

Happy New Year



REORGANIZATION MEETING

BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

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JANUARY 7, 2026 ~ 7:00 PM



OPEN MEETING

Council President Frank E. Matthews

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

Council President Frank E. Matthews

STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by the Annual Schedule of regular meetings heretofore adopted and posted on the official borough website, <https://www.hawthornenj.org/651/Legal-Notices-Bids-RFPs>, transmitted to The Record and The Herald News, and to all persons who have requested the mailing of such schedule, and a copy of said schedule has remained on file in the office of the Borough Clerk from and since December 3, 2025.

INVOCATION

PASTOR HOWIE VAN DYK

INTRODUCTION OF DIGNITARIES

Council President Frank E. Matthews

ADMINISTERING OATH OF OFFICE

John V. Lane, Mayor	The Honorable John F. Meola
Bruce Bennett, Councilman At Large	Senator Kristen Corrado
Dominic Mele, Councilman At Large	Senator Kristen Corrado
Anna Marie Sasso, Councilwoman At Large	Senator Kristen Corrado

ROLL CALL



NOMINATION & ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT & OATH OF OFFICE

NOMINATION & ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT / OATH OF OFFICE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REMARKS

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT REMARKS

COUNCIL MEMBERS REMARKS

JIF Fund Commissioner	Vincent Caruso
JIF Alternate Fund Commissioner	Jennifer Scully

Municipal Alliance Committee Members

Nancy Agnello	Lori Fernandez	Sherrine Schuldt
Brian Cosgrove	Josh Kabrel	Officer Tim Vega
Kyle Graham	Police Chief James Knepper	Superintendent Matthew Mignanelli
Thomas J. Bushnauskas	Matt Corvo	Det./Sgt. Ian Spohn
Capt. Joseph Carr	Capt. Robert King	Pastor Howard Van Dyk
Honorable John Meola	Joanne Graziano	Lt. Benjamin Veenema

Public Agency Compliance Officer

Jennifer Scully

Planning Board**Class II Member**

Christopher J. DiBella, Sr.

Class IV Member

Robert Lucibello

Alternate # 2 Member

Brian Lane

Solid Waste Advisory Council

William Haffler

Alternate

David Maher

Office of Emergency Management

Coordinator Matthew Fenkart, Jr.

Deputy Guy Tuminello

Deputy Andrew Skae

Deputy Christopher Forsythe

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS & OATH OF OFFICE:

CA-1 Appointment of the 2026 Municipal Auditors Suplee, Clooney & Company

CA-2 Planning Board Class III Member 2026 Council Representative, Frank Matthews

RESOLUTIONS**CONSENT AGENDA: R 1-26 through R 22-26:**

- R 1-26 Approval of the 2026 Temporary Budget
- R 2-26 Re-establish Petty Cash Fund 2026
- R 3-26 Designation of Official Depositories for 2026
- R 4-26 Interest on Delinquent Taxes
- R 5-26 Cancellation of Tax Overpayments or Delinquent Amounts less than \$10
- R 6-27 Designation of Legal Publications for 2026
- R 7-26 Reaffirm all previously adopted Procedural Rules, Protocols & Resolutions for 2026
- R 8-26 2026 Professional Services Contract for Borough Engineer: Boswell Inc.
- R 9-26 2026 Professional Services Contract for Municipal Planning Consultant: Burgis Associates Inc.
- R 10-26 2026 Professional Services Contract for Special Labor & Employment Counsel: The Chilla Business Counsel LLC
- R 11-26 2026 Professional Services Contract for Bond Counsel: McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC
- R 12-26 2026 Professional Services Contract for Borough Attorney: Michael J. Pasquale, Esq.
- R 13-26 2026 Professional Services Contract for Municipal Auditor: Suplee, Clooney & Co. LLC
- R 14-26 2026 Professional Services Contract for Risk Management Consultants: The Vozza Agency
- R 15-26 2026 Professional Services Contract for Grant Writers: Capital Alternatives Corp
- R 16-26 2026 Professional Services Contract for Appraisal Services: McNerney & Associates, Inc

January 7, 2026
Hawthorne, NJ

The reorganization meeting of the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne was held on the above date at 7:06pm in the Council Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, New Jersey, with the following present:

Mayor	John V. Lane
Council President	Frank E. Matthews
Council Vice President.....	Bruce Bennett
Councilman	Mike Sciarra
Councilwoman.....	Rayna Laiosa
Councilman	Dominic Mele
Councilwoman.....	Anna Marie Sasso
Councilman	Joseph R. Wojtecki
Borough Administrator	Vincent Caruso
Borough Attorney	Michael J. Pasquale
Borough Engineer Representative.....	Joseph Byrne, PE
Borough Clerk	Lori Fernandez

FLAG SALUTE

Council President Matthews invited all present to join him in the flag salute.

STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by the Annual Schedule of regular meetings heretofore adopted and posted on the official borough website, <https://www.hawthornenj.org/651/Legal-Notices-Bids-RFPs>, transmitted to The Record and The Herald News, and to all persons who have requested such schedule, and a copy of said schedule has remained on file in the office of the Borough Clerk from and since December 3, 2025.

INVOCATION

Council President Matthews invited Pastor Howie Van Dyk to give the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF DIGNITARIES

Council President Matthews introduced Senator Kristin Corrado, Assemblyman Chris DePhillips, Assemblyman Al Barlas, Captain King of the Police Department, Captain Carr of the Police Department and the School Board, Alex Clavijo of the School Board, former Councilman John Bertollo, Fire Chief Joe Speranza, DPW Director Bill Haffler, and Wayne Councilman Donnie DeDio.

ADMINISTERING OATH OF OFFICE

Senator Kristen Corrado administered the Oath of Office to John V. Lane, Mayor
Senator Kristen Corrado administered the Oath of Office to Bruce Bennett, Councilman At Large
Senator Kristen Corrado administered the Oath of Office to Dominic Mele, Councilman At Large
Senator Kristen Corrado administered the Oath of Office to Anna Marie Sasso, Councilwoman At Large
Borough Clerk Fernandez administered a new roll call.

Council President Matthews turned the meeting over to Borough Clerk Fernandez.

Borough Clerk Fernandez thanked those who were present at the reorganization meeting and wished them and their families a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

NOMINATION & ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Borough Clerk Fernandez asked for nominations for Council President, the nomination call order was drawn by lots in her office. Councilwoman Sasso nominated Frank Matthews, seconded by Councilwoman Laiosa. There

were no other nominations for Council President. On roll call, all voted yes, with the exception of Councilman Matthews who abstained, motion carried. Mayor Lane administered the Oath of Office to Council President Frank Matthews.

NOMINATION & ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Borough Clerk Fernandez asked for nominations for Council Vice President. Councilwoman Sasso nominated Councilman Sciarra, seconded by Councilwoman Laiosa. There were no other nominations for Council Vice President. On roll call, all voted yes, with the exception of Councilman Sciarra who abstained, motion carried. Mayor Lane administered the Oath of Office to Council Vice President Sciarra.

Borough Clerk Fernandez turned the meeting back over to Council President Matthews.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MATTHEWS REMARKS

Council President Matthews thanked everyone in attendance along with his colleagues for their vote of confidence and his family. Last year we addressed a number of unfunded and underfunded large-scale projects with more of the same this year. We completed the installation of our borough-wide water filtration system, it is up and running and meets all of the current federal and state mandates. Our multi-year water main replacement project is ongoing and will take years to complete, but we are more than half way through. Both of our mandated water related projects will have a financial impact on or water users. We will have recouped about 80% of the cost of the filtration system through legal settlements and have also reached an agreement with Ridgewood to sell them water through a multi-year agreement. This should make any future increases less and the money brought in will be used for future filtration material which will be required regularly. We are proceeding to implement another unfunded state-mandate that requires all rental units to be inspected for lead paint. The Borough has engaged with a lead inspector and the rental property owners should have been contacted already to arrange an inspection to receive the required certification at their expense. The state has also released their total number of affordable housing units for each town that is required to provide them, and while we received a totally unobtainable value, not every city in the state has an obligation. We object to being told to overdevelop our community at the risk of losing our suburban feel. We reluctantly settled a builder's remedy lawsuit recently that was required by the end of last year that should satisfy our so-called obligation for the next 10 years. This is a requirement that is being challenged through a multi-community lawsuit in federal court. No one up here is happy about where we are with the choices that we have had to make but we will continue to fight the fight until all of our options have been exhausted. Last year we worked with the police department to adjust their staffing needs. This year we will continue to work with them to make sure they have the personnel and tools they need to accommodate the additional residents as a result of the new required housing mandates. We continue to upgrade our gateway area due to another year of funding and our Neighborhood Preservation Program. We have a committee that continues to provide programs and fiscal enhancements to a number of our downtown businesses with the façade program that really look great. Lastly, as we prepare to move forward this year with a budget that will come in with as low of an increase as possible, we look for ways to raise revenue and keep expenses as low as we can without cutting services. We have a number of high-cost increases to address such as increased health insurance premiums, increased utility costs, and a new garbage collection and disposal contract, just to name a few, so balancing additional capital items will be challenging. Please remember that the state-mandated projects will have an impact on our budget that are out of our control. We would love to say there will be no tax increase this year, that's not realistic. We will do our best to limit it. This is just an overview of what we are going to address this year. We look forward this year to working with the administration, our new business administrator and our residents to keep Hawthorne the place we love to call home. Thank you again for joining us tonight and have a Happy, Healthy 2026.

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT SCIARRA REMARKS

I would like to thank the Council for the confidence you have placed in me by selecting me as Vice President. I am truly honored. I would also like to thank my family for their constant love and support. Most of all, I want to thank the residents of Hawthorne. While I personally did not run for election this year, you have entrusted all of

us with the responsibility to represent you and to make decisions in your best interest. That trust is not taken lightly. I promise to do my very best for the residents of Hawthorne. With a new year comes new goals, new resolutions, and optimism for the future. Progress and change will inevitably bring challenges, and as your elected officials, we will address those challenges with a practical, common-sense approach and a focus on what is best for our community. Hawthorne is a truly special place. Its strong sense of community, spirit of volunteerism, and enduring kindness make it a unique and exceptional place to live. Many of us appreciate this not because we've heard about it—but because we live it every day.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REMARKS

Councilman Wojtecki

My comments will be brief, as this is the Mayor's, Councilman Bennet's, Councilman Mele's and Councilwoman Sasso's evening and congratulated everyone. He thanked the residents for their continued support and looks forward to a successful 2026. He was inducted into the New Jersey League of Municipalities Hall of Fame for over 20 years of elected service to the residents of Hawthorne and is honored, he congratulated Council President Frank Matthews on his induction into the Hall of Fame as well. He wished everyone a wonderful New Year and asked that everyone keep his mother in their prayers as she continues to be in sub-acute rehab.

Councilwoman Laiosa

Councilwoman Laiosa thanked the community as she enters her 7th year as a Councilwoman and is committed to working with the new Borough Administrator and serving all of the residents of Hawthorne to make us stronger. As I continue to serve the community, I have and will continue to listen to your concerns and ideas on how we can make Hawthorne better for everyone. I promise I will do everything in my power to sustain and continuously improve our community in 2026 and beyond and ensure your voice is heard. Last year was a difficult year for all of us, we heard your concerns about the issues that we had. We try to come up with solutions that are lasting, durable and sustainable. It may take some time for a remedy but it will be the right decision in the end for everyone in the community. She thanked the first responders; fire, police and ambulance, who are always dedicated for their call of duty to protect our residents and businesses. Let us not forget our Borough employees working at the municipal building; our Borough and Deputy Clerk, the Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Finance, Tax, Health, Building, Recycling and DPW departments who tirelessly continue to serve our residents. We are truly fortunate to have dedicated and caring employees who make Hawthorne special. In closing, it is truly an honor to serve our residents of Hawthorne and wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy new year. I look forward to getting 2026 off to a great start.

Councilman Bennett

Councilman Bennett wished everyone a Happy New Year and was honored to have Senator Corrado, Assemblyman Al Barlos and Chris DePhillips there to swear him in. He thanked the voters of Hawthorne for giving him the privilege to once again serve as their councilman for the last 24 years. He will continue to work with the Council and administration to serve the residents with honesty, integrity, compassion and the courage it takes to do the job right regardless of the obstacles we sometimes face. As you know, 2025 was a difficult year for me personally, so here is hoping 2026 is a happier and healthier New Year for all of us. God Bless Hawthorne.

Councilwoman Sasso

Councilwoman Sasso congratulated Councilman Mele, Councilman Bennett and Mayor Lane on their re-election and welcomed the new Borough Administrator. She thanked the residents that voted for her to work for them for another four years. She reflected on the first time she sat on Council in 2022, the tail end of the pandemic and a lot has been accomplished in the last four years. This town is very well run fiscally and socially. We achieve grants and bonding for large projects and are one of the first towns to complete the PFAS program. While it is a tremendous task, we are very well run for the benefit of the residents. Although a lot of towns are in serious distress financially, the current and previous administration really perform for you. We have five firehouses, and an ambulance corps. that in 2025 gave us 19,000 volunteer hours. Please donate and attend their fundraisers. Our police department is bar none. She felt her greatest accomplishment over the last four years has been rolling out the new website working alongside Borough Clerk Lori Fernandez and Lisa Sloomaker. The main goal was to have up-to-date, current and accurate communication for the residents. She encouraged everyone to use the chat

bot and you can click a button to use any language you need. She stated she has a couple of projects down the pike, one of them being to update the bathrooms at the municipal pool complex working alongside Councilman Mele. It has been a pleasure working on the ordinance committee whose chief goal is the safety of the residents. The Board of Education has knocked it out of the park and is raising the bar for our children. The library is an amazing asset we have, please go and use it. Her goal in the next four years is to continue to focus on safety, communication to our residents and progress for our businesses and borough facilities. That being said, a good team needs a core support system, we have a wonderful team here, we all work well together and all bring something to the dais and we look forward to working for you for the next four years. She thanked her family for their support and for being there and wished everyone a happy, healthy, prosperous new year.

