

Township of Washington
Council Meeting
June 8, 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 #10-2011: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR TAX ABATEMENT WITH GIRALDA PROPERTIES FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 115.01, LOT 27

Public Hearing

Motion to open to the public: Mr. Morley, 2nd MacDowell
All in favor

Mr. Robert Mintz, Esquire – Attorney for applicant

Mr. Mintz explained that the request for abatement is for a project consisting of 14,400 sq. ft flex building located off of American Blvd. He explained that there is a lot interest for flex space in Washington Township and explained that there is a need for the owners to be able to have competitive rents. Mr. Mintz explained that with the support of the town, the applicant will move quickly to obtain approvals for Phase III of the project which is the section requesting the abatement. Mr. Mintz explained that Mr. Starkman purchased the larger building and vacant area and he will be the one that processes the application. Mr. Mintz asked Council to look at this request as a Phase continuation of a commitment that the town made through earlier actions taken by past Township Councils. Mr. Mintz explained the breakdown of the tax impact and commented that in addition to the dozen of jobs that will be taken, there will be no burden to the township with regards to trash or roadway issues. He also referenced that this parcel is in a redevelopment zone.

Mr. Mintz explained that the project would approximately generate in Year 6 \$36,423.00 in tax dollars. He made a comparison of what the town would receive if the project was constructed versus if the land remained vacant.

Mr. D'Orazio asked when the project would be completed. Mr. Mintz responded that it will be the applicant's effort to get on the Planning Board agenda for July. Mr. D'Orazio asked if a date could be placed on the project as to when the two years would end. Councilman Del Borrello asked if the buildings are visible from the street. Mr. Mintz explained that the new building would sit behind the existing buildings and not be visible from the site. Mr. Mintz stated that the start of construction

Motion to close to the public: Mr. Morley, 2nd Mr. D'Orazio
Motion to move Ordinance #10-2011: Mr. Morley, 2nd Mr. D'Orazio
Roll Call: 3 yes votes, 2 No (Newman, MacDowell)

ORDINANCE #11-2011: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP TO CREATE AN ACCIDENT REVIEW AND PREVENTION PANEL

Public Hearing

Motion to open to the public: Mr. Newman, 2nd Mr. MacDowell
All in Favor

No Public Participation

Motion to close: Mr. Morley, 2nd Mr. Newman
All in Favor
Motion to move Ordinance #11-2011: Mr. MacDowell, 2nd Mr. Newman
Roll Call: 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #78-2011: RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2011 BUDGET

Mayor Lyons thanked Mr. Pileggi for his hard work on achieving this type of savings for the trash contract and receiving competitive bids. Mr. Morley asked if this savings will be received each year. Mayor Lyons explained that it is a savings for the remaining 6 months of the contract term. He further explained that the savings in calendar year 2012 would be \$352,300.00. The price would escalate by 2.5% each year forward.

Mr. Morley asked what the total savings for the five year contract? Mayor Lyons responded that it would be approximately \$1.5 million dollars in savings over the next five years.

Motion to move Resolution #78-2011: Mr. Newman, 2nd Mr. MacDowell
Roll Call: 5 yes, Mr. Del Borello stated that he was voting yes for this but unsure since he has not seen the contract that he will vote yes for that.

Mr. Chell explained that he is not obligated to vote yes for the contract.

RESOLUTION #53-2011: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2011 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mr. D'Orazio thanked many people for their hard work with the budget process. He thanked employees for their professionalism. He stated that this small increase is much better than where it started.

Mrs. Breslin explained that the increase is 1.1 cents. The introduced budget was 5 cents. Councilman Morley stated the budget is down 4 pennies from the introduced budget. He stated that the budget is livable. He stated that many savings have been achieved. He stated in addition to the trash savings, the council suspended the open space tax. He also stated that we saved in council health benefits. He stated that there was a \$5,000 dollar savings on switching auditors. He commented on the additional savings that were achieved. Mr. Morley stated that it is time to look into revenue generating projects and referenced the Atkins Project. He stated that there are contracts that still need to be settled.

Mayor Lyons stated in summary that the bottom line is that the budget is \$1.8 less than last year's budget which denotes that we are pushing in the right direction. He explained that services are still needed to be provided at the level that our residents are accustomed to. He stated that in the next two months he will be presenting as many generating ideas as possible in effort to capture alternate revenues for the township. He stated that out of the \$1.8 million, that salaries and wages make up \$1.1 million dollars of it and that our workforce is down 22 percent. He thanked Mrs. Breslin for her dedication and stated that she goes the extra mile for the residents of this township.

Mr. Morley explained the breakdown of the tax bill and that the school portion is roughly 56 percent of your bill.

Mr. Del Borrello thanked everyone for their hard work. He explained that he will be voting no on this budget not because the lack of effort but because of the process and the blame that was placed on the new council members. He also commented on the lack of support from the MUA.

Mayor Lyons responded that the main reason the MUA money was decreased was because they had met their financial obligation to the township. He stated that it wasn't arbitrary. He asked the Council President if there was \$250,000 that he recommends cutting from the budget? He responded by stating that he asked for 5 percent from the MUA and it was declined. Mayor Lyons confirmed that it wasn't the process but more of the fact that the MUA did not give enough money. The Mayor made it clear that the budget process was open and an absolute willingness to give information and exchange ideas. He stated that he updated Council at every Council meeting on where he was with the budget process and welcomed all suggestions.

