

**Township of Washington
Gloucester County
Council Meeting Minutes
June 22, 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, Martin, Donato, and Longfellow were present. Business Administrator Bob Smith and Township Attorney Joe Alacqua were also present. Councilman Fazzio and Mayor Barbara Wallace were absent.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST:

Ms. Donato motioned to approve the June 22, 2016 bill list. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion. All bills were unanimously approved, with the exception of Mrs. Martin's abstention on Capehart & Scatchard bills.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Donato moved the June 8, 2016 minutes. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members present.

ORDINANCES:

O17 - 2016: FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE

Mrs. Martin moved Ordinance 17 - 2016 for first reading. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members present.

O12 - 2016: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED EXPENSES IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP, APPROPRIATING \$6,200,000 THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,890,000 IN GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE SAME

Ms. Donato motioned to open the public hearing for Ordinance 12 - 2016. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion. Mrs. Martin motioned to close the public hearing. Ms. Donato seconded the motion. Mrs. Martin moved Ordinance 12 - 2016. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members present.

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

Ms. Donato motioned to open the public hearing for Ordinance 16 - 2016. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion. Mrs. Martin motioned to close the public hearing. Ms. Donato seconded the motion. Mrs. Martin moved Ordinance 16 - 2016. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members present.

RESOLUTIONS:

R87: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT RENEWING MEMBERSHIP IN THE GLOUCESTER, SALEM, CUMBERLAND COUNTIES MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

R88: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL LICENSES

R89: RESOLUTION RELEASING OF MAINTENANCE BOND FOR SMYLE, LLC LOCATED AT 564 HURFFVILLE-CROSS KEYS ROAD

R90: RESOLUTION THE RELEASING OF MAINTENANCE BOND FOR STONEY BROOK COURT LOCATED AT 360 JOHNSON ROAD

R91: RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A LIEN ON REAL PROPERTY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR MAINTENANCE WORK PERFORMED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R92: RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT FOR SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2016 AND ENDING JULY 31, 2021

R93: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH VARIOUS KENNEDY HEALTH SYSTEM RELATED ENTITIES TO PROVIDE FOR A CONTRIBUTION TO WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FOR BENEFITS RECEIVED BY KENNEDY AND TO AFFIRM THE TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF THE SUBJECT KENNEDY PROPERTIES BY THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION

Ms. Donato moved Resolutions 87 through 93 – 2016. Mr. Newman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members present.

APPROVALS:

Ms. Donato motioned to approve the Social Affair Permit for the Greenwood Park Bells Lake Swim Club's event being held on September 10, 2016. Mr. Newman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Donato inquired about progress on Chapel Heights speed study. Mr. Smith contacted Police Chief Muniz, who confirmed a study was conducted.

NEW BUSINESS: None

REPORTS: Ms. Donato reported the 4th of July Fireworks Celebration will be held on July 3, 2016. Mike Jones will sing the National Anthem and Boy Scouts will be collecting old flags. Ms. Donato announced the Wine Festival in Washington Lake Park for June 25th & 26th. She also reported the flag raising at Bells School held by the Veterans, who donated the flag.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mrs. Martin motioned to open the meeting for public participation. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Representatives from Gold Medal Waste Disposal thanked the Council for the five-year contract that awarded. Tim Hunt, T's Original BBQ, requested the Council to consider an ordinance to allow food vendors to operate in Washington Township. Joe Fernicola, 14 Goodwin Parkway, requested a meet the candidates event. He said he appreciated the repaving on Goodwin Parkway, but claimed the repair has resulted in a speeding problem. Ann Hasting, 106 Dorado Avenue, asked the Council to not have Shoppers Lane paved. Mr. Newman motioned to close the public portion. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

013 – 2016: ORDINANCE RESTRICTING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS FROM PET SHOPS

Mr. Longfellow announced the public hearing continuation for Ordinance 13 – 2016. He instructed participants to be respectful and not repetitive during their limited five (5) minute comment turn. Ms. Donato motioned to continue the public hearing. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Beverly Monte, 40 Cricket Lane, said she purchased a dog at the Puppy Stop after her dog was killed by a shelter dog. She is very happy with and believed residents should be able to purchase dogs where they want to. Erika Gardner, 127 Heritage Avenue, Maple Shade, (opposed to the sale of dogs) said the issue was not the breed of dogs, but the health and conditions of where they are raised. Anthony Paparella, 66

Heather Road, stated his opposition to this ordinance, adding that Mark Harnish (owner of the Puppy Stop) was a great person with a clean store. Diane Veteri, 637 5th Avenue, Lidenwold, explained that the dogs that are breed do not receive proper veterinarian care and the puppies are taken before they are of appropriate age. She cited problems with dogs that are inbred at puppy mills, including epilepsy, mental problems, and multiple sex organs. Roger Sadmont, the Clusters, referenced the movie Babe as an example of what a puppy farm should look like. He said that Cherry Hill passed laws to phase out pet shops and there are plenty of healthy dogs available for adoption. Mark Harnish, owner of Puppy Stop, clarified that pet storeowners are forbidden to buy puppies that are from a breeder that is not USDA certified. When he receives the dogs from the breeders, they are well taken care of and are examined and vaccinated by a veterinarian. He added that he can't guarantee good health, but he does have a fourteen-day refund policy if the dog has a contagious disease. Mr. Longfellow asked Mr. Harnish if he would sell rescue dogs if this ordinance were to be adopted. Mr. Harnish said he would. Maureen Koplord, Deptford, read a prepared statement claiming high volume breeders are animal exploiters; and clean puppy mills over breed as the animals are highly demanded merchandise. Edwin Sayers, Saraota, Florida, Senior Advisor for the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council and former President of the ASPCA, read and distributed a prepared statement to the Council. He provided his credentials and experience with animal welfare organizations. He believed there was no evidence that pet sale bans is a strategy that would help eliminate unlicensed, substandard large-scale dog breeders. Rather, there is ample evidence that bans expand the market for puppy mill operators and compromise the ability of prospective dog owners to acquire a responsibly bred puppy or dog that best matches their lifestyle. Alan Braslow, Cherry Hill, provided his background with animal rescue organizations. He went over the process of transitioning pet stores to rescue only; offering to help the Puppy Stop to transition should Ordinance 13 - 2016 pass. He added the rescue only stores in Cherry Hill have saved over 800 dogs. Jenna Jensen, Humane Society of the U.S., said a study published concluded pet store puppies were more likely to exhibit behavioral problems than other dogs and stated her support of Ordinance 13 - 2016. Dr. Nancy Halpern, Esq., attorney representing the Puppy Stop, urged Council to vote no. Dr. Halpern discussed retail rescues operations that are profitable and sell dogs that have behavioral problems. Amy Jesse, Humane Society of the U.S., said there were many in New Jersey to purchase a dog of your choice that welcomes visits to the breeding premises and screens potential owners. Laws such as Ordinance 13 - 2016 do not harm responsible breeders. Mrs. Martin motioned to close the public portion. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Mrs. Martin moved to amend the effective date (in order to give the Puppy Stop time to change their business model) of the ordinance to thirty (120) days after final passage by Council or twenty (110) days after approval by the Mayor, whichever comes first. Ms. Donato seconded the motion to change Section 4. The motion was unanimously approved by Councilmembers present. Mrs. Martin moved Ordinance 13 -2016. The motion was seconded by Ms. Donato. Mr. Longfellow said he appreciated discussions with those on both sides of this issue, however he does not believe that dogs are products that should suffer for the purpose of companionship. Ms. Donato stated she is not interested in seeing a business close and hoped Mr. Harnish would seek the assistance offered by others at the meeting to transition his business to a rescue model. A roll call vote was taken. Ordinance 13 - 2016 was unanimously approved by Councilmembers present.

ADJOURN

Mr. Newman motioned to adjourn. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Councilmembers present. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill S. McCrea
Township Clerk