



**TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON  
GLOUCESTER COUNTY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 14, 2021  
7:00 P.M.**

Council President Mr. Longfellow called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the council room located at 523 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell, New Jersey. Mr. Longfellow delivered the Sunshine Notice and the safety awareness notices.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council President Mr. Longfellow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Township Clerk Ms. Ciallella took roll call. Councilmembers Mr. Bennett, Mr. DellaPia, Mrs. Dougherty and Mr. Longfellow were present. Mrs. Williams was absent. Mayor Gattinelli and Business Administrator Mr. Gonter were present. Solicitor Mr. Platt were present via telephone.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Mayor Gattinelli presented Debbie Poolos with the May Employee of the Month.
- Lori Morello presented an update on Senior Citizen and Veterans Affairs.

Thank you, Council President Longfellow, and thank you for having me here tonight. Good evening, Mayor Gattinelli, Council, and Residents of Washington Township, my name is Lori Morello and I am Washington Township's Director of Senior Programs and Community Affairs. I would like to present an update of activities and program development for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the year.

As needed on an individual basis, I continue to meet with our senior residents and assist with filling out applications for numerous programs as well as remain a liaison with the Gloucester County Division of Senior Services. ♦ During tax season, Mayor Gattinelli provided a safe environment for AARP volunteers to meet with our Senior Residents here in the Council room. As tax season concluded, AARP assisted over 425 senior residents with completing their tax returns. In addition, by appointment only, AARP will continue to assist Senior Residents in filling out the 2020 Senior Freeze Booklets. Senior Residents can call me directly to arrangement an appointment with AARP. ♦ Last month, we started the Senior Walking Club for all Senior Residents. The Senior Walking Club meets every Tuesday at Washington Lake Park beginning 11:00 a.m. We meet at Pavilion "A" which is adjacent to parking Lot "D." Mayor Gattinelli and Chief Gurscik met for our first walk and enjoyed catching up with our Senior Residents as we strolled through the Park. It is a great opportunity for our Senior Residents to get some fresh air and enjoy each other's company as well as the park. I know the Senior Residents who have joined the Senior Walking Club, expressed they truly look forward to it each week. Please share this information with any Senior Resident who might like to join the Senior Walking Club. Again, the Senior Walking Club meets every Tuesday at Washington Lake Park beginning 11:00 a.m. under Pavilion "A". ♦ If you are a member of the Senior Center, you received an invitation to the first "in person" "Spring into Summer" event being held at Washington Lake Park tomorrow. This is an R.S.V.P. event and we received a tremendous response from our Senior Center Members. We look forward to greeting our Members in person and have a special bag of goodies for them. While we are preparing the Senior Center to reopen, we thought this would be

a nice way to reconnect with everyone and say hello. ♦ As always, I will continue to create Senior Resident outreach programs. I am currently working with Jen Mentzer from the Margaret Heggan Free Public Library. We will create an outreach program specifically for our Senior Residents very soon, so please look for that announcement. ♦ Thank you, Mayor Gattinelli and the residents of Washington Township, for giving me the opportunity to be the Director of Senior Programs and Community Affairs. Hope to see more Senior Residents next Tuesday for the Senior Walking Club in the Park. Have a great night!

▪ Nancy Mozzachio offered an update on Economic Development.

