for the property located at 155 Main Street for permanent public open space and park use. This action is procedural in nature and does not approve a final purchase price, does not obligate the City to acquire the property, and it does not authorize any demolition or construction activity. It simply authorizes the City to submit an application to NJ DEP so the State can evaluate the project for potential funding. The funding request reflected in the resolution is based on planning level, acquisition cost estimates, and final values are going to be established later through appraisals conducted by DEP approved appraisers and reviewed by the State. The purpose of tonight’s hearing is to memorize the City’s intent to pursue the acquisition of this property for permanent public open space informed by meaningful community engagement and consistent with Green Acre’s requirements. If this resolution is adopted this evening, the City may submit its application by the February 27 deadline. NJ DEP will then conduct its review and issue appraisal and environmental requirements. At that point, the City will determine whether to move forward with acquisition based on the final appraisal value and overall project feasibility. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Council.

A motion to open the meeting to the public was offered by Councilman Carroll and seconded by Councilman Diaz.

Sergi Tolstoy – Concerning the pocket park, my first question was why is it at that location on Main Street given its enclosed-ness. Number two, as mentioned that it is at no cost, what is the projected maintenance cost for this particular area going forward?

Dr. Anita Rivers – I am all in favor of the pocket park. I think it is going to be a great relief from all the redevelopment that has taken place on Main Street, but I would like to bring the City’s attention to the existing parks. I commented in the survey that I would like to see some refreshing or updating of some of the other parks in the City as well, particularly Carver Park, which I believe is entitled to Green Acres grant money as well. I am not sure about that grant but maybe you can clarify that for me. Also, the Anderson Street Park that is right across from the Second Reformed Church. I think

those two parks are in the community where there are a lot of children who would certainly benefit from an updated, refreshed green space. I thank you so much.

Patricia Nixon – I live on Main Street and have been a Hackensack resident for 25 years. I would like to start and take a moment to say how pleased I am with Caseen Gaines. I remember an event I attended at the Johnson Public Library that you hosted featuring “When Broadway Was Black,” and I love that you participate in our local community gatherings where we can enjoy each other and discuss things that matter and artistic projects. I think you are doing a great job here and you are an asset to our community. What we are here to speak about today is the new park and I for one am not pleased with this idea. I have lived in Hackensack for 25 years. I grew up in New York and love Hackensack and the small town feel and that it has access to everything a thriving City needs. Green spaces within a City is beneficial in so many ways which I don’t need to remind you here. I appreciate having a spot under a shady tree, listening to an audiobook in the warmer months, chatting with neighbors passing by. I am no way against having green spaces, my problem is that you are willing to spend money on a tiny park on Main Street while the beautiful spaces we already have are severely neglected as my neighbor said. I live in walking distance of the park on Anderson Street for instance. It has mature trees and is nestled between two churches and a lovely school. It is off of Main Street which makes it a lovely place for relaxation and enjoyment. However, there is a water fountain that is almost never functioning during the warmer months. It looks like a petri dish. There is almost no landscaping, the grass could use help, more seeding would be welcomed. That little park deserves some TLC. What bothers me about the proposal of this new park in a little sliver of land on Main Street is that it seems to me you are ignoring current long-time residents of Hackensack to patronize those who are buying into these new so-called luxury high rises that are new to the area. They are welcome to walk down the street to one of our current parks. I strongly suggest before you go pouring money into a new park that will likely be neglected like the ones we already have consider using even a portion of that money to take care of what we already have. Don’t neglect the structures and public spaces that have endured Hackensack evolution for something new and glitzy just to look like we did something. It is an insult to the history and integrity of Hackensack. I will also be contacting Bruno Associates by mail and sharing these thoughts. Hackensack can and should be awarded funding and support for our current green spaces.

Simeon N. Cumberbatch – I am a resident of Hackensack for the past 37 years, so I appreciate having another park in town. My original place that I was raised was Hoboken where I was a cop for over 30 years and I understand about all of this building going on in the town, and I appreciate the fact that you are taking the time to not do some more building but have some recreational space for the youth and the seniors, of which I am now one. Thank you.

No one wished to speak.

A motion to close the meeting to the public was offered by Councilman Carroll and seconded by Councilwoman Clark Collins.

City Manager’s Report: Just a couple quick updates on some events going around the City here: On February 6th, hosted by the Boys and Girls Club is the Comet Academic After School Partnership Student Showcase. More information can be found on our website. Also at the HACPAC, I was going to speak of a couple events in February there but as I look at the list, there are quite a few at the HACPAC in February so please check their website. A lot of good programming for the month, highlighted by the 12th is the Ramadan crescent lighting and the 13th is Be My Galentine, and also an event on the 14th for Valentines Day. Other than that, I will briefly remind everyone like I did last meeting about the snow in the City. Please pay attention to the snow streets that we are not supposed to be parking on when snow covered. We were out in force trying to ticket and tow vehicles to try and get streets cleared better. Unfortunately, we had some issues with the tow companies as you can imagine every municipality had

vehicles being towed and tow company yards ran out of space. The Police and DPW worked well together and cleared as many streets as they could. It is an ongoing effort. They were plowing first and now they are removing snow, taking streets one at a time and removing as much as they can. The fact that so many vehicles were left on the roads make things very difficult. Please pay attention. We are going to look to somehow possibly increase the fines for on street parking when the road is snow covered because it just takes one or two vehicles not playing by the rules and it effects the whole neighborhood, as you probably have seen on the streets that did not get completed because cars were left there. Please pay attention to that, take advantage of the free parking we offered at the Riverside Square and Atlantic Street Garage. Not enough people took advantage of it and I don't know why but we would really like to see the cars get off the road so the DPW can do their jobs safely and efficiently. Thank you.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (ON AGENDA ITEMS):

A motion to open the meeting to the public was offered by Councilman Carroll and seconded by Councilwoman Clark Collins.

No one wished to speak.