Councilman Mele

Councilman Mele thanked the residents of Hawthorne for having the confidence in him to serve his fifth term as republican councilman along with his family, especially his daughter Tiffany, and his wife Gene for having the patience. He also thanked his campaign manager, Treasurer Frank Matthews, Republican Chairman John Bertollo, and the republican leadership of the County Committee. As Chairman of the Finance and Safety Committees, he believes our town is a safe town thanks to the police department, fire department and ambulance corps. This town is financially sound because we work very hard and are conservative people. The Band Shell is in its 10th year and was one of the favorite projects he has worked on. It is a great honor to sit and watch the people enjoy themselves. He thanked Michael Pasquale and his committee for doing a fabulous job with it. He congratulated the new Borough Administrator and he looks forward to working with him. He thanked everyone and wished everyone in Hawthorne a Happy New Year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of December 17, 2025, motion by Councilman Wojtecki, seconded by Councilwoman Sasso. On roll call, all voted yes, motioned carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda items only)

Council President Matthews opened the meeting to the public. He stated if anyone desired to be heard, please raise their hand to be recognized, come forward to the microphone and state their name. Seeing no one, Council President Matthews entertained a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, motion by Councilman Wojtecki, seconded by Councilman Bennett. Carried on voice vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA PRESENTED BY MAYOR LANE

MAYOR LANE'S 2026 ADDRESS

Good evening family, friends, residents, and neighbors. Happy New Year. Thank you for your support and for your support of the Borough Council. We are excited about serving an additional four years, and as always, we welcome your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and concerns, because working together we can continue to accomplish great things, building upon what we began in 2022. Tonight I will be swearing in our new Borough Administrator, Vincent Caruso. Vinnie is a welcome addition to the Borough family, and I am looking forward to working with him. He brings many years of experience as an administrator, police chief, and corporate security. Vinnie will be an asset to the Borough.

Water Capital Projects and Rates

The cost of the PFAS project was \$6.8 million. We were able to cover some of the project cost to date. We received almost \$4 million dollars from 3-M and Dupont. To be exact - we received \$3,345,000. and we received \$1 million in forgiveness from the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank. When we collect all the monies, we will have received over 80% of the cost.

Galvanized Pipe Replacement

We are going out for bid for Phase 4 in the Spring and Phase 5 in the Fall. We will be on track to meet the 10-year deadline. Our other state-mandated water project is also progressing. Three of the ten phases are now complete. A contract was awarded for Phase 4, for Phase 5 we have an application in for a low-interest loan in

review by the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank. Due to the PFAS money and the Ridgewood Water Agreement, the anticipated water rate increase of 9% for 2026 has been reduced to 5%.

Department of Public Works

Our DPW Director, Bill Haffler, has many contacts with other directors. Because of this, we were able to borrow a garbage truck to collect leaves. This year our leaf pick-up was completed quicker than in previous years. This truck worked out so well, we are in the process of purchasing a used truck in very good shape to add to our DPW fleet.

Website and Social Media

Our entire website has been upgraded. This was worked on for over an eight-month period. I suggest you have a look at it and familiarize yourself with it. Again, as a reminder, Borough information is readily available on our Website, our Facebook page, our Borough Calendar, and notifications sent out via Nixle, which I encourage you to sign up for, as I send out a Friday Newsletter and it's posted on line.

Recreational Facilities

We continue to upgrade our recreational facilities. The hockey rink was completed; the Franklin Field football/lacrosse bleachers and Wag 2 and 3 bleachers were completed and are ADA compliant; there is a new press box at the Franklin Field, and a security camera will be in place. We went out to bid for new bleachers and an ADA walkway at Wag 1.

Neighborhood Preservation Program - NPP

Last year the Neighborhood Preservation Program made significant progress in storefront revitalization and beautification. Fifteen storefront facades were completed by year-end. Seasonal beautification efforts were expanded throughout the Gateway District, with enhancements to the pocket park, and new lamp-post decorations throughout the year. In 2026, which is the final year of the grant, focus will be on completing the *Signage & Façade Program*, continuing district-wide beautification initiatives, and enhancing our existing Gateway greenspace.

Emergency and Public Safety

Our Police, Fire, and Ambulance Corps saw a significant increase in the total volume of calls for our emergency services. Our Police Department reported the following for 2025:

- 49,694 CAD entries
- Officers responded to 36,724 calls for service
- 7,638 911 calls
- 7,544 summonses were issued
- 2,237 warnings issued
- Responded to 445 Motor Vehicle Crashes
- Made 382 arrests

The Fire Department responded to 655 calls in 2025 while the Volunteer Ambulance Corps answered 1,186 calls. Our dedicated police officers, firemen and women, and first responders keep us safe every day, and there aren't enough words to convey my thanks, and to convey the thanks of all of the residents. The Police Department saw an increase to 39 officers to effectively serve the members of the community. Our Traffic Bureau is key to ensuring road safety and accessibility, benefiting both residents and visitors. Traffic Officers have increased from three to six, this reflects a unified effort to meet the borough's safety needs and concerns. The Traffic Bureau received Grants totaling \$14,885.14 for Distracted Driving and Drunk Driving Enforcement from the New Jersey Department of Highway Traffic Safety, and Pedestrian Safety Grants from AAA. In calendar year 2024, the Hawthorne Police Department conducted a comprehensive assessment of its vehicle fleet in response to the rising costs associated with purchasing and maintaining police vehicles. As a result of that assessment, in 2025 the Department entered into a partnership with Enterprise Fleet Services to transition to a

vehicle leasing model. This change is projected to generate approximately \$1 million in cost savings over a 10-year period, while maintaining operational readiness and fleet reliability.

Zoning

We continue to encourage commercial growth. In 2025 we hired Zoning Officer Glen Turi, who is here to answer any questions you may have regarding your home or business. Together with our Code Enforcers, they keep Hawthorne safe and compliant.

Building

In 2025 we hired a full-time Building Official, Harry Moscatiello, who is here to answer any questions and to assist you.

Planning Board

In 2025 the Planning Board approved 41 new businesses.

Budget and Finance

We continue to govern and be fiscally responsible. We will have a challenge this year with our budget, as the 36% rate increase in State Health benefits will affect our 2026 budget.

Development Projects

The development and redevelopment of property in our Borough remains a priority of my Administration. Some of that development, however, has been forced upon us by laws that in theory are designed to create affordable housing, but in reality, results in over-development of land and high profits for developers. We have fought hard to try to make these developments work in the Borough and will continue to do so. We do not oppose affordable housing, again we oppose the over-development of land.

We saw the completion of a major redevelopment on Wagaraw Road, resulting in the creation of 117 units of housing, with 17 of those being affordable, a gym, a public storage facility and some specialty shops. This is far, far better than the over 300 units of housing the developer originally wanted to build on this site. The result of our efforts is the creation of a project that is a \$42 million dollar ratable, generating over \$1.3 million dollars annually in taxes, without undue tax on our community. We are also witnessing the development of a project on Goffle Road that will create 117 units of housing, again with 17 of those being affordable. While none of us are happy to see this beautiful open space disappear, we will do all we can do to ensure that this development fits into our community and is constructed with the least impact on our residents.

North 8th Street

As you know, during the last four years I have been working diligently with the County in making North 8th Street a one-way street into Prospect Park. The County approved our plan, and now they are waiting for Prospect Park to get their traffic study completed. Prospect Park would like to continue the one-way from Prescott Avenue to Haledon Avenue. They are working on this now to see if this is feasible due to truck and bus traffic. We will wait to see what the traffic study says, and hope that we can continue the one-way to Haledon Avenue.

Additional Projects

- PSE&G will be changing our street lights to LED vs. High Pressure Sodium. This change is saving us money and making our streets brighter and safer.
- Working with the County for the last 2 ½ years to prohibit a left-hand turn when traveling down Rea Avenue Extension to North Watchung Drive on specific morning and evening hours, with a lead-green on Rea Avenue Extension at Goffle Road when turning north onto Goffle Road.
- In 2026 there will be upgrades to the Municipal Pool to make it a more pleasing experience for our residents. We are working on a program to electronically sign-up and pay by credit card for pool membership and badges. We will be doing renovations to the interior with new

lighting and new bathroom facilities. The outside will see the addition of large umbrellas in the patio area outside of the deep end.

