

**Township of Washington
Gloucester County
Council Regular Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

Council President Joe Perry called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Room Located at 523 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell, New Jersey. The Flag salute followed. Mr. Perry delivered the Sunshine Notice and the Safety Awareness video and cell phone notices.

Chief Gurcsik called on the Honor Guard for Presentation of Colors. Flag salute followed. Mr. Perry stated that Father Picnic would say prayer. Township Clerk Leo Selb took a roll call vote. Councilmembers Donato, Fazzio, Longfellow and Perry were present. Ms. Pasqualone was absent. Township Solicitor Mr. Platt, Business Administrator Mr. Gonter and Mayor Gattinelli were present.

Chief Gurcsik promoted Officer Michael Ferris to Sergeant, who was sworn in by Mayor Gattinelli. Chief Gurcsik promoted Sgt. Joe Russo to Lieutenant, who was sworn in by Mayor Gattinelli. Chief Gurcsik promoted Lt. Ken Kennedy to Captain, who was sworn in by Mayor Gattinelli. Chief Gurcsik recognized and congratulated Officer Jason Sims who was assigned from patrolman to detective.

Recognition

On behalf of the Environmental Commission Vicky Binetti presented John Boyer with a plaque for his dedicated service to the Environmental Commission, Open Space Advisory Committee and the Washington Township Planning Board. Mayor Gattinelli presented Mr. Boyer with a proclamation for his tremendous service. Assemblywoman Gabriela Mosquera on behalf of Senator Madden and Assemblyman Moriarity, she presented Mr. Boyer with a proclamation for his hard work and dedication.

Presentation

Barbara Davis Vice President of Land Conservancy of New Jersey presented to Council and the public the Open Space & Recreation Plan. Copy of the plan is in the Clerk's Office if anyone is interested until May 16th, 2018. Public comment was opened for anyone to ask any questions. Councilman Longfellow commended everyone involved in the project. Public Session was closed. Barbara Davis and Twp Clerk Selb advised all could also send comments to the Twp. Clerk who would see she gets them. Copy of the project is also available in the Clerk's Office for review and at the Heggan Library.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

Mr. Perry asked for a motion to approve the February 28, 2018 bill list. Mr. Longfellow motioned. Mr. Fazzio seconded. There was no discussion. All voted yes. Mr. Fazzio abstained from anything Fazzio. Ms. Pasqualone was absent.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Perry asked for a motion to approve the February 7, 2018 meeting minutes. Ms. Donato motioned. Mr. Longfellow seconded. There was no discussion. All voted yes. Ms. Pasqualone absent.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance O03-2018 **ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMIT AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

Mr. Perry asked for a motion to open to the public on Ordinance O03-2018. Ms. Donato motioned. Mr. Fazzio seconded. All in favor. Ms. Pasqualone was absent. Colette Bachich, CFO gave a brief synopsis of the Ordinance. Mr. Perry asked for a motion to open to the public, made, seconded and all voted yes. **Joe Fernicola**- When is the Financial Audit of the Township due. Goodwin Parkway asked why we are increasing the cap by 1% when we