A motion to close the meeting to the public was offered by Councilwoman Clark Collins and seconded by Councilman Diaz

VI. NEW BUSINESS (ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS):

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

**CITY OF HACKENSACK
RESOLUTION NO. 43-26**

**FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 01-2026, AN
ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 170 OF THE CODE OF
THE CITY OF HACKENSACK, “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”
TO ADD AND REMOVE HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES
IN SECTION 49.2 “PARKING FOR THE HANDICAPPED”**

This Ordinance has been published according to law and now calls for a Public Hearing.

A motion to open to the public was offered by Councilman Carroll and seconded by Councilwoman Clark-Collins.

PUBLIC HEARING: Patrick Dorey – 139 South Main Street, I had a former employee at 149 South Main Street who had a handicapped spot assigned to her, she died 6 months ago and I let the police department know. Police said I had to come here to ask to remove it. I would ask that it be returned to regular parking.

A motion to close to the public was offered by Councilman Carroll and seconded by Councilman Diaz.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hackensack, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, that Ordinance No. 01-2026 has passed its second and final reading and is hereby adopted.

**CITY OF HACKENSACK
ORDINANCE NO. 01-2026**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 170 OF THE CODE OF THE
CITY OF HACKENSACK, “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC,” TO ADD AND
REMOVE HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES IN SECTION 49.2,
“PARKING FOR THE HANDICAPPED”**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2, the governing body of a municipality may make, amend, repeal, and enforce such other ordinances, regulations, rules and by-laws not contrary to the laws of this state or of the United States, as it may deem necessary and proper for the good of government, order and protection of person and property, and for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants, and as may be necessary to carry into effect the powers and duties conferred and imposed by this subtitle, or by any law; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hackensack wishes to amend Chapter 170 of the Code of the City of Hackensack, entitled “Vehicles and Traffic,” to add one (2) new handicapped parking spaces and remove (1) handicapped parking space to Section 49.2, entitled “Parking for the Handicapped” and,

WHEREAS, the Hackensack Police Department and the City Engineer have investigated the matter and have determined that adding such handicapped parking spaces will not significantly impact on-street parking, nor will it affect traffic flow.

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it is in the City’s best interest to take this action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HACKENSACK, as follows:

Section 1:
Chapter 170, Section 49.2 of the Code of the City of Hackensack is hereby amended as follows [additions by underline, deletions by ~~striketrough~~]

§170-49.2. Parking for the handicapped.

E. Designation of parking areas. In accordance with this chapter, the following location(s) shall provide parking for the physically handicapped:

Parking Lot or Street	Side	Location/Number of Handicapped Space
<u>Kaplan Avenue</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>From a point of 284 feet east of the southeast curbline apex of Kaplan Ave and South Prospect Ave. to a point 22 feet north thereof.</u>
<u>Haynes Street</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>From a point of 47 feet south of the southwest curbline apex of Passaic Street and Haynes Street to a point 22 feet south thereof.</u>
Second Street	East Street	From the apex of northwest corner of Second and James Street to a point 22 feet east thereof.

Section 2:
All other provisions of Chapter 170, Section 49.2 of the Code of the City of Hackensack shall remain unchanged.

Section 3:
Repeal of Inconsistent Provisions. All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, but only however, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, it being the legislative intent that all ordinances or part of ordinances now existing or in effect unless the same being conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance shall remain in effect.

Section 4:

Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof for any reason is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance, but shall remain in effect; it being the legislative intent this Ordinance shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part.

Section 5:

Codification. This Ordinance shall be a part of the Code of the City of Hackensack as though codified and fully set forth therein. The City Clerk shall have this ordinance codified and incorporated in the official copies of the Code. The City Clerk and the City Attorney are authorized and directed to change any Chapter, Article and/or Section number of the Code of the City of Hackensack in the event that the codification of this Ordinance reveals that there is a conflict between the numbers and the existing Code, and in order to avoid confusion and possible accidental repealers of existing provisions not intended to be repealed.

Section 6:

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage, adoption, and publication in the manner prescribed by law.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins		X	X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz	X		X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

**CITY OF HACKENSACK
RESOLUTION NO. 44-26**

**FINAL ADOPTION OF BOND ORDINANCE 02-2026, BOND
ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE 21-2025,
FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF HACKENSACK ON JUNE 3, 2025**

This Ordinance has been published according to law and now calls for a Public Hearing.

A motion to open to the public was offered by Councilwoman Clark Collins and seconded by Councilman Diaz.

PUBLIC HEARING: No one wished to speak.

A motion to close to the public was offered by Councilman Carroll and seconded by Councilman Diaz.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hackensack, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, that Ordinance No. 02-2026 has passed its second and final reading and is hereby adopted.

ORDINANCE 02-2026

**BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER
21-2025 FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY ON JUNE 3, 2025**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HACKENSACK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring), AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Bond Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Hackensack, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the “City”) entitled “Bond Ordinance Providing For Various 2025 Capital Improvements and Acquisitions By And In The City Of Hackensack, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, Appropriating \$7,180,00 Therefor and Authorizing The Issuance Of \$6,411,070 Bonds Or Notes Of The City To Finance Part Of The Cost Thereof” finally adopted on June 3, 2025 (the “Ordinance”) is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Section 2. Section 3(a)(iii) of the bond ordinance, in connection with the purchase of a 1500GPM fire engine pumper, is hereby amended by deleting the reference of “\$1,200,000” for the appropriation and estimated cost, deleting the reference of “\$1,142,857” for the estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes, deleting the reference of “\$57,143” for the downpayment and substituting in lieu therefor “\$980,000”, “\$933,334” and “\$46,666”.

This Ordinance is hereby further amended in Section 3(a) by adding 3(a)(viii) “Purchase of a Fire Engine (used), \$220,000 for the appropriation and estimated cost, \$209,523 for the estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes, \$10,477 for the downpayment and 5 years for the useful life.”

The Ordinance is hereby further amended by deleting the reference to “17.57” for the useful life and substituting in lieu therefor “16.94.”

Section 3. The capital budget of the City is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. The resolutions in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for public inspection.

