

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
October 17, 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; Joseph Rossi, Construction Official; and Andy Hart, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATION

Mr. Fiore spoke about a proclamation to recognize Christopher Thomas Clark for his Eagle Scout Project which was presented on October 7th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 19, 2017.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting of September 19, 2017 with the correction noted by Mr. Willan.

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

PRESENTATION

Diane Bonelli of the Family Guidance Center spoke of the need to educate middle school and high school students regarding substance abuse awareness and provided the Committee with an informational packet of the programs they provide. D. Bonelli asked that one representative of the Township serve as a member of the Warren Hills Community Coalition.

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to introduce 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 on first reading.

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be on November 20, 2017.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolutions 17-142 through and including 17-144.

17-142 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Springtown Road Improvements Project

17-143 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Cemetery Hill Road Section III Improvements Project

17-144 Approval to Endorse "Statement of Consent" for NJDEP-TWA Application for 289 State Route 31 Restaurant – Tax Map Block 64, Lot 13

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Cicerelle spoke of the "Paint the Town Red" campaign the week of October 23rd and stated he ordered ribbons to be displayed at the municipal building. Members of the Police Department will be participating in a flag football game to raise funds for Project Graduation on Saturday, November 4th.

A. Hart previously submitted a report and updated the Committee on the road improvements on Cemetery Hill Road.

J. Rossi updated the Committee on maintenance issues at the old A&P Shopping Center.

Mr. deBoer explained revisions are needed to amend Chapter 93 of the Township Code regarding parks and playgrounds and add information regarding hunting in the passive recreation areas.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Frank Marascia, 27 St. Andrews Drive, asked the hours for Trick or Treating in the Township. The Clerk stated it will be held from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm on October 31st.

Karen Graf briefly updated the Committee on school funding.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Service Order Requests for 222 Cemetery Hill Road.

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

The request from Audrey Rossnagle to install a small statue at Meadow Breeze Park was tabled until the November meeting.

The Committee members received copies of an ordinance to amend Chapter 110 of the Township Code regarding towing and storage of motor vehicles for their review prior to introducing the ordinance at the November meeting.

The discussion to amend Chapter 93 of the Township Code entitled "Parks and Playgrounds" was discussed during Staff Administrative Reports.

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to authorize going out for bid for 2018 Professional Service Contracts.

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

REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Fiore stated Ray Kunzmann will be the Recreation Committee chairman for the remainder of the year following the resignation of Wally Godfrey. Mr. Fiore will provide the Recreation Committee with copies of the parks and playground ordinance for their input and is getting quotes to patch and paint the tennis courts. Mr. Fiore met with the Township's Senior Citizen Group Executive Board and prepared bylaws. The process regarding foreclosed properties is moving forward.

Mr. Rossi stated he received a letter of retirement from John Pierson effective January 1, 2018 after 24 years of service with the Department of Public Works. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to accept John Pierson's letter of retirement as written.

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

Mr. Kovacs updated the Committee on the CPI.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to authorize Mr. Rossi to interview Public Works candidates to fill the vacancy that will be left by John Pierson's retirement.

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

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 17-145, 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 8:20 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing an attorney/client privilege matter.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to come out of Executive Session at 9:05 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed an attorney/client privilege and contractual matter dealing with Nassau Consulting's bill, and an attorney/client privilege and contractual matter dealing with a traffic light. 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 Fiore, to authorize Attorney Lavery to write a letter to Eric Peterson with a copy of the Bob Powell report specifying collection of the remainder of the amount due as discussed in Executive Session.
ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Willan, abstained; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Kovacs, to authorize Attorney Lavery to write a letter to Eric Peterson stating the remaining balance of the traffic light at Route 31 and S. Lincoln Avenue be paid and services could possibly be taken over by the Township at that point.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to authorize the Township Administrator to send a letter to the Township Engineer regarding the status of Clubhouse Drive and Hawk Pointe Boulevard as discussed in Executive Session.

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

Mayor Klingel stated the next edition of the newsletter will be printed soon. Committee members should see Mr. deBoer if they would like any changes made.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk