

**Township of Washington
Gloucester County
Council Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

Council President Sean Longfellow called the meeting to order at 7:01 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, Newman, Fazzio, Martin, Donato, and Longfellow were present. Business Administrator Bob Smith and Township Attorney Joe Alacqua were also present. Mayor Barbara Wallace was absent.

PRESENTATION:

Open Space Committee and Environmental Commission members Leon Lakritz and Vicki Binetti presented the Community Garden that was recently established at Washington Lake Park. The garden was created by Rowan University Students in conjunction with the Open Space Committee and Environmental Commission.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST:

Mrs. Martin motioned to approve the June 8, 2016 bill list. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion. All bills were unanimously approved, with the exception of Mr. Fazzio on Fazzio bills.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Fazzio moved the May 25, 2016 minutes. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried with four (4) yes votes. Mr. Newman abstained.

2016 BUDGET:

Mrs. Martin motioned to open the meeting for a public hearing on the 2016 Municipal Budget. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Joe Fernicola, 14 Goodwin Parkway, inquired about the 2015 Financial Debt Statement. He questioned the mortgage the Township held for County House Village and felt strongly that foot notes should be included on this statement to make it clearer to the reader. Mr. Smith and CFO Jim D'Auria explained the mortgage was part of COAH obligations worked out in the 1990's and footnotes were included on the Financial Debt Statement. Dave Rimby, 47 East Holly Avenue, stated he was a CPA and opined that the Township auditor show use a different accounting system. He also felt strongly about the inclusion of footnotes on the Financial Debt Statement. Mr. Smith explained the surplus accrued over the past few years that resulted in an elevated Moody's rating. Mrs. Martin motioned to close the public hearing. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

R81 – 2016: RESOLUTION FOR SELF-EXAMINATION OF BUDGET

R82 – 2016: RESOLUTION TO AMEND BUDGET

R83 – 2016: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mrs. Martin moved Resolutions 81 through 83 – 2016. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCES:

O16 – 2016: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 260 SECTION 214 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO RESTRICT PARKING AND INSTALL THE APPROPRIATE NO PARKING SIGNS ON CERTAIN SECTIONS OF HERITAGE VALLEY DRIVE

Mrs. Martin moved Ordinance 16 – 2016 for first reading. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

O15 – 2016: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 178 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO FULLY CONFORM TO THE PAY TO PLAY PROVISIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY AS N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 ET SEQ

Mrs. Martin motioned to open the public hearing for Ordinance 16 - 2016. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion. Mrs. Martin motioned to close the public hearing. Ms. Donato seconded the motion. Mrs. Martin moved Ordinance 15 – 2016. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTIONS:

R84 – 2016: RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR THOMAS BAKER, A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN

R85 – 2016: REFUNDING TAX OVERPAYMENTS

Mrs. Martin moved Resolutions 84 and 85 – 2016. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

APPROVALS:

Ms. Donato motioned to approve the WLP Wine Festival Large Gathering Event June 25 & 26, 2016. Mr. Newman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS /NEW BUSINESS: There was no old or new business discussed.

REPORTS:

Mr. Newman congratulated the W.T.H.S Class of 2016. Mr. Fazzio reported there will be community yard sale at the Olde Stone Village on Saturday, June 11, 2016.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mrs. Martin motioned to open the meeting for public participation. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Dacia Haddad, 29 White Pine Drive urged officials to work on installing more sidewalks throughout the Township, especially on roads leading to parks and sports complexes. Mr. Smith explained the Sidewalk Fund would only be able to cover a fraction of the cost to pave desired areas. Township Engineer Annina Hogan said she would meet with Ms. Haddad to identify the areas in need and would attempt to capture grants for improvements. Vicki Binetti, 50 Berkshire Drive, member of the Environmental Commission, the Open Space Commission, and Sustainable New Jersey discussed a sidewalk audit that will be done by the Sustainable New Jersey Committee, which will guide them to apply for appropriate grants. Mr. Fazzio motioned to close the public portion. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

R86 – 2016: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Martin moved Resolution 86 – 2016. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The Councilmembers exited the dais at 7:50 and returned at 7:59 P.M

ADJOURN

Mrs. Martin motioned to adjourn. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Councilmembers present. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill S. McCrea
Township Clerk