

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR ACTION MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
AUGUST 19, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 19th day of August 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 August 11, 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 and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., present.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. and Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WORK SESSION ACTION MEETING AUGUST 5, 2020

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the minutes for the Work Session Action Meeting of August 5, 2020. There were none. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

Committeeman David Gonzalez moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session Action Meeting of August 5, 2020 as written seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, 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 regarding payment to South State Incorporated.

Mayor Byrd read Resolution No. 125 - 2020 into the record as follows and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION NO. 125 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$291,344.19

Committeeman David Gonzalez moved to adopt Resolution No. 125 - 2020 seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, yes, but abstained on payment for South State, Inc., Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes, but abstained on payment for South State, Inc.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING)

None

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

PRESENTATION

E-GOVERNMENT DATA / TREEMANISHA STEWART

Treemanisha Stewart presented the Township Committee the results of the survey conducted for E-Government Data. The E-Government Data is a way to conduct business online. Information was collected from elected officials, municipal staff, residents and four (4) Administrators within Cumberland County.

Ms. Stewart explained that the public perceived E-Government as a good idea. There was an apprehension of raising taxes which did not seem to be a problem from the data. They did not mind a temporary tax increase and there was also an assumption that the elderly would not want to do this which was not the case found by the data. She indicated that she received 132 responses to the survey which is 9% responsive rate which ordinarily you would want a 20% responsive rate. She advised that the barriers would be that there is a lack of capabilities of either people do not have the internet or computer and also they do not want to pay the fees to pay their taxes online.

Ms. Stewart indicated that the E-Government will not be pursued at this time and suggested that the Township update their website to provide what services the Township recommended that the Township update their website and list what kind of services the Township can provide to their residents and possibly upload applications, forms that the residents can obtain without having to make a trip to the municipal building or mailed to them.

Ms. Stewart is working on her PhD and the E-Government Data played an assignment role. She advised that the data has not yet been approved by the University.

Committeeman Gonzalez commented Ms. Stewart for a great job.

Mayor Byrd advised that he would meet with the Township Administrator to get the information out there and post forms and such on the website. Mayor Byrd thanked Ms. Stewart for her work and for helping us and that it was a pleasure that the Township was able to help her to achieve her assignment.

PUBLIC HEARING

SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM GRANT WRITER / MARK BLAUER, BLAUER ASSOCIATES

An announcement was made by grant writer, Mark Blauer, Blauer Associates that there is an opportunity for Fairfield Township to apply again in 2021 for Community Block Grants through the Department of Community Affairs for funding to continue Fairfield Township's Housing Rehabilitation Program and also Phase II Public Facilities ADA Improvements for the interior of the Municipal Building to complement the Phase I project. He advised that applications are due September 18, 2020.

Mr. Blauer advised that 6-9 homeowners have been approved for housing rehabilitation of their homes. Mr. Blauer advised that bids were received for the Phase I Public Facilities ADA Improvements for the Municipal Building and the Recreation Complex. He indicated that Fralinger Engineering PA will be reaching out to the Township Administrator regarding the awarding of bid for said project at the Township Committee Meeting on September 2, 2020.

Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing.

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

Nancy Ridgeway, 582 Irving Avenue thanked Mr. Blauer for what he is doing.

There being no further comments, Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

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

Mayor Byrd read Resolution No. 126 - 2020 into the record. Mayor Byrd advised that the Planning and Zoning Board were implicated back and forth in court with applicant, Don Rogers, Incorporated for the mining permit renewal. Mayor Byrd advised that from what he understands the court has instructed our Township to issue a permit to Don Rogers, Incorporated and after we issue the permit, we have to ensure that Don Rogers Incorporated is abiding by our Township Mining Ordinance and if they do not abide, then the Township has an option to revoke the permit from Don Rogers, Incorporated.

