TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 Town Hall – 7:13 PM

Mayor Gadd called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

The Township Clerk, Lisa H. Hand read the Sunshine Notice Statement as follows:

Sunshine Notice: This meeting is called pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Law. 1) Posting a copy of the Annual Meeting Schedule on the bulletin board in the Municipal Complex and emailing a copy to the Atlantic City Press and Burlington County Times and all those requesting copies on January 4, 2024. All the above posting, filing & mailing have taken place on February 1, 2024.

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Gadd, Deputy Mayor James and Committeeman Lewis.

Professionals: Thomas Coleman, Esq.; Engineer, Kevin Dixon; Township Clerk, Lisa H. Hand and

Deputy Township Clerk Karen A. Bacon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 2, 2024 – Reorganization Minutes

Motion made by Committeeman Lewis, seconded by Deputy Mayor James the above Minutes were approved:

Roll Call: Lewis, Gadd, James Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

January 2, 2024 – Regular Minutes

Motion made by Deputy Mayor James, seconded by Committeeman Lewis the above Minutes were approved:

Roll Call: Lewis, Gadd, James Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

ORDINANCES – Second Reading – Public Hearing

Ordinance # 2024-01 – Amending Vital Statistics Fees

Mayor Gadd opened the meeting for public a public hearing on the above ordinance.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Gadd closed the public hearing.

Motion made by Committeeman Lewis, seconded by Deputy Mayor James the above ordinance was adopted:

Roll Call: Lewis, James, Gadd Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2024-26 – Authorize Aerial Mosquito Control

Motion made by Deputy Mayor James, seconded by Committeeman Lewis the above Resolution was approved:

Roll Call: Lewis, James, Gadd Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

Resolution #2024-27 - Liquor License Transfer - Scoots Liquors, II, LLC

Motion made by Committeeman Lewis, seconded by Deputy Mayor James the above Resolution was approved:

Roll Call: Lewis, James, Gadd Aves: 3 Nays: 0

PARADE PERMITS

Enduro-Curly Fern Enduro – March 17, 2024 - #2024-01

Motion made by Deputy Mayor James, seconded by Committeeman Lewis the above Resolution was approved:

Roll Call: Lewis, James, Gadd Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

Enduro – Sandy Lane Enduro – March 24, 2024 - #2024-02

Motion made by Committeeman Lewis, seconded by Deputy Mayor James the above Resolution was approved:

Roll Call: Lewis, James, Gadd Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion made by Deputy Mayor James, seconded by Committeeman Lewis the above Resolution was approved:

Roll Call: Lewis, James, Gadd Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

REPORTS

- a) **Engineer** Preliminary work on Godfreys Bridge Road has started, working on the parking lot and boiler project; we are trying to break them down.
- b) **Solicitor** I'll defer my comments until later tonight.
- c) **Township Clerk** Day to Day operations of the Office
- d) Code Enforcement Nothing to add, Day to Day
- e) **OEM** Handed in the Hazard Mitigation worksheets.

Mayor Gadd – Anything on the flooding signs?

David Simpson – Nothing yet.

f) **Township Committee** –

Committeeman Lewis – Worked on the pending ordinances and we can put them on the next agenda **Deputy Mayor James** – Worked on various things

Mayor Gadd – Contacted the DCA with regards to the Green Bank Inn, the conditions are worse; I have scheduled a meeting with the Burlington county Engineer with regards to speeding issues and I have noticed the State Police out. Green Bank Bridge is still not done and it should have been done yesterday. The Tax Bills have gone out and there is an increase. The School Board has their own budget and the Township has taken action to the Burlington County Board of Taxation to help with the tax increase.

Solicitor Coleman – I have never in my career seen this happen to any municipality. I did review the records and unfortunately the Township is in this position. The State adopted the budget with a \$473,871. Increase. I filed a lawsuit with the County Taxation Board to ask that the Township may this amount. The County is working with us and we are hoping that Kristen can transfer the money.

Mayor Gadd – We are going to do everything that we can to help the residents.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Please state your name & address for the record)

Mayor Gadd opened the meeting for Public Comments.

Charlene Lee – President of the Washington Township School Board – The School Board id everything that we could to avoid this issue. We could have taken a loan, but we would have been paying on this forever. Please support our School Board. I met with Dan on October 2, 2023 and asked for assistance.

Deputy Mayor James – You asked for a million, than \$600,000.

Mrs. Lee – We should have been able to work together.

Mr. Coleman – We there ever a formal letter sent to the Township?

Mrs. Lee – No

Mayor Gadd – In 2023 the School Board was given \$50,000 and you never asked for more money.

Mrs. Lee – I talked with Dan, but nothing was done.

Deputy Mayor James – We as a Township shouldn't pay your bills.

Mrs. Lee – You have money to have helped us.

Mayor Gadd – We have a budget and you have a budget. We have given what you have asked for in the past; you blamed us for all the troubles of the School Board.

Karen Melita – River Road, Lower Bank – it is a very difficult decision, it is all of our problems; we are here now for help.

Mayor Gadd – I have served on the School Board and this Committee is not fingerpointing, but there is two separate budgets. There is no other municipality that gives money to their School Board. They the School Board raises their money by the taxes.

Deputy Mayor James – I'm blaming you old professionals for getting the School and us into this position.

Horace Somes – Turtle Creek Road – The flood signs are not working properly, take the lights off and maybe just have a sign that the road may be flooded.

Mayor Gadd - I called the supervisor and nothing was done and they didn't call back. We asked for signs, but they didn't get delivered.

 $Horace\ Somes-I\ attended\ a\ State\ meeting\ and\ I\ believe\ all\ roads\ should\ be\ named\ the\ same,\ the\ State\ was\ using\ different\ names.$

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Committeeman Lewis, seconded by Deputy Mayor James to adjourn at 7:39PM. Roll Call: Lewis, James, Gadd Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa H. Hand, Township Clerk