

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION ACTION MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Byrd read the OPMA Statement into the record as follows:

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

This meeting of the Fairfield Township Committee shall come to order. The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advanced notice of and to attend the meeting of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interests are discussed or acted upon. This meeting held on this 2nd day of October 2019 at the Fairfield Municipal Building in Fairton New Jersey is held pursuant to notice of date, time and place of same having been submitted to The South Jersey Times, The Daily Journal, and The Press of Atlantic City on January 3, 2019 and also duly posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Township Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / MOMENT OF PRAYER

Mayor Byrd led the flag salute followed by a moment of prayer given by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr.

ROLL CALL

The following roll call was recorded as follows:

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., present; Committeeman David Gonzalez, present; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., present and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., present.

MEMBER ABSENT

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr.

ALSO PRESENT

Acting Township Administrator Burden, Township Solicitor Carr and Township Clerk Gonzales.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REGULAR ACTION MEETING SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

CLOSED SESSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the Regular Action and Closed Session minutes of September 18, 2019. There were none. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to approve the Regular and Closed Session minutes of September 18, 2019.

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. moved to approve the Regular and Closed Session minutes of September 18, 2019 as written seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

REVIEW OF BILL LISTS PROVIDED BY CFO

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the bill list provided by the Chief Financial Officer. There were none. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to adopt Resolution No. 141 - 2019.

RESOLUTION NO. 141 - 2019

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,508.50

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 141 - 2019 seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

RESOLUTION NO. 142 - 2019

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO SOLICIT REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS/PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE MUNICIPAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 142 - 2019 seconded by Committeeman

David Gonzalez. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING)

None

ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

Mayor Byrd read the Public Comment on Current Agenda & Non Agenda Items into the record as follows:

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS & NON AGENDA ITEMS

In order for the Committee to conduct the business of the Township in the most productive manner possible, meeting attendees will be given five (5) minutes, all-inclusive to comment on any agenda item(s) without comment or question from the Committee and any non-agenda items including all dialogue, questions and responses from both the speaker and the Committee for the designated public portion of the meeting. There may be no transference of a speaker's time to other attendees. Please step up to the microphone at the appropriate time, and state your name and address for the record.

Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to open Public Comment on Current Agenda & Non Agenda Items.

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. moved to open Public Comment on Current Agenda & Non Agenda Items seconded by Committeeman David Gonzalez. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

Ed Kimley, 84 Seabreeze Road stated that the Township had advertised for an Administrator because the Acting Township Administrator was going to resign. The responses to the advertisement were due in May and inquired why there hasn't been any interviews conducted.

Mayor Byrd stated that he guessed that nobody was selected for an interview. Mr. Kimley stated with the police report that says sexual assault and he pleaded guilty to it and solicited for prostitution, you rather have him working with the public than a qualified person.

Mayor Byrd stated to Mr. Kimley don't you have a lawsuit against the Township right now.

Mr. Kimley stated yes. Mayor Byrd stated then you know that it is under litigation and as much as we would like to respond to you we cannot because it is under litigation.

Mr. Kimley stated you fired Nate Dunn by saying the handbook states that he had to be fired, the handbook states he has to be suspended immediately. Mayor Byrd stated to Mr. Kimley that he can interrupt it however he wanted to. Mr. Kimley stated, so you are going to take a chance of someone being attacked in this building, like he attacked that student.

Mayor Byrd stated that he is not sure what he is talking about. Mr. Kimley stated did you not read the reports, the victim's statements and the police reports indicated in the lawsuit. Mayor Byrd stated no.

Mr. Kimley stated well you should have, they are about him. Mayor Byrd stated that he is going to leave it as is; that it is under litigation and again like I told you at the last meeting, that before we hire an employee, a background check is done that covers the legal part of it. We have the background check looked at by our Solicitors and we go forward from there in the legal direction that we are given that we can go and that is where I am going to stop at.

Mr. Kimley stated that when he asked in April, you said you knew nothing about this, nothing came up on his background check, so that's it, you did not do a background check and that he lied on his application.

Mayor Byrd stated that he just explained to Mr. Kimley what he can say to him. I am telling you that a background check was done. Mr. Kimley stated on April 21st you said no background check was done, nothing came up and that he has the tape.

Mayor Byrd stated we do background checks on our employees all of them that we hire.