Good evening Mr Longfellow, Mayor, Mr Gonter, Mr Platt and Council. As we move into the second half of 2021, our business community has proven to be stronger than ever despite a 100-year pandemic. ♦ In the last few months, long term vacant spaces along the Black Horse Pike have been sold or leased. Notably, Fat Jacks BBQ, a regional favorite, is energetically working on the retrofit of a former Pizza Hut building, and in a few weeks, Scrub Pro Uniform will occupy a long-vacant Sleepy's building. In addition, demolition and ground breaking will occur soon for MOD car wash, building on land area on which a closed Burger King currently stands. ♦ New businesses are occupying vacancy all over town, like D Boys Boxing, Quik Pack & Ship and Star Market. In fact, a recent Q2 South Jersey retail report created by WCRE states vacancy of Gloucester County retail as a whole ticked up to 16.5% however Washington Twp. vacancy did the opposite. The evidence of vacancy absorption is not anecdotal, the data is clear. While we see new businesses coming to our great town, we are also assisting several existing businesses who want to relocate and expand their footprints. And developers are regularly meeting with us to present site plans for vacant land and proposing projects which will bring good ratables to Washington Township. ♦ In order to assist existing businesses, we regularly send out electronic newsletters to inform businesses about grants and low interest loan programs. Through our relationship with NJEDA, we just received information about the NJEDA PHASE 2 Loan program. The program opens July 20 for pre-registration and August 1 for Stage 1 Applications. Of note, the plan highlights include: \$100,000 maximum loan; interest of -0- percent and a 10-year amortization with a 24-month payment deferral. ♦ Last week, our newsletter highlighted a Recently released \$10,000 grant program for small businesses, presented by Gloucester County Commissioners. As always, we strive to unearth grant and loan programs for our businesses and when we can, and find grants for veteran owned businesses, women owned businesses and BIPOC owned businesses. ♦ Lastly, we continue to take advantage of record-high residential closings of almost 7000 per month by working with local businesses to gather promotional items for new resident welcome baskets soon to be distributed by realtors. With that I turn it back to Mr. Longfellow.

▪ Chief Gurcsik presented a midyear report of the Police Department.

Good evening. Tonight, before I deliver my "First half of 2021 Policing Report" I want to personally thank Mayor Gattinelli, Council & Business Administrator Gonter for your constant support. You have allowed me to continue to make my vision for the Police Department a reality. As a career law enforcement professional, I appreciate the trust you have in me and in our department. ♦ In my 5th year as Police Chief, I continue to challenge my officers to think outside the box and balance what many consider typical duties of a police officer with the department's initiative of Community Caretaking - with the underlining goal of earning and maintaining the trust of our community. Relationships are the backbone of any community and I believe the wide variety of community programs we hold have helped gain the trust and friendship of many of our residents. ♦ This year we continue to balance our successful community outreach programs with traditional police work. In January the New Jersey State Police announced the 2020 Uniform Crime Report. Washington Township saw a decrease in crime. Our Police Department and low crime rate are one of the reasons why Washington Township is a desirable place to live. ♦ As 2021 commenced we continued our work to ensure traffic safety. Many of you are familiar with our "Drive Like Your Kids

Live Here" initiative. We regularly conduct traffic studies and speed studies. Last year we procured and installed 10 solar powered speed signs in residential developments. Later this year 10 additional solar powered speed signs will be installed across town on residential roadways and in Washington Lake Park. Sidewalks for Hurffville-Cross Keys Road near Washington Lake Park are being evaluated. SH47 Delsea Drive will soon see the construction phase of repaving, improvements and a traffic signal at Salina Road. A review for a traffic signal is underway for SH47 at Park Place Blvd. ♦ Community outreach programs have helped our department keep a service mindset and attitude. So far this year we have hosted a Senior Valentine's Day outreach, Covid PPE deliveries, A Battle of The Badges Blood Drive, Cops & Bobbers, Cool Off With A Cop, Operation Take Back and many other community programs. This summer we are hosting a Free Basketball camp, Summer Slam Tennis Camp, Junior Police Academy, National Night Out, Christmas In July and additional programs throughout the Fall and Winter. We continue to use social media to communicate with our residents. We now have over 25,000 Facebook followers. ♦ School safety remains a priority for my administration. Patrol Officers are directed to visit and walk the school halls daily. In September we plan to add another School Resource Officer bringing our total to 6 Full Time SRO's. ♦ Our agency prides itself on training. Mandatory Police Officer training is at the forefront of New Jersey Police Departments. Before the year end, officers will have completed mandatory training on de-escalation, Use Of Force, Police Pursuits, Implicit bias training, ICAT Integrating Communication and Tactics training and ABLE Active Bystandership training for Law Enforcement. ♦ Pursuing grant funding continues. To date, this year we have been awarded over a quarter million dollars to be used for Body Cameras, Traffic Enforcement, Community Outreach and officer Body Armor. We continue to decrease the size of our fleet and focus on efficiency. Vehicles are on strict service plans and car wash plans. We are currently taking ownership of new police cars purchased in 2020 and there's a resolution on tonight's agenda to purchase additional marked police vehicles for the patrol division. With forfeiture funds we purchased a new Honda Passport in March for our Detective Bureau. ♦ In 2021 you will see us work relentlessly towards our goal of reducing crime by being proactive in engaging our residents by identifying issues before they become larger problems. Our officers will protect the thin blue line between order and chaos, between respect for decency and lawlessness. We will continue to provide services, community policing, security, safety, education and enforcement throughout the Township of Washington.

#### **APPROVAL OF BILL LIST FOR JULY 14, 2021**

Mr. Longfellow asked for a motion to approve the July 14, 2021 bill list. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. DellaPia seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. DellaPia, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Dougherty and Mr. Longfellow voted yes. Mrs. Williams was absent.

#### **APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE 23, 2021**

Mr. Longfellow asked for a motion to approve the June 23, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Longfellow seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. DellaPia, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Dougherty and Mr. Longfellow voted yes. Mrs. Williams was absent.

#### **APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 6, 2021**

Mr. Longfellow asked for a motion to approve the July 6, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. DellaPia seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. DellaPia, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Dougherty and Mr. Longfellow voted yes. Mrs. Williams was absent.

## **ORDINANCES**

### **0014-2021 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING ORDINANCE 0005-2021 WHICH AMENDS CHAPTER 241 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON ENTITLED "STORMWATER MANAGEMENT" – Requested by the Department of Engineering**

Mr. Longfellow asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance 0014-021. Mr. DellaPia motioned. Mrs. Dougherty seconded.

No one wished to speak.

Mr. Longfellow asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance 0014-2021. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. DellaPia seconded.

Mr. Longfellow asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 0014-2021. Mr. DellaPia motioned. Mr. Bennett seconded, which was unanimously approved by the members present. Mrs. Williams was absent.

Mr. Platt directed Township Clerk Ciallella to forward Ordinance 0014-2021 to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Gloucester County and the Planning Board Engineer.

### **0015-2021 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR TAX ABATEMENT WITH ROYAL ONE LLC, 13 ORCHARDVIEW DRIVE, SEWELL, NJ 08080 FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 5151 ROUTE 42, BLOCK 158, LOT 2 – Requested by the Department of Law**

Mr. Longfellow asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance 0015-021. Mr. DellaPia motioned. Mr. Bennett seconded.

No one wished to speak.

Mr. Longfellow asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance 0015-2021. Mr. DellaPia motioned. Mr. Longfellow seconded.

Mr. Longfellow asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 0015-2021. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. DellaPia seconded, which was unanimously approved by the members present. Mrs. Williams was absent.

### **0016-2021 ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE AMENDED REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE DELSEA DRIVE REDEVELOPMENT AREA – Requested by Affordable Housing Counsel**

Mr. Longfellow asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance 0016-2021. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. DellaPia seconded, which was unanimously approved by the members present. Mrs. Williams was absent. Public hearing and adoption will occur on August 11, 2021.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**The following Resolutions are by consent agenda and only require a vote for all listed. Each one must be read by title. If any member of the Council wishes to have one removed and heard separately, they need to indicate it prior to the reading of the titles.**

Mr. Longfellow requested Resolution R189-2021 be removed from consent agenda to be read separately by Township Clerk Ciallella due to conflict.