- Work continues on our streetscape using Grant monies; installed new ADA ramps at numerous intersections in town. Phase 3 of the Streetscape is nearly complete.
- The combined 2024/2025 road program is nearly complete.
- In November the Borough was recognized for achieving Silver Level Certification for the 5th time by Sustainable Jersey. We are a Sustainability Leader in New Jersey. Councilwoman Laiosa, Chair of the Environmental Commission, led the efforts in the development of the Sustainable Jersey submittal.

As you know, I am in my office full-time every weekday, and I welcome your input, suggestions, and ideas, as well as concerns. Please don't hesitate to call my office. Let's work together to make Hawthorne the best that it can be. Thank you to our Borough Attorney, Michael Pasquale, and my administrative staff, Ellen Brogno and Jennifer Scully for the great job that they do each and every day for our Borough and all of its residents. Thank you to the Borough Council, Borough Clerk, and Deputy Clerk, for all of your hard work and commitment to our residents. To Chief Knepper and the members of the Police Department, Chief Speranza and the members of the Fire Department, and Chief O'Brien and the members of the Ambulance Corps., thank you for your commitment to our town and for keeping it safe; you are all the best of the best. To our outstanding DPW, thank you to Director Bill Haffler and the DPW crew for all you do, especially behind the scenes, to make this Borough work well each and every day 24-7. Your hard work and dedication are very much appreciated. To the very dedicated and professional employees in Borough Hall, thank you for the great job that you do each and every day to make Hawthorne run smoothly. Your dedication to the residents is exceptional. Thank you, too, to the members and volunteers who selflessly give their time all year long serving on boards, commissions, and committees, and to residents who just step up when asked to provide their expertise on projects to support and serve the Borough. You are all the heart of this community, and I am especially grateful that you volunteer to serve. To you, the residents and our businesses, I want to thank you for caring so much about one another and your investment in Hawthorne. Hawthorne has a reputation of caring about one another; we take action when needed. Because of you, Hawthorne is a very special place to live and work. To my wife, Margo, and my family, thank you for your unwavering support as I serve. It is an honor to be your Mayor, and I am looking forward to 2026. Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS with Advice and Consent of Council

Borough Administrator

Vincent J. Caruso

Council President Matthews entertained a motion to approve, motion by Councilman Bennett, seconded by Council Vice President Sciarra. On roll call, all voted yes, motion carried. Mayor Lane administered the Oath of Office.

Director of Revenue and Finance
Director of the Department of Public Works
Director of Legal Department

Laurie A. Foley
William W. Haffler
Michael J. Pasquale, Esq.

Council President Matthews entertained a motion to approve, motion by Councilman Wojtecki, seconded by Council Vice President Sciarra. On roll call, all voted yes, motion carried. Mayor Lane administered the Oath of Office to those who were present at the meeting.

Tax Collector

Joann Carosotto

Council President Matthews entertained a motion to approve, motion by Councilman Wojtecki, seconded by Councilwoman Laiosa. On roll call, all voted yes, motion carried. Mayor Lane administered the Oath of Office.

Borough Engineer

Joseph Byrne
Boswell, Inc.

Council President Matthews entertained a motion to approve, motion by Council Vice President Sciarra, seconded by Councilman Bennett. On roll call, all voted yes, motion carried. Mayor Lane administered the Oath of Office.

Library Board of Trustees

Nicole Mariella
Michael Sebetich

Board of Health

Sherrine Schuldt

Municipal Court

Prosecutor

Elsbeth J. Crusius

Public Defender

William J. Marotta III

Public Defender

David L. Pine

Zoning Board of Adjustment Members

Jodi DeMarco
Victor Cuttita, Jr.

Alternate #1 Member

Brian J. Lind

Council President Matthews entertained a motion to approve, motion by Councilman Bennett, seconded by Councilman Mele. On roll call, all voted yes, motion carried. Mayor Lane administered the Oath of Office to those who were present at the meeting.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Shade Tree Commission

Jodi DeMarco
Lisa Shalakhov
Lyle Hatch

Alternate #1 Member

Michael Mariani

Risk Management Consultant

Dave Vozza, Vozza Agency

JIF Fund Commissioner

Vincent Caruso

JIF Alternate Fund Commissioner

Jennifer Scully

Municipal Alliance Committee Members

Nancy Agnello

Brian Cosgrove

Sherrine Schuldt

Lori Fernandez, Coordinator

Josh Kabrel

Officer Tim Vega

Kyle Graham

Matt Corvo

Superintendent Matthew Mignanelli

Thomas J. Bushnauskas

Capt. Robert King

Det./Sgt. Ian Spohn

Capt. Joseph Carr

Police Chief James Knepper

Pastor Howard Van Dyke

Honorable John Meola

Lt. Benjamin Veenema

Public Agency Compliance Officer

Jennifer Scully

Planning Board

Class II Member

Christopher J. DiBella, Sr.

Class IV Member
Alternate #2 Member

Robert Lucibello
Brian Lane

Solid Waste Advisory Council
Alternate

William Haffler
David Maher

Office of Emergency Management Coordinator

Matthew Fenkart, Jr.
Deputy Guy Tuminello
Deputy Andrew Skae
Deputy Christopher Forsythe

Council President Matthews entertained a motion to record, motion by Council Vice President Sciarra, seconded by Councilman Wojtecki. Carried on voice vote. Mayor Lane administered the Oath of Office to those who were present at the meeting.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS & OATH OF OFFICE

CA-1 Appointment of the 2026 Municipal Auditors Suplee, Clooney & Company

Council President Matthews entertained a motion to approve, moved by Councilman Mele, seconded by Councilman Wojtecki. On roll call, all voted yes, motion carried.

CA-2 Planning Board Class III Member 2026 Council Representative, Frank Matthews

Council Vice President Sciarra entertained a motion to approve, moved by Councilman Wojtecki, seconded by Councilman Mele. On roll call, all voted yes, with the exception of Frank Matthews who abstained, motion carried. Mayor Lane administered the Oath of Office to Council President Frank Matthews.

RESOLUTIONS (see attached)

CONSENT AGENDA: R 1-26 through R 22-26

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- R 2-26** Re-establish Petty Cash Fund 2026
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- R 10-26** 2026 Professional Services Contract for Special Labor & Employment Counsel: The Chilla Business Counsel LLC
- R 11-26** 2026 Professional Services Contract for Bond Counsel: McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC
- R 12-26** 2026 Professional Services Contract for Borough Attorney: Michael J. Pasquale, Esq.
- R 13-26** 2026 Professional Services Contract for Municipal Auditor: Suplee, Clooney & Co. LLC
- R 14-26** 2026 Professional Services Contract for Risk Management Consultants: The Vozza Agency
- R 15-26** 2026 Professional Services Contract for Grant Writers: Capital Alternatives Corp
- R 16-26** 2026 Professional Services Contract for Appraisal Services: McNerney & Associates, Inc
- R 17-26** 2026 Professional Services Contract for Certified Tree Expert: Alberta Tree Services
- R 18-26** 2026 Public Agency Compliance Officer
- R 19-26** 2026 Acting Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA)
- R 20-26** Renew Used Car Lot Licenses for 2026
- R 21-26** Renew Amusement Device Licenses for 2026

R 22-26 Renew Massage Establishment Licenses for 2026

Council President Matthews entertained a motion to adopt consent agenda resolutions R 1-26 through R 22-26, moved by Councilman Wojtecki, seconded by Councilman Mele.

