TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
GLOUCESTER COUNTY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 23, 2025
6:00 P.M.

Council Vice President Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 6:04 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
- Council Vice President Brown and members of Council presented Joe Birney and family of Green with Envy Landscape a Proclamation for Distracted Driving Awareness Month for their commitment to PADD, People Against Drunk Driving.
- Frank Alexander and the TriState Veterans Memorial Fund presented a check to Sergeant Joe Lee to assist in the purchase of a new service dog after the tragic loss of his previous companion in a car accident. A check was also presented to Mark Eberle of Paws Healing Heroes for the work he does to provide trained service dogs to Veterans in need.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve the April 23, 2025 Bill List. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Harris 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. Brown asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2025. Mr. Bennett motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

ORDINANCES

O004-2025 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CANCELLING CERTAIN EXCESS BOND PROCEEDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $352,912.22 AND RE-APPROPRIATING $50,000.00 OF SAID EXCESS BOND PROCEEDS TO FINANCE THE COSTS THEREOF
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance O004-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.
No one wished to speak.

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance 0004-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 0004-2025. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

0005-2025 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 258 OF THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED "VEHICLES, ABANDONED"
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance 0005-2025. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.
No one wished to speak.
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance 0005-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 0005-2025. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

0006-2025 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 76 OF THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED "DUMPSTERS AND OTHER REFUSE CONTAINERS"
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance 0006-2025. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.
No one wished to speak.
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance 0006-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 0006-2025. Mr. erkes motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

0007-2025 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 137 OF THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED "LITTERING"
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance 0007-2025. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.
No one wished to speak.
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance 0007-2025. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 0007-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

0008-2025 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 213 OF THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED "STORMWATER CONTROL"
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to open to the public Ordinance 0008-2025. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.
No one wished to speak.
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to close to the public Ordinance 0008-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance O008-2025. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

O009-2025 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 254 ENTITLED TREES
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance O009-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett and Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes. Public Hearing and Adoption will take place on May 14, 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.

R117-2025 RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO FLOCK GROUP, INC. FOR FLOCK SAFETY FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

R118-2025 RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD AND AMENDING THE MAYORS APPOINTMENT BOOK

R119-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER AND ACCEPTING A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FROM CAPELA CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR SALEM AVENUE CULVERT IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT #08-18-T-379

R120-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER AND ACCEPTING A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FROM CAPELA CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR ST. CHARLES CULVERT IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT #08-18-T-413

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve Resolution R117-2025 through R120-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Harris 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. Harris** – He visited Java Jake Café at Washington Township High School. The students run a full-service café where they learn valuable real world life skills. ◈ 7 Brew had their grand opening. They are thriving in our community!
▪ **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! We need volunteers to help with the parking lot. ◈ It is distracted driving month. Please do not text and drive. Kids are out walking and riding their bikes so please slow down! ◈ The Environmental Commission will be planting a tree donated by Columbia Bank. There is a bird walk this Saturday in Washington Lake Park. On April 27th from 9:00 AM to noon there is a milk weed and marigold giveaway in Washington Lake Park. On May 3rd from 9:00 AM to noon there is a tree seedling giveaway also in the park. ◈ He encourages everyone to attend the upcoming Board of Education meeting.

▪ **Mr. Del Borrello** – Sending prayers and well wishes to those affected by the fires in Ocean County. ◈ Congratulations to 7 Brew on their grand opening! ◈ He was challenged by Logan Ellis of the Washington Twp. High School ROTC for the ice bucket challenge and now challenges Mayor DellaPia, Council Vice President Brown and Chief Gurcsik. ◈ Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

▪ **Mr. Yerkes** – On Friday, April 25th there is a tree planting at 231 Woodbury Turnersville Road for Arbor Day. ◈ There is a Bird Walk on April 26th at 7:30 AM and milkweed and marigold giveaway on April 27th from 9:00 AM to noon, both in Washington Lake Park.

▪ **Mr. Rooney** – He has been busy with the many ordinances on the agenda. He is glad the warm weather is here and wishes everyone a wonderful holiday.

▪ **Mayor DellaPia** – Congratulations to 7 Brew! They brought drinks to the staff of the municipal building. ◈ South Jersey Periodontics recently had their ground breaking. They are building a beautiful new building on Egg Harbor Road. ◈ Congratulations to Elisha Elliott of McGuiness Funeral Home who is this year's recipient of the Rick Zammer Award. A well-deserved award. ◈ Please keep those affected by the Ocean County wildfires in your prayers.

▪ **Mr. Brown** – The Library has several activities listed on their website. This Saturday at 2:00 PM, Dr. Nicholas DePace will be speaking about collecting sports memorabilia. ◈ Please sign up for Everbridge to receive Township alerts. If you need assistance setting it up, please reach out. ◈ He attended Thomas Jefferson Elementary School's lemonade stand and the grand opening of Eco Spin Laundromat. ◈ The baseball parade was well attended. We need to reschedule the softball game against the Wildcats. ◈ Please be sure to check the website for information and updates about the new trash and recycling collection process. ◈ All dogs in the Township are required to be registered and vaccinated. Please stop in the Clerk's Office to register our dog for 2025. ◈ Please check our website for information on Earth Day activities! This includes bird walks and exhibits, poetry walks, recycling lessons, milkweed, marigold and tree seedling giveaways! ◈ 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. ◈ Gather your family and friends and come out and enjoy Super Saturday on May 10th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Washington Lake Park. There will be live music, vendors and more! ◈ Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11th. Wishing everyone a Happy Mother's Day weekend! ◈ 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. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the members present.

▪ Denise Brush, 243 Boothby Court – She is a local volunteer with an environmental group. She would like Council to pass a resolution to support the New Jersey Climate Superfund Act which imposes liability on fossil fuel companies for certain damages caused by climate change and establishes a program with the DEP to collect and distribute compensatory payments. Washington Township would be able to apply for funds to pay for local climate change adaptation and resilience projects.

▪ Frank Tragno, 462 Egg Harbor Road – He is requesting a street light where the electrical pole is at Egg Harbor and the service road that runs from Heather to Pembrook. He believes a solar panel should have been installed several years back. Also, there is a tree along that area that is dead and leaning. In addition, the light across the street on the other side of Egg Harbor Road does not shed enough light.

▪ Rosemary Colombo, 32 Chew Lane in Heatherwood – The average age of the residents of this 55+ community is 75 years old. Most residents only generate one bag of trash per week and only put out

their recycling every 2-3 weeks. They have a landscape company so they do not need a yard waste can. The new cans are large and bulky and may be a burden to older residents. Riverwinds in West Deptford has accommodated their 55+ residents with smaller cans and feels Washington Township should be able to provide smaller trash cans for senior citizens.

- Jim Sherry, 27 Pleasant Valley Drive – He is the Treasurer for Heatherwood. He spoke to Frank Altamuro who said it was a done deal and feels Washington Township made a rash decision that one size fits all. Their community rules state homeowners cannot keep their trash cans outside so with the larger cans it is a burden.
- Lorraine Hilgen, 6 Grove Road – The Township dam destroyed her lake and the Township has received funds that she was told would go to fix her lake. What is the status? Was the money spent?

Mr. Rooney will speak to the Mayor regarding documentation she provided.
Mayor DellaPia is reviewing the paperwork she gave him and plans to walk the site with Frank Altamuro and will include her.
Colette Bachich stated that grant money can only be used for the specific purpose stated in the grant. A grant letter has not been received and no money has yet been received or spent.
Lorraine was told the grant reads for the spillway and stormwater management. She was assured the money would be used to fix the dam which effects the lake.
Mr. Brown has not seen the grant paperwork but the funds will be used for what the grant states. To date, the Township has not received a grant letter.

- Gary Bellotti, 7 Stiles Court – He is Board Vice President of Heatherwood. They have an open meeting tomorrow night and he would like to let the residents know if it's a done deal or if there is a consideration of obtaining smaller trash cans for senior citizens.

Mr. Russo – The new cans have been ordered and will be delivered in the coming weeks. Other municipalities were able to work smaller cans in over time.
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Brown stated Council will be going into Executive Session regarding litigation which will last about 30 minutes and action may be taken. Motion was made by Mr. Bennett to approve **R121-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION** for Litigation. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.
Executive Session was entered into at 7:08 PM.
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to exit Executive Session at 8:03 PM. Mr. Harris motioned. Seconded by Mr. Bennett. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Mr. Brown asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Ciallella, RMC
Township Clerk

Donald C. Brown, Jr.
Council Vice President