

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
December 20, 2016

The regular meeting of the Township Committee was held on this date at the Washington Township Municipal Building, 211 Route 31 North, Washington, N.J. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Robert Klingel.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE – Mayor Klingel noted that this meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law of 1975 in as much as a notice had been published in the Star-Gazette and transmitted to the Express-Times, posted at the Municipal Building and a copy is on file in the Clerk’s office. This agenda is subject to change by order of the Washington Township Committee before and/or during the scheduled meeting.

ROLL CALL

Fiore, present; Klingel, present; Kovacs, present; Rossi, present; Willan, present

STAFF PRESENT

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Attorney Michael Lavery; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator; Chief Cicerelle; Lieutenant John Kaufmann; Joseph Rossi, Construction Official; and Jeff Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Klingel stated a proclamation designating January 2017 as “Radon Action Month” will be posted on the website.

PRESENTATION

Freeholder Director Jason Sarnoski spoke briefly on the Street Smart Safety Program and presented Lieutenant John Kaufmann with the New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Safety Award. Lieutenant Kaufmann stated the program was meant to bring awareness to pedestrian safety and explained how the Police Department promoted awareness.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 14, 2016.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Fiore, yes; Kovacs, yes; Rossi, abstained; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held November 14, 2016.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Fiore, yes; Rossi, abstained; Klingel, yes

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to open to the public Ordinance 16-09, 2017 Salary Ordinance on second reading. All were in favor. Seeing no one, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to close the public portion of Ordinance 16-09. All were in favor. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to approve Ordinance 16-09 on second reading.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Fiore noted a typographical error in Resolutions 16-156, 16-157, and 16-161. A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolutions 16-156, 16-157, and 16-161 subject to the corrections noted being amended.

16-156 Refund Resolution - Block 78, Lot 1.02 Q0057

16-157 Refund Resolution - Block 78, Lot 3.01 Q0057

16-161 Redemption Resolution – Block 40, Lot 53 (2014)

ROLL CALL: Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 16-150 through 16-169 excluding 16-156, 16-157, and 16-161.

16-150 Resolution Authorizing the Release of the Remaining Balance in the Developer’s Escrow Account for Carlos and Lauren Schlaffer Held in Trust by the Township of Washington.

16-151 Transfer Tax Sale Payments to Oxford Township Sewer Utility Collector

16-152 Cancel 2016 Overpayments Less Than \$10.00

16-153 Redemption Resolution – Block 38, Lot 22 C0023

16-154 Cancel 2016 Delinquent Amounts Less Than \$10.00

16-155 Refund Resolution - Block 38 Lot 22 C0042

16-158 Refund Resolution - Block 86, Lot 1

16-159 Transfer Tax Sale Payment to Borough of Washington Sewer Utility Collector

16-160 Redemption Resolution - Block 38, Lot 13

16-162 Redemption Resolution – Block 40, Lot 53 (2013)

16-163 Redemption Resolution – Block 38.03, Lot 9

16-164 Refund Resolution – Block 38, Lot 10

16-165 Refund Resolution – Block 38, Lot 22 C0079

16-166 Redemption Resolution – Block 38, Lot 22 C0039

16-167 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Sign the Tow Line Drive and Meadow Breeze Park Right-of-Way Agreement Between the Township of Washington and Pechiney Plastics Packaging, Inc

16-168 Transfer Resolution

16-169 Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for a Township Engineer – 1/1/2016-12/31/2018

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 16-149, A Resolution of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of NJ, Designating Asbury Farms as the Redeveloper of “An Area in Need of Redevelopment” Identified as Block 65, Lots 1, 3.03, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and Portions of Lots 2 and 4, Block 65.01, Lot 1c0001 (Condo Unit 4) and 1c0002 (Condo Unit 3) Including the Common Area of Lot 1 Adjacent to the Two Condo Units and Block 65.02, Lot 1.

ROLL CALL: Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, abstained; Klingel, yes

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Cicerelle previously submitted a report and explained the new records management system.

J. Cooper previously submitted a report and had nothing further to add.

J. Rossi had nothing to report.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report and had nothing further to add.

J. Congleton provided the Committee with a copy of the budget report.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Paul Creager, 340 Route 57 East, stated his mother has been receiving two tax bills for the last few years and discussed with Attorney Lavery. Mr. deBoer will discuss this with the Tax Collector and Tax Assessor.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Klingel closed the public portion of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old Business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kovacs discussed having a 2017 Salary Resolution prepared for the Reorganization Meeting.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve the 2017 Holiday Schedule as presented.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Rossi, yes; Fiore, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve Eileen Parks to attend the Introduction to Accounting/Municipal Finance Administration/Municipal Budget Process classes on various dates in January, February, March and April 2017.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Rossi, yes; Fiore, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Mayor to sign the Shared Services Agreement for Municipal Court Services from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019. Chief Cicerelle spoke about the Prosecutor’s position and requested the Committee send a recommendation letter to the Court.

ROLL CALL: Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve a letter of recommendation from the Township Committee to the Municipal Court regarding the Prosecutor’s position.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Fiore, yes; Kovacs, yes; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes

Mr. deBoer stated the Request for Proposals recommendations will be discussed in Executive Session.

REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Fiore updated the Committee on a meeting regarding the Township’s unknown property owners and discussed improvements to the tennis and basketball courts. He thanked Frank Marascia and New Jersey American Water as well as Jesse O’Neill and the Students Against Vandalizing the Earth (SAVE) group from Warren Hills Regional High School for

their help with trail maintenance. Mr. Fiore updated the Committee on the various Board/Commission meetings he attended.

Mr. Willan stated he met with the Animal Control Officer to discuss concerns.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Willan, to approve the payment of the bills.

ROLL CALL: Fiore, yes; Willan, yes; Kovacs, yes; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolution 16-170, Resolution Authorizing Executive Session for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in Accordance With the Provisions of the NJ Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 at 8:15 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing a contractual matter dealing with Requests for Proposals, a contractual matter dealing with a shared service agreement with Oxford Township, a contractual matter dealing with a shared service agreement with Washington Borough, four personnel matters dealing with the Deputy Treasurer, Police Secretary, Animal Control Officer, and a School Resource Officer, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with Asbury Farms, and a potential litigation matter dealing with a property in the Township.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to come out of Executive Session at 9:53 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a contractual matter dealing with Request for Proposals, a contractual matter dealing with a shared service agreement with Oxford Township, a contractual matter dealing with a shared service agreement with Washington Borough, four personnel matters dealing with the Deputy Treasurer, Police Secretary, Animal Control Officer, and a School Resource Officer, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with Asbury Farms, and a potential litigation matter dealing with a property in the Township. No official action was taken. Copies of these minutes will be available at such time the Committee determines there is no harm to the public interest.

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to authorize Attorney Lavery to send a letter to Asbury Farms regarding the purchase of the property.

ROLL CALL: Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, abstained; Klingel, yes

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk