

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2019

The Regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown was held in the Main Meeting Room in the Municipal Building.

PRESENT: Mayor Stephen Benowitz
Deputy Mayor Eugene Fuzy
Committeeman Eric Holliday
Committeeman James Kostoplis
Committeeman Ken Mason
Administrator Michael Theokas
Attorney Eileen Fahey
Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Elsasser
Deputy Township Clerk Cindy Dziura

ABSENT: None

Mayor Benowitz called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. and led a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

Deputy Township Clerk Dziura read the following Open Public Meeting Announcement:

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the following manner:

On January 7, 2019, advance written notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board opposite the main entrance to the meeting room in the Municipal Building; was emailed to the BURLINGTON COUNTY TIMES and THE TIMES; was filed with the Clerk of Bordentown Township; and was mailed to all persons who requested and paid for such notice.

The proceedings of this meeting, which are open to the public, are being electronically recorded and will act as the minutes of the meeting in conjunction with the abbreviated form of the minutes. Requisite minutes are kept for all meetings, whether open or closed to the public.

At this time, Deputy Mayor Fuzy made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown that it does hereby recess this Regular Meeting to meet in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing:

-- Potential Environmental Litigation

It is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Township Committee that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality; seconded by Committeeman Holliday.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

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The Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown recessed their regular meeting at approximately 7:03 pm and reconvened the regular meeting at approximately 7:30 pm.

Mayor's Proclamation recognizing Helen Elizabeth Roberts Campbell as an outstanding citizen and role model. At this time, Mayor Benowitz read the Proclamation into the record and presented it to Mrs. Campbell. Mrs. Campbell said a few words about her life, spoke about the Black History presentation at the high school, and then thanked everyone.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Deputy Clerk Dziura stated that an amended bill list dated February 25, 2019 was provided to the Township Committee members tonight at their places.

Budget Discussion – CFO & Administrator: Mayor Benowitz stated that the Budget presented this way is complete transparency. Administrator Theokas reviewed his memorandum dated February 25, 2019 regarding the 2019 Budget that he had sent to the Township Committee members. It is a summary of what will be proposed at the March 11, 2019 meeting. The timeline for the Budget would tentatively be March 11, 2019 for introduction and April 8 or April 22, 2019 for public hearing and adoption. A municipal tax increase of 1.7 cents per every \$100 of assessed value is being proposed. It is the first increase in 6 years.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #2019-78 entitled APPROVING THE TRANSACTION OF ITEMS OF ROUTINE BUSINESS: PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Resolution #2019-79 entitled APPROVING THE TRANSACTION OF ITEMS OF ROUTINE BUSINESS: MINUTES OF MEETINGS AND FILING OF REPORTS.

Resolution #2019-80 entitled AUTHORIZING REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES

Resolution #2019-81 entitled RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN AUTHORIZING REMITTANCE OF ESCROW BALANCE TO STATE OF NEW JERSEY UNCLAIMED PROPPROPERTY.

Resolution #2019-82 entitled CONTACT PERSON FOR THE EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY ATTORNEY CONSULTATION SERVICE -- BURLINGTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND.

Resolution #2019-83 entitled RESOLUTION TO APPOINT PART-TIME, PER DIEM ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER.

Township Committee review and discussion of Consent Agenda Items Resolutions #2019-78 through #2019-83. There were no questions/comments on the Consent Agenda.

At this time, Deputy Mayor Fuzy made a motion to open to the public the consent agenda items; seconded by Committeeman Mason.

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AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

SID MORGINSTIN, 849 East Drive: Mr. Morginstin asked how to contact the Township's Animal Control Officer. Mayor Benowitz responded, through the Police Dept.

Seeing no further comments, Committeeman Holliday made a motion to close to the public; seconded by Committeeman Mason.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

At this time, Committeeman Holliday made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

Public Hearing on Ordinance #2019-02 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 2008-23 REGARDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING FEES.

At this time, Committeeman Holliday made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2019-02; seconded by Deputy Mayor Fuzy.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

Seeing no public comment, Committeeman Holliday made a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance #2019-02; seconded by Deputy Mayor Fuzy.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance #2019-02 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 2008-23 REGARDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING FEES.

At this time, Committeeman Holliday made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2019-02; seconded by Deputy Mayor Fuzy.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

Public Hearing on Ordinance #2019-03 entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY; CANCELLING CERTAIN APPROPRIATION BALANCES IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$1,380,152.07 AND RE-APPROPRIATING A PORTION OF SAID FUNDS FOR OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND TRANSFERRING A PORTION OF SAID FUNDS TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

At this time, Committeeman Holliday made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2019-03; seconded by Deputy Mayor Fuzy.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

Seeing no public comment, Deputy Mayor Fuzy made a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance #2019-03; seconded by Committeeman Mason.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance #2019-03 entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY; CANCELLING CERTAIN APPROPRIATION BALANCES IN THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$1,380,152.07 AND RE-APPROPRIATING A PORTION OF SAID FUNDS FOR OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND TRANSFERRING A PORTION OF SAID FUNDS TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

At this time, Committeeman Mason made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2019-03; seconded by Committeeman Holliday.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

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NAY: None

Consideration of Introduction of Ordinance #2019-04 entitled CALENDAR YEAR 2019 “CAP” ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14).

At this time, Deputy Mayor Fuzy made a motion to introduce Ordinance #2019-04: seconded by Committeeman Mason.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

DEPUTY TOWNSHIP CLERK DZIURA: The public hearing will be March 11th.

ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS

Administrator Theokas said that on Friday, March 1, 2019 and Monday, March 4, 2019 the Public Works Department will be expanding the Construction Office.

The Township continues to perform storm sewer/water repairs and improvements in the Township. Fred Turek and he met with the Bordentown Cemetery Trustees regarding a drainage issue on Independence Drive and encouraged the cemetery to do some improvements to help the residents.

The Culvert repair project is beginning. They are working with School because of some of the bus stops in that area.

The Township had to lien a vacant property at 97 Dunns Mill Road. There is a leakage in the oil tank in the basement. The lien holder is not handling the problem so the Township had to clean it out. There may be an emergency appropriation needed at the next meeting because it is a health hazard. The Township will put a lien on the property.

There are a few small projects punchlist items that need to be completed, with some as soon as the weather breaks. The East Drive road paving project needs completion.

This is the last year of our garbage contract. Administrator Theokas said he is beginning the process now for new specifications. We are looking to possibly going to one-arm bandits.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, and Mayor Benowitz each gave their report.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: At this time, Committeeman Holliday made a motion to open the meeting for public participation; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

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SID MORGINSTIN, 849 East Drive: Mr. Morginstin asked about the no parking signs on Municipal Drive across from the Senior Community Center. Mayor Benowitz responded that an ordinance was passed because of the site plan approval for the new Wawa. The Township wanted to make sure large tractor trailers did not park there. It is also for safety reasons.

In regard to the Road Program, Mr. Morginstin said there are still a few issues: at the corner of Elm and East Drive and there are a couple of water main breaks. Administrator Theokas stated when weather breaks, punch list items will be addressed. The Township is also working with some of the residents to alleviate discharging sump pumps.

TOM SEAMAN, 18 Arlington Road: Mr. Seaman said he keeps reading about the State's reallocation of school funding. Mayor Benowitz responded that this pertains to the School District, and he suggested Mr. Seaman attend the next school board meeting to ask them.

LEN de GROOT, 8 Arlington Road: Mr. de Groot said he appreciated seeing the change of financial policy for the future. He congratulated and thanked Mr. Elsasser, Mr. Theokas, and the Township Committee for setting the standards and following the process for planning financially. We have a Road Program and now a Financial Program. The AA rating is only the start.

Seeing no further comments, Committeeman Holliday made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Deputy Mayor Fuzy.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

ADDITIONAL MATTERS: None

At this time, Deputy Mayor Fuzy made the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown that it does hereby adjourn the regular meeting; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis.

AYE: Committeeman Holliday, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Fuzy, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

The Regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

CYNTHIA DZIURA, RMC, DEP. TOWNSHIP CLERK