TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
GLOUCESTER COUNTY
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2025
6:00 P.M.

Township Clerk Christine Ciallella called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., at the Performing Arts Center located at 519 Hurffville - Cross Keys Road, Sewell, New Jersey. Ms. Ciallella delivered the Sunshine Notice and the safety awareness notices. She asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by Antonia Brunetti singing the National Anthem.

SWEARING IN MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- Mayor Elect DellaPia was escorted to the stage by his family where he was sworn in by The Honorable Jack Ciattarelli, former New Jersey Assemblyman.
- Re-elected Councilman Richard Bennett was introduced and sworn in by The Honorable Jack Ciattarelli, former New Jersey Assemblyman.
- Newly elected Councilman Joseph Harris was escorted to the stage by his family and sworn in by The Honorable Jack Ciattarelli, former New Jersey Assemblyman.
- Clerk Ciallella noted that the Bible used for tonight's swearing in was signed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Ciallella, Township Clerk, took roll call. Councilman Bennett, Councilman Brown, Councilman Harris, Councilman Yerkes and Councilman Mr. Del Borrello and Mayor DellaPia were present.

NOMINATIONS

- Ms. Ciallella took nominations for Council President. Mr. Yerkes nominated Mr. Del Borrello. There were no other nominations. Motion made by Mr. Yerkes, second by Mr. Bennett. The motion carried with five (5) yes votes. The Honorable Jack Ciattarelli, former New Jersey Assemblyman swore in Peter Del Borrello III as Council President.
- Ms. Ciallella handed the gavel over to Council President Del Borrello.
- Mr. Del Borrello took nominations for Council Vice President. Mr. Yerkes nominated Mr. Brown. There were no other nominations. Motion made by Mr. Yerkes, second by Mr. Bennett. The motion carried with five (5) yes votes. The Honorable Jack Ciattarelli, former New Jersey Assemblyman swore in Donald Brown, Jr. as Council Vice President.
- The Honorable Jack Ciattarelli, former New Jersey Assemblyman spoke about the peaceful transfer of power, wished Mayor and Council the best and thanked them for inviting him to the Reorganization Meeting.
- Council President Del Borrello thanked the honored guests in attendance: Former Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli, Former Assemblywoman Beth Sawyer, Assemblyman Dan Hutchinson, Senator Geist and former Assemblyman Steve Altamuro

COUNCIL LIASIONS

Council President Del Borrello announced the Council liaisons.

- Councilman Harris – Advisory Board of Economic Development, Parade Committee and Senior Citizens Advisory Board
- Councilman Del Borrello – Planning Board, Shade Tree Advisory and Zoning Board
- Councilman Bennett – Environmental Commission, Family & Community Services/Municipal Alliance Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, School Board and Sports Advisory
- Councilman Yerkes – Green Team Committee, Municipal Utilities Authority, Open Space and Veterans Affairs Advisory Board
- Councilman Brown – Library Board, Local Emergency Planning Board and Rent Leveling Board

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST FOR JANUARY 3, 2025

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve the January 3, 2025 bill list. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerke Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

MAYOR COMMENTS

- Mayor DellaPia thanked Superintendent Dr. Hibbs and staff for the use of the high school and the Washington Township ROTC for their assistance tonight. Congratulations to Councilman Rich Bennett and Councilman Joe Harris, Council President Del Borrello and Council Vice President Don Brown. He is looking forward to working with and leading the Washington Township municipal staff. Thank you to the residents of Washington Township for their faith and confidence to represent them as Mayor. He is honored and humbled to be Mayor and will be transparent and accessible. Thank you Jack Ciattarelli for attending and swearing him in. Thank you Antonia Brunetti for lending her voice to sing the National Anthem. He thanked his family and friends for attending and supporting him and worked hard to help him become Mayor. He thanked his Mom for always supporting him. He recognized and thanked his wife for being his best friend and rock and his children for their support and dedication.

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.

R001-2025 RESOLUTION ADOPTING A TEMPORARY BUDGET

R002-2025 RESOLUTION FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2025

R003-2025 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN AND POLICIES FOR THE YEAR 2025

R004-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT OF IDLE FUNDS AND FUND TRANSFERS FOR THE YEAR 2025

R005-2025 RESOLUTION ALLOWING CHECK AUTHORIZATION PRIOR TO BILL LIST APPROVAL FOR THE YEAR 2025

R006-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PETTY CASH FUND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON IN THE AMOUNT OF $500.00 FOR THE YEAR 2025