Section 4. This Section 4 constitutes a declaration of official intent under Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2. The City reasonably expects to pay expenditures with respect to the Improvements prior to the date that the City incurs debt obligations under this Bond Ordinance. The City reasonably expects to reimburse such expenditures with the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the City under this Bond Ordinance. The maximum principal amount of debt expected to be issued for payment of the costs of the Improvements is \$6,411,070.

Section 5. All other provisions of the Ordinance shall remain unchanged.

Section 6. This amendatory bond ordinance shall take effect twenty days after the first publication thereof after final adoption as provided by Local Bond Law.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins	X		X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 45-26

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 03-2026 AN
ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 32 OF THE CODE OF
THE CITY OF HACKENSACK, “POLICE DEPARTMENT,”
TO ELIMINATE THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF POLICE
AND TO AMEND THE TABLE OF ORGANIZATION OF THE
POLICE DEPARTMENT TO INCLUDE ONE (1) DEPUTY

**CHIEF AND TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CAPTAINS
TO FIVE (5)**

BE IT RESOLVED that the above ordinance, being Ordinance 03-2026 as introduced, does now pass on first reading and that said Ordinance shall be considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on February 17, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached at the regular meeting place of the City Council and at such time and place all persons interested be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said Ordinance and that the Clerk be and he is hereby authorized and directed to publish said ordinance according to law with a notice of its introduction and passage on first reading and of the time and place when and where said ordinance will be further considered for final passage.

CITY OF HACKENSACK
ORDINANCE NO. 03-2026

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 32 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF HACKENSACK, "POLICE
DEPARTMENT," TO ABOLISH THE POSITION OF POLICE DIRECTOR AND RESTORE THE POWERS
OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack ("City") have established a Police Department as provided for by N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118 and other related provisions of New Jersey law; and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 32 of the Code of the City of Hackensack ("City Code") sets forth the Police Department's Organization, Duties and Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hackensack Police Department is the largest police force in Bergen County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hackensack Police Department was a diverse and professional police force hailed as a leader in the areas of investigation, community policing, dispatching, organized under one Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, the Hackensack Police Department underwent a series of significant and sometimes quizzical changes to its leadership structure over a 12-year period from 2012 to 2024; and,

WHEREAS, one example of the curious nature of some of the changes is evidenced by the position of Chief of Police ("Chief") being abolished in 2016 only to be restored in 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the position of Director of Police was created in 2012 as a civilian-held position to perform the duties of Chief in the event of vacancy;

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Director of Police was assigned all of the Chief's powers and the position of Chief of Police was abolished; and

WHEREAS, the position of Deputy Chief was abolished in 2016; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 the Chief of Police office was restored; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find it necessary and proper to restore proper structure to the Hackensack Police Department for the most efficient discharge of the City's police function and to amend and update the Hackensack Police Department Table of Organization to reflect the current needs for appropriate supervision of the Department; and,

WHEREAS, the changes hereby made are tantamount to a final undoing of the ill-advised and *ad hoc* changes made by prior administrations over the last 10-15 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HACKENSACK, as follows:

Section 1:

The Code of the City of Hackensack ("City Code"), Chapter 32, "Police Department," Article I, "Department Organization, Duties, and Regulations" is hereby replaced with the following:

§32-1 Establishment of Police Department.

- A.** There is hereby created, in and for the City of Hackensack, a Police Department, which shall consist with no more than a Chief of Police, and up to one (1) Deputy Chief, up to five (5) Captains, up to twelve (12) Lieutenants, up to eighteen (18) Sergeants, and a maximum of 85 police officers, to be appointed to these positions by the City Manager with the budgetary approval of the City Council, as public need may require
- B.** Civilian. Communication operators, mechanics, parking meter repairers, parking meter collectors and repairers, school traffic guards, office-clerical personnel and such other titles as may be established.
- C.** Special law enforcement officers. The City of Hackensack hereby establishes special law enforcement officers pursuant to and in compliance with the Special Law Enforcement Officers Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:14-146.8 et seq.)
 - 1. Special law enforcement officers are subject to the personnel policies of the City of Hackensack.
 - 2. Special law enforcement officers are subject to the City of Hackensack Police Department's Rules and Regulations, and Written Directive System, where applicable.

§32.2 Purpose of the Police Department

The Police Department shall:

- A.** Preserve the public peace;
- B.** Protect life and property;
- C.** Detect, arrest and prosecute offenders of the laws of New Jersey and the ordinances of the City of Hackensack;
- D.** Direct and control traffic;
- E.** Provide attendance and protection during emergencies;
- F.** Make appearances in court;
- G.** Cooperate with all other law enforcement agencies; and
- H.** Provide training for the efficiency of its members and officers.

§ 32-3. Chief of Police; powers and duties.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118, and to the fullest extent permissibly delegable to him under said statute, the Chief of Police shall be directly responsible to the appropriate authority for the efficiency and routine day-to-day operations of the Police Department. The Chief of Police shall, consistent with City ordinances:

- A.** Administer and enforce the rules and regulations of the Police Department and any special emergency directives for the disposition and discipline of the Department and its officers and personnel.
- B.** Have, exercise, and discharge the functions, powers and duties of the Police Department.
- C.** Prescribe the duties and assignments of all subordinates and other personnel.
- D.** Delegate such of his or her authority as he or she may deem necessary for the efficient operation of the Police Department to be exercised under his or her direction and supervision.
- E.** Report at least monthly to the appropriate authority in such form as shall be prescribed by the appropriate authority on the operation of the force during the preceding month and make such other reports as may be requested by the appropriate authority.

§ 32-4. Appropriate authority designated.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118, the City Manager is hereby designated as the appropriate authority and is hereby vested with the powers and duties of an appropriate authority as delegated by law.

§32-5. Appointment of officers and personnel.

No person shall be appointed to the Police Department who is not qualified as provided by New Jersey law. The selection criteria for a police officer shall be in accordance with Department policy and ordinances and New Jersey Law including but not limited to the rules and regulations of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

§32-6 Disciplinary action.