Regarding R-6-26, Councilwoman Laiosa stated she thought we were going to use TAPinto Hawthorne for legal notices. Borough Attorney Pasquale explained we designate ourselves as the official because that is what we have to be, but the alternate publication sites that we know of that qualify are the ones we have listed. We are not aware that TAPinto does qualify for publication of legal notices by other persons. Borough Clerk Fernandez added that TAPinto also charges for publication of notices. Their proposal to advertise was quite honestly a lot of money. Our website for the state is the official publication entity for legal notices and doesn't cost us anything. In March, the Secretary of State will have a page where they will list every municipality website and links to legal notices, and this is a huge cost savings to us.

On roll call, all voted yes, motion carried.

BILLS (see attached)

Council President Matthews entertained a motion to approve the bills and forward them to the Treasurer for payment, motion by Councilman Mele, seconded by Councilwoman Laiosa. On roll call, all voted yes, with the exception of Councilman Wojtecki who abstained on bills pertaining to the Fire Department, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Matthews opened the meeting to the public. He stated if anyone desired to be heard, please raise their hand to be recognized, come forward to the microphone and state their name.

Paul Duerr and Jack Lohr

Mr. Duerr and Mr. Lohr thanked and congratulated the Council on their re-election. They appreciate the work of the Council and have no ill will towards any of them. Mr. Lohr stated we are in this together and want to see them succeed and will support them in the future.

Seeing no one, Council President Matthews entertained a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, moved by Council Vice President Sciarra, seconded by Councilman Wojtecki. Carried on voice vote.

BENEDICTION

Council President Matthews invited Pastor Wes Ifan to give the Benediction.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:08pm Council President Matthews entertained a motion to adjourn, motion by Council Vice President Sciarra, seconded by Councilman Wojtecki. Carried on voice vote.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21st at 7 PM**



Happy New Year





BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
 County of Passaic
 State of New Jersey



RESOLUTION NO. 1-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki *Date:* January 7, 2026

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 provides that where contracts, commitments of payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2026 budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purposes and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided; and

WHEREAS, this resolution will take effect on the first day of January 2026; and

WHEREAS, the said temporary appropriations are limited to 35% of the total appropriation in the 2025 budget, exclusive of any appropriations for Debt Service, Public Assistance and Capital Improvement Fund in the said 2026 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, that the following temporary appropriations be made and that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Treasurer for her records

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

Frank C. Matthews, Council President Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by: _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth

Laurie A. Foley, CFO, Director of Finance _____ 1/7/26
 Name/Title/Date Borough Attorney Date



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
County of Passaic
State of New Jersey



RESOLUTION NO. 2-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

WHEREAS, the Petty Cash Funds for the Treasury is returned to general funds as of December 31, 2025 and must be reestablished.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, that the Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to draw a check on the Current Fund and as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Department, Custodian, Amount, Fund. Row 1: Treasury, Laurie A. Foley, \$300.00, Current

Table with 7 columns: Name, Motion, Second, Yes, No, Abstain, Absent. Rows for council members: Bennett, Laiosa, Matthews, Mele, Sasso, Sciarra, Wojtecki.

Signatures of Council President and Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by: Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth. Laurie A. Foley, CFO Name/Title/Date Borough Attorney Date 1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
 County of Passaic
 State of New Jersey



RESOLUTION NO. 3-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

A RESOLUTION NAMING OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES FOR THE BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY FOR THE YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14 mandates that the governing body of a municipal corporation shall, by resolution passed by a majority vote of the full membership thereof, designate as a depository of its monies a bank or trust company having its place of business in the state and organized under the laws of the United States or this state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of January, 2026, by the Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that:

1. Columbia Savings Bank, Hawthorne, N.J.
2. New Jersey Cash Management Fund, Division of Investment, Department of Treasury, Trenton, N.J.

be and are hereby designated as depositories for the Borough of Hawthorne for the year 2026.

Prior to the deposit of any municipal funds in the above-mentioned depositories, said bank shall file with the Chief Financial Officer a statement indicating that the bank is covered under the Government Units Deposit Protection Act (R.S. 17:9-41).

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			



 Council President Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by: _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth
 Laurie A. Foley, CFO _____
 Name/Title/Date Borough Attorney Date 1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
County of Passaic
State of New Jersey



RESOLUTION NO. 4-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

TITLE: INTEREST ON DELINQUENT TAXES

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 permits the Governing Body of each municipality to fix the rate of interest to be charged for non-payment of taxes or assessments subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of taxes as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 has been amended to permit the fixing of said rate of 8 % per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00 and allows an additional penalty of 6% be collected against a delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 on properties that fail to pay the delinquency prior to the end of the calendar year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic, State of NJ, as follows:

1. The Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to charge 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of taxes becoming delinquent after due date and 18% per annum on any amount of taxes in excess of \$1,500.00 becoming delinquent after due date and if a delinquency is in excess of \$10,000.00 and remains in arrears beyond December 31st, an additional penalty of 6% shall be charged against delinquency.
2. Effective January 1, 1994, there was and will continue to be a ten (10) day grace period of quarterly tax payments made by cash, check or money order.
3. Any payments not made in accordance with paragraph two of this resolution shall be charged interest from the due date as set forth in paragraph one of this resolution.
4. This resolution shall be published in its entirety once in an official newspaper of the Borough of Hawthorne.
5. A certified copy of this resolution shall be provided by the Borough Clerk to the Tax Collector, Borough Attorney and Borough Auditor for the Borough of Hawthorne.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

 Council President
  Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by: Laurie A. Foley, CFO Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth 1/7/26
 Name/Title/Date  Borough Attorney Date



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
County of Passaic
State of New Jersey



RESOLUTION NO. 5-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

**TITLE: CANCELLATION OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS OR DELINQUENT AMOUNTS
LESS THAN \$10.00**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17 allows for the cancellation of property tax overpayments or delinquent amounts in the amounts of less than \$10.00; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body may authorize the Tax Collector to process, without further action on their part, any cancellation of property tax overpayments or delinquencies of less than \$10.00,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of Hawthorne, county of Passaic, State of New Jersey, hereby authorize the Tax Collector to cancel said tax amounts as deemed necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of the Resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector, the Chief Financial Officer and the Municipal Auditor.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

Dave E. Matthews Council President
Lori Fernandez RMC, CMC Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by: Laurie A. Foley, CFO
Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth: 1/7/26
Name/Title/Date: Borough Attorney Date



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

County of Passaic
State of New Jersey

RESO. NO. 6-26



RESOLUTION NO. 6-26

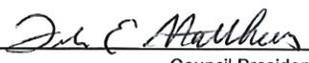
Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

WHEREAS, as per N.J.S.A. 40:53-2, the Borough of Hawthorne has designated the borough website the official entity for publication of legal notices, and the following newspapers as legal papers, as needed, for the Year 2026.

Legal Notices, Bids & RFPs | Hawthorne, NJ

The Herald News
The Record
The Newark Star Ledger

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			


 Council President


 Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth

Name / Title _____ Borough Attorney _____ Date 1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

County of Passaic
State of New Jersey

RESO. NO. 7-26



RESOLUTION NO. 7-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne has previously adopted rules, protocols and resolutions setting forth procedural matters for the conduct and operation of the Council meetings and business; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council wishes to extend and continue all such rules and resolutions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne does hereby ratify and reaffirm all previously adopted procedural rules, protocols and resolutions for the year 2026.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

Jim E. Matthews
 , Council President

Lori Fernandez
 Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth _____

Name / Title _____ Borough Attorney Date 1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

County of Passaic
State of New Jersey
RESOLUTION NO. 8-26



Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF 2026 CONTRACT TO KEVIN J. BOSWELL, P.E., P.P., CME AND BOSWELL INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne has the need for the services of a Municipal Engineer for the year 2026 and has determined to award the same as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 19:44A 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 permits a contract for professional services to be awarded without the need for competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-11-5 requires that the award of contracts for professional services be publicly advertised; and

Whereas, Kevin J. Boswell, P.E., P.P., CME and Boswell Inc., has submitted a proposal and contract for said engineering services, with both fixed rate and hourly based general services on behalf of the Borough in an amount not to exceed \$190,000 absent further action by the Council, as well as project based and escrow services, said contract to be available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends the award of contract to Kevin J. Boswell, P.E., P.P., CME and Boswell Inc., and Boswell Inc., based upon experience in the given field, familiarity with the Borough of Hawthorne and the submission of a contract within the expectation of the budget for such services; and

WHEREAS, Kevin J. Boswell, P.E., P.P., CME and Boswell Inc., and Boswell Inc., has submitted to the Borough of Hawthorne a duly completed entity disclosure certification which certifies that Kevin J. Boswell, P.E., P.P., CME and Boswell Inc., has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Hawthorne in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit Kevin J. Boswell, P.E., P.P., CME and Boswell Inc., and Boswell Inc., from making any reportable contributions during the term of the contract;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with Kevin J. Boswell, P.E., P.P., CME and Boswell Inc., of the engineering firm Boswell Inc., for engineering services as Municipal Engineer for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, in accordance with the attached contract and at the rate of compensation as set forth in the contract as annexed.
2. The contract is entered into without competitive bidding as "Professional Service," pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law as this is a professional service within the meaning of the law.
3. The award of this contract is subject to certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

Jack E. Matthews
 , Council President

Lori Fernandez
 Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth _____

Name / Title _____ Borough Attorney _____ Date 1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

County of Passaic
State of New Jersey
RESOLUTION NO. 8-26



R 8-26
Page 2

4. Notice of this award or a copy of the Resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Hawthorne within ten (10) days of passage as required.

5. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value shall be placed on file with a true copy of this resolution.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett						
Laiosa						
Matthews						
Mele						
Sasso						
Sciarra						
Wojtecki						

John E. Matthews
Council President

Lori Fernandez
Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by

Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth

Name / Title

Borough Attorney

Date

1/21/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

County of Passaic
State of New Jersey
RESOLUTION NO. 9-26



Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF THE 2026 CONTRACT TO JOSEPH H. BURGIS AND BURGIS ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR PLANNING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne has the need for the services of a Municipal Planning Consultant for the year 2026 and has determined to award the same as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 permits a contract for professional services to be awarded without the need for competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-11-5 requires that the award of contracts for professional services be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, Joseph H. Burgis, P.P., AICP and Burgis Associates, Inc., has submitted a proposal and contract for said planning consulting services, based upon provision of general consulting services to the Borough as well as project based services as may be awarded by the Council, and escrow services, all services billed at hourly rates, with the general consulting services not to exceed \$20,000 absent further Council action, said contract to be available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends the award of contract to Joseph H. Burgis, P.P., AICP and Burgis Associates, Inc., based upon experience in the given field, familiarity with the Borough of Hawthorne and the submission of a contract within the expectation of the budget for such services; and

WHEREAS, Joseph H. Burgis, P.P., AICP and Burgis Associates, Inc., has submitted to the Borough of Hawthorne a duly completed entity disclosure certification which certifies that Joseph H. Burgis, P.P., AICP and Burgis Associates, Inc., has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Hawthorne in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit Joseph H. Burgis, P.P., AICP and Burgis Associates, Inc., from making any reportable contributions during the term of the contract;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with Joseph H. Burgis, P.P., AICP of the planning services firm of Burgis Associates, Inc., as the Municipal Planning Consultant for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, in accordance with the attached contract and at the rate of compensation as set forth in the contract as annexed.
2. The contract is entered into without competitive bidding as "Professional Service," pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law as this is a professional service within the meaning of the law.
3. The award of this contract is subject to certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.
4. Notice of this award or a copy of the Resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Hawthorne within ten (10) days of passage as required.
5. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value shall be placed on file with a true copy of this resolution.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			


 Julie Matthews, Council President


 Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth _____

Name / Title _____ Date 1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
County of Passaic
State of New Jersey



RESOLUTION NO. 10-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki *Date:* January 7, 2026

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF THE 2026 CONTRACT TO
 CHILLA BUSINESS COUNSEL, LLC FOR SPECIAL LABOR COUNSEL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne will require professional services of Special Labor and Employment Counsel for legal services for the year 2026 and has determined to award the same as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 19:44A 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 permits a contract for professional services to be awarded without the need for competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-11-5 requires that the award of contracts for professional services be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, Chilla Business Counsel, LLC, has submitted a proposal and contract for said special labor counsel legal services, setting forth an hourly rate for such services with the contract value not to exceed \$18,000 absent further Council action, said contract to be available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends the award of contract to Chilla Business Counsel, LLC, based upon experience in the given field, familiarity with the Borough of Hawthorne and the submission of a contract within the expectation of the budget for such services; and

WHEREAS, Chilla Business Counsel, LLC, has submitted to the Borough of Hawthorne a duly completed Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Chilla Business Counsel, LLC, has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Hawthorne in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit Chilla Business Counsel, LLC, from making any reportable contributions during the term of the contract;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with Chilla Business Counsel, LLC, for professional services of Special Labor and Employment Counsel for legal services for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, in accordance with the attached contract and at the rate of compensation as set forth in the contract as annexed.
2. The contract is entered into without competitive bidding as "Professional Service," pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law as this is a professional service within the meaning of the law.
3. The award of this contract is subject to certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.
4. Notice of this award or a copy of the Resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Hawthorne within ten (10) days of passage as required.
5. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value shall be placed on file with a true copy of this resolution.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

John E. Matthews, Council President Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk
 Factual Content Certified by Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth
[Signature] [Signature] 1/7/26
 Name / Title Borough Attorney Date



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

County of Passaic
State of New Jersey
RESOLUTION NO. 11-26



Resolution, Introduced by Council Person _____

Wojtecki

Date: January 7, 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF THE 2026 CONTRACT TO MCMANIMON, SCOTLAND & BAUMANN, LLC FOR BOND COUNSEL LEGAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne has the need for the professional services of Bond Counsel legal services for the year 2026 and has determined to award the same as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will not exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 permits a contract for professional services to be awarded without the need for competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-11-5 requires that the award of contracts for professional services be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, has submitted a proposal and contract for said bond counsel legal services, with an amount not to exceed \$5,000 absent further Council action, said contract to be available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends the award of contract to McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, based upon experience in the given field, familiarity with the Borough of Hawthorne and the submission of a contract within the expectation of the budget for such services; and

WHEREAS, McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, has submitted to the Borough of Hawthorne a duly completed Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Hawthorne in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, from making any reportable contributions during the term of the contract in the event the value of the contract exceeds \$17,500;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, for bond counsel legal services for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, in accordance with the attached contract and at the rate of compensation as set forth in the contract as annexed.
2. The contract is entered into without competitive bidding as "Professional Service," pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law as this is a professional service within the meaning of the law.
3. The award of this contract is subject to certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.
4. Notice of this award or a copy of the Resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Hawthorne within ten (10) days of passage as required.
5. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value shall be placed on file with a true copy of this resolution.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

Joe E. Matthews
Council President

Lori Fernandez
Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by

Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth

Name / Title

Borough Attorney

Date

1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

County of Passaic
State of New Jersey
RESOLUTION NO. 12-26



Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF THE 2026 CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES TO MICHAEL J. PASQUALE, ESQ. AND MICHAEL J. PASQUALE & ASSOCIATES

