

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REGULAR ACTION MEETING  
VIA TELECONFERENCE  
JUNE 17, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020 via teleconference is held pursuant to notice of change of meeting location, time and format of same having been submitted to The South Jersey Times, The Daily Journal, and The Press of Atlantic City on June 10, 2020 and also duly posted on the Township website.

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; Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr., present; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., present and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., present.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REGULAR ACTION MEETING MAY 20, 2020

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the minutes for the Regular Action meeting of May 20, 2020. There were none. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2020 as written seconded by Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr., yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

REVIEW OF BILL LIST PROVIDED BY CFO

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the bill list provided by the Chief Financial Officer. Committeeman Tommy Clark Jr. and Mayor Benjamin Byrd Sr. entered into the record their conflict on payable for South State Incorporated.

Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to adopt Resolution No. 105 - 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. 105 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$165,604.84

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 105 - 2020 seconded by Deputy Marvin Pierce, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes, abstains from payable to South State, Inc., Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes, abstains from payable to South State Inc.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING)

None

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING) (ONE)

Mayor Byrd read Ordinance No. 4 - 2020 into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 4 - 2020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING ORDINANCE 7 - 2019 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 163 ENTITLED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES", SPECIFICALLY SECTION 163-3D ENTITLED "LICENSE FEES" OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE

Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to open Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 4 - 2020.

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. moved to open Public Hearing seconded by Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr., yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

There were no comments on the Public Hearing. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to close Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 4 - 2020.

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. moved to close Public Hearing seconded by Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr., yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 4 - 2020 on final reading.

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. moved to adopt on final reading seconded by Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr., yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the Consent Agenda. There were none. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Resolution No. 106 - 2020 through Resolution No. 109 - 2020

CONSENT AGENDA

(RESOLUTION NO. 106 - 2020 THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 109 - 2020)

The Consent Agenda includes items of business which are not controversial & do not require individual discussion. A motion approving the Consent Agenda is moved, seconded and voted upon as one item by the Township Committee. If any discussion is requested on a Consent Agenda item, it is removed from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 106 - 2020

A RESOLUTION UPDATING THE TERMS OF THE JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BRIDGETON

RESOLUTION NO. 107 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF STREET OPENING PERMIT(S) TO SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY PERMIT NO. 6 - 2020 / INSTALLATION OF GAS SERVICE / 21 LUMMIS MILL ROAD (129'S C/L DAVE DRIVE)

RESOLUTION NO. 108 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE BUCK STREET, ELMER AVENUE AND CLARK STREET RECONSTRUCTION

RESOLUTION NO. 109 - 2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OSCAR NELSON REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE #17-00021 IN INSTALLMENTS

On a motion by Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. to approve the above Resolutions by Consent Agenda seconded by Committeeman David Gonzalez. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr., yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

ANNOUNCEMENT / PRESENTATION

TRICO MUNICIPAL JIF / FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL  
PAUL FORLENZA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL PRESENT AN OVERVIEW OF THE JIF AND ITS BENEFITS TO MEMBERS

Paul Forlenza, TRICO Executive Director, thanked the Township Committee for having him on the Agenda to make his presentation on re-affirming our renewal membership in the Gloucester, Salem Cumberland Counties Municipal Joint Insurance Fund (TRICO JIF) for the three year period beginning January 1, 2021. Prior to tonight's teleconference meeting, Mr. Forlenza provided copies to the Municipal Clerk for the Township Committee's review of TRICO-JIF 2021 Renewal Agreement. The renewal agreement and Resolution are due by Friday, August 14, 2020.

A snapshot of JIF's stable 29 year history was given. The following overviews were reviewed and explained: TRICO JIF Loss Funding Trend, Fairfield's Loss Ratio Trend, Fairfield's Loss Funding, Fairfield's Assessment, The "New Normal" meaning New Exposures such as COVID-19, SAM Legislation, Firefighters Cancer Presumption & Growing Cyber Threats. He advised that 12 months ago, these exposures were not on their radar and that they have the financial resources and history to respond to these evolving exposures and continue to provide financial relief in the form of dividends to members.

Mr. Forlenza discussed Risk Management & Safety Programs and other things they are working on such as New Telemedicine Service, new streaming service for safety videos online, over 130 titles available for streaming right to the workplace and Joint Cash Management and Investment Program.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. had no Old Business.

Committeeman David Gonzalez had no Old Business.

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. had no Old Business.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. had no Old Business.

Mayor Byrd announced that the state has started to re-open while the COVID-19 pandemic is still amongst us. He advised that the state is not in normalcy yet and still there is no vaccine.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Committeeman David Gonzalez who also works during the day as labor union for the federal penitentiary reported on a notice he received today that 71 inmates had tested positive for COVID-19. He stated that we have people in our community that work at the prison; our emergency personnel are at risk when they are responding to calls for emergency medical assistance. He stated that we should be asking some questions to the Administrative Government as to why they do not want to test staff members. He reported that five staff members tested positive and this pandemic is not going away anytime soon.

Mayor Benjamin Byrd made referenced to our ambulance squad as to what kind of safety is in place when in transit to the prison.

Mayor Byrd touched on the violence of people of color and that such violence has been endured for quite some time. He would like the Township Committee to draft a letter to be sent to the Governor and other municipalities as to what are they doing to make a change.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. thanked the public who may have listened to our teleconference meeting tonight and to stay safe as much as possible.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. stated for everyone to stay safe and contain a safe place.

Committeeman David Gonzalez thanked everyone who joined in our teleconference meeting tonight and to stay safe and to wear your face masks. We the people are still now safe as some areas have re-opened up.

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Jr. stated for everyone to stay safe and use wisdom.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Byrd stated that he would like to also have our residents to write to the Governor and surrounding municipalities regarding what they are doing to make a change.

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Solicitor if he had any reports or remarks. Solicitor Carr indicated that back in May he had notified the Mayor and Township Committee of probable interruption of Professional Service as he had been contacted with the possibility of a full time county position. The update on this matter is that he was chosen and he is to commence his county position effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

He stated given that the Solicitor position is a professional appointment, it is not necessary to go out for bid, however, the Township Committee may want to advertise the professional appointment or hold a Special Meeting to fill the vacancy.

Mayor Byrd read the Public Comment on Current Agenda Items & Non Agenda Items 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 state your name and address for the record at the appropriate time.

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

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

Nancy Ridgeway, 582 Irving Avenue advised that the Resolutions adopted via Consent Agenda were not read into the record and that it is only appropriate that those Resolutions be read into the record as this meeting format is being recorded.

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

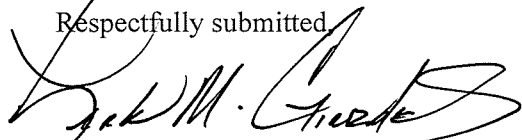
Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. moved and seconded by Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr., yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. All members voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda M. Gonzales, RMC  
Township Clerk