

Township of Washington
Council Meeting
May 11, 2011
Washington Township Municipal Building
7:00 P.M.

Council President Del Borrello called the meeting to order. He asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Council President Del Borrello delivered the Sunshine Law and the awareness for the town.

Roll Call: Mr. Newman – present, Mr. MacDowell – present, Mr. D’Orazio – present, Mr. Morley – present, Mr. Del Borrello – present, Mr. Chell – present, Mrs. Breslin – present, Mayor Lyons – present, and Mrs. Bileci– present

ORDINANCE #9-2011: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING A CHAPTER OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, CHAPTER 260-VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

First Reading

Mr. Del Borrello read and explained the Ordinance.

Motion to Move Ordinance #9-2011: Mr. Newman, 2nd Mr. Morley

Roll Call 5 yes votes

ORDINANCE #10-2011: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR TAX ABATEMENT WITH GIRALDA PROPERTIES FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 115.01, LOT 27

First Reading

Mr. Del Borrello read and explained Ordinance.

Motion to Move Ordinance #10-2011: Mr. Morley, 2nd Mr. Del Borrello

Roll Call 3 yes votes, 2 no – Mr. Newman, Mr. MacDowell

RESOLUTION #53-2011: RESOLUTION INTRODUCING THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Public Hearing

Mr. Del Borello read the Resolution.

Motion to open: Mr. Newman, 2nd Mr. MacDowell

All in Favor: 5 yes

Mr. Newman made a motion to accept the \$220,163.00 from the MUA to be inserted into the budget as a revenue to add this money back into the police salary and wage line item for the 2011 budget.

Mr. MacDowell seconded the motion.

Roll Call: 2 yes, Mr. Newman, Mr. MacDowell.

Councilman D'Orazio explained that we have an obligation to the police as well as the public to keep them safe especially the business people. He explained that the intention was good, but was not approached the right way. He apologized for not asking the police to defer their sick time buy back.

He asked to make a motion to before the money is accepted to restore the line item.

Mayor Lyons made a point of order to Council President explaining that there was a motion and a second, and that once a roll begins it is inappropriate to debate the matter since 2 members have already voted, and the members lose their ability to have the wisdom that has just been put on the record. Once the roll call starts, the debate needs to be ended.

Mr. D'Orazio asked Mr. Chell for clarity. Mr. Chell explained that there has been a motion, second and a roll call. He explained if there is a question on the motion, the time for it to be discussed is before the roll call.

Mr. D'Orazio asked that with the money coming in with strings attached to a line item that doesn't exist, he asked if it was legal to accept the money?

Mayor Lyons stated, that everyone at the last Council meeting agreed to seek the money under those conditions.

Mr. Chell stated that there is currently a motion and a call for roll in order.

Mr. D'Orazio stated that he would like to make sure it is legal on what he is about to vote on. Mr. Chell stated that he did not feel that it is an appropriate question midway thru the roll call. He explained that it needed to be asked when there was a motion and a second.

Mr. Del Borrello apologized for not asking for discussion prior to the roll call.

Roll Call: 4 yes, 1 no- Mr. D'Orazio.

Mr. Newman made a motion to add back the \$135,041.00 in the appropriate salary and wage line item for clerical, non-union, public works and supervisors.

Mr. MacDowell seconded the motion.

Council President explained that there are still discussions with the MUA, and asked for more time to discuss with the MUA another possible transfer of funds.

Mr. Newman stated that we need to act now before it impacts anymore jobs. He explained that we need to provide services to the taxpayers.

With this line item being restored, Councilman Newman stated, with confirmation from the Business Administrator that it will put us at 2.1 -2.2 cent tax increase which equates to roughly twenty nine dollars.

Mr. Morley stated that this motion takes any further negotiations away if the line item is restored.

Mayor Lyons stated that the negotiations would have been further along, if we weren't simultaneously stating that the MUA was mismanaged, and then asking them to help us out in a time of struggle. He stated that the budget process has been as open as possible before day one. He explained that difficult decisions were made from the beginning with regards to attrition and layoffs.

He stated that he applauds Council efforts to suspend the open space tax.

Mr. D'Orazio stated that he does not want to tell the taxpayers that we are not raising taxes if in fact we are doing it thru the MUA. He explained that if we have to raise taxes then so be it.

Council President stated that we all want to restore the salary line items. He explained that he did reach out his hand to the chairwoman of the MUA and they are trying to work together. He again asked for an additional two weeks to solidify everything.

