

Council Initiatives

Our team's mission since we took office in 2015 was to enhance some policies and create new ones to maintain the quality of life that Ocean residents are not only used to but deserve.

The following is a list of initiatives that we've put into place since that time. We will add to it every so often as we introduce new quality of life items.

As always, your feedback and input are welcome. Please share your thoughts and suggestions with us at abecker@oceantwp.org.

1. Televised meetings of the Council, Planning and Zoning Boards portray a more open and transparent depiction of the official business of each of them.
2. Coffee with the Mayor gives people the opportunity to chat with the Mayor one-on-one about whatever is on their mind.
3. The Mayor's Facebook page provides information on events, emergencies and other timely subjects to readers. During snow events, his posts and updates let residents know when and where the plows are working.
4. Reportit: See it, say it, Report it! We have the first Mayor in the entire Country to offer this anonymous app.
5. Many community events are recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channel which allows the public to watch them at any time.
6. Meeting schedules, agenda and minutes are uploaded to our website for review by the public at any time.
7. Semi-annual newsletters mailed to your home and shared on our website to inform you of what's new, what's coming, what's happening and what's been done.
8. Redesign of our website for easy access and direction.
9. Stabilization of the municipal budget.
10. Addition of three new police officers in the first two years in office.
11. Reduced employee health insurance costs/premiums.
12. Shared services which includes full service of the West Long Branch court and Eatontown dispatch services.
13. Refinanced bonds which saved \$988,000.
14. An updated recycling center open every day that accepts single-stream recycling as well as electronics/e-waste, metal and appliances, bulk waste, concrete, grass clippings and old clothing.
15. The addition of bike lanes allows residents and visitors to more safely get to various areas and parks.

16. A new tennis and sports facility, being built without utilizing any tax dollars, will provide the Township with revenue and then ownership after 20 years.
17. Design of an updated logo that is now displayed in the public meeting room as well as on Township vehicles.
18. A new band shell at Joe Palaia Park which was constructed without the use of any taxpayer dollars.
19. A new activity pool utilizing grant money.
20. A no-knock ordinance provides residents with an added measure of peace in their homes.
21. Revised solicitors' ordinances for the public safety – where it used to allow solicitors to go door to door from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. every day, they are now required to have background checks, be fingerprinted, and carry identification badges. Additionally, they are now only authorized to solicit door to door between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and not at all on Sundays.
22. An annual Christmas tree lighting takes place next to the museum.
23. An annual menorah lighting is celebrated outside of Town Hall.
24. Super senior luncheons to celebrate those special individuals.
25. Honoring our veterans at public meetings brings these men and women some very well-deserved recognition for their sacrifices.
26. Various discounts provide our veterans and fire fighters with additional measures of financial relief.
27. Designated parking for Purple Heart recipients at Town Hall, our branch of the library and at Joe Palaia Park.
28. Electric car charging stations are now available at Town Hall.
29. The Own Ocean program which allows residents to save money and earn rewards to be applied to their tax bills.
30. Road improvements including County Route 14/West Park Avenue and the paving of Hwy. 35 by the State.
31. Honoring our youth in the areas of sports, academics, scouting, etc. at public meetings helps them to see that their efforts are noticed.
32. Allowing our veterans to share their stories at our public meetings allows a piece of the past to be heard today.
33. By naming various lanes and trails within the community after some of our long-time volunteers, their lives and memories will be shared into the future.
34. The Council's institution of the State's Blue Acres program has helped property owners with measures of financial compensation for flooding.
35. Fostering economic development has resulted in bringing in a dozen new businesses along Hwy. 35.
36. Small business initiatives, including certain fee waivers, provided a much-needed aid those businesses.

37. Veterans' golf outings are another way the Council shows their appreciation to one of the most deserving segments of our population.
38. The Mayor regularly officiates at wedding ceremonies at Town Hall which bring in donations for the Township's Community Hope Fund.
39. Our road paving programs are seeing more roads paved than ever before.
40. The purchase of the building next to the William F. Larkin Golf Course at Colonial Terrace was completed with no burden to the taxpayers.
41. The cost of new and replacement curbs has been eliminated after 50 years.
42. A partnership with the schools provides for safety cameras on busses.
43. Installing safety harnesses on customized swings for physically challenged children adds an extra measure of safety for those who might not otherwise be able to enjoy this childhood pastime.
44. Look for an Easter egg hunt coming in 2019!
45. Disc golf will be coming this year!