Mr. Kimley stated so you knew about this when you hired him. Mayor Byrd stated he knew about his background check when we hired him as the Pension/Payroll Clerk. Mr. Kimley stated on April 21st you stated you knew nothing about it. Mayor Byrd stated maybe it could have been an error. I am telling you

that we do background checks and you have been here at these meetings long enough to know that we have said it over and over and over again that when we hire employees that we do background checks to the employees.

Mr. Kimley stated so Nate would have been better off getting a sexual assault, would he still be working here. Mayor Byrd stated maybe for you, I don't know. Mr. Kimley stated well you hired him. A drunk driving, a sexual assault, come on man. Mayor Byrd asked if he had a sexual assault on his record too. Mr. Kimley stated the Acting Administrator committed one.

Russell Pierce, 376 Fairton-Gouldtown Road stated fall is here and he asked if the Township could cut the grass one more time at the Marina this year. Mayor Byrd stated that the Township has a cutting schedule so if that schedule falls within the time frame, then maybe we can get to it.

Mr. Pierce stated also that he has not heard anything about the weather changing as far as snow trucks.

Mayor Byrd stated that we are looking into it. He advised Mr. Pierce that he along with the Public Works Foreman and the Acting Township Administrator met the other day regarding this. Mr. Pierce replied just don't talk about it, get something done.

Ted Gooding, FWI (Financial Wellness Institute) stated the he is present tonight regarding some land located in our community in which he would like to have it donated to construct housing for veterans, seniors and special needs. He stated that his background is pretty extensive. He was an Administrator of Atlantic City Medical Center whereby he retired. He started a business in Toms River called Ocean 8 which they built 150 units for veterans, seniors and special needs, and multi-family housing. He stated the land in most cases was donated by the Township and that created revenue for the Township. He stated that he is very proud of what he has done and that he really enjoys what he is doing. He stated that he has built homes in Atlantic City, Toms River, Monmouth County, Ocean County, Barnegat, and Berkley and pretty much all over Ocean County.

He stated that the properties that he is looking at that Wells Fargo has donated the two (2) adjacent lots and with the third lot to FWI and that he believes that they would be able to do some real spectacular housing for veterans, seniors and special needs and for people who really need a place to stay at an affordable rate.

Mr. Gooding advised that he could show the Township Committee some of his plans in terms of what he has done his most recent project which is duplexes. He stated that he has pictures and site plans in which he has done and has worked out really well. The Townships have benefited because now they have revenue coming into the Township.

Mayor Byrd thanked Mr. Gooding for coming out tonight and that his five minutes were up and suggested that he contact the Acting Township Administrator to schedule in his presentation at the next meeting.

Geneva Griffin stated that she started at the last meeting by stating her name and that she was here on behalf of Nate Dunn and that she made a comment at the end of her 5 minutes that was a question regarding the alleged record of Mr. Burden and how long had the Township Committee heard about it.

She stated that she made that statement and then it was brought to her attention that someone had a problem with that and then looked towards Mr. Burden and stated to him, but you have nothing to say to me directly or indirectly. At this time, Mayor Byrd stated, please Ms. Geneva direct your concerns just to the Committee. Ms. Griffin stated to Mayor Byrd that it was not directed towards the Committee because the Committee did not say it.

Mayor Byrd stated any personal stuff that and then Ms. Griffin stated it was not personal, it was a fact.

Ms. Griffin stated that this problem has nothing to do with her. She stated that she was not there when he did them; she stated she is not responsible for him and that she is not trying to uphold him in it, that all she is trying to find out is what effect it would have on the Township, so there are no words to send to her. Mayor Byrd thanked Ms. Griffin for coming out tonight.

There being no further comments, Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to close the Public Comment on Current Agenda and Non Agenda Items.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. moved seconded by Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin

Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

At this time, Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they had anything for Executive Session, the Township Committee indicated they had nothing at this time.

RESOLUTION NO. 143 - 2019 (IF NEEDED)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)

There was no need for an Executive Session.

Mayor Byrd announced that the Acting Township Administrator and Public Works Foreman will provide information regarding new vehicles for the Public Works Department.

Acting Township Administrator Burden advised that presently we have \$63,000.00 that we can spend on new vehicles. He advised that the Public Works Foreman, the Mayor and himself met last week to discuss this. Acting Township Administrator stated that he provided the Township Committee with information regarding the vehicles.

Felipe Maisonave, Public Works Foreman indicated that he made a call to Beyer Ford who has the State Contract on the F-250 trucks. He advised that Beyer Ford will be forwarding him the price quote for two (2) Ford F-250 pickup trucks. Upon receipt of the quote, he indicated that he would take a look at the trucks and what options are on the truck and what options can be removed. He advised that he is trying to figure out a way to get more for our money. He advised that the new trucks will be a big impact on the Public Works Department especially this winter.