have a large amount in surplus. What are we looking at for 2017? Revenues are understated in the budget based on actual from prior years but then in the budget are understated. Mr. Perry asked for a motion to close to the public on Ordinance O03-2018. All in Favor. Ms. Pasqualone was absent. Colette advised the statement will be on the website tomorrow. Mr. Longfellow assisted in the answer by stating it is an emergency type of number if we need to go there. Robin assistant to CFO advised we need a surplus during the year due to payment of taxes to insure a cash flow otherwise we would have to pay to borrow. **Giancarlo D’Orazio** – Why are we doing this ordinance now? Other towns wait until just before the budget. He advised he felt you are giving the green light for the Council to spend the additional amount when in fact when you do the budget you may cut. Mr. Longfellow advised that is not how it works and explained. It is a prudent thing to do. We held the tax rate level for the last two years and intend to do it again this year if at all possible. **Ralph Campana** - I want council to explain what is the number to put in the reserve, and if there is more than we need to meet that number does that money go back as a credit to the taxpayers, or do we have to hold that in the Township hands. Are we ever over? Colette advised there is no actual amount required. We actually choose to carry four months to cover our expenses if we need it. Mr. Platt further asked Colette to confirm the auditor look at that and advised us if we are fiscally responsible in regards to that number. She answered yes. Mr. Gonter asked Colette to Confirm when Moody’s who rates our bond rating looked at our surplus that helped us get a very good rating last year. She advised yes. Mr. Perry asked for a motion to close the public meeting. Mr. Perry motioned, Mr. Longfellow seconded and all voted yes. Motion to adopt Ordinance 003-2018. Mr. Longfellow made the motion, Ms. Donato seconded. There was no discussion. Ms. Donato voted yes, Mr. Longfellow voted yes, Mr. Perry voted yes. Mr. Fazzio voted no. Ms. Pasqualone was absent.

Ordinance O04-2018 ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 260-25 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON ENTITLED STOP INTERSECTION

Mr. Perry asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance O04-2018. Ms. Donato motioned. Mr. Longfellow seconded. All voted yes. Ms. Pasqualone was absent.

Ordinance O05-2018 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO MANDATE DIRECT DEPOSIT FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 52:14-15F

Mr. Perry asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance O05-2018. Mr. Platt gave a brief description of the Ordinance. We actually save money. Mr. Longfellow motioned. Mr. Fazzio seconded. All voted yes. Ms. Pasqualone was absent.

Ordinance O06-2018 ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CODE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:55d-53 TO ESTIMATE AND MANAGE PERFORMANCE AND MAINTENANCE GUARANTEES

Mr. Perry asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance O06-2018. Mr. Platt advised this up for introduction by title only. He is working with the Engineer to put together this Ordinance and it very complex. He explained the law to everyone. It has go to the planning board first. Mr. Longfellow motioned. Mr. Fazzio seconded. Mr. Platt gave a brief description of the Ordinance. All voted yes. Ms. Pasqualone was absent.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Perry asked for a motion to amend the consent agenda to include R062-2018 thru R064-2018. Mr. Longfellow motioned. Ms. Donato seconded. All voted yes. Ms. Pasqualone was absent.

R055-2018 RESOLUTION UPDATING THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT BOOK FOR 2018 FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R056-2018 RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 178-2017 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF

WASHINGTON APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ADMINSTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

R057-2018 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS

R059-2018 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

R060-2018 RESOLUTION APPROVING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR D & w DIESEL, INC STREET LIGHTING ONLY

R061-2018 RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 359-2017 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ADMINSTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

R062-2018 RESOLUTION RETURNING APPLICATION FEE FOR PEDDLERS LICENSE

R063-2018 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR LAWN SERVICES

R064-2018 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC BIDS FOR LEASE OF THE CONCESSION STAND LOCATED AT WASHINGTON LAKE PARK

Ms. Donato motioned to approve consent agenda. Mr. Fazzio seconded, which was unanimously approved. Ms. Pasqualone was absent.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Councilmembers had nothing to report at this time.