Discipline of police officers will be imposed consistent with New Jersey State statutes, New Jersey Administrative Code, the rules and regulations of the Hackensack Police Department, and the rules and regulations of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission. The written charges will be signed by the Chief of Police, or his/her designee, as provided in New Jersey law and the Police Department's rules and regulations. Police officers may also be subject to discipline for violating other statutes, ordinances, and policies

§ 32-7. Rules and regulations.

The appropriate authority shall, from time to time as may be necessary, adopt and amend the rules and regulations for the government and discipline of the Police Department and employees thereof. Said rules and regulations may fix and provide for the enforcement of such rules and regulations and the enforcement of penalties for the violation of such rules and regulations, and all employees of the Police Department shall be subject to such rules and regulations and penalties.

§ 32-8. Police officer extra-duty employment policy.

A. Purpose. For the convenience of those persons and entities utilizing the services of Hackensack Police Department officers to perform extra-duty details and to authorize Hackensack police officers to perform voluntary extra-duty details within the City of Hackensack or within other local municipalities that extend beyond their regular assigned duties and responsibilities, the City hereby establishes a policy regarding the use of said officers.

- (1) Hackensack police officers shall be permitted to accept police-related employment for private employers or school districts only during off-duty hours and at such time as will not interfere with the efficient performance of regularly scheduled or emergency duty for the City. Any such extra-duty employment shall be voluntary, and may be accepted or declined solely at the option of the officer (provided the extra-duty employment is approved in accordance with the Hackensack City Code and any applicable rules, regulations, policies or procedures of the Hackensack Police Department). Accordingly, the performance of such extra-duty work for a separate and independent employer shall be excluded by the City in the calculation of the hours for which the officer is entitled to overtime.
- (2) Any person or entity wishing to employ a Hackensack police officer or officers for an extra-duty detail shall first obtain the approval of the Chief of Police or his/her designee, who shall grant such approval if in his or her judgment such employment would not be inconsistent with the efficient functioning and good reputation of the Police Department and would not unreasonably endanger or threaten the safety of the officer or officers who are to perform the work.
- (3) To the fullest extent permissible by law, the person or entity requesting the services of Hackensack police officer(s) for an extra-duty detail shall execute an appropriate hold harmless and indemnity agreement as approved by the City Attorney, which shall provide that such person or entity shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City of Hackensack, along with its elected and appointed officers, employees, agents, servants and administrators, from and against any and all claims, or actions at law, whether for personal injury, property damage or liability, including any cost of defense incurred by the City, which arises from any acts or omissions of the insured, its agents, or employees arising out of or related to his, her or its use of Hackensack police officers to perform extra duty. This indemnification and hold harmless agreement and the duty to defend shall apply in all instances, whether the City is a defendant or is made a direct party to the initial action or claim, or is subsequently made a party to the action by third-party in-pleading or is made a party to a collateral action arising, in whole or in part, from any of the issues from the original cause of action or claim.
- (4) No person or entity shall employ a Hackensack police officer for extra duty without having first filed with the Police Department a certificate of insurance naming the City, its agents, servants and administrators as additional insureds, and evidencing that general liability coverage of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence is in effect with respect to the extra-duty services to be provided. All such certificates of insurance are subject to approval by the City's risk manager or other insurance professional and the City Attorney. All policies of insurance evidenced by any certificate filed hereunder shall be maintained in full force and effect at all times while any police officer is performing extra duty. Upon the change or renewal of any such policy of insurance, the person or entity utilizing the services of a Hackensack police officer for extra duty shall file with the Police Department a new and current certificate of insurance in compliance with the foregoing provisions within one business day. The City Manager may waive some or all of the foregoing requirements if in his or her determination it

is in the best interest of the City and the City will still remain adequately protected in the absence of same.

- (5) The Chief of Police, or his/her designee, with the approval of the City Manager, may promulgate appropriate additional administrative regulations and requirements for the use of Hackensack police officers for extra-duty details, provided they are not inconsistent with any provision within the Code of the City of Hackensack. The Chief of Police, or in the absence of the Chief, the City's highest ranking law enforcement executive, shall monitor all extra-duty employment to ensure that the City's interests are protected.

B. Escrow accounts.

- (1) Any person or entity requesting the services of a Hackensack police officer to perform extra duty shall estimate the number of hours such law enforcement services are required, which estimate shall be approved, in writing, by the Chief of Police or his/her designee shall establish an escrow account with the City Treasurer by depositing an amount sufficient to cover the rates of compensation and administrative fees for the total estimated hours of service. This may be waived for nonprofit organizations, public utilities, or for companies that have a working relationship with the City.
- (2) Prior to posting any request for the services of a Hackensack police officer to perform extra duty, the Chief of Police or, in the absence of the Chief or his/her designee shall verify that the balance in the escrow account of the person or entity requesting services is sufficient to cover the compensation and fees for the number of hours specified in the request for services. The Chief of Police or his/her designee shall not post a request for services from any person or entity unless all fees and compensation required in the manner described above have been deposited with the City Treasurer. No officer shall provide any such services for more hours than are specified in the request for services.
- (3) In the event the funds in such an escrow account should become depleted, services of law enforcement officers performing extra duty shall cease and requests for further services shall not be performed or posted until additional funds have been deposited in the escrow account in the manner prescribed above.
- (4) The person or entity requesting such services shall be responsible for ensuring that sufficient funds remain in the escrow account in order to avoid any interruption of services.

C. Requests for services.

- (1) Any law enforcement officers, when so employed by the City, shall be treated as employees of the City; provided, however, that wages earned for outside employment shall not be applied toward the pension benefits of law enforcement officers so employed.

