

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2020

DECEMBER 17, 2020

The Regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown was held virtually using Zoom due to the ongoing public health emergency.

PRESENT: Mayor Stephen Benowitz
Deputy Mayor Eric Holliday
Committeeman James Kostoplis
Committeeman Ken Mason
Administrator Michael Theokas
Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Elsasser
Clerk Maria Carrington
Attorney Eileen Fahey

ABSENT: Committeeman Eugene Fuzy

Mayor Benowitz called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call was taken by Township Clerk Carrington.

Resolution 2020-12-14 entitled RESOLUTION TO MEET IN CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION moved by Deputy Mayor Holliday and seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Bordentown that it does hereby exclude the public to meet in Closed Executive Session for the purpose of discussing:

- Personnel/Contract Negotiations
- Attorney/Client Privilege: Litigation/Affordable Housing

No formal action was taken during the closed session. The minutes of the closed session may be disclosed to the public when it is determined that the above matters no longer require confidentiality.

The meeting was reopened to the public at approximately 7:09 p.m. through a motion made by Deputy Mayor Holliday, seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye.

The meeting was then recessed until 7:30 p.m.

The Mayor led a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

Township Clerk Carrington read the following Open Public Meeting Announcement:

This special meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act. A notice of this meeting was sent to the *Burlington County Times* and *The Times* on December 15, 2020 and was subsequently published by the *Burlington County Times* in today's edition. The notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building's lobby and on the township website on December 15 and has remained continuously posted as required under the statute. In addition, a copy of the notice and tonight's agenda have been available to the public and are on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

Correspondence: None

Administrative Review: Based on the discussions held in tonight’s Executive Closed Session, the following two resolutions will be added to the consent agenda: Resolution #2020-298 entitled RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE STERLING PROPERTIES GROUP, LLC AS REDEVELOPER OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 140, LOT 19 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND ESCROW AGREEMENT WITH REDEVELOPER and Resolution #2020-299 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA DELAWARE VALLEY INC.

2021 Community Development Block Grant

Summary of Program and review of proposed project. Mayor Benowitz stated that the proposed CDBG project is to remove ADA barriers in Clifton Mill which will be in addition to the other road safety measures being taken in Clifton Mill. Administration Theokas stated that CDBG grant money is administered by the County. The proposed project is to remove ADA barriers and build ramps and crosswalks in the Clifton Mill development. The Township has had great success with similar projects in other areas of the Township such as Holloway Road and in Bossert Estates. The Township has been working with the Township Engineer Fred Turek on this project which will, as the Mayor stated, enhance the other pedestrian safety measures that have been installed in Clifton Mill.

Public Hearing. A motion to open the public hearing was made by Deputy Mayor Holliday; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye. There being no public comment, a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Holliday to close the public hearing; seconded by Committeeman Mason. Voice Vote: All Aye.

Consideration of Resolution #2020-281 entitled A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR A 2021 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR THE REMOVAL OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) BARRIERS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS WITHIN THE CLIFTON MILL DEVELOPMENT. A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Holliday to adopt Resolution #2020-281; seconded by Committeeman Mason. Roll Call Vote:

- AYE: Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz
- NAY: None

Consent Agenda:

Resolution #2020-282 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Resolution #2020-283 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) BALLISTIC SHIELD FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Resolution #2020-284 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN THROUGH THE BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE 1033 PROGRAM TO ENABLE THE BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST AND ACQUIRE EXCESS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT

Resolution #2020-285 entitled AUTHORIZING REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES

Resolution #2020-286 entitled RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN TO MEMORIALIZE ACCEPTANCE OF THE

RESIGNATION OF AMY SCHILLER AS A FULL-TIME EMT WITH THE EMS DEPARTMENT AND PLACEMENT ON THE PER DIEM EMT LIST

Resolution #2020-287 entitled RESOLUTION TO APPOINT PATRICK MORRISSEY AS A FULL-TIME EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

Resolution #2020-288 entitled RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN AND THE BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE SERGEANTS'S ASSOCIATION

Resolution #2020-289 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT

Resolution #2020-290 entitled RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR SAFETY & STABILIZATION FOR 237 ROUTE 130 CONVENIENCE, LLC (aka WAWA) BLOCK: 121 LOT: 5

Resolution #2020-291 entitled REFUND OF ESCROW BALANCES FOR DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR BORDENTOWN WATERFRONT COMMUNITY