R007-2025 RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF PATRICK GURCSIK AS CHIEF OF POLICE, DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R008-2025 RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF BLANEY, DONAHUE & WEINBERG AS SOLICITOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R009-2025 RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH RUSSO AS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R010-2025 RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF FRANK ALTAMURO AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR A TERM OF FOUR (4) YEAR

R011-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING ANTHONY DESIMONE AS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/CONSTRUCTION CODE OFFICIAL FOR A TERM OF FOUR (4) YEARS

R012-2025 RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF PENNONI AS THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER AND DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS

R013-2025 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MEETING DATES AND OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR THE YEAR 2025 FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R014-2025 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETINGS

R015-2025 RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO PUBLIC PORTIONS OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETINGS

R016-2025 RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S GUIDELINES

R017-2025 RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JANINE SMILEY AS CERTIFYING OFFICER AND COLETTE BACHICH AS SUPERVISOR OF THE CERTIFYING OFFICER FOR PENSION FUNDS FOR THE YEAR 2025

R018-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING COLETTE BACHICH AS THE FUND COMMISSIONER FOR THE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND FOR THE YEAR 2025

R019-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR THE YEAR 2025

R020-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING COLETTE BACHICH AS QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR THE YEAR 2025

R021-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING TUREK CONSULTING, LLC AS THE PLANNER AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R022-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING TRIAD ASSOCIATES AS THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R023-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING DASTI, MCGUCKIN, MCNICHOLS, CONNORS, ANTHONY & BUCKLEY AS SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING MATTERS AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R024-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE BARCLAY GROUP AS THE RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R025-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING ARCHER & GREINER, PC AS BOND COUNSEL AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R026-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING KING, MOENCH & COLLINS, LLP AS LABOR COUNSEL AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R027-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING HOLSTON, MACDONALD, UZDAVINIS, MYLES & DEMARCANTONIO AS SPECIAL CONFLICT COUNSEL AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R028-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING PATRICK J. MADDEN, LLC AS SPECIAL CONFLICT COUNSEL FOR OPRA REQUESTS AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R029-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING DI NICOLA & DI NICOLA, LLC AS LAND USE COUNSEL AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R030-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING KG LAW GROUP AS PROSECUTOR AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R031-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING LAW OFFICES OF REX J. ROLDAN AS THE PUBLIC DEFENDER AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R032-2025 RESOLUTION APPROVING APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN DESIGNATED ENGINEERS AS POOL ENGINEERS FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS AND ENGINEERING MATTERS

R033-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING SLEO II'S AND SLEO III'S FOR A ONE YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

R034-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING CROSSING GUARDS FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

R035-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING BOARD

R036-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve Resolution R001-2025 through R036-2025. 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** – Thanked Township residents for re-electing him for another 4-year term. He thanked his family, friends and associates for supporting him. He enjoys working with administration and staff. One of the most important things is giving back and he, along with the Boy Scouts, has always helped residents with raking leaves, shoveling snow and participating in the flag ceremony for veterans. As the Liaison to the Historic Commission, he worked to repair the church and Quay building and secure grant funding for the Olde Stone House Village. He is proud to serve as Liaison for Environmental Commission, Municipal Alliance Commission and School Board. Working with Anthony, Pete, Jack and Don has been a positive experience. We have a great police department and fire department.

- **Mr. Harris** – Thanked his wife for being the back bone of their family. Thank you to the residents of Washington Township for trusting him to make important decisions for the town. Congratulations to Anthony DellaPia and Rich Bennett. It is his desire to make Washington Township a place to be proud of.
- **Mr. Yerkes** – Congratulated Mayor and Council and thanked those who helped them represent the town. As liaison to Veterans Advisory Board, he is honored to represent them. Please come out on May 26 at 11:00 AM to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.
- **Mr. Rooney** – Is honored to be here and looks forward to working together.
- **Mr. Russo** – Congratulated newly elected Councilman Harris and looks forward to working with Mr. Rooney, Mayor and Council.
- **Mayor DellaPia** – He is humbled and honored to be here. Politics is not always dirty. He has many friends he met through politics, including the municipal staff.
- **Mr. Brown** – It is an honor and privilege to serve the residents of Washington Township. We welcome resident comments. Congratulated Mayor and Council and noted that Township employees are the backbone of community and appreciates their hard work. Thanked the Police Department and Fired Department for their service. Thanked his family for their support.
- **Mr. Del Borrello** – Recognized his family for their support. He works very well with Mayor DellaPia and 2025 looks bright for Washington Township. We are honored to not only represent you but to know you. We are always here for the residents.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
No one wished to speak
Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Yerkes motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Harris seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 P.M. The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Ciallella, RMC
Township Clerk

Peter Del Borrello III
Council President