

The Mayor and Common Council convened in open session in the Hackettstown Municipal Building, 215 Stiger Street, Hackettstown, New Jersey at 6:30 PM on January 5, 2026. The meeting opened with the Invocation by Chaplain Timothy Nicinski, and with the salute to the Flag.

The Oath of Office was administered by Mayor DiMaio to Councilperson James Lambo for a three year term expiring December 31, 2028 and to Councilperson Matthew Engelau for a three year term expiring December 31, 2028.

Mayor DiMaio announced that this meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by:

- (1) Posting a notice of said meeting on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Building;
- (2) Causing a notice of said meeting to be sent to the Daily Record and NJ Herald;
- (3) Posting notice on the Municipal website [www.Hackettstown.net](http://www.Hackettstown.net).
- (4) Furnishing a notice of said meeting to anyone requesting it in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act; and
- (5) Filing a notice of said meeting with the Town Clerk.

Roll Call: Present – Mayor DiMaio, Councilpersons Becker Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Absent – Councilperson Sheldon

Mayor DiMaio appointed Bruce Tynan to the position of Fire Chief with a term expiring December 31, 2027, Charles Volkert to the position of Deputy Fire Chief with a term expiring December 31, 2027, Joseph King to the position of First Assistant Fire Chief with a term expiring December 31, 2027 and Corey Schappell to the position of Second Assistant Fire Chief with a term expiring December 31, 2027.

Mayor DiMaio administered the Oath of Office Chief Tynan, Deputy Chief Volkert, First Assistant Chief King and Second Assistant Chief Shappell.

Motion was made (Lambo) and seconded (Engelau) to adopt the following resolution:

Resolution #2026-01

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Hackettstown require the services of an Auditor, Town Planner, Town Prosecutor, Deputy Prosecutors and Bond Counsel.

WHEREAS, funds will be made available in the 2026 municipal budget to pay for the aforesaid services:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that;

1. The appointments of the following for the terms indicated is hereby approved.

Prosecutor – Tiffany Tagarelli - \$25,000.00	1 year term
Auditor – John Mooney - \$43,825.00	1 year term
Town Planner – Daniel Bloch - \$17,500.00	1 year term
Land Use Engineer – Paul Sterbenz - \$210,000.00	1 year term
Land Use Attorney – Alan Zakin - \$40,000.00	1 year term
2. The services of the above appointments were engaged without competitive bidding as “professional services” as defined in the Local Public Contracts law because such services are performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, regulatory law, and it is not possible to obtain complete bids.
3. Services of the above appointments were engaged using fair and open process of the Pay-to-Play law.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Motion was made (Lambo) and seconded (Tynan) to adopt the following resolution:

Resolution #2026-02

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Town of Hackettstown, County of Warren, NJ that effective January 1, 2026 the following banks be designated as an official legal depositories for the Town of Hackettstown:

Fulton Bank, Valley Bank, Bank of America, Hope Bank, TD Bank, PNC Bank, State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Motion was made (Engelau) and seconded (Becker) to adopt the following resolution:

Resolution #2025-03

WHEREAS, 40A:4-19 Local Budget Act provides that (where any contracts, commitments or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2026 budget) temporary appropriations be made for the purposes and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided;

WHEREAS, the date of this resolution is within the first thirty days of 2026, and

WHEREAS, the total appropriations in the 2025 budget, less appropriations made for capital improvement fund, debt service and relief of the poor (public assistance) is as follows:

GENERAL	\$12,003,192
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WHEREAS, 26.25 percent of the total appropriations in the 2025 budget less appropriations for capital improvement fund, debt service and relief of the poor (public assistance) in the said 2025 budget is as follows:

GENERAL	\$3,150,883
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the Town of Hackettstown, County of Warren that the temporary appropriations be made and that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer for her records.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Motion was made (Engelau) and seconded (Becker) to adopt the following resolution:

Resolution #2026-04

WHEREAS, the Town of Hackettstown operates a Department of Public Works in accordance with applicable New Jersey statutes and municipal ordinances; and

WHEREAS, Scott Armstrong, the current Supervisor of the Department of Public Works, has announced his retirement, creating a temporary vacancy in the position of Certified Public Works Manager; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NJS 40A:9-154.6 et seq., a municipality must designate a Certified Public Works Manager to oversee the operations of the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, Paul Sterbenz, P. E., is currently serving as the Town Engineer for the Town of Hackettstown and possesses the qualifications and experience necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of Certified Public Works Manager; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Town to appoint Paul Sterbenz, P. E., as Certified Public Works Manager on an interim basis to ensure continuity of operations during this transition period.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Hackettstown, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that Paul Sterbenz, P. E., Town Engineer, is hereby designated and appointed as certified Public Works Manager for the Town of Hackettstown for a one (1) year term, effective immediately, due to the retirement of Scott Armstrong; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That this appointment is temporary in nature and shall not be construed as a permanent appointment to the position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to any appropriate state or county agencies as required.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Mayor DiMaio appointed John Mooney to the position of Town Auditor with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Motion was made (Becker) and seconded (Kunz) to confirm Mayor DiMiao's appointment of John Mooney to the position of Town Auditor with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Mayor DiMaio appointed Daniel Bloch to the position of Town Planner with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Motion was made (Kunz) and seconded (Tynan) to confirm Mayor DiMaio's appointment of Daniel Bloch to the position of Town Planner with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Mayor DiMaio appointed Tiffany Tagarelli, Esquire to the position of Town Prosecutor with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Motion was made (Lambo) and seconded (Tynan) to confirm Mayor DiMaio's appointment of Tiffany Tagarelli to the position of Town Prosecutor with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Mayor DiMaio appointed John Draikiwicz to the position of Bond Counsel with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Motion was made (Lambo) and seconded (Kunz) to confirm Mayor DiMaio's appointment of John Draikiwicz to the position of Bond Counsel with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Motion was made (Lambo) and seconded (Tynan) to nominate Jody Becker as Acting Mayor for 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Motion was made (Kunz) and seconded (Tynan) to nominate James Lambo as Alternate Acting Mayor for 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz and Tynan

Abstain – Lambo

Motion was made (Kunz) and seconded (Tynan) to appoint Mary Matuszewicz to the position of Deputy Town Clerk/Administrator with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Sheldon

Mayor DiMaio appointed Al Camporini to the position of Class IV Land Use Board Member with a term expiring December 31, 2029, Robert Moore to the position of Class IV Land Use Board Member with a term expiring December 31, 2029, James Lambo to the position of Class III Land Use Board Member with a term expiring December 31, 2026, Jody Becker to the position of Class I Mayors Alternate Land Use Board Member with a term expiring December 31, 2026, Diane Medcraft with the position of Alternate #1 Land Use Board Member with a term expiring December 31, 2027, Gregory Gaertner to the position of Alternate #4 Land Use Board Member with a term expiring December 31, 2027, Jeff Saunders to the position of Class A Historic Preservation Commission Member with a term expiring December 31, 2028, Lynn Scully to the position of Class C Historic Preservation Commission Member with a term expiring December 31, 2027, Terrie Allen to the position of Class C Historic Preservation Commission Member with a term expiring December 31, 2027, Jerry Galante to the position of Class B Historic Preservation Commission Member with a term expiring December 31, 2029, Robert Salus to the position of Recreation Commission Member with a term expiring December 31, 2030, Joseph Fisher to the position of Public Library Trustee with a term expiring December 31, 2030, Erikka Bahnuk to the position of Public Library Mayor's Alternate with a term expiring December 31, 2026, Jessica Westgate to the position of Parking Authority Member with a term expiring December 31, 2027 and Charles Munk to the position of Parking Authority Member with a term expiring December 31, 2027.

Mayor DiMaio appointed CeAnna Chmura to the position of Board of Health Member with a term expiring December 31, 2030.

Motion was made (Lambo) and seconded (Tynan) to confirm Mayor DiMaio's appointment of CeAnna Chmura to the position of Board of Health Member with a term expiring December 31, 2030.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Motion was made (Kunz) and seconded (Engelau) to appoint Donald Farino, Esquire to the position of Public Defender with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Motion was made (Lambo) and seconded (Engelau) to appoint Gregory Gianforcaro, Esquire to the position of Deputy Public Defender with a term expiring December 31, 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Motion was made (Becker) and seconded (Engelau) to adopt Roberts Rules of Order for 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Motion was made (Lambo) and seconded (Kunz) to renew the Cash Management Plan for 2026.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

Mayor DiMaio asked if anyone from the public would like to speak at this time.

No one from the public wished to speak at this time.

The benediction was given by Chaplain Timothy Nicinski.

Motion as made (Engelau) and seconded (Kunz) to adjourn this meeting at 6:54 PM.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – Becker, Engelau, Kunz, Lambo and Tynan

This is to certify that the ordinances and resolutions contained herein have been approved by me in accordance

This is to certify that all proper notices, postings and filings required by the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter

with law.

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Gerald DiMaio, Jr., Mayor

231, P.L. 1975) were provided  
for this meeting.

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P.J. Reilly, Town Clerk/Administrator