Resolution #2020-292 entitled RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS FOR RIVERGATE URBAN RENEWAL COMPANY, LLC

Resolution #2020-293 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES FOR RABIES CLINIC

Resolution #2020-294 entitled RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM TUREK CONSULTING, LLC FOR WETLANDS SURVEY SERVICES FOR JOSEPH LAWRENCE PARK

Resolution #2020-295 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS

Resolution #2020-296 entitled RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION #2020-19 APPOINTING TOWNSHIP PROFESSIONALS FOR THE YEAR 2020

Resolution #2020-297 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: PAYMENT OF BILLS

Resolution #2020-298 entitled RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE STERLING PROPERTIES GROUP, LLC AS REDEVELOPER OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 140, LOT 19 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND ESCROW AGREEMENT WITH REDEVELOPER

Resolution #2020-299 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA DELAWARE VALLEY INC.

Township Committee review and discussion of Consent Agenda Items Resolutions #2020-282 through #2020-299: None.

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to open the Consent Agenda items for public comment; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All Aye. There was no public comment.

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz
NAY: None

Ordinances:

Ordinance #2020-24 entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN AMENDING THE AGWAY (GROWMARK)/YATES REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

Public Hearing: Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2020-24; seconded by Committeeman Mason. Voice Vote: All Aye. There was no public comment.

Adoption: Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2020-24; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeeman Mason, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz
NAY: None

Ordinance #2020-24 is adopted.

New Business: None.

COVID-19 Update:

The Mayor stated that the Township has had 374 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. The municipal building is closed to the public; however, the lobby is open and the staff is still working. All Township services are being provided. Pete Appelmann, the OEM Coordinator, is overseeing the Township operations and assuring the building is being cleaned and that PPE is available. Each morning temperatures are taken of all staff and coronavirus symptoms are screened. Guidelines are being followed as closely as possible. As of now, there is no schedule for the vaccine; however, it will most likely be administered through the Burlington County Department of Health. As soon as there is information on the availability of the vaccine, the Township will assure that is widely shared. Cases are going up everywhere. We need your help to mitigate the growth in the Township.

Administrator's Report:

Last night's snow was handled well by our Public Works department. We thank them for their work in plowing and salting our streets. Due to the snow, Zone 3 garbage was not picked up today but will be picked up tomorrow. Please be safe driving.

Work in our parks continues with the expansion of Joseph Lawrence Park and the Terry Field improvements. We are working with Chesterfield Township regarding the ingress and egress to the JLP expansion area onto Hogback Road.

Habitat for Humanity was awarded over \$2 million in State Affordable Housing Trust funds for the construction of 10 owner-occupied homes to be built on Crosswicks Road.

On tonight’s Consent Agenda, the Committee appointed a new full-time EMT. We welcome Patrick Morrissey. Also on the Consent Agenda, the Committee accepted the resignation of another full-time EMT. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

We have been using Zoom for a while now, but on Monday night we faced our first significant challenges. As a result, we needed to reschedule that meeting to tonight. We apologize for the inconvenience and are pleased that you were able to join us tonight.

If you celebrate, please have a merry and safe Christmas!

Township Committee Liaison Reports

Committeeman Kostoplis, Deputy Mayor Holliday and Mayor Benowitz gave reports.

Public Participation

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to open the meeting for public participation; seconded by Committeeman Mason. Voice Vote: All aye.

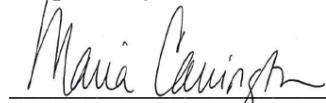
ANEKA MILLER, 98 MEADOW RUN ROAD: Ms. Miller asked about the increase of over 130 Covid-19 cases since November 23 and whether there were any deaths in that time. Administrator Theokas reported that sadly there have been two or three deaths in the last month from the Township; however, we do not have any additional details. Ms. Miller also asked whether the three suicides mentioned in Deputy Mayor’s Police liaison report could be attributed to depression from the pandemic. Deputy Mayor Holliday replied that he understood the deaths to be due to overdoses and that we just don’t know if they are related to Covid.

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Committeeman Mason. Voice Vote: All aye.

As a final comment, Mayor Benowitz extended wishes for a Merry Christmas and a joyous Kwanzaa. He hoped that everyone had a Happy Hanukkah. May we all enjoy a happy and healthy new year!

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:04 p.m.; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote: All aye.

Respectfully Submitted,



MARIA CARRINGTON, TOWNSHIP CLERK