

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
May 16, 2017

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 Deputy Mayor Mark Rossi.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE – Mr. Rossi 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 (7:50 pm); Kovacs; present; Rossi, present
Mr. Willan was absent.

STAFF PRESENT

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Attorney Michael Lavery; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator; Chief Cicerelle; Janice Congleton, Chief Financial Officer; Joseph Rossi, Construction Official; and Andy Hart, Public Works Assistant Foreman

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Committee held a moment of silence for former Committeewoman Eve Marks who recently passed away.

AWARD OF BID

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to award the cell tower bid to Wireless Edge Towers, LLC of New Rochelle, NY in the yearly amount of \$27,012.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Girl Scouts Emily Leidner and McKenzie Patti spoke to the Committee regarding their "Little Silver Library" project as part of their Silver Award. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the locations of their project at Meadow Breeze Park and the Parks and Recreation Building.

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

Washington Borough resident Gilbert Andwati spoke to the Committee regarding his Hope for the Hurt campaign which helps children with depression and anxiety, as well as those who are bullied or suicidal. He will be hosting a benefit concert in July at Warren Hills Regional High School. Mr. deBoer will have a proclamation prepared for the July meeting.

Mayor Klingel arrived and took over the meeting at 7:50 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 18, 2017.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held April 18, 2017.

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

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to open to the public Ordinance 17-07, Bond Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of a New Dump Truck by the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Appropriating \$170,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$161,900 Bonds or Notes of the Township for Financing Such Appropriation 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 17-07. All were in favor. A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to adopt Ordinance 17-07 on second reading.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to open to the public Ordinance 17-08, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Authorizing Execution of an Easement in Favor of the Owners of Block 67, Lot 22 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 17-08.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to adopt Ordinance 17-08 on second reading.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to introduce Ordinance 17-09, Zoning Ordinance Amending Lot Size from VR to R40 for Nottingham Estates/Drake Court on first reading.

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will take place at the June 20, 2017 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolutions 17-80 through and including 17-86.

17-80 Chapter 159 Budget Amendment – Recycling Tonnage Grant

17-81 Resolution Authorizing the Township Special Tax Appeal Attorney to Enter into a Stipulation of Settlement Relative to the Tax Appeals Captioned Desapio Properties #One, LLC v. Washington Township, Tax Court of New Jersey, Docket Numbers 007866-2015, 002589-2016, and 002849-2017.

17-82 Redemption Resolution – Block 79, Lot 7.06

17-83 Redemption Resolution – Block 28, Lot 2

17-84 Redemption Resolution – Block 38.04, Lot 1

17-85 Resolution Authorizing the Advertising of Bids for the Purchase of One (1) Single Axle Dump Truck with Related Equipment

17-86 Resolution of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, Authorizing In Rem Foreclosure Proceedings

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Cicerelle previously submitted a report. He spoke of the major traffic issues at the Blue Army Shrine this past weekend and his plans to correct the situation for future events.

Mr. deBoer stated Andy Hart previously submitted a DPW report and had nothing further to discuss.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Frank Marascia, Environmental Commission Chairman, spoke of a resident wishing to become a member of the Commission. Mayor Klingel appointed Alan Theesfeld to the Environmental Commission effective immediately. F. Marascia stated New Jersey American Water will be performing trail maintenance on May 25th at Roaring Rock Park.

J. Rossi spoke of the on-going issues with excessive vehicles at 425 Washburn Avenue. The Committee discussed with Attorney Lavery.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Klingel stated the Asbury Farms Redevelopment Pilot Project will be discussed during Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to approve the request from Habitat for Humanity to hold their Anniversary Sale on June 2 and 3, 2017 from 9:00 am – 7:00 pm in the parking lot in front of their store.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to approve the request from the American Diabetes Association “TourdeCure 2017” to be able to use a small portion of Meadow Breeze Park as a water stop for the 50-mile and 75-mile cyclists between the hours of 8:00 am until noon on Sunday, June 4, 2017.

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

Mayor Klingel tabled the appointment of a designated representative to the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway Committee.

Mark Van Deursen, Trustee of the Washington Emergency Squad and Robert Mason, Lieutenant of the Washington Emergency Squad, spoke to the Committee regarding the recent media report that one of their members was brought under investigation by the NJ State Department of Health, Office of EMS. M. Van Deursen stated this is an isolated incident and reinforced the Squad’s commitment to providing the highest quality of medical care to the community.

REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Fiore stated the Recreation Commission will be investigating available grants. Due to continued concerns of the Environmental Commission regarding the Washington Cemetery, R. Fiore will schedule a meeting with the Fire Marshall to discuss the on-going issues. The Committee and Attorney Lavery discussed. R. Fiore provided information regarding abandoned properties.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolution 17-87, 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 8:30 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with a motor vehicle accident involving a Township vehicle; personnel matters dealing with the Police Department and the Department of Public Works; and a contractual matter dealing with the Asbury Farms Pilot Program.

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to come out of Executive Session at 9:33 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with a motor vehicle accident involving a Township vehicle; personnel matters dealing with the Police Department and the Department of Public Works; and a contractual matter dealing with the Asbury Farms Pilot Program. 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 Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolutions 17-88, 17-89 and 17-90 effective June 1, 2017 as discussed in Executive Session pending approval by the DPW Teamsters.

17-88 Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (Andrew Hart / Assistant Superintendent of Public Works)

17-89 Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (Robert Vishnesky / Assistant Foreman)

17-90 Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (Peter deBoer / Interim Superintendent of Public Works)

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to authorize the Township Administrator to advertise for the two positions in the Department of Public Works as discussed in Executive Session.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to authorize Chief Cicerelle to advertise for a part-time police secretary as discussed in Executive Session.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk