TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
GLOUCESTER COUNTY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2025
6:00 P.M.

Council Vice President Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. in the council room located at 523 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell, New Jersey. Mr. Brown delivered the Sunshine Notice and safety awareness notices.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Council Vice President Mr. Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PRESENTATIONS
- Chief Gurcsik presented the Community Caretaking Award to Thomas Zippler for his many generous donations. He has donated shopping carts full of food for the Police Department's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and donates bicycles and toys for the Stuff-A-Cruiser Toy Drive. In addition, he has donated $5,000 to the Police Department's Community Caretaking and Outreach Program and $5,000 to the Washington Township Police Department K-9 Unit.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST FOR MARCH 12, 2025
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve the March 12, 2025 Bill List. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett and Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2025. Mr. Bennett motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett and Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

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.

R083-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 2025

R084-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS TOWNSHIP PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE THROUGH GOVDEALS.COM PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION

R085-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

R086-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve Resolution R083-2025 through R086-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett and 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** – Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 123 for helping with the Rabies Clinic. ◈ The Olde Stone House Village 17th Annual Car Show will be held Saturday, April 26th. Proceeds from this event go toward maintaining the Olde Stone House Village and the Morgan House. It's a great event with 175-200 cars participating! ◈ Our schools have some great musicals coming up. Shrek will be performed at the High School from March 13-15. Legally Blonde will be performed at Bunker Hill Middle School from March 20-22. Beetlejuice will be performed at Orchard Valley Middle School from March 20-22. Sister Act will be performed at Chestnut Ridge from April 3-5. ◈ The weather is nicer so be aware of kids on bicycles, walking and at playgrounds. Watch your speed! ◈ He read to the kindergarteners at Hurffville School. They bring a smile to your face with their funny questions. ◈ The girls softball team wants to play the Municipals again on opening day!

▪ **Mr. Harris** – He was on vacation last week so doesn't have anything to report. ◈ Thank you Tom for dedicating his time, effort, energy and money to better our community.

▪ **Mr. Yerkes** – Thank you Lori Morello for hosting the Veterans Event on March 6th honoring our Veterans on the Wall of Honor. We invite residents to come view all Township residents who have served. WWII Veteran Salvatore Massare, who is 100 years old, was the honored guest. Thank you for all those who have served our country and those who are currently serving.

▪ **Mr. Rooney** – There are potential development and redevelopment plans in the works. He is happy about the nicer weather.

▪ **Mayor DellaPia** – Thank you Chrissy, Barb and Adele for a successful Rabie Clinic. ◈ He attended the PTO Craft Show and the delivery of 7 Brew Coffee building. Blended Joe will open at the end of April. He performed his first marriage. Congratulations Nick and Nina! ◈ Please be responsible during your St. Patty's Day celebrations. Washington Township Saves Lives is a free Uber program sponsored by local businesses. Don't drink and drive!

▪ **Mr. Brown** – Check the Library's website for upcoming Heggan Happenings. ◈ Thank you Lori and staff for the Veteran's event. ◈ Pizza with a Cop on Friday night was well attended. ◈ Please sign up for the Everbridge app to receive notifications and alerts.

▪ **Mr. Del Borrello** – He apologized for not being in attendance but he is out of town. ◈ Thank you Lori for a wonderful event for our Veterans. ◈ He enjoyed participating in Read Across America. ◈ The 7 Brew in Washington Township is the first in New Jersey! They have a great products. More great businesses are coming to town.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

- **Rich Nardiello, 125 Pinto Drive** – Many attended the homecoming of 5-year old Gavin Todd on January 4th after months in the hospital fighting cancer. Thank you to everyone who attended including Mayor, Pete, Don, Chief Gurcsik, Sargeant Dougherty, the many officers, Chief Dolgos, the many firefighters and all of their apparatus. An organization recently reached out and Gavin will be receiving a surprise. ◈ There will be a Kindness Day coming up at Hurffville School.
- **Cheryl Hanna, 6 Colonial Way** – Her house is next to the 6th hole of the municipal golf course. She has had damage to her home due to stray golf balls and feels it is dangerous to live there. She is disappointed the Township is not doing more to help her.

Mr. Bennett noted that the Township obtained and offered to plant trees and she declined.
Ms. Hanna feels that the balls are hit with so much force it would not help.
Mr. Brown commented that the trees would offer some protection.
Ms. Hanna suggested moving the tee closer to the hole or remove the hole.
Mr. Brown stated he will speak to the Mayor and Golf Course Superintendent.

- **Zachary Abrams, 27 Auriga Lane** – Wants Chapter 285-219 of the Township's code amended so he can have chickens. He has received violations and hHe knows of 2 other properties with less than an acre who have chickens and stated other towns allow chickens. He listed all the health benefits of eggs and said he provides food to family and neighbors.

Mr. Rooney noted that he was issued a violation and the governing body cannot delve into court cases. He clarified that Mr. Abrams issue is with the policy and stated he will speak to the governing body and administration.
Mr. Yerkes asked how long he has been raising chickens to which Mr. Abrams responded he has lived here for 10 years.
Mr. Bennett stated that if there is an ordinance in place it needs to be enforced.
Mr. Del Borrello said that he will call Mr. Abrams.
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the members present.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Mr. Brown asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Ciallella, RMC
Township Clerk

Donald C. Brown, Jr.
Council Vice President