Mayor Byrd stated during the meeting that he had with the Public Works Foreman and the Acting Township Administrator that they had discussed the salt boxes and that Mr. Maisonave indicated that he was going to work on getting some prices so that the Township Committee can look at. Mayor Byrd stated that he understands that the snow plows should come with the truck, but the salt boxes are an additional cost, so as per our discussion you were going to look into finding some prices for the Committee to look at.

Mr. Maisonave stated he made a call to DeHart, a company who deals with a lot of snow plow equipment and is waiting on a call back from them and is awaiting another call back from another company in Vineland. He stated that when he contacted Beyer Ford, he requested that they provide him a quote for the Ford F-250 trucks with the snow plow and a price quote for the salt boxes.

Mayor Byrd stated so that the Township Committee is aware that during our meeting we had discussed the big red rig truck that the Township owns, that the Public Works Foreman did some outside research whereby some of the smaller townships like Fairfield are using small trucks, like the F-250 trucks to plow their roads and they perform adequately to do the job.

Mr. Maisonave advised that he spoke with the Public Works Foreman of Hopewell Township and Lawrence Township and both of those towns are using regular 450-550 dump trucks and F-250 to plow their town. He advised that Hopewell Township did away with their dump truck several years ago because it was not cost effective to keep them running. Mr. Maisonave advised that we are in the same position with our dump truck. He explained it does not move too much, unless it is pushing snow and basically sits all summer long. He advised he did not see it cost effective for the Township to waste that kind of money to replace the dump truck, that by going with (2) Ford F-250 trucks and a new dump truck, he believes we will be okay.

The Township Committee stated that by the sound of it, it sounded logical to move in this direction.

Mayor Byrd stated that at this point, if the Township Committee concurs, that we should try to crush vehicle down to be able to fit in our scope and then present to the Township Committee what you have and all the options as well so we can see what was crushed too and maybe the Township Committee might want to add or subtract or that we all may be on the same page. Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they concurred. All concurred.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Byrd thanked Mr. Maisonave for coming out tonight. Mayor Byrd asked Mr. Dixon if he had anything. Mr. Dixon indicated he had nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Committeeman David Gonzalez had none to report at this time.

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. asked if there were any updates on the Convenience Center from the State Department of Environmental Protection. Acting Township Administrator advised that they are waiting on the plans.

Mayor Byrd stated for the record and so that we are all clear, the plans are coming from the State. He advised that we have inquired several times because we had cut down some trees and the area is growing up on us and perhaps we could get the bush mower out there.

Felipe Maisonave advised that he was out there yesterday while QC, the company who monitors the wells at the Convenience Center were having a hard time getting to the wells. He advised they had to literally walk the machine around the all the stumps to get to the wells and while doing this, it broke a blade on the machine; therefore they had to rent a bush hog. He advised QC will be back to finish their monitoring next week. He advised that as far as maintaining it will be hard, but we will make every effort, indicating there are a lot of dips, holes and elevation changes, but they did make a clear path for QC to conduct their well monitoring.

NEW BUSINESS

Committeeman David Gonzales had no New Business at this time.

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. had no New Business at this time.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. asked if there was a tentative date for the opening of the new Dollar General Store. Acting Township Administrator advised sometime in December.

Committeeman Clark asked if they have a schedule for a grand opening. Acting Township Administrator Burden stated that he talked to Dollar General about this and was informed that they really do not do this, but that they would think about it.

Committeeman David Gonzalez asked if they have said anything about the bowling alley building.

Acting Township Administrator Burden stated that the storage facility next to the location is looking into purchasing it and also the fire company indicated they would like to use it for fire drill exercise before it is eventually torn down.

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

Committeeman David Gonzalez thanked everyone for coming out tonight and to be safe.

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., thanked everyone for coming out.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., thanked everyone for coming out and to drive safe.

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

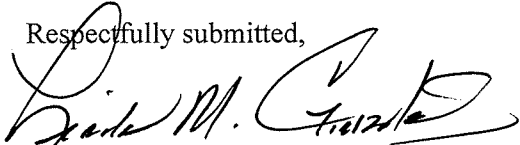
Mayor Byrd thanked everyone for coming out, we look forward to the residents offering something to the Township as well because they live here and we are trying to do the best we can and appreciate everybody for coming out tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Township Committee, Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. moved to adjourn seconded by Committeeman David Gonzalez. All members voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Municipal Clerk