

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 26, 2021

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 Eugene Fuzy  
Committeeman James Kostoplis  
Committeewoman Aneka Miller  
Administrator Michael Theokas  
Deputy Clerk Cindy Dziura  
Attorney Eileen Fahey  
CFO/Tax Collector Laurie Finger

ABSENT: Clerk Maria Carrington

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

Roll Call was taken by Deputy Township Clerk Dziura.

**Resolution 2021-4-26 entitled RESOLUTION TO MEET IN CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION** moved by Committeeman Fuzy and seconded by Committeewoman Miller. Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

The closed session was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. through a motion made by Committeewoman Miller, seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Voice Vote – Motion Carried. The meeting was reopened to the public at 7:30 p.m.

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

Deputy Clerk Dziura read the following Open Public Meeting Announcement:

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act. Adequate and electronic notice of this meeting was provided. The notice of the 2021 meeting schedule was sent to the *Burlington County Times* and *The Times* on January 5, 2021 and subsequently published by the *Burlington County Times* on January 8, 2021. The notice has been, and remains, posted on the Township website and the bulletin boards in the Municipal Building. A copy of the notice is also on file in the Township Clerk's office to be made available to the public upon request. The proceedings of this meeting are being electronically recorded

**Correspondence:** None.

**Administrative Review:** Deputy Clerk Dziura announced that there were no changes or additions to the Agenda.

**Resolution #2021-108 entitled RESOLUTION TO READ BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY**

Committeewoman Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution #2021-108; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeewoman Miller, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

**2021 Municipal Budget**

Administrator Michael Theokas said there have been numerous discussions on the budget and the Township’s Auditor’s attended the last meeting. He then gave a Power Point presentation on the Budget. The Municipal Tax Rate has remained flat for 2021.

**Public Hearing on 2021 Municipal Budget:** Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to open the public hearing on the 2021 Municipal Budget; seconded by Committeewoman Miller. Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

There being no public comment, Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to close the public hearing; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to adopt Resolution #2021-109; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeewoman Miller, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

**Consent Agenda:**

**Resolution #2021-110 entitled ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BORDENTOWN**

**Resolution #2021-111 entitled SUSPENDING COLLECTION OF BUSINESS LICENSE FEES FOR THE 2021-2022 LICENSING YEAR**

**Resolution #2021-112 entitled RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE TOWNSHIP-OWNED CROSSWICKS ROAD PROPERTIES**

**Resolution #2021-113 entitled AUTHORIZING REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES**

**Resolution #2021-114 entitled AUTHORIZING REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES**

**Resolution #2021-115 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: FILING OF REPORTS**

**Resolution #2021-116 entitled APPROVING ROUTINE BUSINESS: PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Township Committee review and discussion of Consent Agenda Items Resolutions #2021-110 through #2021-116.

Committeewoman Miller made a motion to open the Consent Agenda items for public comment; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Voice Vote – Motion Carried. There being no public comment, Committeewoman Miller made a motion to close the Consent Agenda to public comment; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda consisting of Resolutions #2021-110 through #2021-116; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeewoman Miller, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

**Ordinance #2021-4 entitled ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6.12 “CATS” OF THE BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE**

Animal Control Officer Nicole Bencivengo gave a brief description on why this ordinance was created.

*Public Hearing:* Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2021-4; seconded by Deputy Mayor Holliday. Voice Vote – Motion Carried. There was no public comment. A motion was made by Committeeman Fuzy to close the public hearing; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

*Adoption:* Committeeman Fuzy made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2021-4; seconded by Committeewoman Miller. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeewoman Miller, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

Ordinance #2021-4 was adopted.

**Ordinance #2021-5 entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #2020-03 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH TITLES AND SALARY RANGES FOR PERMANENT AND PROVISIONAL EMPLOYEES**

Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to introduce Ordinance #2021-5: seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeewoman Miller, Deputy Mayor Holliday, Mayor Benowitz

NAY: None

The Public Hearing on Ordinance #2021-5 will be held at the May 10, 2021 Regular Meeting.

**Business:**

- a. The (new) JLP Soccer Fields will be dedicated to Marc Gutterson on May 22, 2021. Bordentown Soccer supports the dedication. A ribbon cutting will be held next year when the fields are playable.
- b. Mayor Benowitz was contacted by residents regarding easements adjacent to their properties. Administrator Theokas explained the purpose of easements. It has been the Township’s policy not to allow construction in drainage easements, although some municipalities allow it. The Township Committee asked Administrator Theokas to contact the Township Engineer and the Public Works Director for more information.

**Administrator’s Report:**

Administrator Theokas stated that help was received from Senator Singleton’s office on obtaining additional directional signage on Route 295 to assist the exiting truck traffic. The NJ Department of Transportation responded, and new signs will be erected to keep truck traffic off of Route 130 and Farnsworth Avenue. He thanked both NJ DOT and Senator Singleton’s office.

In regard to recent discussions on sidewalks and trees, he received an email from one of the residents regarding the residents' concerns. Administrator Theokas will be setting up a meeting with them, and will keep the Township Committee members updated.

Administrator Theokas thanked Deputy Clerk Dziura for filling in while Township Clerk Carrington was on vacation.

**Township Committee Liaison Reports**

Committeeman Fuzy, Committeeman Kostoplis, Committeewoman Miller, Deputy Mayor Holliday and Mayor Benowitz gave reports.

**Public Participation**

Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to open the meeting for public participation; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

Seeing no comments from the public, Committeeman Kostoplis made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Committeeman Fuzy. Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

**Final Comments from Township Committee:** None

Deputy Mayor Holliday made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM; seconded by Committeeman Kostoplis. Voice Vote – Motion Carried.

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CYNTHIA DZIURA, DEPUTY TOWNSHIP CLERK