



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

Council President Mr. Del Borrello called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, Mr. Yerkes and Mr. Del Borrello were present. Business Administrator Mr. Russo and Attorney Mr. Wright were present. Mayor Burns arrived at 6:05 PM.

PRESENTATIONS

- Chief Gurcsik presented Jeff Novak and Mike Graff with the Police Department's Community Caretaking Award. Thank you for helping families in need.
- CFO Colette Bachich presented a report on Best Practices to Mayor and Council.

I am here to discuss Washington Township's Best Practices inventory results. Just for a bit of background on what the Best Practices Inventory is: the state of New Jersey promulgates an inventory or survey to all municipalities to obtain vital information about the status of their governmental practices. This Inventory is meant to assess compliance with NJ statutes and operational procedures. ♦ There were over 70 questions, both scored and unscored, and the scoring for each municipality is based on the answers to the questions in a variety of topics: Ethics, Budget, Affordable Housing, and Redevelopment, to name a few. This year, the minimum score that must be reached is 35 in order for Washington Township to receive a full State Financial Aid payment. I am happy to report that Washington Township scored well above the minimum requirement and will be receiving 100% of our state aid for 2025.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2024

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve the November 26, 2024 bill list. 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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for October 23, 2024 and the Special Meeting Minutes for November 7, 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.

ORDINANCES

O017-2024 ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IX, DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND CHAPTER 80, ARTICLE I, FEES

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance O017-2024. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

No one wished to speak

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance O017-2024. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance O017-2024. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

O018-2024 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 80 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON ENTITLED "FEES"

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance O018-2024. Mr. DellaPia 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 December 17, 2024.

O019-2024 ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE AMENDED REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE DELSEA DRIVE REDEVELOPMENT AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, *et seq.*) ("LRHL")

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance O019-2024. Mr. Brown 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 December 17, 2024.

O020-2024 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY REPEALING TOWNSHIP CODE CHAPTER 216 STREETS AND SIDEWALKS SECTIONS 38 THROUGH 41 PERTAINING TO SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE AND AMENDING CHAPTER 179 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND HOUSING STANDARDS SECTION SEVEN HAZARDOUS AND UNSANITARY CONDITION; DUTIES OF OWNERS AND OPERATORS TO INCLUDE MAINTENANCE OF SIDEWALKS

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance O020-2024. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. DellaPia and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes. Public Hearing and Adoption will occur on December 17, 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.

R280-2024 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON

R281-2024 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE IN CUSTODIAN OF PETTY CASH FUND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R282-2024 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BIDS AND AWARDING A CONTRACT ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS FOR SNOW PLOWING SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES FOR THE 2024-2025 SEASON

R283-2024 RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE LEASE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON KNOWN AS 220 FISH POND ROAD, SEWELL, NJ 08080, BLOCK 85.32 LOT 21, FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

R284-2024 RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE LEASE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON KNOWN AS 339 SALINA ROAD, SEWELL, NJ 08080, BLOCK 20 LOT 3

R285-2024 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,095.50

R286-2024 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR THE WASHINGTON LAKE PARK INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND PROJECT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000.00

R287-2024 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL ANY TAX REFUNDS OR DELINQUENCIES OF LESS THAN TEN (\$10.00) DOLLARS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17.1

R288-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR BRANDY WILSON, A WIDOW OF A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 192.22 LOT 5, 270 GREENTREE RD., EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2023

R289-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR BRANDON MATT, A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 17.10 LOT 11, 55 SADDLEBROOK DR., EFFECTIVE AUGUST 9, 2024

R290-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR DAVID ECKINGER, A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 111.05, LOT 8, 423 GREENVIEW RD., EFFECTIVE AUGUST 13, 2024

R291-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR CURTIS PRICE, A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 109.18 LOT 3.05, 325 JOHNSON RD., EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 2024

R292-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR BRIAN SCAVETTA, A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 194.02 LOT 14, 16 SHERRY CT., EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 9, 2024

R293-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR JAMES EARLY, A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 84.07 LOT 9, 52 PLUM TREE DR., EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 30, 2024

R294-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR SARA OBERHOLTZER, A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 239 LOT 8, 914 FORBES ST., EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 31, 2024

R295-2024 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR FRANCIS X. FISHER A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 195.03 LOT 5, 209 FORREST DR., EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 4, 2024

R296-2024 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR HENDENBERG – PINNACLE PLACE PHASE I, 508, 512, 522 & 530 DELSEA DRIVE, BLOCK 48 LOT 2, 3, 4 & 13, PROJECT #08-18-P-363.I, ESCROW #1920

R297-2024 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR HENDENBERG – PINNACLE PLACE PHASE II, 508, 512, 522 & 530 DELSEA DRIVE, BLOCK 48 LOT 2, 3, 4 & 13 AND BLOCK 52 LOT 4.01, PROJECT #08-18-P-363.I2, ESCROW #1920-2

R298-2024 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN APPLICATION AND CONTRACT FOR BINGO AND GAMES OF CHANCE AT THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER

R299-2024 RESOLUTION APPROVING LARGE GATHERING APPLICATION FOR ST. JOHN'S CHURCH OF TURNERSVILLE, INC.

R300-2024 RESOLUTION APPROVING 2024 MASSAGE PARLOR LICENSE FOR JASMIN SPA IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R301-2024 RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2024 CHEVROLET TAHOES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

R302-2024 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF STALE DATED BANK RECONCILIATION ITEMS FOR VARIOUS ACCOUNTS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R303-2024 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE BY PUBLIC BID OF CERTAIN TAX SALE CERTIFICATES OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 54:5-114 ET. SEQ

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve Resolution R280-2024 through R303-2024. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Brown 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. Bennett** – The Magic of Christmas will be held at the Olde Stone House Village on Saturday, December 14 from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. There will be music, food, photos with Santa, Polar Express readings and tree lighting. ♦ Please slow down. Speeding in Washington Township is unacceptable.
- **Mr. Brown** – The Library has a program “Food for Fines”. Fines will be waived if you bring in a food donation. ♦ The Washington Twp Fire Department Santa Runs are posted on their website.
- **Mr. Yerkes** – Open Space Committee has been very busy handing out shade trees and flowers. ♦ Special shout for the Veterans Day Celebration that was held on November 11, 2024. It was a well-attended event. Thank you Veterans for everything that they have done and gave a special thank you to the Washington Township Band who kept the crowd entertained during the event.

▪ **Mayor Burns** - The Township's Christmas Tree Lighting and Winter Village will be held on December 6, 2024, beginning at 5:00 PM in Washington Lake Park. There will be vendors, hot chocolate and Santa and Mrs. Claus will light the Christmas tree. Come out and join the fun! ♦ Light up the Township Contest is now under way. Applications are being accepted until December 6, 2024 in order to be considered. Homes will be judged on Friday, December 13, 2024. Winners will be announce on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

▪ **Mr. DellaPia** – Thanked the Police Department for the endless efforts that lead to the arrest of the suspect in the hit and run that resulted in a fatal death of resident John DeMarco and bringing closure to the families involved. ♦ Great job to the Washington Township High School Football team for having a great year. ♦ Happy Thanksgiving!

▪ **Mr. Del Borrello** – Congratulations to the eight police officers who were promoted. Congratulation to the High School football team. Happy Birthday to Winnie who turned 100 years old. Harry Potter play at the high school was a huge success. There is a Santa mailbox and Toys for Tots in the vestibule of the municipal building. Craft Fair was a huge success. Elections this year proved that elections does not have to be nasty and congratulated all 2024 candidates.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

▪ **Alicia Deamer**, 2 Bells Lake Drive – Ms. Deamer is Coach of the Unlimited Cheerleaders for the 7 and 8 grade 12 and 13 year old Cheerleaders, who recently won a competition in Wildwood. Ms. Deamer read a letter to council explaining that her cheerleaders are displace and have no place to practice and feels that no one takes this sport seriously. Ms. Deamer asked council for their help and support to find them a place to practice. Mr. DellaPia asked Ms. Deamer to stay after the meeting to discuss.

▪ **Ray Scarfo**, 63 Winfield Circle, Sewell, NJ – Commented on the Sidewalk Ordinance to see if this ordinance could be discussed further. Commented that streets are very dark, is it possible to upgrade lights and bike paths to help with safety. Asked if there are discussions regarding the budget to keep costs down for the taxpayer. Mr. Bennett commented that they are looking into several different avenues to help balance the budget.

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

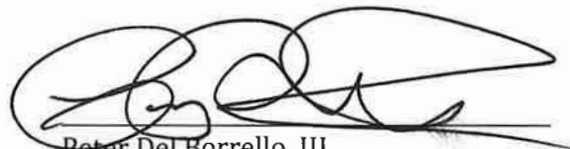
ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Ciallella, RMC
Township Clerk



Peter Del Borrello, III
Council President