

**Township of Washington  
Gloucester County  
Council Meeting Minutes  
February 24, 2016  
7:00 P.M.**

Council President Sean Longfellow called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. in the Council Room located at 523 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell, New Jersey. Mr. Longfellow delivered the Sunshine notice and the safety awareness notices. The flag salute followed.

Township Clerk Jill McCrea took a roll call vote. Councilmembers Fazzio, Donato, Martin, and Longfellow were present. Business Administrator Smith and Township Attorney Joe Alacqua were also present. Mr. Newman was absent.

**Presentation:**

Mayor Wallace delivered the State of the Township Address (attached).

**Approval of Bill List:**

Ms. Donato motioned to approve the bill list of February 24, 2016. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Fazzio abstained on Fazzio bills and Mrs. Martin abstained on Capehart and Scatchard bills. All other bills were unanimously approved.

**Approval of minutes:**

Ms. Donato motioned to approve the minutes of February 10, 2016. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**ORDINANCES:**

9 – 2016: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 10 - 2015 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY WHICH GOVERNS THE MAINTENANCE OF VACANT AND DEFAULTED MORTGAGE PROPERTIES AND ESTABLISHED REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS AND A REGISTRATION FEE FOR OWNERS

Mrs. Martin moved Ordinance 9 – 2016 for the first reading. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

6 – 2016: ORDINANCE PROHIBITING HIRING OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND PROHIBITING TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES FROM WORKING UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

Mr. Fazzio motioned to open the public hearing for Ordinance 6 - 2016. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion. Mr. Fazzio motioned to close the public hearing. Ms. Donato seconded the motion. Ms. Donato motioned to eliminate "cousins" in section 1a of the ordinance. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Mr. Longfellow motioned to table the ordinance until the next meeting. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

7 – 2016: ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION TO BE ENTITLED DEFENSE AND INDEMNIFICATION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES AS PERMITTED BY N.J.S.A 59:0-4 ET SEQ

Ms. Donato motioned to open the public hearing for Ordinance 7 - 2016. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion. Mr. Fazzio motioned to close the public hearing. Ms. Donato seconded the motion. Ms. Donato moved Ordinance 7 – 2016. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

8 – 2016: ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

Ms. Donato motioned to open the public hearing for Ordinance 8 - 2016. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion. Joe Fernicola asked why just a few employee salaries were being frozen. Mr. Longfellow explained that the salaries listed on this ordinance are the only ones Council has control over as per the Faulkner Act. Ms. Donato added the Council has control of the range. Mr. Fernicola also expressed his dissatisfaction with the school taxes. Mrs. Martin motioned to close the public hearing. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion. Mrs. Martin moved to table Ordinance 8 – 2016 until the annual budget passes. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion. Mr. Smith explained the statute is very clear that the salary ordinance should be passed immediately after reorganization and tabling could be an auditing issue. Mrs. Martin said it has been past practice to adopt later in the year. Mr. Alacqua said the ordinance could be amended anytime later in the year. The motion failed with three (3) no votes. Mrs. Martin voted yes. Mrs. Donato moved Ordinance 8 – 2016 for final adoption. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fazzio. The motion passed with three (3) yes votes. Mrs. Martin originally voted yes but amended her vote to no.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

R40: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON AND THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROAD ROCK SALT

Ms. Donato moved Resolution 40 – 2016. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

R41: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION

Mrs. Martin moved Resolution 41 – 2016. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

R42: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS

Mr. Fazzio moved Resolutions 42 – 2016. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

R43: RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES

Ms. Donato moved Resolution 43 – 2016. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

R44: RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN 12 LAKEVIEW LANE, BLOCK 82.57 LOT 5

Mr. Fazzio moved Resolutions 44 – 2016. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

R46: RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT TO FOR STABLE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Donato moved Resolutions 46 – 2016. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

## **APPROVALS:**

- Mr. Fazio motioned to approve the message licenses for 2016. Mr. Longfellow seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
  - Hand and Stone 3501 Route 42 #140
  - Virtua Spa 239 Hurffville-Cross Keys
  - Weis Day Spa Road
  - Best Oriental Spa, 273 Egg Harbor Road
  - Inc. 110 Greentree Road
  - Global Ruby Spa 3101 Rt 42 Unit #8
  
- Mr. Fazio motioned to approve the Social Affair Permit for the Church of the Holy Family's event being held on May 15, 2016. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:**

Council had no new or old business to discuss.

## **REPORTS:**

Mr. Fazio reported the Library and Friends of the Library will be celebrating the Margaret Heggan Library's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Mrs. Martin motioned to open the meeting for public participation. Mr. Fazio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Karen Geaneotes, 4 Wiltshire Drive, inquired about how much time off Township employees received as terms of their employment. Mr. Smith explained that it was contractual. Joe Fernicola, 14 Goodwin Parkway, asked if the Township was being held hostage by the unions. He argued in favor of wage freezes for all employees. He also asked about business development in the Township. William Schuck, 910 Acadia, asked where the Township stores the rock salt that was being purchased. Mr. Smith informed Mr. Schuck that there was a salt barn on McClure Drive. He asked what the salary ordinance was for. Mr. Longfellow explained what the purpose of the ordinance was to set the salary range of certain employees in the Township.

