



**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER**

**WORK SESSION MINUTES: WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

THIS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE CLOSTER MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN-PERSON, TELEPHONICALLY, and VIA ZOOM VIDEO. You may join the Zoom meeting including video by accessing the information posted in the Borough Calendar on the Borough website by visiting [www.closterboro.com](http://www.closterboro.com) and clicking the link on the left sidebar for Calendars and Notice of Meetings and click on the corresponding date. To join via Telephone Audio Only: +1 301-715-8592; MEETING ID: 864 2063 3673; PASSWORD: 8675309

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:**

Mayor Glidden opened the meeting at **7:02 P.M.** with the following announcement: This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, was included in the Notice of 2026 Mayor and Council Meetings which was published in The Record on December 10, 2026 and sent to The Star-Ledger on December 15, 2025, is posted on the Municipal Clerk's bulletin board and on the Borough website, and has remained posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of the notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**3. ROLL CALL**

| Governing Body        | Present | Absent |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| Mayor Glidden         | ✓       |        |
| Councilwoman Amitai * | ✓       |        |
| Council President Cho | ✓       |        |
| Councilwoman Chung    |         | ✓      |
| Councilwoman Latner   | ✓       |        |
| Councilwoman Maroules | ✓       |        |
| Councilman Yammarino  | ✓       |        |

\* At 7:07 P.M.

**4. PROCLAMATION**

Volunteer Appreciation – PAVA World

Mayor Glidden opened the meeting to the public for comments regarding ICE:

Bonnie (Closter Dock Road) said ICE activity in Closter is unnerving and not normal. She asked whether police are able to help people who are stopped by ICE and if Closter will use the ICE reporting site that the Governor will soon institute. She spoke about ICE activity near schools. She urged the borough to have a powerful response.

Jeanne Stella (479 High Street) asked that a resolution be passed against ICE activity in Closter. She spoke about warehouses that people are put in. She described some of the conditions at the detention centers. She said that she wants to live in a place where people can say that we did not go along with this; that we are not okay with this and will not stand for mean and inhumane treatment of our neighbors.

Cinnie Cole (369 Durie Avenue) spoke about conversations that she has had with immigrants and stated they are very scared. She said that we need to do something to protect the people who come here.

Kerry Novick (283 Homans Avenue), a psychoanalyst, spoke about the borough's present and future responsibility. She spoke about the trauma of having children's parents hauled away. She also spoke about the importance of truth and not colluding with people who degrade the tenets of the constitution. She urged the borough to pass a resolution.

Adrienne Isacoff (227 Demarest Avenue) thanked the police for frequently coming to the house to help her husband. She voiced her wish that ICE would act the way the Closter Police do. She said that she was raised to be grateful for living in the United States and for democracy. She said that our democracy needs to be protected. She spoke about people she knows who are working in the United States and are frightened all the time.

Tomasina Schwartz (16 Robinhood Avenue) asked whether she has to give her name and address; Mayor Glidden said that it is customary. She said that she emailed a resolution today and continued to read some of it. She urged the Governing Body to pass a resolution as soon as possible and stated that she visited the concentration camp in Dachau. She said that we are up to the level of detainees of 1939 Nazi Germany and that elected officials need to restate what is important where we live. She spoke about people who have been taken in the general area and said that nearby towns have passed this resolution.

Mayor Glidden expressed his dissatisfaction with ICE activity. He said that he is happy to consider a resolution but that it cannot be passed so soon after having received it. He said that he supports Congressman Gottheimer's proposed ICE Standards Enforcement Act. Mayor Glidden read some of the items included in the Act. He said that he will bring a resolution to the next meeting.

Councilwoman Latner spoke about steps that the Governor of New Jersey is taking regarding ICE, including banning ICE from taking any steps on State property. A resolution will come to the Council.

Mayor Glidden stated that a resolution concerning ICE will be voted on at the next meeting.

Ellen Lutvak (44 Columbus Avenue) asked how the police can protect us. She asked whether she can call the police if ICE comes to her property. She was told that she can call the police but that they cannot interfere with federal orders. She asked what happens if there is no warrant and that this sort of issue needs to be addressed in the proclamation.

Nancy Hodgins (19 Jane Street) said that she decided to speak when she realized that what she feels is most important did not seem to be included in the proposal by Congressman Gottheimer: the ability of a masked person with very little to no identification to approach and apprehend people. She asked that the mask issue be addressed in the resolution.

Mayor Glidden and Attorney William J. Bailey spoke about what can and cannot be included in a resolution in response to various random comments from the public.

