TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
GLOUCESTER COUNTY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2025
6:00 P.M.

Councilman Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. in the council room located at 523 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell, New Jersey. Mr. Bennett delivered the Sunshine Notice and safety awareness notices.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Councilman Mr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL
Township Deputy Clerk Ms. Moore 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 Steve Blocher and members of Congregation B'Nai Tikvah Beth Israel with a Proclamation for Jewish American Heritage Month.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve the May 14, 2025 Bill List. Mr. Harris motioned. Mr. Bennett 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 23, 2025, the Executive Session Meeting Minutes for April 23, 2025 and the Public Budget Meeting for April 30, 2025. Mr. Yerkes motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

2025 BUDGET

R122-2025 RESOLUTION FOR CONDUCTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve Resolution R122-2025 to open to the public for comment on the 2025 Municipal Budget. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. 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 for comment on the 2025 Municipal Budget. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

R123-2025 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve Resolution R123-2025 adopting the 2025 Municipal Budget. Mr. Yerkes motioned. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

ORDINANCES

O009-2025 ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 254 ENTITLED TREES

Mr. Brown stated that Ordinance O009-2025 requires some changes and requested a motion to table Ordinance O009-2025. Mr. Harris motioned. Mr. Bennett 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 28, 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.

R124-2025 RESOLUTION APPROVING 2025 RENEWALS FOR MASSAGE PARLOR LICENSES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R125-2025 RESOLUTION APPROVING LARGE GATHERING APPLICATION FOR TRUE WOMEN'S CENTER & TRULY YOURS THRIFT BOUTIQUE

R126-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER TO PROVIDE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

R127-2025 RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR SARA OBERHOLTZER TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, BLOCK 239 LOT 8, 914 FORBES ST., EFFECTIVE MARCH 6, 2025

R128-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS

R129-2025 RESOLUTION OF CONCURRENCE BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR BUS STOP LOCATIONS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

R130-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER AND ACCEPTING A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FROM PAVING PLUS, LLC. FOR FY' 2023 NJDOT TRUST FUND SALINA ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT #08-18-T-431

R131-2025 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2025 FIREWORKS DISPLAY AND AWARDING A CONTRACT TO SCHAEFER FIREWORKS

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve Resolution R124-2025 through R131-2025. Mr. Bennett motioned. Mr. Yerkes seconded the motion. 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, along with Mayor DellaPia and Director of Public Works Frank Altamuro, had the opportunity to speak with some members of 55+ communities in town regarding their concerns pertaining to the new trash cans. Trash cans are currently being delivered.

▪ **Mr. Bennett** – The Olde Stone House Village is hosting the Plen Air event on May 30th. This gives artists the ability to paint and draw in the outdoors. There will be vendors and the historic buildings will be open. ◈ Check our website for sign-ups for fall sports and summer sporting events. ◈ Please slow down driving through town and put the phone down. Safety is a priority! ◈ On Friday, May 16th and Friday May 23rd he will be coordinating placing flags on veterans' graves. There are 900 graves at Bethel Cemetery and 1600 at Hillcrest Cemetery. Volunteers are needed.

▪ **Mr. Yerkes** – Last year, we paid $39,000 in fines due to plastic bags in the recycling. Please put plastic bags in the regular trash. ◈ On Monday, May 26th at 11:00 AM at Veterans Memorial Park we will pay tribute to those who gave their life for this country.

▪ **Mr. Del Borrello** – Our town has been rocked by several tragedies and our hearts and prayers are with those affected. ◈ He looks forward to seeing everyone soon!

▪ **Mr. Rooney** – Enjoy the weather and have a good week.

▪ **Mr. Russo** – Thank you CFO Colette Bachich and Assistant CFO Jim Walker for all their work on the budget.

▪ **Mayor DellaPia** – Super Saturday was a great success! Thank you Lisa Collins and the Park Rangers for their efforts. ◈ Thank you Colette, Jim and Joe for their hard work on the budget. We are always striving to do better for the residents. ◈ This Thursday from 5:00 – 8:00 PM is Cool Off With A Copy at Rita's Water Ice. Come out and support the police department and Rita's. ◈ It was a rough week for our Township. We lost a young student and two homes caught fire, one fire had two casualties. Please keep them in your prayers. ◈ Our first responders are greatly appreciated. They put lives on the line every day. Sometimes the psychological scars take longer to heal then the physical ones. We are here to support all first responders. Keep up the good work.

▪ **Mr. Brown** – Thank you to Lisa Collins and staff for a great Super Saturday. It was a fun time! There were more vendors and we hope it grows each year. ◈ There have been several tragedies in our town. Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected. As a first responder, he knows what it's like to be awoken at 2AM and hop on an apparatus to help your fellow citizens at a time of need. We owe them an extreme debt of gratitude. Please keep the first responders and those affected by these events in your prayers. We appreciate all you do. ◈ On Saturday, May 17th at 1:00 PM there is Community Bollywood Dance Project Workshop at the Library. Please check their website for more events. ◈ Please join us for movies and music in Washington Lake Park. Please visit our website for more information. ◈ Mark your calendar for the Township's Shred Event scheduled for Saturday, June 14th from 9:00 AM to noon in the parking lot of the Municipal Building. Paper clips and staples are ok but no binders or binder clips and no plastic bags. ◈ 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. ◈ The Municipal Complex will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day. Summer hours for the Municipal Complex begin the Friday after Memorial Day and will continue until Labor Day. ◈ We honor and remember all Veterans who gave their lives in service to our country. Please join us on Monday, May 26th at 11:00 AM at Franklin Atkinson Memorial Park for our Memorial Day Ceremony. ◈ 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. Harris seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the members present.

- Lorraine Hilgen, 6 Grove Street asked for an update on the dam and spillway at Ward Lake. Heavy rains on April 14th filled the lake but by May 12th it was empty so it is not holding water.

Mayor DellaPia stated he is reviewing documents he received from the previous engineer that have also been turned over to the new engineer. The grant funds for the spillway and stormwater management have not been released from the State. No decision has been made at this time.

Frank Altamuro, Director of Public Works, noted that the engineer applies for the grant and we are reviewing their files.

Mr. Brown understand her position and appreciates her patience.

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.

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. Yerkes to approve **R132-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION** for Litigation. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Mr. Yerkes, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Brown and Mr. Del Borrello voted yes.

Executive Session was entered into at 6:41 PM.

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to exit Executive Session at 8:01 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 28, 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 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Moore

Barbara Moore, RMC
Township Deputy Clerk

Donald C. Brown, Jr.

Donald C. Brown, Jr.
Council Vice President