The Lakewood Township Committee held a Virtual Meeting on September 3, 2026, at 5:30 PM, with the following present:

Mayor…….....	**Raymond Coles**
Deputy Mayor……	**Menashe P. Miller**
Committee Members……	**Meir Lichtenstein**
	Deborah Fuentes
	Albert Akerman
Municipal Manager……...	**Patrick Donnelly**
Municipal Attorney……	**Steve Secare, Esq.**
Municipal Clerk……..	**Lauren Kirkman**

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, and published on the Township's website as well as in the Asbury Park Press on January 7, 2026. The public was invited to participate prior to the meeting by emailing premeetingcomments@lakewoodnj.gov. The public was invited to participate during the meeting via comments@lakewoodnj.gov or by using Cisco's Web-Ex by either phone (audio only) or computer (audio/visual) https://signin.webex.com/join. The Meeting ID#/Password was 26392086810. This meeting as advertised was broadcast live and recorded through on Townhall Streams at https://townhallstreams.com/

ROLL CALL –Present: Mayor Coles, Deputy Mayor Miller, Committeeman Lichtenstein, Committeeman Akerman and Committeewoman Fuentes.
Absent: None
Also present: Township Attorney: Steven Secare, Esquire, Attorney: Harold Hensel, Esquire, Township Manager: Patrick Donnelly, Chief Operating Officer: Patricia Komsa and Township Clerk: Lauren Kirkman.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PRAYER

Mayor Coles opened the regular meeting at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES:
REGULAR MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2026.

Motion by: Committeeman Lichtenstein, seconded by Committeewoman Fuentes.

On Roll Call:
Affirmative: Committeeman Akerman, Committeeman Lichtenstein, Committeewoman Fuentes, Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles.
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Motion carried to approve minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

Mayor Coles opened the meeting for a Public Hearing on the Municipal Budget as introduced at the July meeting.

Seeing no comments offered online or from members of the public, Mayor Coles closed the public hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

The items listed below are considered to be routine by the Township of Lakewood and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these matters. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Mayor Coles asked for a motion to adopt the consent agenda Resolutions 2026-291 through 2026-312.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Miller
Seconded by Committeewoman Fuentes

On Roll Call:
Affirmative: Committeeman Akerman, Committeeman Lichtenstein (abstain on 2026-293 only), Committeewoman Fuentes, Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles.
Nays: None
Abstain: Committeeman Lichtenstein on 2026-293 only
Absent: None

Motion Carried to adopt consent agenda.

2026-291	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Releasing A Performance Guarantee Monuments Posted By 359 E 7th, LLC In Connection With SD #2594AA (East 7th St) Block 208 Lot 171
2026-292	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Releasing Performance Guarantee Posted By Bais Medrash Toras Chesed In Connection With SP 2541 (Monmouth Ave & 9th St) Blocks 132;153, Lots 4.01;6
2026-293	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Reducing The Performance Guarantee (Second Reduction) Posted By SGS Homes, LLC (Formerly Miz Construction NJ, Inc)., In Connection With ZB #3081, (Somerset Ave) For Block 174, Lots 34 And 60

