TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
GLOUCESTER COUNTY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2025
6:00 P.M.

Council Vice President Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 6:02 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. Blaney were present.

PRESENTATIONS
- Director of Public Works Frank Altamuro spoke about the new trash cart program. Each resident will receive three 95-gallon trash carts to be utilized beginning July 1, 2025. The black cart is for trash, blue cart for recycling and green cart for yard waste. These carts will replace any existing cans you currently have. These changes are required because the new trash collection company, along with other vendors who submitted bids for the trash contract, can only utilize automated collection instead of the previous rear load collection. The automated system is a proven solution that mitigates the increased costs, improves collection efficiency, keeps our neighborhoods looking great and improves safety for both residents and contractors.

Jack Lutes of IPL Global spoke about the design, durable construction and ease of use of the new carts. Each trash cart is equipped with RFID to prevent theft.
Mayor DellaPia asked if the carts are easy to move around.
Mr. Lutes stated the carts are designed to go through snow, ice and other conditions
Mr. Bennett inquired about flying debris when dumping the carts.
Mr. Lutes explained that the equipment and trucks are designed to dump inside the trucks to cut down on wind spillage.
Mr. Yerkes asked what residents do with their old trash cans
Mr. Altamuro is working with a company to recycle old cans and will have more information soon.
Resident Robert Davis asked what happens to the carts if there is a wind storm and what happens if his cart goes missing.
Mr. Lutes stated the carts are designed to withstand 65 mile per hour winds.
Mr. Altamuro advised to call Public Works if your cart is missing and they will be able to track it.
Resident Jeff Jankowiak – asked who is paying for the carts and how are old ladies supposed to wheel the cart down a stone driveway. He thinks 3 trash cans are unsightly He also asked why the added expense of the RFID chip was required.
Mr. Altamuro noted that the Township bonded for the new carts. There was not a significant cost for the RFID. The new carts are the same base size as a standard trash can but fit more because they are taller so the capacity is more.

- Harry DelGotto spoke about the NJSACOP Police Accreditation Program and recognized Washington Township Police Department's accreditation achievement. Accredited status represents a significant professional achievement. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective. The Washington Township Police Department strives for reaccreditation each year. Congratulations Chief Gurcsik and the Police Department!

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve the March 26, 2025 Bill List. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Harris 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 March 12, 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.

ORDINANCES

O002-2025 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025 (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance O002-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes. Public Hearing and Adoption will take place on April 9, 2025.

O003-2025 ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE AMENDED REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE WASHINGTON SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq.) ("LRHL")

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance O003-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes. Public Hearing and Adoption will take place on April 9, 2025

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.

R087-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTION OF A FEE FOR THE USE OF THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

R088-2025 RESOLUTION TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND ADMINISTERED BY THE NEW JERSEY HISTORIC TRUST FOR THE GEORGE MORGAN, JR. STONE HOUSE

R089-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT ROUTE 47 AND SALINA ROAD

R090-2025 RESOLUTION AWARDING A BID TO LEXA CONCRETE, LLC FOR 2024 ROAD PROGRAM - PHASE I, PROJECT #08-18-T-452

R091-2025 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR CROSS-DEVELOPMENT, 5401 ROUTE 42, BLOCK 111.09 LOT 5.03, PROJECT #08-18-Z-221.I, ESCROW #1058

R092-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER AND ACCEPTING A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FROM GERALD A. BARRETT, LLC FOR HAINES DRIVE CULVERT IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT #08-18-T-409

R093-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

R094-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS

R095-2025 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR DAYNE R. SMITH, A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 82.85 LOT 10, 5 S. MARS DR., EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 29, 2024

R096-2025 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR DEXTER JOHNSON A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 19.07 LOT 23, 152 SHIRE DR., EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 25, 2025

R097-2025 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR ALDI LOCATED AT 4601 ROUTE 42, TURNERSVILLE, NJ 08012, BLOCK 115.04 LOT 11, 11.04 & 11.05, PROJECT #08-18-P-436.I, ESCROW #1985

R098-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

R099-025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN WATSON DRIVE PARTNERS LLC AND THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R100-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF TRI-PARTITE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AGREEMENT

R101-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF DELSEA DRIVE REDEVELOPMENT PHASE II PARCEL LOCATED AT 100 EGG HARBOR ROAD

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve Resolution R087-2025 through R101-2025. 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** – 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! ◈ There is a community clean up day on April 13th. Anyone who needs service hours, please reach out. ◈ There are several events throughout the month for Earth Day which is April 22nd. There will be a Bird Walk in Washington Lake Park on April 26th at 7:30 AM. Milkweed and marigold giveaway on April 27th at 9:00 AM. Tree seedling giveaway on May 3rd at 9:00 AM. ◈ Our schools have some great musicals coming up. Please be sure to check them out.

▪ **Mr. Harris** – Had the pleasure of attending the St. Patty's Day Party at Holy Family benefiting the TriState Veteterans Memorial Fund which helps Veterans with PTSD. Thank you Frank Alexander for working hard for our Vets. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus and Holy Family Church. ◈ Economic Development has great people working to better our town! ◈ Thank you Frank Altamuro, Brian McCaffrey and Jack Lutes for the trash collection update. ◈ Congratulation Chief Gurcsik and his staff on the accreditation!

▪ **Mr. Yerkes** – Congratulations to our Police Department for the high ranking in the State. ◈ Thank you Public Works for their hard work preparing for the new trash cans. ◈ Reminder that April is Earth Month. The Library is hosting Fur, Feathers and Scales on April 6th at 2:00 PM and Birding Basics on April 7th at 7:00 PM. Tuesday, April 22nd is Earth Day.

▪ **Mr. Russo** – Congratulations to the Chief and the Police Department on their accreditation award. It is the highest recognition in the State. They have embodied professional services and best practices. ◈ Thank you Mr. Altamuro, Mr. McCaffrey and Mr. Lutes for the presentation. We have a lot of changes coming and more information will be forthcoming. It is a positive change and is fiscally responsible for our town. There have been so many challenges with rear load trash collection for municipalities throughout the State. Automation offers operational efficiency.

▪ **Mayor DellaPia** – Congratulations Chief and the Police Department for the great honor. ◈ Thank you Frank, Brian and Joe for their hard work on trash. The new trash collection will be an adjustment but is the best option for the residents and the town. ◈ Congratulations Real Brokers Real Estate who opened in Kohl's shopping center. Congratulations A.M. Botte, Anthony & Jessica, opened a retail division of their HVAC company. ◈ Our website has been updated with the schedule for movies and music in the park. ◈ The Library installed a Little Library outside the Municipal Building for sharing books. One will soon be installed at the Police Department. ◈ Resolution 100 approves the agreement for a traffic light on Egg Harbor which is the final piece for Sprouts to proceed. Resolution 89 is for the light at Salina Road and Delsea Drive. Council President Del Borrello has been advocating for a light there for some time and it is finally getting done. The agreement is for the State to install traffic light.

▪ **Mr. Del Borrello** – Thank you to the many people who stepped up for the traffic light at Salina Road and Delsea Drive. ◈ Project Graduation is having a Springtime Soiree on April 12th at 6:00 PM at the Forum if you would like to attend. ◈ Dave Ciancaglione retired from the Fire Department after 50 years of fire service. Congratulations! ◈ Blended Joe is now open and 7 Brew will open soon. ◈ Kate, a 37-year old EMS Chief in South Jersey, is need of a kidney. If you would like to be tested to be a potential donor or if you can share the information, your help would be greatly appreciated. ◈ Congratulations Chief Gurcsik and our officers and thank you for your dedication and commitment to our community.

▪ **Mr. Brown** – The Library is hosting An Evening of Readings featuring poetry by Faleeha Hassan on April 10th at 6:00 PM. Also Dr. Nicholas DePace will speak on April 26th at 2:00 PM about collecting sports memorabilia. Tomorrow at 6:30 PM the Library's bi-monthly concert series begins. ◈ Congratulations to the Chief, command staff and officers for their accreditation. ◈ Thank you Frank and Public Works for working to improve the quality of trash collection service in our town. ◈ Be sure to sign up for Everbridge to receive notifications about Township events. ◈ 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. ◈ The Annual Red Cross Battle of the Badges Blood Drive is on Tuesday, April 29th from 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM at the Municipal Building. Please respond to the call and support our Fire Department and Police Department and give the gift of life. Please call 1-800- REDCROSS to schedule an appointment. ◈ The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 10th. You may only vote the party you are registered to during the primary. The deadline to change your party affiliation is April 16th. The deadline to register to vote is May 20th. Forms can be obtained online or in the Clerk's Office.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the members present.
No one wished to speak
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 April 9, 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 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Ciallella, RMC
Township Clerk

Donald C. Brown, Jr.
Council Vice President