

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
April 15, 2014

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 p.m. by Mayor Robert Klingel.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE – The Mayor 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

Iacobucci, present; Klingel, present; Kovacs, present; Willan, present
Rossi, absent

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Kilduff, Deputy Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator/Certified Public Works Manager; Chief McDonald; Deputy Chief Cicerelle; Lieutenant Teter; John Mooney, Township Auditor; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; and Joe Rossi, Construction Official

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Klingel read the Proclamation designating May 2014 as Older American Month.

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to open to the public Ordinance 14-03, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey to Exceed the Municipal Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank – Calendar Year 2014 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14), public hearing on second reading. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel welcomed comments from the public. Seeing no one, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to close the public hearing of Ordinance 14-03. All were in favor. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to adopt Ordinance 14-03 on second reading.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Kovacs, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Klingel, yes

RESOLUTION 14-68 – 2014 BUDGET

K. McCarthy explained the budget process to the public. J. Mooney commended the Township Committee for taking a conservative approach to the budget. He stated the local tax rate is well below the State average and the Township is compliant with both the expenditure and levy caps. The local tax rate will increase 1.62 cents for a 2.89% increase. The increase to the average local homeowner is \$3.38 per month or \$41.00 per year.

Mayor Klingel opened the budget discussion to the public.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, asked if there is a time limit on the Township's debt service for open space. J. Mooney explained the bond is due October 15, 2022. J. Schnetzer asked if a raise was provided to the Committee. Mayor Klingel replied it was.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Klingel closed the budget discussion to the public. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 14-68, 2014 Budget.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Klingel, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 18, 2014.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Kovacs, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Executive Session minutes from the regular meeting held March 18, 2014 with the changes given to the Deputy Clerk.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Kovacs, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Klingel, yes

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to open to the public Ordinance 14-04, Bond Ordinance Providing for the Construction of a New DPW Storage Facility in and by the Township of Washington in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$500,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$237,500 Bonds or Notes of the Township for Financing Such Appropriation, public hearing on second reading. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel welcomed comments from the public. Seeing no one, Mayor Klingel closed the public hearing of Ordinance 14-04. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to adopt Ordinance 14-04 on second reading.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Kovacs, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Klingel, yes

The Committee discussed previously requested revisions to Ordinance 14-05 with Attorney Lavery and Mr. deBoer. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to introduce Ordinance 14-05, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey to Amend, Revise or Supplement Chapter 73 to Regulate Outdoor Flea Markets within the Township, as amended on first reading.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

Public hearing and adoption will take place at the May 20, 2014 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 14-69 through and including 14-74.

14-69 Redemption Resolution – Block 50; Lot 2

14-70 Redemption Resolution – Block 68.01; Lot 6

14-71 Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees and Professionals (Hagaman/Philobosian)

14-72 Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees and Professionals (K. Lifer/CFO)

14-73 Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees and Professionals (K. McCarthy/Treasurer)

14-74 Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees and Professionals (Laws/Temp DPW)

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Klingel, yes

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief McDonald previously submitted a report. He wished to congratulate Corporal Christopher Jones for being recognized in a statewide competition for his work with the DARE Program over a four year period. Corporal Jones received the New Jersey Elks State Runner-Up Enrique Camarena Award for 2013-2014.

K. McCarthy had nothing to report.

J. Rossi had nothing to report.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report. He requested Committee approval to extend the joint municipal paving agreement for an additional five years. The agreement includes Washington and Franklin Townships and Washington Borough. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve the extension of the paving agreement.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Klingel, yes

Mr. deBoer provided the Committee with a draft copy of a “no parking” ordinance for their review and introduction at the May meeting. A copy will be sent to Attorney Lavery’s office for his review.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, asked for clarification on Resolutions 14-72 and 14-73. Mayor Klingel and Mr. Kovacs explained the Acting CFO status and the Committee’s plan to appoint K. McCarthy as CFO upon his passing the State exam.

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Willan, to close the public portion of the meeting. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Klingel congratulated Corporal Jones for his recognition at the State level. Mayor Klingel read a letter from Roger Jinks, Superintendent of Schools, commending the work of Mr. deBoer, the DPW and the Police Department during this difficult winter.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Evan Howell to attend the Tax Collector/Tax Assessor Spring Conference in Atlantic City on May 20-22, 2014 in Atlantic City, NJ.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Klingel, yes

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mayor Klingel stated he and various department heads met with representatives from a business looking to come into the Township. The goal was to discuss their plans and minimize the time it takes businesses to complete the application process. Mayor Klingel received a request from a group asking to consider making the tennis court a pickleball court with a few minor changes. Mr. deBoer will look into this. Mayor Klingel stated the walls in the Parks & Recreation Building are empty and suggested the possibility of trophy shelves and a mural of the park painted by art students. The Committee was in agreement for Mayor Klingel to move forward on this. Mr. Kovacs feels the Township needs a long-range plan for use of that building.

There were no further reports from the Committee.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 14-76, 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 8:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Iacobucci, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

Attorney Lavery explained the Committee will be discussing an attorney/client privilege and litigation matter dealing with Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe, a litigation matter dealing with the Washington Shopping Center, personnel issues dealing with the Police Department and a contractual matter dealing with Unity Bank.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to come out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed personnel matters dealing with the Police Department. 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 Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Resolution 14-77, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (S. Pappalardo - Patrolman).

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 14-78, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (K. Hayes - Patrolman).

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Kovacs, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Resolution 14-79, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (B. Blake – Patrolman).

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Resolution 14-80, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (G. Magyar – Acting Sergeant).

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 14-81, 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 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery explained the Committee will be discussing an attorney/client privilege and litigation matter dealing with Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe, a pending litigation matter dealing with the Washington Shopping Center, and a contractual matter dealing with Unity Bank.

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Kovacs, to come out of Executive Session at 8:51 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed an attorney/client privilege and litigation matter dealing with Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe, a pending litigation matter dealing with the Washington Shopping Center, and a contractual matter dealing with Unity Bank. 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 Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Resolution 14-75, Release of Performance Guarantee – Unity Bank, Block 78; Lot 9. Mr. Lavery stated this is to release 85% of the performance guarantee monies held by the Township.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

Mr. deBoer stated he spoke to a representative of Elizabethtown Gas regarding the petition circulated in the Woodhouse Drive area. One mile of a natural gas line costs approximately \$250,000 and they would need to accommodate 175 homes to cover that cost. Residents are looking at a cost of \$8,000 - \$10,000 per home for the gas line. The representative from Elizabethtown Gas has spoken to the resident who started the petition.

Mayor Klingel stated the Economic Development Committee will meet this week to get a better understanding of what applicants have gone through during the approval process. They have invited business owners who have come into the Township within the past five years and are looking to find the strengths and weaknesses of the process as well as recommendations as to what can be done better. He will report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kilduff
Deputy Township Clerk