Spencer Leeds (297 Durie Avenue) asked whether the police are able to act in any way when they suspect ICE is in the town or whether they have any obligation to alert residents. He asked what the police and citizens can do. He

said that ICE has been around for a long time but that now the guardrails are gone. He asked for there to be a way to alert residents.

Lisa Nouri (116 West Street) said that she is deeply grateful for the way the community is standing up to this issue. She asked that people realize that what is happening does not follow customary rules of law. She spoke about the need to protect bystanders and observers and people's right to document.

Mayor Glidden said that he will make sure that there is a resolution circulated, posted on the website, and voted on at the meeting in two weeks.

Jayne Rubenfeld asked whether the website blast could be used to alert people. Borough Attorney William J. Bailey said that this needed to be reviewed in terms of what is allowed. Ms. Rubenfeld asked whether, if this is legal, this method of communication could be part of the resolution.

The meeting was opened for public comment not related to ICE and the resolution.

Steve Isaacson (97 Columbus Avenue) stated the Japanese and German people were sent to concentration camps. He suggested having license readers and not to allow ICE agents to carry guns. He asked whether the deed restriction on the MacBain Farm has been passed. Borough Attorney William J. Bailey stated that he needs to check with the County to find out. Mr. Isaacson asked whether permission will be given for the McCaffrey family to resume the contract. Mayor Glidden said that the contract is being reviewed.

Tomasina Schwartz (16 Robinhood Avenue) stated that the United States apologized profusely for what was done to the Japanese people. She spoke about her concern for MacBain Farm and her hope that the family that is dedicated to the farm will be able to continue. She spoke about her understanding that it is possible for utilities to only repave part of a street after work is done and that she feels that it would be good for the town to chip in part so that the whole street can be in good shape. She said that her street is in bad shape. She had asked that Borough Administrator James Winters lodge a complaint with the utilities board. The response was that this shared-cost repaving has already been done on several streets.

The meeting was closed for public comment.

## **5. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF COMMUNICATION ITEMS:**

- a. Mail List of January 30, 2026: Councilwoman Maroules spoke about Item #5. She suggested that the borough make a nomination. Councilman Yammarino spoke about the Mayor's letter and also suggested that the Mayor send out periodic "What's Going on in Closter" notices. Additionally, he voiced his hope that the borough can stay on top of grant applications. He said that Closter deserves more grant money.
- b. Mail List of February 6, 2026: Councilwoman Latner stated that Mark Meyers is retiring after 37 years. She asked whether there could be a proclamation for him.

## **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a. Work Session and Regular Meeting on June 11, 2025
- b. Work Session and Regular Meeting on June 25, 2025
- c. Work Session and Regular Meeting on July 9, 2025
- d. Work Session and Regular Meeting on July 23, 2025
- e. Work Session and Regular Meeting on August 13, 2025

| COUNCILMEMBER         | MOTION | SECOND | YES | NO | ABSENT | ABSTAIN |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|-----|----|--------|---------|
| Councilwoman Amitai   |        |        | ✓   |    |        |         |
| Council President Cho |        |        | ✓   |    |        |         |
| Councilwoman Chung    |        |        |     |    | ✓      |         |
| Councilwoman Latner   |        |        | ✓   |    |        |         |
| Councilwoman Maroules | ✓      |        | ✓   |    |        |         |
| Councilman Yammarino  |        | ✓      | ✓   |    |        |         |

**7. ORDINANCES:**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**a. ORDINANCE NO. 2026:1379**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$42,000 FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS FOR AND BY THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AND, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$39,900 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION**

**b. ORDINANCE NO. 2026:1380**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 50, POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**c. ORDINANCE NO. 2026:1381**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 65 ALARM SYSTEMS**

**d. ORDINANCE NO. 2026:1382**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 179 OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER ENTITLED: TOWING AND STORAGE**

There was no request to pull any Ordinances for discussion.

**8. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR REGULAR MEETING:**

- \*26-064      **BILLS LIST**
- \*26-065      **APPOINTING MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON – JAMES WINTERS**
- \*26-066      **AUTHORIZING A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A CARETAKER FOR THE HAROLD HESS LUSTRON HOUSE**
- \*26-067      **AWARDING CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2026 CHEVROLET TAHOE 4WD**
- \*26-068      **REFUND OF REAL ESTATE TAX OVERPAYMENTS – BLOCK 913; LOT 4**
- \*26-069      **AMENDING RESOLUTION 2025-315, CHANGE ORDER No. 4 – FINAL PAYMENT DPW POLE BARN BUILDINGS DUTCHMAN CONTRACTING, LLC**
- \*26-070      **SHARED SERVICES FOR TV INSPECTIONS WITH NORTHWEST BERGEN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY**
- \*26-071      **AMEND REFUND OF REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIENHOLDER – 577 PIERMONT ROAD**

- \*26-072 APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FY2026 LOCAL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT (LRIG)
- \*26-073 REFUND OF REAL ESTATE TAX OVERPAYMENTS – 304 PIERMONT ROAD
- \*26-074 APPROVING REFUND OF TREE BOND – 41 FIRST STREET
- \*26-075 APPROVING REFUND OF TREE BOND – 44 HALSEY LANE
- \*26-076 APPROVING REFUND OF TREE BOND – 614 CLOSTER DOCK ROAD
- \*26-077 AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGHES OF NORWOOD, NORTHVALE, RIVER VALE, AND DEMAREST FOR THE CLOSTER POLICE FIRING RANGE
- \*26-078 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES APPOINTMENT APPRAISAL GROUP – BBG REAL ESTATE SERVICES
- \*26-079 CLOSED SESSION

Councilwoman Amitai asked for clarification on 26-066 and was told that this is on the Agenda simply because the contract is reaching the end of its term. There was no further request to pull any Ordinances for discussion.

## **9. PROFESSIONAL REPORTS**

- a. BOROUGH ENGINEER: There is no change from the County on the Piermont/VerValen intersection. A review letter causing extra work has been received from the EPA concerning the Swim Club. The paperwork for reimbursement is being prepared for the 2024-2025 Local Aid Project. Borough Engineer Nick DeNicola asked for permission to go to bid for the 2026 project. A resolution will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.
- b. BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR: Tax collection went well. The Village School developers need to sign up with an administrative agent. Many people have called for information. A meeting was held with the Closter Nature Center. They did a lot of work with the money they received and are very appreciative. Borough Engineer Nick DeNicola's office gave a quote for fixing items at Memorial, Ruckman, and Schauble fields. Councilwoman Amitai asked about the 5 senior parking spaces that cannot be used because of snow. Borough Administrator James Winters explained that new DEP regulations are making snow removal more difficult; the issue will be reviewed.
- c. CHIEF OF POLICE: Bergen County approved the speed limit reduction on Schraalenburgh Road. Some commuter parking near the bus stop would be helpful, as would a crosswalk. Thanks to Borough Engineer Nick DeNicola and Borough Administrator James Winters for their work on the Knickerbocker/Demarest intersection as it seems to have helped. Concerning the Tenakill School traffic, the arrival pattern and layout have been adjusted, and signs and cones have been added to try to alleviate the situation. Three grants will be pursued, including Safe Routes to School and distracted driving. Coffee with a Cop will be held at the Starbucks in Target on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Amitai asked about putting up a bus shelter. Borough Administrator James Winter explained that it is a county right of way and that this will require cooperation of Closter, the county, and NJ Transit. It is being worked on. Borough Engineer Nick DeNicola advised that there are a lot of conditions placed on Safe Routes to School grants.

**10. OLD BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Maroules asked for an update on the assessment meeting and was told that dates have been proposed and are being reviewed for the middle weeks of March. Councilwoman Amitai asked for a town hall meeting on deer management. She will look into arranging for a speaker.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

Councilman Yammarino asked two younger members in the audience to explain why they came. They said that they are doing a project as students at NVD. One student said that breaking immigration law is actually a criminal offense. He acknowledged that he is a high school student but that he would challenge the statement that the activities of immigration enforcement are inherently unconstitutional. He said that law enforcement and immigration should work together and disputed the comparison to Nazi Germany. He said that these immigration laws have been around since 1798.

**12. OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS (5-MINUTE LIMIT)**

**13. ADJOURNMENT FROM THE WORK SESSION**

| COUNCILMEMBER         | MOTION | SECOND | YES | NO | ABSENT | ABSTAIN |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|-----|----|--------|---------|
| Councilwoman Amitai   |        |        | ✓   |    |        |         |
| Council President Cho |        |        | ✓   |    |        |         |
| Councilwoman Chung    |        |        |     |    | ✓      |         |
| Councilwoman Latner   |        |        | ✓   |    |        |         |
| Councilwoman Maroules | ✓      |        | ✓   |    |        |         |
| Councilman Yammarino  |        | ✓      | ✓   |    |        |         |

The Work Session adjourned at **8:37 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Mari J. Margiotta, RMC, CMR  
Borough Clerk

*Date of Minutes approval: April 22, 2026*