## **R45: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Ms. Donato moved Resolutions 45 – 2016. Mr. Fazio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The Council left the dais at 7:47 P.M. for the closed session and returned at 8:13 P.M. Ms. Donato motioned to reopen the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fazio, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Fazio motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Donato, which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jill S. McCrea*

Jill S. McCrea

*State of the Township – Mayor Barbara Wallace*

*Good evening Council President Longfellow, members of Council, Township employees and all who have joined us tonight. Our form of government requires that the mayor annually report on the state of the Township. As your Mayor, I am proud to report that the strength and leadership of my team, working together, met, conquered and resolved many challenges in 2015. I would like to recognize and thank our department heads, support staff and all of our employees for their service and commitment to Washington Township.*

*Retired Fire Chief, John Hoffman, reported that the Washington Township Fire Department closed out 2015 with an emergency response run total of 1398 emergency responses or about 6% more than in 2014. I would like to take this time to recognize Chief Hoffman and thank him for his 17 ½ years of service to the Township and wish him much happiness in his recent retirement. I would also like to recognize and thank our Police Chief Rafael Muniz and our police department for their efforts to protect our residents and provide several community programs that benefit Township residents.*

*Let me also thank members of our Township boards and Commissions for their volunteerism and commitment to help make the Township a place we can be proud to call home. The boards and Commissions provide the Administration with an annual report each year. I am proud to highlight some of the many positive accomplishments made by the boards and Commissions in 2015.*

*The Environmental Commission, chaired by Leon Lakritz, has been particularly busy in 2015. They have kept the administration informed and provided sound advice through several challenging events, such as the macro burst storm we experienced in June. They held several resident informational meetings to address environmental concerns that occurred, not only with this storm, but throughout other events the Township has experienced. The Environmental Commission continues with their very popular and important events: earth day celebration and Clean-up Day. 2015 marked the 25th year for our Earth Day celebration and Clean-up day brought out more than 300 volunteers focusing on parks, roadsides, open space and other public areas.*

*The Open Space Committee, also chaired by Leon Lakritz, continues its reforestation efforts in our open spaces. They also work closely with the Washington Township Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts on projects to beautify our parks. I am proud of the work these young people have done with Eagle Scout way and a butterfly garden. They rehabilitated a trail and created a picnic area with tables and benches. I hope you will all visit these areas in our beautiful Washington lake park. A very talented student from Rowan University, Devin Walker, assisted the Open Space Committee with her project to utilize GPS to properly map all of the trails in Washington Lake Park, as well as the park's boundaries.*

*The Historic Preservation Commission, chaired by Nicholas Appice, continues to provide many activities at the Olde Stone House Village and has provided some of the history of Washington Township into our schools to share with the students. Please check the schedule of programs and activities sponsored by this very active Commission on the Township web site. The Commission is always looking for interested volunteers to join them in their work to preserve the Olde Stone House Village.*

*The Family and Community Services/Municipal Alliance Committee, chaired by Don Keller and Gloria Goode, work closely with our schools and many volunteers to provide prevention programs, referral services and food and clothes drives to assist Township residents in need.*

*I would like to thank the Washington Township Rotary Club for their continued sponsorship and support of Mother's Cupboard food bank. This program is coordinated and managed by Drew Jackson and many volunteers. The Zoning Board has reported that 30 applications were reviewed and adopted, by resolution.*

*The Library Board of Trustees, chaired by Joanne Robertson, has had a very successful year. I encourage residents to visit the library to see the many improvements to the library under the direction of Sheila Mikkelson and supported by the board and the Friends of the Library. The Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library celebrates its 50th year anniversary and will have special events during the months of March, April and May. Please check out the schedule of anniversary events on the Township web site.*

*I also encourage all residents to visit the Township web site to read all of the boards and Commissions reports in their entirety. Speaking of our web site, in our efforts to improve services to residents, we are in the final stage of launching a new web site for the Township. The web site will be more user-friendly and efficient for all residents. In addition to all of the important information residents can find on our current web site, the new web site will have an e-pay component where residents will be able to renew licenses and pay parks and recreation fees. The web site is nearly completed and expected to be launched at the end of March.*

*I am happy to report that the capital road plan is moving ahead. To date we have improved over 75 Township roads including 19 roads that were completed in 2015. We have also worked with the County to make improvements to Egg Harbor Road, Greentree Road and Ganttown Road.*

*While there have been some bumps along the way, we have been able to witness great improvement in our roads and infrastructure. I recognize with appreciation our Engineer Annina Hogan and Planner Jay Petrongolo. They are very responsive and work diligently with the Township.*

*In our efforts to better serve Township residents, my administration and council representatives meet bi-monthly with the superintendent of schools and school board representatives, to discuss cost savings measures through shared services. I am proud of the working relationship we have developed with the school district. For example, during the June storm clean-up, we entered in a shared services contract with the district for equipment and labor, which saved taxpayers thousands of dollars. I want to thank Superintendent Joe Bollendorf and the School Board for continuing to work with us to provide our residents efficient and cost effective service.*

*Consistent with the goals and recommendations of my 2012 task force on business and economic development, we continue to work in close support of our business community. Our office of business and economic development continues to meet with prospective new businesses, including representatives of national and regional tenants that desire to make Washington Township their home. We continue to encourage new businesses to come to the Township and have found success with this outreach.*

*Republic Bank, Audi Dealership, and Rothman Institute are just a few of new businesses coming to Washington Township. After years of the Watson Turkey site being vacated and abandoned, we are negotiating with a developer for the acquisition, demolition and remediation of the site. We have taken positive steps toward improving the business climate in the Township and I am proud of the work we have accomplished. There is still more work to be done and I am pleased that Council has reestablished our Economic Development Advisory Board to help on this front. My administration looks forward to working closely with the board. We are excited about the impending merger of Kennedy and Jefferson hospitals. The Township continues to grow as the medical/healthcare hub of South Jersey.*

*It is a privilege and honor to serve as your mayor and I will continue to work hard for all of the residents of Washington Township. I want to again thank my team – department directors, staff and all of the volunteers who dedicate themselves to the betterment of Washington Township. I hope that you will continue to embrace us with your patience and support as we continue to move our Township forward.*