

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
November 20, 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 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; Janice Congleton, Chief Financial Officer; Joseph Rossi, Construction Official; and Andy Hart, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Klingel sadly announced the passing of Sheriff McDonald's daughter and asked for a moment of silence to remember Laura and the McDonald family.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Willan, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 17, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Fiore, yes; Willan, 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 of October 17, 2017.

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

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to open to the public Ordinance 17-11, An Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey to Create Chapter 97A "Residential Maintenance" Article I "Registration and Maintenance of Vacant and Abandoned Residential Properties in Foreclosure" of the Code of the Township of Washington to Establish Standards for the Registration and Maintenance of Vacant and Abandoned Residential Properties in Foreclosure by Creditors. All were in favor. Seeing no one, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to close the public portion of Ordinance 17-11. All were in favor. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to adopt Ordinance 17-11 on second reading.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Willan, to introduce Ordinance 17-12, An Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Execution of a Sight Triangle Easement on Block 4, Lot 19 in Favor of the Owners of Block 4, Lot 19.01 on first reading.

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be on December 19, 2017.

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to introduce Ordinance 17-13, An Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Deleting Chapter 110 Entitled "Towing and Storage" in its Entirety and Replacing it With a Newly Revised Chapter 110 Entitled "Towing and Storage" on first reading.

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be on December 19, 2017.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to introduce Ordinance 17-14, 2018 Salary Ordinance on first reading. Mr. Kovacs updated the Committee on the CPI.

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be on December 19, 2017.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to introduce Ordinance 17-15, An Ordinance Creating the Organization Entitled "Washington Township Seniors" in the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey on first reading.

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be on December 19, 2017

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolutions 17-146 through 17-156, excluding Resolutions 17-154 and 17-155.

17-146 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds

17-147 Resolution Authorizing the Release of the Remaining Balance in the Developers Escrow Account for Van Paftinos

17-148 Resolution Changing Custodian Petty Cash Fund

17-149 Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (C. Summers – Police Department)

17-150 Full Release of Performance Guarantee & 10% Cash Portion for Mark Mojek, Block 43, Lot 20

17-151 Resolution Authorizing the Release of the Remaining Balance in the Developer's Escrow Account for Michael Frascella

17-152 Refund Resolution – Block 86, Lot 1

17-153 Refund and Cancel 2017 Taxes Resolution – Block 86, Lot 1

17-156 Resolution Authorizing the Release of the Remaining Balance in the Developer's Escrow Accounts for Joseph DeLuca

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 17-154, Resolution of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Release of a Portion of the Cash Performance Bond to Asbury Farms and Transfer That Same Portion of Asbury Farms Refund to the Asbury Farms Pilot Escrow Account.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolution 17-155, Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (G. Cuomo – Code & Construction).

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Cicerelle stated his department won the flag football game 21-6 against the Phillipsburg Police Department where funds were raised for Project Graduation.

A. Hart previously submitted a report and updated the Committee on the paving of Cemetery Hill Road. Salt has been ordered and one of the new trucks has been received. The remaining truck should be received by the Township in time for winter.

J. Rossi read information to the Committee regarding radon. He would like to make the public aware of the dangers of radon and purchase a few kits for residents through a reimbursement program.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Karen Graf informed the Committee that the Washington Township Schools were named one of seven New Jersey Lighthouse Districts based on test scores and the teachers' commitment to the students. The Superintendent's contract has been renewed for another five years and will provide leadership continuity.

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. deBoer gave the history behind the request from Ruta Bucholz asking the Township to consider purchasing a lot adjacent to 84 Angen Road. The Committee discussed. Mayor Klingel tabled the discussion until the Committee can speak with R. Bucholz.

Robert Lagonera, Animal Control Officer, spoke to the Committee regarding the benefits of a Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) Program for feral cats. Funding for the program can be taken from the Animal Control account which would not affect the Township's budget. R. Lagonera discussed with the Committee. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve the Trap, Neuter, Release Program as presented by the Township's Animal Control Officer.

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

The Ordinance creating the organization entitled "Washington Township Seniors" was introduced earlier in the meeting.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to schedule a Special Meeting for Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 7:30 pm to discuss the Health Insurance Renewal for 2018.

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

A motion as made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to schedule the Annual Holiday Luncheon for Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 12:00 pm.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to schedule the 2018 Township Committee Reorganization Meeting for Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

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

REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Fiore stated the Recreation Committee is reviewing the Parks and Playgrounds Ordinance which needs to be revised. The newly formed Washington Township Seniors group will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm. Mr. Fiore thanked Dan Slack for the landscaping he did in front of the Parks and Recreation Building.

Mr. Willan asked for an update regarding work to be done on Clubhouse Drive and Hawk Pointe Boulevard. Mr. deBoer stated the Township Engineer is working on a report and he should have the information shortly.

Mayor Klingel asked the Committee members to advise him of any changes they would like made regarding their liaison responsibilities for 2018. He spoke of Governor-elect Murphy's plan to legalize marijuana and the responsibilities that would mean for the municipalities. Mayor Klingel asked Chief Cicerelle to recap the opioid awareness program presented to the senior students at the high school.

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; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 17-157, 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 8:35 pm.

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

All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing a personnel matter dealing with a Township employee and a contractual matter dealing with the postage meter.

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to come out of Executive Session at 9:00 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a personnel matter dealing with a Township employee and a contractual matter dealing with the postage meter. 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 Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to authorize Attorney Lavery to contact the postage machine company as discussed in Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Fiore, yes; Rossi, 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 9:02 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk