



**TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON  
GLOUCESTER COUNTY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 26, 2024  
6:00 P.M.**

Council President Mr. Del Borrello called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. in the council room located at 523 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell, New Jersey. Mr. Del Borrello delivered the Sunshine Notice and safety awareness notices.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council President Mr. Del Borrello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Township Clerk Ms. Ciallella took roll call. Councilmembers Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello were present. Mr. Yerkes was present via telephone. Mayor Burns, Business Administrator Mr. Russo and Attorney Mr. Wright were present.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Mayor Burns read a proclamation in Recognition of Men's Health Awareness which will be presented to Dr. Joseph Cavallaro at a later date.
- Mayor Burns and Council recognized Hometown Hero Javier "Danny" Caballero for helping to save lives when a fire broke out at the Hunt Club.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST FOR JUNE 26, 2024**

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve the June 26, 2024 bill list. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. DellaPia seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR JUNE 12, 2024**

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2024. Mr. Bennett motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes. Mr. Yerkes raised concerns about the school board budget and teachers being laid off but the superintendent still collecting his bonus. Mr. Del Borrello stated Council can discuss the school budget at a later time.

**2024 BUDGET**

**Mayor Burns Budget Address:**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Council, and Residents of Washington Township,

It is an honor to stand before you today to present the municipal budget for the 11 fiscal year. This budget represents the culmination of extensive deliberations, careful planning, and a commitment to addressing the needs of our community while ensuring fiscal responsibility.

As many of you know, I was appointed by the governing body on December 20th of last year. When I assumed this role, I was immediately confronted with a significant challenge: a budget already burdened with a substantial deficit. This was a direct result of several years during which municipal services were managed without increasing taxes. You relied on a combination of prudent financial management, strategic use of surplus funds, and, more recently, American Recovery funds to bridge the gap and support the community through unprecedented times. However, this year, we find ourselves at a crossroads. The American Recovery funds that have been a lifeline during the pandemic and the years following are no longer available. Additionally, our surplus, which has been judiciously utilized over the years to mitigate tax increases, is not an inexhaustible resource. As stewards of our township's future, we must now take a difficult but necessary step to ensure that we can continue to provide the high-quality services and infrastructure our residents expect and deserve.

This budget proposes the highest increase we have seen in recent years. This decision was not made lightly. It reflects the reality that without new revenue, we would be forced to make deep cuts that would affect every aspect of our township's operations, from public safety and public works to our parks and community programs. In addition to these challenges, we must recognize the broader economic context. The cost of everything has increased, from essential goods to critical services. Our residents deserve to maintain the level of services we offer, but balancing the budget while preserving these services without increasing taxes is a formidable task. For instance, the cost of trash collection alone has increased our budget by over 3 cents. Coupled with our township's contractual obligations and the existing deficit, these factors have led us to our current situation. Now, I don't want to rehash past decisions; instead, I aim to right the ship and move the township forward in a fiscally responsible way. I believe this can be achieved by exploring shared services agreements with neighboring municipalities and other governmental entities, diligently searching and applying for grants to offset expenditures, and through attrition.

Our commitment to transparency and accountability means we must be candid about these financial pressures. By making this adjustment now, we aim to position Washington Township for a more sustainable and resilient future. It allows us to maintain essential services, invest in critical infrastructure projects, and support initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all our residents. We are also committed to ensuring that this increase is managed with the utmost care and responsibility. Every dollar will be scrutinized to guarantee it is spent efficiently and effectively, delivering maximum value to our community. As we move forward, we will continue to seek innovative solutions, pursue grants and partnerships, and engage with our community to find ways to balance our budgetary needs with the least possible burden on our taxpayers.

I want to thank each of you for your understanding and support as we navigate these challenging times together. Your input and engagement are vital as we strive to build a stronger, more vibrant Washington Township. Together, we can face these challenges head-on and emerge with a renewed commitment to our shared goals and values. Thank you.

**R192-2024 AUTHORIZATION TO CANCEL UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATION RESERVES TO FUND BALANCE – N.J.S.A. 40A:4-60**

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve Resolution R192-2024. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. DellaPia seconded. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

**R193-2024 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve Resolution R193-2024. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Bennett seconded. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

**R194-2024 RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve Resolution R194-2024. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

**ORDINANCES**

**0006-2024 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY AND IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$4,310,000.00 THEREFORE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,094,500.00 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 0006-2024. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes. Public Hearing and Adoption will occur on July 24, 2024.

**0007-2024 ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON**

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 0007-2024. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes. Public Hearing and Adoption will occur on July 24, 2024.

**0008-2024 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON AMENDING WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CODE CHAPTER 213 ENTITLED STORMWATER CONTROL TO ADD ARTICLE VIII PRIVATELY OWNED SALT STORAGE**

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 0008-2024. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes. Public Hearing and Adoption will occur on July 24, 2024.

**0009-2024 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON REPEALING AND REPLACING WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CODE CHAPTER 214 ENTITLED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 0009-2024. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes. Public Hearing and Adoption will occur on July 24, 2024.