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne has the need for the services of a Municipal Attorney for the year 2026 and has determined to award the same as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 19:44A 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 permits a contract for professional services to be awarded without the need for competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-11-5 requires that the award of contracts for professional services be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, Michael J. Pasquale, Esq., has submitted a proposal and contract for said legal services, with both retainer service and hourly rate services, with a total amount not to exceed \$120,000 absent further Council action, said contract to be available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends the award of contract to Michael J. Pasquale, Esq., based upon experience in given field, familiarity with the Borough of Hawthorne and the submission of a contract within the expectation of the budget for such services; and

WHEREAS, Michael J. Pasquale, Esq., has submitted to the Borough of Hawthorne a duly completed Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Michael J. Pasquale, Esq. and Michael J. Pasquale & Associates has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Hawthorne in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit Michael J. Pasquale, Esq. and Michael J. Pasquale & Associates from making any reportable contributions during the term of the contract;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with Michael J. Pasquale, Esq., of the law firm of Michael J. Pasquale & Associates, for legal services as Municipal Attorney for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, in accordance with the attached contract and at the rate of compensation as set forth in the contract as annexed.
2. The contract is entered into without competitive bidding as "Professional Service," pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law as this is a professional service within the meaning of the law.
3. The award of this contract is subject to certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.
4. Notice of this award or a copy of the Resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Hawthorne within ten (10) days of passage as required.
5. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value shall be placed on file with a true copy of this resolution.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

John E. Matthews
Council President

Lori Fernandez
Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth _____

Borough Attorney

Date 1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
County of Passaic
State of New Jersey
RESOLUTION NO. 13-26



Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF THE 2026 CONTRACT TO
 SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY FOR ACCOUNTING SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne has the need for the professional services of a Registered Municipal Accountant for the year 2026 and has determined to award the same as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 19:44A 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 permits a contract for professional services to be awarded without the need for competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-11-5 requires that the award of contracts for professional services be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, Robert Swisher, CPA, RMA, and the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company, has submitted a proposal and contract for said for said accounting services, with a contract value not to exceed \$54,075, said contract to be available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends the award of contract to Robert Swisher, CPA, RMA, and the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company, based upon experience in the given field, familiarity with the Borough of Hawthorne and the submission of a contract within the expectation of the budget for such services; and

WHEREAS, Robert Swisher, CPA, RMA, and the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company, has submitted to the Borough of Hawthorne a duly completed Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Robert Swisher, CPA, RMA, and the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Hawthorne in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit Robert Swisher, CPA, RMA, and the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company from making any reportable contributions during the term of the contract;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with Robert Swisher, CPA, RMA, and the firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company for accounting services for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, in accordance with the attached contract and at the rate of compensation as set forth in the contract as annexed.
2. The contract is entered into without competitive bidding as "Professional Service," pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law as this is a professional service within the meaning of the law.
3. The award of this contract is subject to certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.
4. Notice of this award or a copy of the Resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Hawthorne within ten (10) days of passage as required.
5. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value shall be placed on file with a true copy of this resolution.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

John E. Matthews Council President
Lori Fernandez RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk
 Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth _____
 Name / Title _____ Date 1/7/26
 Borough Attorney _____



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

County of Passaic
State of New Jersey
RESOLUTION NO. 14-26



Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF THE 2026 CONTRACT TO DAVID VOZZA AND THE VOZZA AGENCY, INC. FOR RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne has the need for the professional services of a Risk Management consultant for the year 2026 and has determined to award the same as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 19:44A 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 permits a contract for professional services to be awarded without the need for competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-11-5 requires that the award of contracts for professional services be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, David Vozza and the Vozza Agency, Inc., has submitted a proposal and contract for said risk management services, with a contract value not to exceed \$34,900, said contract to be available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends the award of contract to David Vozza and the Vozza Agency, Inc., based upon experience in the given field, familiarity with the Borough of Hawthorne and the submission of a contract within the expectation of the budget for such services; and

WHEREAS, David Vozza and the Vozza Agency, Inc., has submitted to the Borough of Hawthorne a duly completed Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that David Vozza and the Vozza Agency, Inc., has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Hawthorne in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit David Vozza and the Vozza Agency, Inc. from making any reportable contributions during the term of the contract;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with David Vozza and the Vozza Agency, Inc., for risk management services for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, in accordance with the attached contract and at the rate of compensation as set forth in the contract as annexed.
2. The contract is entered into without competitive bidding as "Professional Service," pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law as this is a professional service within the meaning of the law.
3. The award of this contract is subject to certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.
4. Notice of this award or a copy of the Resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Hawthorne within ten (10) days of passage as required.
5. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value shall be placed on file with a true copy of this resolution.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

John E. Matthews
Council President

Lori Fernandez
Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth _____

Borough Attorney

Date



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
County of Passaic
State of New Jersey
RESOLUTION NO. 15-26



Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF THE 2026 CONTRACT TO
 CAPITAL ALTERNATIVES CORPORATION, INC. FOR GRANT WRITING SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne has the need for the professional services of a Grant Writer for the year 2026 and has determined to award the same as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 permits a contract for professional services to be awarded without the need for competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-11-5 requires that the award of contracts for professional services be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, Capital Alternatives Corporation, Inc., has submitted a proposal and contract for said grant writing services, with all payment to be project based and therefore not subject to a not to exceed value, said contract to be available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends the award of contract to Capital Alternatives Corporation, Inc., based upon experience in the given field, familiarity with the Borough of Hawthorne and the submission of a contract within the expectation of the budget for such services; and

WHEREAS, Capital Alternatives Corporation, Inc., has submitted to the Borough of Hawthorne a duly completed Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Capital Alternatives Corporation, Inc., has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Hawthorne in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit Capital Alternatives Corporation, Inc., from making any reportable contributions during the term of the contract;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with Capital Alternatives Corporation, Inc., for grant writing services for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, in accordance with the attached contract and at the rate of compensation as set forth in the contract as annexed.
2. The contract is entered into without competitive bidding as "Professional Service," pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law as this is a professional service within the meaning of the law.
3. The award of this contract is subject to certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.
4. Notice of this award or a copy of the Resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Hawthorne within ten (10) days of passage as required.
5. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value shall be placed on file with a true copy of this resolution.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

Jul E Matthews Council President
Lori Fernandez RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk
 Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth _____
 Name / Title _____ Borough Attorney _____ Date 1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
County of Passaic
State of New Jersey
RESOLUTION NO. 16-26



Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF THE 2026 CONTRACT TO
 MCNERNEY & ASSOCIATES FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hawthorne has determined there is a need to utilize the services of an appraiser from time to time in support of tax appeal litigation and other matters requiring such services and has determined to award the same as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 19:44A 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will likely exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 permits a contract for professional services to be awarded without the need for competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-11-5 requires that the award of contracts for professional services be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, Robert McNerney and McNerney & Associates has acted in such capacity for many years and has submitted billing rates to the Borough for such purposes for the calendar year 2026, said services to be on a project basis, with the schedule available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends the award of contract to McNerney & Associates based upon experience in given field, familiarity with the Borough of Hawthorne and the submission of a proposal and schedule within the expectation of the budget for such services, with the contract value not to exceed \$15,000; and

WHEREAS, McNerney & Associates has submitted to the Borough of Hawthorne a duly completed Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that McNerney & Associates and its principal, Robert McNerney, has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Hawthorne in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit McNerney & Associates from making any reportable contributions during the term of the contract;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with McNerney & Associates appraisal services for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, in accordance with the attached schedule and at the rate of compensation as set forth therein.
2. The contract is entered into without competitive bidding as "Professional Service," pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law as this is a professional service within the meaning of the law.
3. The award of this contract is subject to certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.
4. Notice of this award or a copy of the Resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Hawthorne within ten (10) days of passage as required.
5. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value shall be placed on file with a true copy of this resolution.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