REPORTS

Ms. Donato-Family Community Services and Municipal Alliance-Christmas Angels programs 218 kids benefited and 7 bags of presents to Williamstown. Senior Citizens Luncheon is March 8th at 11:30 am. Mother's Cupboard-Shop Rite donated a \$1000 grant. Stuff the Bus- on Thursday March 8th 1:30 to 7 pm in the High School Parking Lot. Rotary Event-Friday 3/9/18 @ 7pm-10pm Wedgwood Country Club, featuring over 200 beers and wines; honoring Sam Micklus. Lauren Rose Albert Foundation Open House is Saturday March 8, 2018, from 11am-2pm. **Mr. Longfellow**- Thanked Open Space for coming out tonight and showing their Open Space and Recreation Plan. **Mr. Fazzio**-nothing to report. **Mr. Perry** – Rabies clinic was a success, thank public works department, employees that helped and the Clerk's office. **Mayor Gattinelli**- reported that preparation of the 2018 budget is underway, for anyone interested to sit down and discuss, budget meetings have been scheduled and are posted on website, please call the Mayor's office to schedule your appointment. She commended BA Gonter on his efforts on the Shop Washington Township Program as there have been inquiries from a town in California and how well the program was put together. She is getting positive feedback and thanked the 30 business that are participating in the program.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Donato motioned to open the meeting to the public. Mr. Longfellow seconded. All in favor. Ms. Pasqualone was absent. **Susan Pastewick**-2 Buena Court-requested that actual law being referred to in the ordinance are put with the Ordinances. She asked for the Ordinance also to show what was being deleted and what was being newly

added. She asked to continue to extend the transparency to the people of Washington Twp. **Robert Davis-2** Saddlebrook Court- He had a question about the number of council members involved. He looked up the law and proceeded to read the law. He expressed his opinion that the Township should have 7 Councilmembers instead of 5. Mr. Platt stated the administrated code is found in Chapter 2. Changes in form of government takes a Charter Commission. He explained what would happen regarding the election of members in a 7-member council in a Faulkner Community. **Bruce Frasier-4** Drake Terrance- Expressed his concerns for the Nursing Home Project on Greentree Road, he was upset with the Zoning Board to give the people everything, stated that there are many mistakes and is looking for answers. Where does he go to get some answers, calls are made here but no one answers the questions or addressing the concerns. Who do was one to go to get answers. Ms. Hogan, Twp. Dept of RV Engineering who we engaged, stated the only official route is to follow the bond and can only enforce the bond with the developer. The developed has stayed within their plan. All else is private, believes the Twp. Has no legal right to enforce the rights of private home owners. However, should the Township wish them to get involved and are requested they will get involved. Mr. Perry asked how owns the site, and she said she would have to look up the property. Mr. Longfellow stated that he is more than willing to discuss the issues with one resident and in fact has had a discussion regarding several phone calls. Mr. Perry requested the resident to meet with him after the meeting. **Ralph Campana-2** Peartree Place- He believes everyone here is trying to help the Township. Feels the buffers need to be bigger on projects and need to be followed up when the project is complete to insure they are actually put in according to what they agreed upon. What is the minimum we need to have in reserve to maintain our credit rating? If it is more than the minimum then it should go back to the taxpayers as a credit. Stop signs and where they are placed who makes that decision. Ms. Hogan Stop signs are requested by the Police Dept. and the we review those places and make recommendations in compliance with the law and traffic safety. Colette Bachich explained that there is not a minimum for reserve, it is one of many but there are many other key components are factored in to get the rating. Mr. Gonter commented on that issue as well. He invited him to come to one of the many meetings for the budget discussions. Mr. Perry motioned to close the meeting to the public. Mr. Longfellow seconded. All in favor. Ms. Pasqualone was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Perry asked how long it will take and Mr. Stuart announced that executive session would last approximately 30 minutes for litigation DiBuonaventura v. WT et als. Mr. Perry asked for a motion to enter into executive session R058-2018. Mr. Longfellow motioned. Mr. Fazio seconded. All in favor. Ms. Pasqualone was absent. Executive session as entered into at 8:38 pm. Mr. Perry asked for a motion to return from executive session. Mr. Longfellow motioned. Ms. Donato seconded. All in favor. Ms. Pasqualone was absent. Executive session was closed and the meeting reopened to the public at 9:09pm

ADJOURN

The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2018 at 7:00p.m. Ms. Donato motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fazio seconded. All in favor. Ms. Pasqualone was absent. The meeting adjourned at 9:10p.m.