



**TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
GLOUCESTER COUNTY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 24, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

Council Vice President Mr. DellaPia called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. in the council room located at 523 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell, New Jersey. Mr. DellaPia delivered the Sunshine Notice and safety awareness notices.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Vice President Mr. DellaPia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Township Deputy Clerk Ms. Moore took roll call. Councilmembers Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia, Mr. Yerkes were present. Mr. Del Borrello was present via telephone and arrived to the meeting at 6:29 PM. Mayor Burns, Business Administrator Mr. Russo and Attorney Mr. Wright and Township Clerk Ms. Ciallella were present.

PRESENTATIONS

- Mayor Burns and Chief Gurcsik swore in Officer Andrew Nichols promoted to Sergeant.
- Ashley Carotentuo, Jill Brocco, Candace Hayes, Amiee Pekula and Judy Waysome and the Girl Scouts of Washington Township recognized local businesses Dolce Vita, Edible Arrangements, Mama Buntz, Rias Sweet Creations and Sweet Talk Café for creating 500 unique desserts for the Girl Scout Cookie Fundraiser. Mayor Burns commended the businesses for stepping up to help the Girl Scouts.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST FOR JULY 24, 2024

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to approve the July 24, 2024 bill list. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes 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

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to approve the Budget Meeting Minutes for June 25, 2024 and the Regular Meeting Minutes for June 26, 2024. Mr. Brown motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

2024 BUDGET

R205-2024 RESOLUTION FOR CONDUCTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to approve Resolution R205-2024. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to open to the public for the 2024 Municipal Budget. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. All in favor

No one wished to speak.

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to close to the public for the 2024 Municipal Budget. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. All in favor.

R206-2024 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to approve Resolution R206-2024. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

R207-2024 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to approve Resolution R207-2024. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. 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. DellaPia asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance 0006-2023. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. All in favor.

No one wished to speak.

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance 0006-2023. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 0006-2023. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

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

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance 0007-2023. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. All in favor.

No one wished to speak.

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance 0007-2023. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 0007-2023. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

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. DellaPia asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance 0008-2023. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor.

No one wished to speak.

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance 0008-2023. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 0008-2023. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

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

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance 0009-2023. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. All in favor.

No one wished to speak.

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance 0009-2023. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 0009-2023. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

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. DellaPia asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance 0010-2023. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor.

No one wished to speak.

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance 0010-2023. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 0010-2023. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Brown requested Resolution R218-2024 be read separately.

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

R208-2024 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON EXTENDING THE TAX DUE DATE FOR THE THIRD QUARTER 2024 PROPERTY TAXES

R209-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR WESLEY HILL, A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 19.18, LOT 13, 11 CLEARBROOK LN., EFFECTIVE JUNE 24, 2024

R210-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR WAYNE K. YOUNG, A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 16.02, LOT 3, 5 LANSBROOK CT., EFFECTIVE JUNE 24, 2024

R211-2024 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ONLINE AUCTION ON AUGUST 13 & 14, 2024 FOR THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY WHICH IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIAL TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT

R212-2024 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR KENNEDY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL – PHASE 1A – TEMPORARY PARKING LOT AND LIGHTING, 588 EGG HARBOR ROAD, SEWELL, NJ 08080, BLOCK 81 LOT 3.06, 3.07, P/O 3.03 AND BLOCK 117 P/O LOT 13, PROJECT #08-18-I-443.11A, ESCROW #1994-1A

R213-2024 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR KENNEDY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - PHASE 1B - PORTION OF NEW PARKING, 588 EGG HARBOR ROAD, SEWELL, NJ 08080, BLOCK 81 LOT 3.06, 3.07, P/O 3.03 AND BLOCK 117 P/O LOT 13, PROJECT #08-18-I-443.I1B, ESCROW #1994-1B

R214-2024 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR KENNEDY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - PROPOSED PATIENT PAVILION AND PARKING STRUCTURE, 588 EGG HARBOR ROAD, SEWELL, NJ 08080, BLOCK 81 LOT 3.06, 3.07, P/O 3.03 AND BLOCK 117 P/O LOT 13, PROJECT #08-18-I-443.I2, ESCROW #1994-2

R215-2024 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER FROM ARAWAK PAVING CO. FOR FY 2021 NJDOT BELLS LAKE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE II, PROJECT #08-18-T-402.I

R216-2024 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR WAWA AND BURGER KING, 101 & 108 EGG HARBOR ROAD, SEWELL, NJ 08080, BLOCK 7.04, LOT 6, 6.07 AND BLOCK 7, LOT 6.02, PROJECT #08-18-P-482.I AND PROJECT #08-18-P-482.I2, ESCROW #2020-I2, ESCROW #0059-I

R217-2024 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON APPROVING A ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF RESOLUTION R092-2024 A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION FOR A CLASS 5 CANNABIS RETAIL FACILITY FOR GREEN VINE, LLC

R219-2024 RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON REQUESTING A SIX (6) MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME FOR AWARD OF A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NJDOT) FOR THE FY22 JOHNSON ROAD PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

R220-2024 RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE MANUAL

R221-2024 RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PROTOTYPICAL SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R222-2024 RESOLUTION TO RETRACT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR FORECLOSURE ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R223-2024 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR AUDIT REPORT YEAR 2023

R224-2024 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF POTENTIAL LIABILITY FOR PURE EARTH RECYCLING SUPERFUND SITE

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to approve Resolution R208-2024 through R217-2024 and R219-2024 through R224-2024. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

R218-2024 RESOLUTION REQUESTING SOUTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION TO REDUCE TOLLS AT EXIT 41 ON THE AC EXPRESSWAY DURING ROUTE 42 CONSTRUCTION

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to approve Resolution R218-2024. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

Mr. Brown explained the purpose of the Resolution is to request a toll reduction at Exit 41 during the construction on the Black Horse Pike to encourage motorists to seek an alternate route.

OLD BUSINESS

Council members had nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Council members had nothing to report.

REPORTS

- **Mr. Yerkes** – A lot of work went into the budget. Cuts were made but the revenue couldn't keep up with the increases. Thank you to all the department heads. ♦ A dam for the Spring Lake project is currently being reviewed by the NJDEP and work should begin next summer.
- **Mr. Bennett** – Thank you Administration for your work on the budget. We strive to be transparent. ♦ September 22-27 is Restaurant Week in Washington Township to showcase our restaurants and bring in customers. More information will be forthcoming. ♦ Slow down! Kids are outside more during the summer.
- **Mr. Brown** – There were long sessions reviewing the budget to be fiscally responsible. Thank you Mayor, Administration and Department Heads for your work on the budget. ♦ Thank you Lisa Collins, Public Works, the Police Department, Fire Department and everyone who made the 4th of July Parade a success! ♦ The Library will be having its annual Truck Night on July 31st at 6:30 PM. Come out to see fire trucks and rescue vehicles. ♦ World War II Veteran Andrew "Tim" Kiniry will be at the library on August 10th at 1:00 PM to speak about his experience during the war.
- **Mayor Burns** – Thank you Colette, Jim, Joe and everyone involved in the budget process. ♦ National Night Out is Tuesday, August 6th from 6:00 – 9:00 PM in Washington Lake Park. ♦ The 4th of July Parade and Fireworks were a success! ♦ Councilmen Bennett, Brown and DellaPia, along with the Veterans Advisory Board, unveiled a reserved parking spot for Veterans. There are 7 total - one at the Municipal Building, the Library, Dog Park, Senior Center and four spaces in the Park.
- **Mr. Del Borrello** – Apologized for being late. ♦ We have been "Working in Your Shoes" where we work at your business to learn about your business to better serve you. He, along with the Mayor, worked with Dayna's Party Rental over the weekend. Tomorrow they are working at Stio's Water Ice and there is more to come. ♦ All candidates running for office in Washington Township have agreed to sign the Pledge to stop the negativity in campaigns. Candidates will campaign on their vision for the town. ♦ No one wants a tax increase. We are in this position because the past administration did not properly manage the budget. We do not want to layoff staff because they keep the Township moving. Suzie Barone in the Clerk's Office received a call that a resident had no food. Mr. DellaPia reached out to McDonald's who generously donated meals. This shows how invaluable our staff is. Things may seem gloomy but we are turning things around. ♦ Great things are happening on the Black Horse Pike and Delsea Drive. We are working on projects that don't cost the taxpayers money by utilizing grants. We are working hard for you!
- **Mr. DellaPia** – The 4th of July Parade was a success! Thank you Chief Gurcsik and Chief Dolgos and their departments for everything they did for the parade. ♦ Three McDonald's restaurants in the area volunteered to help fundraise for Jake's Playground and will donate 15% of all sales tonight and next Wednesday. Thank you! ♦ The Police Department's Junior Police Academy was last week. Our town offers a lot of activities for kids. Check the website for more information. ♦ Thank you Barb for filling in tonight and continued healing to Chrissy. ♦ The cost to run the town including trash, salary and benefits has increased \$10 million over eight years; however, taxes were only raised 1 cent until last year. No business or household could operate without increasing cash flow. We had to make hard decisions but were able to balance the budget by only raising taxes half of the cost to run the town. ♦ Due to the excessive heat, Taco Palooza has been rescheduled to Sunday,

August 4th beginning at 11:00 Am in Washington Lake Park. Join us for the best fiesta of the summer and enjoy tacos, beer, sangria, music and more. ♦ National Night Out is August 6th beginning at 6:00 PM in Washington Lake Park. We encourage all residents to come be a part of this free national event promoting neighborhood and police-community partnerships for a safer nation. ♦ Please join us for movies and music in the park. More information can be found on the website. ♦ Summer hours for the Municipal Complex are in effect. We are closed every Friday until Labor Day.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

▪ **Robert Davis, 72 Saddlebrook Drive** – Suggested that Mayor and Council let the community know that the new trash company starts on August 1st and to be patient during the transition.

Mayor Burns stated that a social media post is scheduled for tomorrow.

Mr. Bennett and Mr. DellaPia note that there may be some issues in the beginning. Contact Public Works if you have any problems.

▪ **Susan Veasy, 209 Lake Avenue** – Does not like the appearance of Grenloch Park and would like a community clean up day. She also would like the docks be replaced with Trex decking.

Mr. DellaPia noted the next Council meeting is August 14th.

Mr. Bennett noted that Clean Communities can clean up Grenloch Park.

Mr. Del Borrello invited Ms. Veasy to attend their Tuesday meeting.

▪ **Maria Harb, Saddlebrook, 43 Saddlebrook Drive** – The residents were cutting and maintaining the open space area but received a letter not to and it is now overgrown. She would like the Township to higher a contractor to maintain the area. She has not received a response from the Zoning Department.

Mr. Russo will have Public Works go out and tend to the area. We are going to do the work and then lien the property.

Ms. Harb inquired about Resolution 211 regarding the public auction.

Mr. Russo noted that the Township is selling old vehicles and equipment. Information regarding the auction can be found on JJ Kane's website.

▪ **Michael McCloskey, Saddlebrook, 41 Saddlebrook Drive** – Would like an update on the open space issue at Block 17.11 Lot 51. The neighbors have been cutting the area for 25 years. Zoning stated the area would be cut but it still has not. When will it be cut? It would save the Township money if the residents maintained the area. He would like a copy of the survey and analysis of the trees that was completed.

Mr. Wright noted the case is in litigation and an answer was filed by the Township. As far as maintaining the area, the Township does not condone trespassing. Records can be requested through OPRA; however, if it is part of litigation, it will not be provided at this time.

Mr. Russo stated that Public Works and Zoning Officer Jay Morgan will go out and assess the area.

▪ **Zachary Abrams, 27 Auriga Lane** – He understands the budget and the whole country is affected by the economy. He would like residents to be able to offer their services and receive a tax break. He is not happy that the skate park was eliminated. He is an electrician and owns a snowboard company. He would like to get involved as a volunteer.

Mr. Del Borrello would like to get together with Mr. Abrams to discuss his journey and his ideas.


Mr. Brown noted that the Fire Department is always looking for volunteers.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Ciallella, RMC
Township Clerk



Peter Del Borrello, III
Council President