Mr. Newman asked the Mayor if two weeks is enough time. Councilman D'Orazio explained that there are other items that can be looked into. He commented on the 2001 review that was done by the state. He asked if those suggestions were ever looked at?

Mayor Lyons explained that he was here under that review, and keeps a copy of it in his briefcase and explained that a lot of ideas that have been implemented come from the review.

Mayor Lyons explained that we need to get a budget adopted in order to avoid estimated tax bills. Mrs. Breslin stated that the last meeting in May will be cutting it close.

Councilman Morley stated that it gives them two weeks to work on these other line items without taking them away from the negotiating table now.

Mayor Lyons stated that this Council deserves credit for the idea of the open space tax.

Councilman Morley asked Councilman Newman if he would withdraw the motion if we moved on the budget in two weeks. Council President stated that we are under tremendous pressure to pass this budget at this time, when estimated tax bills were sent out last year and the year before that.

Mayor Lyons responded by stating that the difference is that now we are talking about laying off people and cutting services and the money that will have to be spent to send out estimated tax bills. He further explained that the past years we had issues with outside agencies and had to wait until certain actions occurred in order to pass the budget.

Council President explained that he is well aware of the situation. Councilman Morley stated that he does not feel that the motion should be rushed when there are a couple weeks to still work on negotiations.

Council President explained that he is trying to move along in the best fashion for the town and the employees and another two weeks to discuss with the MUA is not too much to ask.

Roll Call to restore the salary line items to the other departments: 3 yes, 2 no (Mr. Del Borrello, Mr. Morley)

Mike Russo – 108 Salina Road

Mr. Russo stated that he is a commissioner with the MUA. He explained that the MUA since 2004 has transfer \$1,011,000.00 and \$240,000.00 this year. He explained that there is no economic benefit to the MUA. He further stated that this was the reason that he voted no at the MUA meeting.

Councilman D'Orazio stated that he mentioned that the rates would have to be increased to make this money up.

Tom Bositch

He stated that the all the different entities will be raising the taxes, and his concern was where people with social security will find the money to pay the taxes. He discussed the board of education's budget and the increase in taxes. He commented on the benefits associated with government and school employees.

Mayor Lyons stated that none of the elected officials receive benefits from the township.

John Boyer and Michael D'Ariano- Planning Board Members

They spoke to Council on their concern of Council's action to cut the board secretaries stipend in excess of 55%. He explained the role that the secretary plays on the board. They provide the institutional knowledge that allows the members to properly function as

a board. He asked that it be 5% to 10% rather than the 55% if there is going to be shared sacrifices.

Council President explained that the points will be taken into consideration and will be discussed with the Mayor further.

Joe Capanelli-

He explained that he is a business owner in town and is able to sleep better at night knowing that the police department takes care of us. He stated that for whatever the price is, twenty six dollars, to remove police officers at this time when crime is the highest it's been in a long time.

Mike Sauter – Zoning Board

Mr. Sauter commented and echoed the argument that Mr. Boyer stated with regards to the board secretary stipend. He explained that the zoning board has been consistent with their applications and resolutions.

Mr. John Eastlack- PBA Attorney

He stated that he was glad to see that Council accepted the funding from the MUA and that the police officers will not lose their jobs. He further stated he wanted to be clear that the PBA is willing and able to sit down as soon as possible to negotiate a fair contract.

Mayor Lyons asked Mr. Eastlack to call his office tomorrow to set up a meeting.

John Krall- 92 Altair Drive

He explained that he is a business owner and resident of the township for 19 years. He stated that if the essential services are cut, he will think twice about renewing his lease in Washington Township. He stated that a price cannot be placed on police protection.

Roger Bracken- Tire Corral

He asked for more information about the bidding procedures for the Township of Washington.

Council President explained that the public portion is only open for budget comments and that he will be able to comment at the end.

Motion to close to the public: Mr. Del Borrello, 2nd Mr. MacDowell
All in Favor: 5 yes

RESOLUTION #73-2011: RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR VEHICLE OIL CHANGES TO JIFFY LUBE, 5781 RT 42. IN THE AMOUNT \$26.99 PER VEHICLE

Mr. Del Borrello read Resolution.

Motion to Move Resolution #73-2011: Mr. Del Borrello, 2nd Mr. Morley
Roll Call 5 yes votes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST #1:

Motion to Move: Mr. Morley, 2nd Mr. MacDowell
Roll Call: 5 yes votes

REPORTS:

Mr. Newman stated that the Baseball Complex at 11:00 will have its opening ceremony.

Mr. MacDowell stated the library is due to open June 18, 2011.

Mr. D'Orazio stated that he attended the grand opening of Mother's Matter and applauded them for their efforts. He also reported to keep Mr. Grosso in our prayers. He also commented on the business forum and stated that he will be working hard with the businesses.

Mr. Morley congratulated all newly elected members to the school board.

Mayor Lyons thanked all the employees who helped make Super Saturday a success. He acknowledged Mr. Rosensteil for his hard work and dedication. He explained that the Independence celebration will be on the 3rd and located in Washington Lake Park. He further extended his best wishes to Mr. Grosso.

Mr. Del Borrello stated the classic car show was a huge success. He asked all those to support our Veterans on Memorial Day.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Motion to open: Mr. MacDowell, 2nd Mr. Newman
All in Favor: 5 yes

Josh Aronovitch- 18 Lawrence Lane

Mr. Aronovitch spoke on behalf of a school board issue and the safety concerns with the speed limit change on Hurffville Road and if that was a walking route changes would need to occur. He asked if the Mayor and Council could have a safety officer come to a School Board meeting to answer questions and concerns. He stated that the school board would like to work with the Mayor and Council to apply for federal funding to make safer roadways for walking to school to help the town and school save money.

He asked for more direct and proactive participation from the Mayor and Council before budget time.

Council President stated that after this budget, he and Mr. Morley will be coming to the School Board to see what they can do to work together and do shared services.

Mayor Lyons stated that there are many things that are in place that we do with the School Board such as snow removal, salt supplies, sharing fields, and security.

Mayor Lyons asked regarding Hurffville Road, what the financial stake of the school board that is fostering this request? How much money is being saved? Is it a worthwhile pursuit? He stated that the issue needs to be framed. He asked if the costs to improve the roadway will be an overall savings?

Nancy McCrae Ianonne – 4 Alexandria Drive

She explained that her child is expected to walk and is concerned that it is a dangerous intersection across Hurffville Road. She explained that she contacted NJDOT and there are grants available to improve the intersection. Her concern was that the busing cuts are set for this September and this is a time pressing issue. She thanked to the Chief and appreciated the meetings that will be set up with regards to this. She wanted to impress the timing needs that if the children will be walking, that the changes must be in place. She commented to if the Ordinance is passed to change the speed limit on Hurffville Road it will in fact place the children in more danger because the Board of Education feels that the speed limit change is enough to satisfy the dangerous situation.

Council President asked Mr. Aronovitz who is responsible to fund the improvements either the school district or the township? Mayor Lyons responded that it will fall on this board, the township because the School Board is not obligated to make road improvements.

Mayor Lyons stated that if this needs to be accomplished by Labor Day, we need to start yesterday.

Roger Bracken- Tire Corral

He asked for information regarding bids in Washington Township, specifically automobile related.

Mr. Lucarini- 83 Bryant Road

He asked about the pavement project near Bunker Hill School. He asked about the busing route. He commented on the changes and the cost associated with improving the Hurffville Road Intersection.

Nancy Iannone – McCrae-

She explained that she focused on one area of the walking path which is the most dangerous section of the path.

Tom Bositch – 4 Mountain Ash Place

He commented on the traffic on Hurffville- Cross Keys road. He stated that it is impossible to get out of his development and stated that the light on Fish Pond Rd does not allow for ample cars to pass through.

Motion to Close Public Participation: Mr. Del Borrello, 2nd Mr. Morley
All in favor

Mayor Lyons asked if the budget would be voted upon. Council President explained that he is not reading to vote. Mayor Lyons asked if there were particular issues other than what was stated. Council President stated he was not sure.

Councilman MacDowell made a motion to approve the 2011 budget, 2nd by Mr. Newman:

Mr. Morley asked where we were with the tax increase. Mrs. Breslin explained 2.1 cents.

Mr. D’Orazio explained an idea that he asked the Mayor for his support. He explained that entities do not pay taxes because they are exempt. He asked if a letter could be sent asking for donation into the budget. He explained that the letter signed by the Mayor carries a lot of weight.

Mayor Lyons stated he has no opposition to trying. He stated that he would need to see the wording when asking the church to pay to support the municipality. He stated that he does not think that this budget should be held up on the hopes that a church or hospital will bail us out.

Roll Call: 3 no (Del Borello, Morley, D’Orazio) , 2 yes (Newman, MacDowell)

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Newman, 2nd Mr. MacDowell

All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,


Jennica Biléci, Township Clerk