D. Rate of compensation.

- (1) The rate of compensation for a Hackensack police officer engaging in extra-duty employment shall be \$100.00 per hour, regardless of rank. Recognized public and not-for-profit educational and religious institutions shall receive a \$20 per hour reduction on the foregoing extra-duty employment rate of compensation.
- (2) There is no minimum period for a Hackensack police officer to be engaged in extra-duty employment, however, any such officer engaged for a period of less than four hours shall be compensated as if he or she actually worked four hours. In the event of a cancellation received two or less hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the extra-duty assignment, there shall be a cancellation charge of four hours per officer. Cancellations received more than two hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the extra-duty assignment shall be at no charge.
- (3) In addition to the compensation to be paid for the services of each Hackensack police officer, there shall be a \$25 per hour administrative/vehicle use fee, which is per officer engaged in extra-duty employment. The administrative/vehicle use fee is also subject to a four-hour minimum charge as set forth in Subsection D(2), above. Additionally, the City may pass along to the person or entity requesting such services any fees charged by an outside vendor contracted by the City to administer scheduling and/or notification services with respect to any extra-duty employment requested pursuant to this section. Recognized public and not-for-profit educational and religious institutions shall have this administrative fee waived by the City.

Section 2:

Repeal of Inconsistent Provisions. All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, but only however, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency, it being the legislative intent that all ordinances or part of ordinances now existing or in effect unless the same being conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance shall remain in effect.

Section 3:
Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof for any reason is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance, but shall remain in effect; it being the legislative intent this Ordinance shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part.

Section 4:
Codification. This Ordinance shall be a part of the Code of the City of Hackensack as though codified and fully set forth therein. The City Clerk shall have this ordinance codified and incorporated in the official copies of the Code. The City Clerk and the City Attorney are authorized and directed to change any Chapter, Article and/or Section number of the Code of the City of Hackensack in the event that the codification of this Ordinance reveals that there is a conflict between the numbers and the existing Code, and in order to avoid confusion and possible accidental repealers of existing provisions not intended to be repealed.

Section 5:
This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage, adoption, and publication in the manner prescribed by law.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins	X		X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 46-26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hackensack that the bills in the following accounts be and are hereby ordered paid:

Current Fund	\$	1,270,490.85
Grants		19,635.00
Payroll		0
Public Parking System		4,459.40
Capital		13,195.28
Escrow		14,184.16
Trust Account		182,112.51
Total Expenditures		<u>1,504,077.20</u>
Interfunds/Transfers		<u>\$ 279,863.69</u>

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins	X		X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 47-26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX REFUNDS

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Hackensack that the proper officers be and are hereby authorized to make the following refunds for the reasons stated:

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>REASON</u> <u>PROP LOC</u>
\$10,162.90	210.01	21	Michael I. Schneck, Attorney For 121 Main Hackensack LLC 23 Vreeland Road Suite 103 Florham Park, NJ 07932	2025	State Board Judgment 121 Main St
\$2,305.30	3	21 C0104	Corelogic Refunds Dept For Deshpande, Sakshi & Chavan 3001 Hackberry Road Irving, TX 75063	2025	Duplicate Payment 38 Moonachie Rd
\$3,685.41	118	69	Corelogic Refunds Dept For Lekay, Lula 3001 Hackberry Road Irving, TX 75063	2025	Paid in Error 150 Poor St
\$3,357.93	141	34	Cassinelli, Victor 462 Marvin Ave Hackensack, NJ 07601	2025	Duplicate Payment 462 Marvin Ave
\$69.54	220	29	Corelogic Refunds Dept For Campoverde, Clara & Jose 3001 Hackberry Road Irving, TX 75063	2025	County Board Judgment 115 Atlantic St

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins	X		X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 48-26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENDORSEMENT OF PROPOSED HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP GRANT (HOME) PROJECT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE BERGEN COUNTY DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS a Bergen County HOME Investment Partnerships application of \$350,000 has been proposed by the Housing Authority of Bergen County located at One Bergen County Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hackensack, NJ 07601 for the purpose of providing rental assistance to low-income families, including senior citizens, persons with disabilities and homeless households; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Interlocal Services Act, HOME funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid project is in the best interest of the people of Hackensack, NJ; and

WHEREAS, this resolution does not obligate the financial resources of the municipality and is intended solely to expedite the expenditure of the aforesaid Community Development funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of Hackensack hereby confirms endorsement of the aforesaid project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent expeditiously to the Director of the Bergen County Division of Community Development (Robert G. Esposito; One Bergen County Plaza, 4th Floor; Hackensack, New Jersey 07601; resposito@co.bergen.nj.us) so that implementation of the aforesaid project may be expedited.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins	X		X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 49-26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION 2026 GREEN ACRES PROGRAM FOR LAND ACQUISITION FUNDING (155 MAIN STREET – GREEN ACRES LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT)

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program (“State”), provides grants and/or loans to municipal and county governments and grants to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the acquisition, development, and stewardship of lands for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hackensack desires to further the public interest by seeking Green Acres funding for the acquisition of real property known as 155 Main Street, for the purpose of permanent preservation and use as public open space and recreational land (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, based on eligibility criteria established by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the City of Hackensack qualifies for up to 100% Green Acres acquisition funding for this Project, as the subject property is located within an Overburdened Community Subject to Adverse Cumulative Stressors (ACS/OBC) and designated as an Urban Aid Community, and the applicable funding round cap for eligible acquisition projects is within a range of \$1,000,000 to \$1,400,000, subject to appraisal review and final program approval; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks Green Acres acquisition funding of up to \$1,400,000, representing the maximum eligible State funding amount for which the City qualifies, at a planning-level estimated total project cost of \$1,400,000, subject to appraisal review and confirmation of eligible acquisition costs; and

WHEREAS, the State shall determine whether the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Green Acres Program and shall notify the City of the amount of any funding award; and

WHEREAS, the City understands that the final eligible Green Acres award amount is subject to appraisal review and approval by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; and

WHEREAS, the City is willing to use the State’s funds in accordance with all applicable rules, regulations, and statutes and is willing to enter into an agreement with the State for the above-named Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that:

- 1. Mayor Caseen Gaines, or the successor to the office of Mayor, is hereby authorized to:
 - a) Make application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program, for acquisition funding for the Project;
 - b) Provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required by the State; and
 - c) Act as the authorized correspondent of the City for all matters related to the Green Acres application.
- 2. The City acknowledges that the Green Acres acquisition grant award, if approved, shall not exceed the maximum eligible funding cap established by the State and shall be subject to appraisal review and final program approval.
- 3. In the event that total eligible acquisition costs exceed the approved Green Acres award amount, the City certifies that it shall be responsible for providing any additional funding necessary to complete the Project.
- 4. The City agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in the performance of the Project.
- 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins	X		X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 50-26

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FROM THE CITY OF HACKENSACK AUTHORIZING THE 2026 SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION FUNDED BY THE PSEG FOUNDATION GRANT

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hackensack strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hackensack is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the 2026 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program funded by the PSEG Foundation;

THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hackensack have determined that the City of Hackensack should apply for the aforementioned Grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 to produce a current Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hackensack, State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of the aforementioned 2026 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program funded by the PSEG Foundation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are hereby authorized to sign the grant application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to execute the grant agreement and any other documents necessary in connection therewith.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins	X		X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK

RESOLUTION NO. 51-26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF BIDS FOR SPRING VALLEY AVENUE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey upon the recommendation of the City Engineering Consultant, Neglia Group, that the plans & specifications for:

SPRING VALLEY AVENUE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS
(LA-2024 NJDOT FUNDED)

CITY OF HACKENSACK
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Are hereby approved and the City Clerk is hereby authorized to advertise for bids. This Resolution is to take effect immediately.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins	X		X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK
RESOLUTION NO. 52-26

RESOLUTION APPROVING TRANSFER OF 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, various Year 2025 bills have been presented for payment this year, which bills were not covered by Year 2025 Budget Appropriations; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides that amounts in excess of appropriations over and above the amounts deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriations, may be transferred to appropriations deemed to be insufficient, during the last two months of the budget year and the first three months of the reserve year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hackensack that transfers in the amount of \$91,000 be made between the Year 2025 Budget Appropriations as follows:

CURRENT FUND		
FROM	DEPARTMENT	
5-01-25-252-252-200	Emergency Mgmt – OE	\$ 5,000
5-01-25-265-266-100	Fire Official – S&W	\$ 5,000
5-01-26-130-130-200	Public Buildings / Grounds – OE	\$ 30,000
5-01-26-290-290-200	Streets & Roads – OE	\$ 15,000
5-01-26-300-300-200	DPW Admin - OE	\$ 10,000
5-01-27-305-305-200	Garbage & Trash – OE	\$ 6,000
5-01-28-375-375-200	Parks & Playgrounds – OE	\$ 20,000
Total -		\$ 91,000
TO	DEPARTMENT	
5-01-20-120-121-200	Elections – OE	\$ 30,000
5-01-26-290-291-200	Snow Removal – OE	\$ 50,000
5-01-31-445-445-247	Utilities – Water	\$ 11,000
Total -		\$ 91,000

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins	X		X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK
RESOLUTION NO. 53-26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2026 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides that where any contract, commitment or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2026 Budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purpose and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hackensack that the following appropriations be made and that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer for his records.

2026 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS
Parking Utility Budget

X-05-55-512-0000 Capital Outlay \$ 250,000

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins	X		X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK
RESOLUTION NO. 54-26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND & SAFETY BOND FOR SECOND ST. PAVILION - HACKENSACK MERIDIAN HEALTH

WHEREAS, a request has been received for the return of the Performance Bond, Maintenance Bond and Safety / Stabilization Bonds for the project known as Second St. Pavilion – Hackensack Meridian Health in Hackensack; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer has approved the release of the Performance Bond, Maintenance Bond, and Safety / Stabilization Bonds without conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Hackensack, County of Bergen that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby directed to return the Performance Bond, Maintenance Bond, and Safety / Stabilization Bonds to Hackensack Meridian Health, 343 Thornall St. 8th Floor, Edison, NJ 08837.

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins	X		X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

CITY OF HACKENSACK
RESOLUTION NO. 55-26

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RAFFLE LICENSES

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Hackensack that the following organization(s) be granted permission to conduct a Raffle in accordance with the application on file in the office of the City Clerk:

RA	#2026-07	Hackensack High School PTA
RA	#2026-08	Hackensack High School PTA
RA	#2026-09	Fairmount School PTA

Council Member	Intro	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recused
Deputy Mayor Toomey						X	
Clark-Collins	X		X				
Carroll			X				
Diaz		X	X				
Mayor Gaines			X				

**CITY OF HACKENSACK
RESOLUTION NO. 56-26**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HACKENSACK TO FILE SUIT
AGAINST ROCCO DUARDO AND VICTOR VASQUEZ**

WHEREAS, that the City Attorney has received consent from the Mayor and City Council to file a complaint against former City employees Rocco Duardo and Victor Vasquez in Superior Court of NJ for reimbursement of salary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the City Hackensack direct the City Attorney to take the appropriate action to file and execute any documents necessary in connection to this matter.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES):

A motion to open the meeting to the public was offered by Councilman Carroll and seconded by Councilman Diaz.

Joel Dawkins – I would like to say a moment of silence for someone I knew and respected and a good person and a legitimate politician for the people, Mr. Richard Codey. Rest in peace. On January 20, 2026 Mrs. Sherrill was sworn in as the 57th Governor of this State, the first Democratic woman to hold that position. Dale Caldwell became the first male Lt. Governor in our brief history of that position, and they called on affordability and building opportunity. With that said, hopefully the message gets passed down from Governor to County to local municipalities. I would like to also say that I would like to commend my Hackensack DPW for the work they had to undertake in this harsh environment from Manhattan to the Bronx to Teaneck to Bogota and even Newark, I have seen the horror of what lack of preparation and commitment can be. I can say that my Hackensack stood out so I would like to commend that. As I said earlier and last year, the strongest should get paid for the work that they do. On another note, I would like to read this statement. NJ Open Public Records Act “O.P.R.A” which is the right to know law. All school board district records, photos, data processes, electronic recordings, email communications are subject to public inspection, copying under the New Jersey Open Public Records Act with specific exemptions, among them basically protection of public interest, attorney client privilege, computer or building security, negotiations, court orders, on going investigations. Underlying these things, immediate access ordinarily should be granted to budgets, bills, vouchers, and contracts, including collective bargaining agreements and individual employment

contracts, and employee salaries, overtime information. The district custodian of public records typically is the district Business Administrator or School Board Secretary, who can require a request form be filled out with name, address, contact information, and the reason for the records. Records must be made readily available no later than seven business days from the request, if the records are not in storage or archived. I say this based upon what recently took place and whatever has been admitted should be readily corrected.

Simeon Cumberbatch – I just want to take the time to thank the City Manager for expediting the lighted stop signs on Passaic and Anderson Street. I particularly want to thank the Department of Public Works officials for doing such a magnificent job over this past storm. Thank you for seeing that it gets done.

Rich Cerbo – I don't know. I disagree with a lot of things but that storm last Sunday which was not a lot of snow, it hand strung us. We can't even move. It is ridiculous. I don't see why snow and mounds of snow on the side of the road, in intersections, everywhere cannot be removed. I don't get it. I just paid my taxes too so I am wondering what the heck are the services in the City that we pay so much for? What are they? Let me know. I want to know. The question of the evening, of course, is the color of inexperience and it is a 5 letter word. It is an easy one. Also, I am still on to the school problem. I was at a board meeting last week and I was amazed at what is going on there. It is awful that we have fraud that came to Hackensack. I want to know what the heck is going on. I don't want to just read the paper. I come here and no one wants to talk about anything. If the city is going to offer a chunk of dough to bail them out, who made that decision? You had to recuse yourself so who made the decision on that? And why are we doing it? Weeks ago I bought up the fact that in the early 90's, they split apart this government with the school board for some reason. We need to explain and talk about that. Why was it done? Now it would be better off to have the school board and city as one entity, maybe they can work together or maybe that fraud would not have happen. Let's talk about these things because it makes the taxpayer feel left out, we are confused. We feel like we are getting hoodwinked in the City, paying a lot of dough for taxes, and now the schools, the services, whatever, the snow on the side of the road. Talk to me. Speak up.

Dr. Anita Rivers – On a kinder note, I am also affiliated with Fairleigh Dickenson University. I work as their Chief Community Relations and Workforce Development Officer there and I have been a member of that community for almost 25 years. As we are celebrating our 250th anniversary throughout the nation, what we have done at FDU is we have decided to make it our own and make it inclusive. What we have launched as our campaign is our 250 Acts of Kindness. It is a campaign where we are promoting volunteerism and community service. We launched last Wednesday during our student club fair but it is not just for students, certainly we want to impact our students to really consider levels of kindness because to be quite honest with you, there is so much violence, so much conflict, and so much bitterness that is going on in this world. Our youth are being bombarded with hopelessness. What we hope to do at FDU and within our community and hopefully spread out into the larger community, is the notion that kindness and love really conquers all, and can accomplish such great things particularly if we do it together. I would ask the City Council to join us in this campaign because truly kindness is free and collectively we can voice this in our daily activities, in our collective activities so that kindness catches on and defeats the bitterness in the unkind words and all of the isms that we are facing these days. Let's really consider working together, each one of us, and really locking arms because we have young people watching us and they deserve better because they are the ones that will have to tackle the messes we have created. Let's give them a sense of hope through acts of kindness together. I will be in contact with the City Manager to determine how the FDU community along with the City of Hackensack, along with hopefully all of you and hopefully all of you who are streaming can work together towards some common goal, cleaning up the city, beautifying the city, helping with the pocket park, and refreshing the parks that are already in existence. There are so many things we can do collectively. Thank you very much.

Domenick Resine – I am a Mercer County resident, I am a Council Representative from the Carpenter’s Union in North Jersey. Hackensack is one of the towns I cover. Part of my job is finding work opportunities for members that live in these towns but actively seeking now young men and women for recruitment into our union. We are happy to talk to anyone, if you have anyone in mind that does not want to necessarily go to college, young and physically can do the work. We are actively seeking to recruit from the area into the union to help lower our age of membership, a lot of people are retiring right now, but also help people want to have a decent wage with blue color work and be able to retire with dignity. Thank you.

Mayor Gaines - I am going to ask you to share your information with our City Manager so we can be in touch if there are any opportunities to share that information.

No one else wished to speak.

A motion to close the meeting to the public was offered by Councilman Carroll and seconded by Councilman Diaz.

VIII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilwoman Clark-Collins – As the Mayor mentioned at last week’s Council Meeting, I am the Council liaison to the Recreation Board, looking ahead to 2026 our Recreation Center projects are focused on continuing to build inclusive, accessible, and engaging spaces to residents of all ages. The Recreation Board remains committed to enhancing programing, improving facilities, and expanding opportunities that promote wellness, learning, and community connection. These efforts reflect our shared goal of making our Recreation Center’s true hubs of activity, belonging, and pride for our City. In recognition of Black History Month, the Recreation Center will be hosting a luncheon on February 26th at 11:30 AM. The event is free and open to the public, however seating is limited to 200 guests, so early participation is encouraged. Please look our for the flyer that will be posted in our newsletter for sign up instructions. In addition, we have many other meaningful events happening throughout the City. This month, also in celebration of Black History Month, the Triumph and Color exhibit at the HACPAC runs from February 6th to February 28th. It is also free to the public. Tom had mentioned some of these other events but I will mention them again. The Comet Academic After School Student Showcase will take place at the Middle School at 4 PM this Friday, offering our students the opportunity to shine and share their accomplishments. There is a Super Bowl pancake breakfast this Saturday from 8 AM to 11:30 AM at the Troast Club. All proceeds go towards the Hackensack junior sports programs. There are many other events scheduled at the HACPAC such as the Valentines Day concert on February 13th at 8PM, the Drowsy Chaperone on February 8th at 2PM, and the Ramadan crescent lighting ceremony on February 12 at 6PM. You can check out the HACPAC website and please don’t forget to sign up for the City newsletter if you haven’t done so already. I encourage everyone to take part in these events and continue supporting the programs and initiatives that strengthen our community. Thank you to the Recreation Board, City staff, and my fellow Councilmembers for your continued dedication and collaboration. As always, thank you all for coming and get home safe.

