TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
GLOUCESTER COUNTY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2025
6:00 P.M.

Council President Mr. Del Borrello called the meeting to order at 6:00 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.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS
The Washington Township Honor Guard presented the colors.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Council President Mr. Del Borrello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Our National Anthem was sung by Officer Pagliarini.

ROLL CALL
Township Clerk Ms. Ciallella took roll call. Councilmembers Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown, Mr. Harris, Mr. Yerkes and Mr. Del Borrello were present. Mayor DellaPia, Business Administrator Mr. Russo and Attorney Mr. Rooney were present.

PRESENTATIONS
- Chief Gurcsik presented Officer Matthew Laudenslager with the 2024 Police Officer of the Year.
- Chief Gurcsik, Mayor DellaPia and Council presented Tom Verchio, Tony Verchio, Skye Robertson and James Donato with the 2024 Distinguished Citizen Award for their assistance and support with criminal investigations.
- Mayor DellaPia, Council and Chief Gurcsik recognized Leland Christianson, a 2nd grade student at Hurffville Elementary School, for calling 911 when his mother was unresponsive due to a medical emergency. He remained calm, and after calling 911 he called his Grandpop and Mom's friend and while waiting for help to arrive Leland cared for his little sister.
- Director of Public Works Frank Altamuro commended Supervisors Adele Riiff and Brian McCaffery and all of Public Works for doing a great job. Brian McCaffery explained we have 20 trucks available in house, 10 of those trucks have the capability to throw salt, 25 subcontractors were called in to cover 720 roads, 200 courts for approximately 170 linear miles of roadway. The last storm started out as a mix and turned to snow. As the night went on the temperature dropped creating icy conditions, especially on side roads. Salt becomes ineffective when the temperature drops. The Township does not plow and treat County roads.

Mayor DellaPia thanked Public Works for their efforts during snow removal.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST FOR JANUARY 22, 2025
Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve the January 22, 2025 bill list. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for December 17, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes for December 30, 2024 and Reorganization Meeting Minutes for January 3, 2025. Mr. Harris motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Brown requested to table R049-2025 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL, TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COMMITTING TO ROUND 4 PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 2024, c2. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Bennett second the motion. All in favor. The Resolution was tabled as it will be discussed in Executive Session.

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.

R037-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOWMAN & ASSOCIATES AS THE AUDITOR AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R038-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING SINE QUA NON RE ADVISORS, LLC AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R039-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING RON SNYDER, FIRE SUBCODE OFFICIAL, FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR

R040-2025 RESOLUTION TO APPOINT CHIEF GURCSIK AS OEM COORDINATOR AND MATT LAUDENSLAGER AS THE DEPUTY COORDINATOR

R041-2025 RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE RENT LEVELING BOARD FOR THE YEAR 2025

R042-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

R043-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING VINCENT SPINELLI AS ALTERNATE #2 TO THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD

R044-2025 RESOLUTION APPROVING OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT BOOK FOR 2025 FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R045-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS

R046-2025 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FROM ARAWAK PAVING COMPANY FOR FY' 2021 NJDOT TRUST FUND BELLS LAKE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2, Project #08-18-T-402

R047-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER AND ACCEPTING A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FROM SOUTH STATE, INC. FOR WASHINGTON LAKE PARK IMPROVEMENTS, Project #08-18-T-418

R048-2025 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A SAFETY AND STABILIZATION BOND FOR WAL-MART LOCATED AT 3501 ROUTE 42, TURNERSVILLE, NJ 08012, BLOCK 115.01 LOT 23.01, PROJECT #08-18-P-537.I, ESCROW #0104-I

R050-2025 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE POLICIES AND PROCEDURE MANUAL FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R051-2025 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 $450,000.00

R052-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

R053-2025 RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON AND THE CHIEF OF POLICE PATRICK GURCSIK

R054-2025 RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID TO EARLE ASPHALT COMPANY FOR FY'2024 TRUST FUND ALTAIR DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS (PHASE II), PROJECT #08-18-T-447

R055-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE AMENDED AND UPDATED RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY (ROSI) TO THE NJDEP GREEN ACRES PROGRAM

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve Resolution R037-2025 through R048-2025 and R050-2025 through R055-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown 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** – Reminded residents to slow down! The Police Department is ticketing speeders. ◈ He will be on the Historical Preservation Commission again this year. Their annual car show will be the last Saturday in April. ◈ He is liaison for the Board of Education, Sports Advisory Board and Environmental Commission and will be giving updates throughout the year.
- **Mr. Harris** – Thanked the residents for trusting him to make important decisions on their behalf. He is liaison to Municipal Alliance, Senior Citizens Advisory Board, Economic Development and the Parade Committee. ◈ He recently attended an Economic Development meeting and they have creative ideas to help businesses in town and to generate revenue. If you have a business in town, please reach out to him to learn how Washington Township can help.
- **Mr. Yerkes** – We are aware of a pothole in Wedgewood Forest. It is being monitored and worked on. ◈ Congratulations on the promotions in Public Works. ◈ Congratulations to Leon and Vicki for being voted back as President and Vice President of the Open Space Committee. Members are

dedicated to our Township and we thank them. ◈ Congratulations Officer Matt Laudenslager for Officer of the Year! Great job Leland for not panicking and jumping into action for his Mom!