 Council President
 Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth _____
 Name / Title _____ Borough Attorney _____ Date 1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE

County of Passaic
State of New Jersey



RESOLUTION NO. 17-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF THE 2026 CONTRACT TO ALBERTA TREE SERVICE, LLC, FOR CERTIFIED TREE EXPERT

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne has the need for the professional services of a Certified Tree Expert for the year 2026 and has determined to award the same as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 19:44A-24.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Clerk has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 permits a contract for professional services to be awarded without the need for competitive bids; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-11-5 requires that the award of contracts for professional services be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, Alberta Tree Services, LLC, has submitted a proposal and contract for said Certified Tree Expert services, said contract to be available for inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk, said contract being subject to an amount not to exceed \$60,000 for the year absent further Council approval; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends the award of contract to Alberta Tree Services, LLC, based upon its experience in the given field, past service to and familiarity with the Borough of Hawthorne and the submission of a contract within the expectation of the budget for such services; and

WHEREAS, Alberta Tree Services, LLC, has submitted to the Borough of Hawthorne a duly completed Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Alberta Tree Services, LLC and its principal Kevin Alberta, have not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Hawthorne in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit Alberta Tree Services, LLC, from making any reportable contributions during the term of the contract;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hawthorne, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with Alberta Tree Services, LLC, for Certified Tree Expert services for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, in accordance with the attached contract and at the rate of compensation as set forth in the contract as annexed.
2. The contract is entered into without competitive bidding as "Professional Service," pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law as this is a professional service within the meaning of the law.
3. The award of this contract is subject to certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.
4. Notice of this award or a copy of the Resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Hawthorne within ten (10) days of passage as required.
5. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value shall be placed on file with a true copy of this resolution.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			


 _____, Council President


 Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth

Name / Title _____ Borough Attorney Date 1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
 County of Passaic
 State of New Jersey



RESOLUTION NO. 18-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary that the Public Agency (the Borough of Hawthorne) shall designate an officer or employee to serve as Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.), whose name title, business address, telephone number and fax number shall be forwarded to the State Affirmative Action Office by January 4th, of every year; and

WHEREAS, the P.A.C.O. if the liaison official for matters concerning P.L. 1975, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) and should have the authority to make the appropriate correction(s) to the Borough of Hawthorne's contracting procedures if required; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council that the Borough Administrator be and is hereby designated as the 2026 Compliance Officer and the Clerk if hereby directed to file a copy of this resolution with the Department of the Treasury, Affirmative Action Office, CN-219, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0209.

**2026 PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER DESIGNATION
 FOR THE BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE:**

JENNIFER SCULLY, QPA

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

J. E. Matthews, Council President
Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk
 Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth _____

 Name / Title Borough Attorney Date 1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
County of Passaic
State of New Jersey



RESOLUTION NO. 19-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki *Date:* January 7, 2026

WHEREAS, the Code of the Borough of Hawthorne provides for the Business Administrator of the Borough to act as Purchasing Agent as the term is defined at NJSA 40A:11-9; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has recommended that the Purchasing Agent duties be separately set forth in the Code rather than as a specific duty of the Administrator with, such duties to be assigned by way of appointment by the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of enactment of such legislation and in order to seamlessly transition due to the retirement of the current Administrator, who is possessed of a Qualified Purchasing Agent Certification, the Mayor has determined it advisable to appoint an Acting Purchasing Agent, Jennifer Scully, to serve as Purchasing Agent of the Borough, with all duties set forth in the aforesaid statute and with authority to make purchases up to the amount determined by the Governor, in accordance with NJSA 40A:11-3, as the bid threshold for governmental agencies employing and designating a Qualified Purchasing Agent;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne that it does hereby approve of the appointment of Jennifer Scully as the Acting Purchasing Agent of the Borough of Hawthorne with all authority authorized by statute including but not limited to the ability to make purchases to the full extent of the bid threshold as established by the Governor in accordance with such statute.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

John E. Matthews
 Council President

Lori Fernandez
 Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by

 Name / Title

Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth
[Signature] 1/7/26
 Borough Attorney Date



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
 County of Passaic
 State of New Jersey



RESOLUTION NO. 20-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

RENEWAL LICENSES FOR USED CAR SALES 2026

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hawthorne issues licenses, renewable on an annual basis, permitting the sale of used cars, both retail and wholesale; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk has received renewal applications and payment of required fees from the persons or entities set forth on the schedule annexed hereto wishing to renew licenses previously issued; and

WHEREAS, required inspections have been performed with satisfactory results reported to the Municipal Clerk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne does hereby authorize the issuance of renewal licenses for used car sales, retail or wholesale as indicated, to the persons or entities on the attached schedule for the year 2026.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

John E. Matthews
 Council President

Lori Fernandez
 Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth _____

Name / Title _____ Borough Attorney _____ Date 1/7/26



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
County of Passaic
State of New Jersey



RESOLUTION NO. 21-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

RENEWAL LICENSES FOR AMUSEMENT DEVICES 2026

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hawthorne issues licenses, renewable on an annual basis, permitting the use of amusement devices at various establishments; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk has received renewal applications and payment of required fees from the persons or entities set forth on the schedule annexed hereto wishing to renew licenses previously issued; and

WHEREAS, required inspections have been performed with satisfactory results reported to the Municipal Clerk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne does hereby authorize the issuance of renewal licenses for amusement devices to the persons or entities on the attached schedule for the year 2026.

Table with 7 columns: Name, Motion, Second, Yes, No, Abstain, Absent. Rows include Bennett, Laiosa, Matthews, Mele, Sasso, Sciarra, and Wojtecki.

Signatures of Council President and Borough Clerk.

Factual Content Certified by and Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth.



BOROUGH OF HAWTHORNE
County of Passaic
State of New Jersey



RESOLUTION NO. 22-26

Resolution, Introduced by Council Person Wojtecki Date: January 7, 2026

RENEWAL LICENSES FOR MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS 2026

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hawthorne issues licenses, renewable on an annual basis, permitting the operation of a massage establishment at identified locations; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk has received renewal applications and payment of required fees from the persons or entities set forth on the schedule annexed hereto wishing to renew licenses previously issued; and

WHEREAS, required inspections have been performed with satisfactory results reported to the Municipal Clerk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne does hereby authorize the issuance of renewal licenses for massage establishments to the persons or entities on the attached schedule for the year 2026.

Name	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bennett			✓			
Laiosa			✓			
Matthews			✓			
Mele		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Sciarra			✓			
Wojtecki	✓		✓			

Dr. E. Matthews
Council President

Lori Fernandez
Lori Fernandez, RMC, CMC, Borough Clerk

Factual Content Certified by _____ Approved as to form and legality on basis of facts set forth _____

Borough Attorney

Date: 2/17/26

COUNCIL MEETING

January 7, 2026

Current Fund

Louis Bay 2 nd Library	\$ 75,000.00
Lowe's	\$ 156.57
MetLife SBC	\$ 285.00
Morris County JIF	\$ 216,326.00
Passaic Valley Sewer Commission	\$ 476,556.16
Petty Cash Resolution	\$ 300.00
Vozza	\$ 4,842.00
	\$ 773,465.73

Water Operating Fund

Lowe's	\$ 399.73
State Water Tax	\$ 2,239.59
	\$ 2,639.32

GRAND TOTAL \$ 776,105.05

II