Councilman Carroll – That young lady that spoke about the park situation, I believe all the parks have been taken care of and if they have not been taken care of, they will be taken care of. Anderson Street Park, the fountain is going to be fixed. We put some new decorations there this year. Atlantic Street Park, the same thing. Rowland Avenue Park, we have re-done. Carver Park, we have re-done. Staib Park re-done. I know she isn’t happy with Anderson Street Park but that’s a work in progress. Thank you for that. The pocket park would be in between the Green and Carver Park, so it is midway. It is a free park and our maintenance is going to be a cost factor but I don’t think it’s going to be much because we do have existing DPW parks people that can maintain that property which is not large. I see our Police and DPW here. Thank you guys. It

was a tough one for all of us and we got through it with some broken down equipment. We are trying to fix that, we got new equipment almost ready to roll. Everybody was snowed in and I think you guys have still been clearing snow. If anyone would like to see some of that snow, go by Johnson Park by the river and see the deposit of snow that we have accumulated and are dumping. That is progress. Thank you.

Councilwoman Clark Collins – Can I add that there are other grants in the works right now for parks, so just because you don't see it doesn't mean we aren't working on it. We are working on it. I can tell you that for Columbus Park and Baldwin Park there are grants in the works. It takes time for them to go through and get the money and schedule and so on and so forth, but there are. We so try our best to maintain our parks especially because we do have a great population of children. As a parent with two adult children, I appreciate the parks and the work that the City has always done. I never had a major complaint with any park in this town.

Councilman Diaz – Good evening. Following up with all the positive that Councilwoman Clark Collins and Councilman Carroll brought in and say that, as we begin this month we honor Black History Month. A time to celebrate the leaders, innovators, and everyday heroes that help shape nation and continue to inspire our community. We also look forward to commemorating Dominican Independence on February 27, a pride for so many families here in Hackensack. With Presidents Day approaching, we reflect on the values of service and leadership that guide our democracy. We have several activities planned throughout the month and we encourage all to join us, participate, and stay engaged. Your presence strengthens our community. Thank you for being here tonight and for your continued commitment to Hackensack. Good night.

Mayor Gaines – I will try not to be redundant. I want to address a comment by Patricia who commented on the pocket park about taking care of our parks that already exist and not creating something that caters just to new folks who are coming in. One of the challenges of this team and one thing we heard when we were out asking for people's votes this time last year in the cold and snow, was that there is a lot of rebuilding on Main Street but people aren't walking Main Street, people aren't getting out of their cars and going to more than one location on Main Street. They park, get back in their car, and go home. Worse, I think is they don't even go to Main Street but they patronize Main Street through DoorDash and Uber Eats which is great for the businesses but not great for the whole street. For a little context, how this whole thing came about is the Main Street Business Alliance had a busking program over the summer where street musician played on the street and there was a musician outside Iconic Coffee and there was no place to sit outside Iconic Coffee. Literally right next to Iconic Coffee, there is an empty lot. A lot that sat there vacant for 7 years. It's a weird lot because there is not a good way to enter, it is kind of landlocked, and it sat there for a long time. It probably has more utility as a place where people can get coffee and sit and do work or read a book instead of sitting there vacant indefinitely. I want to commend our grant writers Bruno Associates because you have been incredibly proactive. The Councilwoman spoke of some other opportunities. I think it is important when people talk about a growing city, you can grow a city in ways other than luxury apartments and thinking about opportunities to invite people to come. This pocket park is truly not something just for new residents, it is really an attempt to get everyone to come to Main Street and have a reason to stay there a little longer. I appreciate all of the comments on that and agree and echo what Councilman Carroll said and what Councilwoman Clark Collins said about maintenance of the parks. We do look at all of them. There is TLC of course. The Anderson Street Park got new lights and things like that. There is more happening there. There is a grant already procured for that park so there is some more coming. It has just been 7 months. We are working, I promise we working on all of it. Thank you for the feedback because it is important. I want to point out Dr. Rivers because what she said really spoke to me. I did the theater program at the school for a long time and when kids were doing their stuff and they weren't smiling enough or did not look energetic, I would always shout "Smiles are free!" I think we really do hear, try to be responsive, try to act on as much as we can in our jurisdiction, but we appreciate the good comments and good feedback too. Those

give us just as much to think about as critical comments. It is good to know when you are doing something that made people happy. It is good to know when people have stood at the microphone and asked about changes they want made on their block and then come back and say we saw that you listened and that’s a good thing. This is not a criticism, we don’t always get the ending piece when we vote on something that positively impacts people. They feel satisfied and go about their day. It is not a condemnation but a personal reminder to say thank you, to be appreciative, to try and be part of the solution, and to take all of that energy that we can all spend bring frustrated and talk amongst people in our groups and getting worked up and saying how can we take all that energy and be productive about it. Thank you Dr. Rivers for that. I hope the city has the opportunity to collaborate in some way because it s important to teach service. We have service people up here. Everyone up here has done some sort of volunteering in the community or giving back to the community. That’s who we are. Thank you. Thank you everyone for being here and get home safe.

IX. ADOURN:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Approved by Mayor and Council on February 17, 2026.

Mayor Caseen Gaines

ABSENT

Deputy Mayor Agatha Toomey

Councilwoman Sonya Clark-Collins

Councilman Phillip Carroll

Councilman Roberto Diaz

Deputy City Clerk Allison Saabye, RMC