

**Township of Washington
Gloucester County
Council Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

Council President Sean Longfellow called the meeting to order at 7:10 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. The flag salute followed.

Township Clerk Jill McCrea took a roll call vote. Councilmembers, Fazzio, Martin, Donato, and Longfellow were present. Business Administrator Bob Smith and Township Attorney Joe Alacqua were also present. Councilman Newman and Mayor Barbara Wallace were absent.

Approval of minutes:

Mr. Fazzio moved the May 11, 2016 minutes. Mrs. Martin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCES:

014 – 2016: AN ORDINANCE AWARDING OWNERSHIP OF MOTHER’S CUPBOARD TO ROTARY CLUB OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Mrs. Martin moved Ordinance 14 – 2016 for first reading. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Washington Township Rotary President Roy Audette, thank the Council for their consideration of the Rotary’s request to acquire ownership of Mother’s Cupboard. He informed the Council the request was because Rotary desired to have a vested interest in the Cupboard because they had been running and supporting it for many years and wished to continue supplying those in Washington Township in need.

015 – 2016: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 178 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO FULLY CONFORM TO THE PAY TO PLAY PROVISIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY AS N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.1 ET SEQ

Mrs. Martin moved Ordinance 15 – 2016 for first reading. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Approval of Bill List:

Ms. Donato motioned to approve the May 25, 2016 bill list. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion. Ms. Donato requested the Lauletta Birnbaum legal bill be removed from approval until for further review of the agreement of the firm. All other bills were unanimously approved, with the exception of Mr. Fazzio on Fazzio bills and Mrs. Martin on the Capehart & Scatchhard.

013 – 2016: ORDINANCE RESTRICTING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS FROM PET SHOPS

Mrs. Martin motioned to open to the meeting for the public hearing on the Ordinance 13 – 2016. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Andrea Coon, 797 Richmond Drive, spoke of an accident on the NJ Turnpike involving a truckload of puppies. She reported there was documentation that thirteen of the puppies were being sold to the Puppy Stop in Washington Township. Additionally, one-third were underage and many had hernias. Diane Vieteri, 637 5th Avenue, Lindenwold, explained that the dogs that are breed do not receive proper veterinarian care and the puppies are taken before they are of appropriate age. She purchased a dog for \$1300 from the Puppy Stop that died a few days later from the Parvovirus Virus. Christy Moore, 10 Rickle Court, said she purchased two puppies from Puppy Stop that were very helpful with her special needs son. She added not everyone can adopt because the background of the dog is unknown.

Anne Hastings, 106 Dorado Avenue, rebutted the background of puppies from pet stores is also unknown. Tom Delcoria, owner of U.S. Mortgage in same shopping center as the Puppy Stop felt if the ordinance resulted in the Puppy Stop going out of business, it was bad for business owners and for the economy of the Township. He also purchased a dog from the Puppy Stop that he said was wonderful. Jean Delcoria, stated she had many friends and family that purchased from the Puppy Stop that they were very happy with their pets. She added the owner (of Puppy Stop) would make full restitution if the dog were unhealthy. Ken Bevenour, 37 Jones Lane, believed it was up to the buyer to check the background of a pet store and the Puppy Stop should not be closed. Council President Longfellow clarified that the purpose of the ordinance was not to close store, but to prohibit the sale of commercially breed dogs and cats in Washington Township. Nancy Bonsall, 423 Yorkshire Road, Cherry Hill, informed the Council that there was a business model in place, which stores that do not buy from puppy mills, are still able to stay afloat. Beverly Monte, 40 Cricket Lane, emotionally spoke of her experience of her dog being killed by a rescue dog purchased from Pet Smart. She went on to tell she purchased a new dog from the Puppy Mill and couldn't be happier. Denise Hiel, 10 Pine Hurst Court, praised the Puppy Stop and expressed her satisfaction with the two dogs she purchased from there. Mark Harnish, owner of Puppy Stop, supplied the background of how he became the owner of the store. He clarified that pet storeowners are forbidden to buy puppies that are from a breeder that is not USDA certified. When he receives the dogs from the breeders, they are well taken care of and are examined and vaccinated by a veterinarian. He added that he can't guarantee good health, but he does have a fourteen-day refund policy if the dog has a contagious disease. Lisa Acey, Congress Road, Pine Hill, said she was very happy with the Puppy Stop. Nancy Bonsall, said the parents of the puppies at these mills live their lives in a filthy crate the size of a dishwasher. They are then shot after they are no longer able to breed. Dr. Nancy Halpern, attorney representing the Puppy Stop (also a licensed veterinarian), defined what a commercial mill was and Puppy Stop was abiding by the existing laws in place. Further, legitimate businesses should not be put out of business because it violates too many clauses of the law regarding the sale of dogs. Mr. Harnish, went over economics of his business and stated how much he and the employees love their jobs. Josh Aronovich, 18 Lawrence Lane, believed that puppy mills were the targets of the ordinance, not the Puppy Stop. He felt it was important that Congress change the laws governing the sale of animals. Anne Hastings, Mr. Harnish, Dr. Nancy Halpern, and others that had already spoken continued to debate their opinions on the topic. At this time, Council President Longfellow, interjected and informed the participants of debate, that the Council will look into the legalities and do as much research as possible on the issue. Mrs. Martin motioned to table and continue the public hearing on June 22, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fazzio and unanimously approved.

RESOLUTIONS:

R79: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO APPLY FOR A TONNAGE GRANT PURSUANT TO THE MANDATORY SOURCE SEPARATION AND RECYCLING ACT OF THE P.L. 1987 CHAPTER 102

Mrs. Martin moved Resolution 79 – 2016. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

R80: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC AUCTION FOR THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY WHICH IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE

Mrs. Martin moved Resolution 80 – 2016. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Donato asked Mr. Smith for updates on Chapel Heights Road. Mr. Smith informed Ms. Donato that a speed study hadn't been done and would request one. Township Engineer Annina Hogan provided an update on the punch list for the repair of certain streets in Heritage Valley. She affirmed she had been providing residents updates.

NEW BUSINESS: None

REPORTS:

Ms. Donato reported that Super Saturday was a very successful event. She announced the Veteran's Ceremony being held on Memorial Day and the Primary Election on June 7, 2016. Mr. Longfellow announced polling location changes. He also reported the opening of the Community Gardens at Washington Lake Park, being run by the Environmental Commission and the Open Space Committee and the dedication of the Washington Township Municipal Utilities Authority building to the late Val Orsimarsi, Former Chairman of the Board. He attributed the Township's low water rates to Mr. Orsimari's diligence long time oversight of the MUA.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mrs. Martin motioned to open the meeting for public participation. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. There was no comment from the public. Mr. Fazzio motioned to close the public portion. Ms. Donato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

Ms. Donato motioned to adjourn. Mr. Fazzio seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Councilmembers present. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill S. McCrea
Township Clerk