

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
November 17, 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 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

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

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Kilduff, Deputy Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator/Certified Public Works Manager; Attorney Katrina Campbell; Chief McDonald; Deputy Chief Cicerelle; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works; and Joseph Rossi, Construction Official

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held September 16, 2014.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Rossi, yes; Iacobucci, abstained; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 21, 2014.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Rossi, yes; Iacobucci, abstained; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held October 21, 2014.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Rossi, yes; Iacobucci, abstained; Klingel, yes

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to introduce Ordinance 14-09, Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Highlands Preservation Area Exemption Ordinance, on first reading.

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

Public hearing and adoption will take place at the December 16, 2014 meeting.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to introduce Ordinance 14-10, 2015 Salary Ordinance, on first reading. Mr. Willan and Mrs. Iacobucci discussed concerns with Mr. deBoer. Chief McDonald requested the SRO salary range be increased. Mr. Willan and Mr. Rossi withdrew their motions. Changes were made to the salary ranges for the CFO, Zoning Officer, and School Resource Officer positions.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to introduce Ordinance 14-10, 2015 Salary Ordinance, on first reading with the changes made by the Committee and Chief of Police.

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

Public hearing and adoption will take place at the December 16, 2014 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Resolutions 14-155 through and including 14-159.

14-155 Redemption Resolution – Block 78, Lot 10.01

14-156 Redemption Resolution – Block 78, Lot 3

14-157 Redemption Resolution – Block 3, Lot 13.03

14-158 Refund Resolution – Block 66, Lot 20.02

14-159 Refund Resolution – Block 65, Lot 3 C0324

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

K. McCarthy explained the need for Resolution 14-160. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Resolution 14-160, Transfer Resolution.

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief McDonald previously submitted a report. He commended his officers on several narcotics arrests. Another life was saved with the use of Narcan.

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

J. Rossi had nothing to report.

K. McCarthy spoke to the Township Auditor who will be providing him with guidelines to put checks and balances in place. They will meet in early 2015 to develop the plan.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Louellen Hofgesang, 18 Partridge Run, asked why the Township mows the grass along Kinnaman Avenue. J. Cooper and Mr. deBoer explained it is Township property and was part of the stipulation when the development was built. Attorney Campbell will review the paperwork.

Joann Harrison, 75 Springtown Road, was concerned with the traffic at the intersection of Route 31, Springtown Road and Broad Street. Chief McDonald noted those roads are State and County roads. He will have the area patrolled and will alert the Express Times and social media before stepping up enforcement. Mayor Klingel asked Mr. deBoer to contact the County and Department of Transportation to address the intersection.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Klingel explained the Committee previously discussed two options for an Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 59, Construction Code, Uniform Permits Article II Subsection 59-10.1: Municipal Certificate of Continued Occupancy for Abandoned/Vacant Properties, Unsafe Structure, Notice, Enforcement and Penalty. Mr. Willan stated some feel the Continued Certificate of Occupancy inspections are still important for safety reasons and suggests removing the fee. Mayor Klingel stated he is not in favor of the Township doing these inspections as new residents pay for these inspections as part of the home buying process. Mr. Rossi agreed. Mayor Klingel tabled this discussion until the December 16, 2014 meeting.

Mayor Klingel stated the discussion of the two resolutions pertaining to the digital tax maps will be discussed in 2015 pending the availability of funds.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to schedule the employees Holiday Luncheon for Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 12:00 noon at the Municipal Building. Mr. deBoer noted the luncheon is also open to volunteers of the various boards and committees and is paid for by those in attendance. There is no cost to the taxpayer.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Service Request for 4 Kayharts Lane. A lien will be placed on the property.

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

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mayor Klingel stated he attended the first meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee at the County level. The County will serve as the hub for towns with Economic Development Committees and is a way for towns to share information on buildings and properties. He feels this Committee will be beneficial to the Township's Economic Development Committee.

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; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 14-161, 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 8:12 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Campbell explained the Committee will be discussing various personnel matters, a contractual matter dealing with a shared service, a contractual matter dealing with the Police, an attorney/client privilege matter and a litigation matter.

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Iacobucci, to come out of Executive Session at 10:07 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Campbell stated the Committee discussed various personnel matters, a contractual matter dealing with a shared service, a contractual matter dealing with the Police, an attorney/client privilege matter and a litigation matter. 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 Willan, to post the job of Tax Assessor and the Uniform Code and Construction position on the website effective November 18, 2014 as discussed in Executive Session
ROLL CALL: Rossi, yes; Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Willan, to authorize the Township Administrator to write a letter to Green Acres regarding tree cutting on Township property.
ROLL CALL: Iacobucci, yes; Willan, yes; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to instruct Counsel to submit an OPRA request to the State for back-up documentation for 3rd Round COAH.
ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to approve the purchase of a police vehicle pending the availability of funds. Mr. Willan asked for clarification on purchasing the vehicle rather than leasing. Deputy Chief Cicerelle explained funds are available and that purchasing the vehicle is less expensive than leasing it. Mrs. Iacobucci asked how many cars are in the fleet and when are they up for renewal. Chief McDonald stated there are twenty cars and explained he will ask for two vehicles next year when two others come off of their lease. Patrol vehicles last approximately five years and are then used for job sites and School Resource Officers. Newer vehicles are used for patrol.
ROLL CALL: Rossi, yes; Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Klingel, yes

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kilduff
Deputy Township Clerk