Motion to approve the 2011 budget: Mr. Newman, 2nd Mr. MacDowell
Roll Call: 4 yes, 1 no (Mr. Del Borrello)

RESOLUTION #79-2011: A RESOLUTION APPROVING OF AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIAL TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MATTHEW J. RYAN VETERINARY HOSPITAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. DelBorrello read the Resolution.

Motion to move Resolution #79-2011: Mr. MacDowell, 2nd Mr. Newman

Mr. D'Orazio stated that the this contract is being funded by donations not funded by the taxpayers.

Roll Call: 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #80-2011: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE BOND OF PLUMTREE ROAD OPENING, PERMIT #2010-68

Mr. Del Borrello read the Resolution.

Motion to move Resolution #80-2011: Mr. Newman, 2nd Mr. Del Borrello

Roll Call: 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #81-2011: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC BIDS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF HARVARD AND HYANNIS AVENUES UNDER THE FY 2010 GLOUCESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. DelBorrello read the Resolution.

Motion to move Resolution #81-2011: Mr. Newman, 2nd Mr. Morley

Roll Call: 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #82-2011: RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 FOR THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FIREWORKS DISPLAY ON JULY 3, 2011 TO SCHAEFER PYROTECHNICS, INC

Mr. Del Borrello read the Resolution. Mr. Del Borrello asked how much money is being paid from the Parade Fund? Mayor Lyons responded six thousand remains from last year.

Motion to Move Resolution #82-2011: Mr. Mac Dowell , 2nd Mr. Newman

Roll Call: 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #83-2011: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2011 FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Mr. Del Borrello read the Resolution.

Motion to move Resolution #83-2011: Mr. MacDowell, 2nd Mr. Morley

Roll Call: 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #84-2011: RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A LIEN ON REAL PROPERTY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR MAINTENANCE WORK PERFORMED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

Mr. Del Borrello read the Resolution.

Motion Move Resolution #84-2011: Mr. Mac Dowell, 2nd Mr. Newman

Roll Call: 5 yes votes

Approval of Bill List:

Motion to approve Bill List #1: Mr. D'Orazio, Mr. MacDowell

Roll Call: 5 yes votes

REPORTS:

Mr. Newman deferred to the next meeting.

Mr. MacDowell stated that 8 scholarships were awarded from the Parade and Scholarship Committee. The Parade Committee made a \$2,000 donation into the fireworks.

Mr. D'Orazio asked to keep the Donato Family in their prayers.

Mr. Morley stated that the Environmental Commission will hold Clean Up Day on Saturday October 8th.

Mayor Lyons wished Eillen Abbot for a speedy recovery. He thanked everyone for making Memorial Day a special event. He commended Mike Allen and all the members of the board for the success of the new library.

He further asked the Business Administrator to rescind the layoffs notices due to budget cuts.

Council President stated that Memorial Services was a great day.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Motion to open: Mr. Mac Dowell, 2nd Mr. Neman

All in Favor: 5 yes

John Rogale – Rolling Acre Drive

He stated that on the 8 years he sat as a member of Council, did the MUA subsidize the Township of Washington. He stated that he feels that the budget should be subsidized by

the MUA to help maintain public safety and protect the welfare of the community. He addressed Councilman Morley for his comment blaming the School Board for taxes in the township. He suggested that working together with all the taxing entities is a much better way to go.

Mr. Del Borrello responded by stating that he disagrees with taking rate payer money to subsidize this town. However, he stated that we all couldn't come together for the taxpayers of Washington Township.

Mr. Tom Schelmore, Bells Lake

He questioned why we need two alternates on the panel at the MUA? He was told to address Council for a more clear answer. He asked the Mayor for an answer.

Mayor Lyons stated that he doesn't appoint the MUA, the Township Council does.

Mr. Del Borrello responded by stating that he would take the point into consideration.

Mr. Schelmore also commented on the billboard, and questioned how it would bring revenue when it seems like it would cost more money. He asked who owns the water tower on Egg Harbor Road. Mayor Lyons stated the MUA receives revenue for the towers.

Motion to close to the public: Mr. Newman , 2nd Mr. MacDowell
All in Favor

Old Business

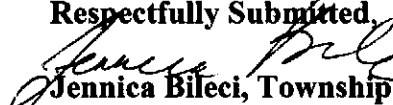
Councilman D'Orazio asked if we could get a list of the applicants who were approved for tax abatement and find out when they will be starting the project to get a better idea of when we will receive revenues.

Councilman Del Borrello stated that it bothers him that Mr. Rogale made a comment about getting along and every time he comes up here he takes a shot at us. He stated that he is trying to work with the MUA with regards to the billboard.

Mayor Lyons stated that we are not up here to settle personal scores but to act in the best interest of the public and move beyond the personal disputes and disagreements. We need to understand the distinction between politics and government.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Morley, 2nd Mr. MacDowell
All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,


Jennica Bileci, Township Clerk