- **Mr. Rooney** – He is getting up to speed regarding ongoing Township matters.
- **Mr. Russo** – Congratulations Officer Laudenslager! Officer of the Year is a true honor. There are so many amazing officers in the Police Department.
- **Mayor DellaPia** – Congratulations Officer Laudenslager! ◈ Congratulations to Leland! He is the future of our town. ◈ He attended a soft opening for Julio's on Main located in Echo Plaza. The grand opening is January 31st. ◈ Thank you to all the Township employees for helping him transition to Mayor. ◈ Go Birds!
- **Mr. Brown** – Congratulations Officer Laudenslager and all of our officers! ◈ Thank you Public Works for a tremendous job during the snow storm. ◈ He is liaison to the Library Board, Local Emergency Management and Police Fire & EMS. ◈ The Library will be having a Holocaust survivor's granddaughter speak on January 27th at 7:00 PM. Advance registration is required. ◈ He attended the opening of Delightful Event space with Councilman Bennett, Economic Development Consultant Nancy Mozzachio, Chief Dolgos and members from the Chamber of Commerce. It is located in Echo Plaza and is a great place for a small party. ◈ Thank you to everyone who got us through a challenging storm.
- **Mr. Del Borrello** – Congratulations to Officer Laudenslager and Leland Christianson. ◈ Thank you Brian and Frank for their hard work during the storm. ◈ Sprouts is through the Township process and is working their way through the County process. ◈ Raising Cane's should be opening at the beginning of February. ◈ We recognized Martin Luther King Day this past Monday. ◈ He is the liaison to the Zoning Board and Planning Board. If you have something you want to bring to us, please reach out. ◈ All dogs in the Township are required to be registered and vaccinated. Please stop in the Clerk's Office to register your dog for 2025. We will be holding a free rabies clinic on Saturday, March 1st from 10:00 AM-11:30 AM at the Public Works Garage located at 2 McClure Drive. ◈ January is National Blood Donor Month and Mental Wellness Month.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

- **Kristy Moore, 10 Rigel Court** – Her backyard backs up to Dr. Perri's office and the fence separating the properties is dilapidated and rotting and he refuses to replace the fence. She has filed numerous complaints with the Township's Zoning Office and is not getting any response. Mr. Rooney requested her contact information and will follow up with the Zoning Officer.
- **Mike Basillo, Director of Community and School Outreach for Washington Township Schools** – The school district will be having their annual hoagie sale Super Bowl weekend which benefits families with medical complications. Pre order hoagies by February 6th. They will sell and distribute hoagies on February 9th. If you wish to help out, come to the high school at 5:45 AM.

Mayor DellaPia requested the information so we can post it on our social media.

- **Bran Bailey, 102 Pine Street** – Opened a retail store in 2017. He received a late notice from the Township which includes $220 in fines regarding his business registration, which he was told could not be waived. He then received a letter from the Construction Office stating he did not receive a permit to operate. Five of 7 businesses in his area got the same letter. He was told he needs to come to the Township, the Township doesn't go to him. Washington Township is not business friendly.

Mr. Yerkes spoke to the Construction Office who is updating their computer system and collecting email addresses to be more efficient. We are not able to waive fees because it is state mandated. Council will discuss what can be done to resolve the matter.

Mr. Bennett suggested customer service training in order to project a more positive imagine.

▪ **Adria Curcio, 129 Lipizzan Road** – Is happy with the new administration and understands it will take a long time to undo what has been done over the past 25 years. Be patient.
Mayor Dellapia noted he could not do this without a good team!
Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. Mr. Harris motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Del Borrello stated Council will be going into Executive Session regarding Affordable Housing which will last about 30 minutes and action may be taken. Motion was made by Mr. Yerkes to approve **R056-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION** for Affordable Housing. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.
Executive Session was entered into at 7:15 PM.
Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to exit Executive Session at 8:26 PM. Mr. Bennett motioned. Seconded by Mr. Yerkes. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

RESOLUTION

Mr. Del Borrello asked for a motion to approve **R049-2025 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL, TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COMMITTING TO ROUND 4 PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 2024, c2.** Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Bennett second the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Mr. Yerkes asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Brown motioned. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Ciallella, RMC
Township Clerk

Peter Del Borrello, III
Council President