### **R189-2021 RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON AND THE CHIEF OF POLICE PATRICK GURCSIK – Requested by Administration**

Township Clerk Ciallella asked for a motion to approve Resolution R189-2021. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. DellaPia seconded. There was no discussion. Mr. Bennett, Mr. DellaPia and Mrs. Dougherty voted yes. Mr. Longfellow recused. Mrs. Williams was absent.

**R181-2021 RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIFTEEN (15) NEW POLICE INTERCEPTOR UTILITY VEHICLES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – Requested by the Department of Finance**

**R182-2021 RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE UPFIT AND LABOR OF FIFTEEN (15) NEW POLICE INTERCEPTOR UTILITY VEHICLES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – Requested by the Department of Finance**

**R183-2021 RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW CHEVROLET TAHOE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – Requested by the Department of Finance**

**R184-2021 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS – Requested by the Tax Collector**

**R185-2021 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR MAINTENANCE WORK PERFORMED FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON – Requested by the Tax Collector**

**R186-2021 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF STALE DATED BANK RECONCILIATION ITEMS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION ACCOUNT – Requested by the Department of Finance**

**R187-2021 RESOLUTION TO RETURN A LARGE GATHERING BOND TO THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP GIRL SCOUTS – Requested by the Township Clerk**

**R188-2021 RESOLUTION APPROVING A LARGE GATHERING APPLICATION FOR SAWYERS CREEK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION – Requested by the Township Clerk**

**R190-2021 RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID FOR THE 2020 ROAD PROGRAM – PHASE II TO LEXA CONCRETE, LLC, PROJECT #08-18-T-398 – Requested by the Department of Engineering**

**R191-2021 RESOLUTION RELEASING A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR CIEMNY, 400 DELSEA DRIVE, BLOCK 38, LOT 1, ESCROW #1933 – Requested by the Department of Engineering**

**R192-2021 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES AND WAIVING THE MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR D&W DIESEL, INC., 157 DELSEA DRIVE, ESCROW #1028 – Requested by the Department of Engineering**

**R193-2021 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND ACCEPTING A MAINTENANCE BOND FROM COMMAND CO., INC. FOR CEDAR LAKE OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT #08-18-T-374.I – Requested by the Department of Engineering**

**R194-2021 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR BODY WORN CAMERAS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$185,458.00 – Requested by the Department of Finance**

Mr. Longfellow asked for a motion to approve Resolution R181-2021 through R188-2021 and Resolution R190-2021 through R194-2021. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. DellaPia seconded. There was no discussion. Mr. DellaPia, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Dougherty and Mr. Longfellow voted yes. Mrs. Williams was absent.

**PUBLIC HEARING – GREEN ACRES APPLICATION**

Mr. DellaPia asked for a motion to open the public the Green Acres Application. Mr. DellaPia motioned. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the members present. Mrs. Williams was absent.

Vicky Binetti, 50 Berkshire Drive – Expressed her gratitude for the Green Acres application.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Council members had nothing to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council members had nothing to report.

**REPORTS**

▪ **Mayor Gattinelli** – Please be mindful on the road with our children on bicycles to keep our children and town safe.

▪ **Mr. Longfellow** – The Municipal Building is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 8AM to 5PM. There is a drop box in the parking lot for those who prefer to avoid direct contact. ♦ Please join us for movies and concerts in Washington Lake Park this summer. Details can be found on the website. ♦ Come out for Taco Palooza Festival being held in Washington Lake Park on July 17! ♦ The Washington Township Police Department will be participating in the National Night Out Event on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6PM – 9 PM in Washington Lake Park. We invite everyone to come out and be part of this nationwide event to promote safer communities. ♦ Mr. Longfellow sent his condolences to the family of Bob Abbott who was a Veteran in our town and very active within the community. He will be greatly missed by many.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

No one wished to speak.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Longfellow asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bennett motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DellaPia seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the members present. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M. The next Council meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christine Ciallella, RMC  
Township Clerk

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Sean Longfellow  
Council President