**0010-2024 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 212 SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 0010-2024. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. DellaPia seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes. Public Hearing and Adoption will occur on July 24, 2024.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

The following Resolutions were part of the consent agenda and only required a vote for all listed. Township Clerk Ciallella read each one by title.

**R195-2024 RESOLUTION AMENDING A CONTRACT FOR SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON AND SUBURBAN DISPOSAL, INC.**

**R196-2024 RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SAND STAR E FOR THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE THROUGH ESCNJ COOPERATIVE CONTRACT #22/23-12**

**R197-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR JEAN H. TILLER, A WIDOW OF A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 260 LOT 10, 915 WHITMAN DR., EFFECTIVE MAY 21, 2024**

**R198-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR BEVERLY PEURIFOY, A WIDOW OF A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 109.08 LOT 20, 70 LONGWOOD DR., EFFECTIVE MAY 21, 2024**

**R199-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR EDWARD Mc GOLDRICK, A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 85.22 LOT 10, 19 HADDOCK DR., EFFECTIVE MAY 8, 2024**

**R200-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR WILLIAM J. CONNELL, A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 253 LOT 7, 726 SHAWNEE CT., EFFECTIVE MAY 21, 2024**

**R201-2024 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER AND NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NJDOT) FOR THE PROPOSED ALTAIR DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS**

**R202-2024 RESOLUTION FOR THE GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT**

**R203-2024 RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION R0009-2024 CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH RUSSO AS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION FOR THE TOWNSHIP**

**R204-2024 RESOLUTION AMENDING A CONTRACT FOR SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON AND SUBURBAN DISPOSAL INC.**

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve Resolution R195-2024 through R204-2024. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Council members had nothing to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Council members had nothing to report.

## **REPORTS**

- **Mr. Yerkes** – The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade is next week. We invite everyone to come out!

- **Mr. Bennett** – The 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade begins at 6:30 PM. Come out for a fun time! Fireworks begin at 9:00 PM. ♦ In September we will be having Restaurant Week to help our restaurants bring in customers. More information will be forthcoming. ♦ There are concerts in the park with great bands. The Soul Cruisers were a lot of fun! We encourage everyone to come out. More information is on the website. ♦ Keep an eye on elderly residents, especially during the hot weather.
- **Mr. Brown** – Route 42 construction is underway and there are road pattern changes and no turn lanes. If possible, seek an alternate route. ♦ The Library will be having a walking book discussion on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM in Washington Lake Park to discuss the book “A Walk in The Woods” by Bill Bryson. Please register on the Library’s website and check for additional events.
- **Mr. Wright** – A lawsuit was filed regarding 908 Whitman Drive; Rising Sun Recovery vs. Washington Township Zoning Board of Adjustment. The complaint will be reviewed and Council will be briefed at a later date in Executive Session.
- **Mr. DellaPia** – Thank you Colette and Jim for your hard work and long hours on the budget. ♦ If you are attending the fireworks or set off your own, please be safe and courteous, especially when it comes to pets.
- **Mr. Del Borrello** – Mr. Davis is in the audience. He has proudly served our country. He donated and television to the Giving Tree. He frequently attends meetings and has good ideas! We appreciate your support. ♦ Sprouts and Raising Cane’s have obtained all approvals from Washington Township. They are awaiting County approvals. ♦ If you have any items you want to get rid of please consider donating to the Giving Tree. ♦ We are open for business! We are helping businesses solve any issues they may have. ♦ Thank you Colette, Jim and Joe for your work on the budget. ♦ Our dog park is open! It is located at Cedar Lake Park. Stop by the Clerk’s Office to purchase a permit. The cost is \$10 for Township Residents and \$20 for non-residents of the Township. ♦ The Municipal Complex summer hours are in effect. Offices will be closed every Friday from Memorial Day to Labor Day. ♦ The Municipal Complex will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to the Township’s 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade beginning at 6:30 PM followed by fireworks at the High School at 9:00 PM! If you are interested in participating in the parade, please contact Lisa Collins at x2403. Wishing everyone a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday! ♦ Come out for Taco Palooza in Washington Lake Park on July 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:00 AM. Enjoy tacos, beer, sangria, music and more! ♦ Please join us for Movies and Music in the Park. More information can be found on the calendar on the website.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mr. DellaPia motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the members present.

▪ **Zachary Abrams, 27 Auriga Lane** – He was cited for having chickens on his property and would like to have the Washington Township’s code amended to allow chickens.

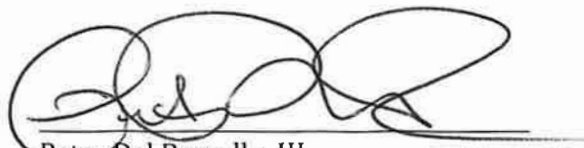
Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. Mr. DellaPia motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the members present.

### ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. DellaPia motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Christine Ciallella, RMC  
Township Clerk

  
Peter Del Borrello, III  
Council President