2026-294	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Releasing A Performance Guarantee Posted By Park Lot, LLC In Connection With SD #2641AA (East County Line Road) Block 170, Lot 20
2026-295	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Releasing The Maintenance Guarantee Posted By MNYK Developers At Prospect, LLC. In Connection With SD #1997 (Lewin, Rachel, Blanche & Frances St), Block 472, Lots 1, 4 & 7
2026-296	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Releasing The Maintenance Guarantee Posted By Platinum Developers, LLC. In Connection With SP #1631 (James Street), Block 375, Lot 1; Block 377 Lot 26 & 26.01; Block 378 Lot 1
2026-297	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Releasing A Temporary Certificate Of Occupancy Performance Guarantee Posted By Aharon Sofer Memorial Fund In Connection With ZB #4086 (Sanz Town Rd) Block 11.12, Lot 62
2026-298	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Releasing A Temporary Certificate Of Occupancy Performance Guarantee Posted By 19 Miller Equities, LLC In Connection With SD #2147 (1 Casablanca Drive) Block 11.03, Lot 2.01
2026-299	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey Authorizing The Honorary Street Naming Of Division Street To Include Chief Richard C. Wallace Way
2026-300	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Making Application To The Local Finance Board Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40a:4-45.3(ee)
2026-301	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey Authorizing The Purchase Of Electricity Supply Services For Public Use Pursuant To And In Accordance With LFN 2019-15: P.L. 2018, C.156 (N.J.S.A. 40a:11-4.7 Through 4.12)
2026-302	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey Authorizing The Procurement Of A Records Management Service Pursuant To And In Accordance With N.J.S.A. 19:44a-20.5 Et Seq.
2026-303	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey Authorizing The Submission Of The Recreational Opportunities For Individuals With Disabilities Grant Application And Authorizing The Execution Of The Grant Contract With The New Jersey Department Of Community Affairs
2026-304	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Authorizing The Acceptance Of Various Bus Stops On Route 9
2026-305	Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Lakewood Authorizing The Mayor To Sign A Revocable License Agreement With 1407 Northlake Drive, LLC For Installation Of A Radiant Heat Sidewalk And Encroachment Into The Right Of Way At 1407 North Lake Drive, Lakewood
2026-306	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Rejecting All Bids For Electric Vehicle Charging

2026-307	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Accepting The Highest Bid At The Public Sale Held On August 26, 2026 For The Sale Of Property Owned By The Township Of Lakewood, Known As Block 1139, Lot 1, From The Highest Bidder And Authorizing The Mayor To Execute Closing Documents
2026-308	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Accepting The Highest Bid At The Public Sale Held On August 26, 2026 For The Sale Of Property Owned By The Township Of Lakewood, Known As Block 175, Lot 77, From The Highest Bidder And Authorizing The Mayor To Execute Closing Documents
2026-309	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Accepting The Highest Bid At The Private Sale Held On August 25, 2026 For The Sale Of Property Owned By The Township Of Lakewood, Known As Block 191, Lot 13, From The Highest Bidder And Authorizing The Mayor To Execute Closing Documents
2026-310	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Authorizing The Tax Collector To Refund Overpayments By Certain Property Owners On Various Block And Lots
2026-311	Resolution Of The Township Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Authorizing Execution Of A Deed Of Release Of Reverter For Block 1144 Lot 2, TLC Child Care, Inc.
2026-312	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Authorizing The Execution Change Order Number 1 In Connection With A Project Known As “Drainage And Roadway Improvements To Arboretum Parkway"
2026-313	Resolution Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Authorizing The Township To Apply For The Ocean County Municipal Sidewalk Grant

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

Clerk Kirkman read the following Ordinance by title only:

2026-030 Ordinance Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Amending And Supplementing Chapter XI (Traffic) Of The Revised General Ordinances Of The Township Of Lakewood, Specifically Section 11-35.6 (Restricted Parking Zones In Front Of Residence Occupied By Handicapped Persons)

Mayor Coles asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-030.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Miller
Seconded by Committeewoman Fuentes

On Roll Call:
Affirmative: Committeeman Akerman, Committeewoman Fuentes, Committeeman Lichtenstein Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles.

Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Motion Carried to introduce Ordinance 2026-030 with a public hearing on **October 8, 2026.**

Clerk Kirkman read the following Ordinance by title only:

2026-031 An Ordinance Of The Township Of Lakewood, County Of Ocean, State Of New Jersey, Releasing, Extinguishing And Vacating The Rights Of The Public To A Portion Of A Street Known As North Monterey Court In The Township Of Lakewood

Mayor Coles asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-001.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Miller
Seconded by Committeeman Lichtenstein

On Roll Call:
Affirmative: Committeeman Akerman, Committeewoman Fuentes, Committeeman Lichtenstein, Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles.
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Motion Carried to introduce Ordinance 2026-031 with a public hearing on **November 5, 2026.**

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

None

MOTION TO APPROVE BILL LIST:.

Mayor Coles asked for a motion to approve the bills list of September 2, 2026.

Motion by Committeeman Lichtenstein
Seconded by Committeewoman Fuentes

On Roll Call:
Affirmative: Committeeman Akerman, Committeewoman Fuentes, Committeeman Lichtenstein, Deputy Mayor Miller and Mayor Coles
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Bill List of September 2, 2026 was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public was invited to participate prior to the meeting by emailing premeetingcomments@lakewoodnj.gov. The public was invited to participate during the meeting via comments@lakewoodnj.gov or by using Cisco's Web-Ex by either phone (audio only) or computer (audio/visual).

Mayor Coles opened the meeting to the public. Mayor Coles advised there weren't any email comments submitted.

Joshua Plopper, 91 N. Crest Place, indicated he sent in an email to comments. Mayor Coles noted that it was not received. Mayor Coles asked him to read it and he would reply. Mr. Plopper read the following:

My name is Joshua Plopper, and I reside at 91 N. Crest Place. I am submitting this comment regarding the 2026 Municipal Budget adoption. As the Township Committee votes to raise municipal taxes, our families are facing a critical public safety crisis on our streets. My children attend school near the intersection of Cross Street, Faraday Avenue, and Prospect Street. A junction that is explicitly listed on Lakewood's official roster of hazardous walking routes. Yet, because the Board of Education treats safety transit as an unfunded discretionary courtesy for nonpublic students, local families are being forced to pay soaring out-of-pocket LSTA fees just to keep our children off of the sidewalk free shoulders.

The Township is adjusting its budget and raising taxes. It is imperative that local emergency funds are allocated to protect our walking students. A child's life should not depend on family's ability to pay a subscription safety fee by bypassing a known dangerous intersection.

I urge this Committee to allocate funding within this budget cycle to fully subsidize the hazardous route bussing for all Lakewood students.

Thank you.

Mayor Coles thanked Mr. Plopper for his comments. Mayor Coles noted that the Township is working with the Board of Education and had just been informed that the Board of Education is paying or is supposed to be paying for some of the public schools non mandated bussing. Mayor Coles stated that if that were the case, the Township would push to have the Board of Education cover private as well. Mayor Coles noted that is something that is outside the purview of the Township Committee. Mayor Coles indicated that this issue is being fought out on the State and Board of Education level. Mayor Coles thanked Mr. Plopper for his comments noting we will see what we can do.

Mr. Joe Strupp, Asbury Park Press, questioned that the school district may have to pay for some of the non-mandated bussing, indicating that had changed since the paper's last story.

Mr. Strupp questioned the status of the budget, indicating that he saw the township had a public hearing this evening, but it was not adopted and was looking for a status on that.

Mayor Coles indicated that as far as the LSTA, the money, the Township just learned the Board of Education State monitor said they are going to bus all but 300 of the non-mandated public-school students. The Township is looking into whether or not that also has to be applied to private school students since it has to be distributed equally across the board. Mayor Coles stressed this is not something that the Township Committee can do. Mayor Coles stated he was aware that the Board of Education as well the State Department of Education are looking at it. Mayor Coles stated that he hoped they would come up with a decision that those kids on a hazardous route should be bussed.

CFO John Barrett explained the Township was working diligently with the Division of Local Government Services to on a budget amendment. CFO Barrett indicated that the Township is working on an amendment that would likely need to be made which will be submitted to the State and then will be advanced to the Governing Body. CFO Barrett said the amendment would likely need to be advertised and would be announced in the future. CFO Barrett indicated that estimated tax bills had been sent out. Mayor Coles noted that the Committee was looking forward to having the budget process completed.

Seeing no other persons persons wishing to speak, and no other comments offered, Mayor Coles closed public comments.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS –

Committeewoman Fuentes wished everyone a Happy Labor Day and a Happy New Year.

Deputy Mayor Miller had no comments.

Committeeman Lichtenstein had no comments.

Committeeman Akerman had no comments.

Mayor Coles echoed the sentiments of Committeewoman Fuentes.

CLOSED SESSION: There was not a need for an executive session.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion by Deputy Mayor Miller, second by Committeewoman Fuentes with all in favor to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM.

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Lauren Kirkman, RMC, CMR
Township Clerk