Albert K. Marmero, Township Solicitor entered into the record to reiterate what Mayor Byrd just stated which he stated is 100% accurate and that it was the Superior Court who remanded this matter back to the Planning and Zoning Board with specific instructions that the Planning and Zoning Board would have to review the application, essentially as an existing use. The Planning and Zoning Board did review the application in that way and they came up with a list of conditions that Don Rogers Incorporated would have to meet.

Mr. Marmero stated that the Township Committee should have in their meeting folder a copy of the Planning and Zoning Board Resolution that outlines all the conditions and that all these conditions have been met for the most part. He advised there is one condition that they reference to it is recommended that the Township of Fairfield and Don Rogers, Incorporated address Section 13-8-3 (J) which is a Reclamation Plan of Fairfield Township. Mr. Marmero advised that essentially, the Planning and Zoning Board is stating that all conditions have been met that one condition may be outstanding and so to the extent, we approve the Resolution tonight because he believes we have to and that he recommends that we just add a condition to make sure they satisfy the Reclamation Plan to the satisfaction of the Township Engineer and Township Attorney.

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they had any questions. There were none. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to adopt Resolution No. 126 - 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. 126 - 2020

A RESOLUTION IN THE MATTER OF THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP GRANTING APROVAL FOR APPLICANT, DON ROGERS, INC., TO OBTAIN A MINING PERMIT FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP PLANNING/ZONING BOARD

Committeeman David Gonzalez moved to adopt Resolution No. 126 - 2020 seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

Mayor Byrd read the Resolutions under Consent Agenda and asked the Township Committee if they had any questions. There were none. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Resolution No. 127 - 2020 through Resolution No. 134 - 2020

CONSENT AGENDA

(RESOLUTION NO. 127 - 2020 THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 134 - 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. 127 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY ADOPTION OF STATE MODEL CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SMALL CITIES PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 128 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY APPROVING HOUSING REHABILITATION GRANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. 129 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY APPROVING PUBLIC FACILITIES GRANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. 130 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY APPROVING HOUSING REHABILITATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

RESOLUTION NO. 131 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY IDENTIFYING SMALL CITIES FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICER

RESOLUTION NO. 132 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY TO APPLY AND OBTAIN A GRANT FROM NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS TO CARRY OUT A FISCAL YEAR 2021 HOUSING REHABILITATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000

RESOLUTION NO. 133 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY TO APPLY AND OBTAIN A NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS GRANT TO CARRY OUT A FISCAL YEAR 2021 PUBLIC FACILITIES PROJECT FOR AN ADA COMPLIANCE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE MUNICIPAL COMPLEX IN THE AMOUNT OF

RESOLUTION NO. 134 - 2020

A RESOLUTION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPROVING THE ANNUAL AUDIT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 On a motion by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. 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 and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

Mayor Byrd entered into the record that there were no audit hits and that the Auditor found that we are doing a great job as we have been doing for quite some time.

Mayor Byrd also entered into the record that they received a resignation letter from Michelle Behm, Tax Assessor effective August 18, 2020 and entertained a motion to accept Ms. Behm's resignation.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

Committeeman David Gonzalez remarks were to continue social distancing, hand washing and wear face masks as the pandemic is still with us.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. remarks were for everyone to be very cautious especially in large group gatherings, continue practicing social distancing and if you are feeling ill, seek medical help immediately.

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Byrd reiterated the same remarks as Committeeman Gonzalez and Committeeman Clark. These are trying times and we are not even close to being out of this pandemic as the games being played by scientist and politics as it has caused many lives to perish and to keep yourself and your family safe.

Mayor Byrd read the Public Comment on Current Agenda Items & 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 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 David Gonzalez moved and seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

Nancy Ridgeway, 582 Irving Avenue thanked the Township for a clean audit and that it is not easy to obtain.

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

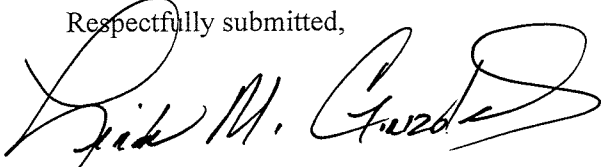
Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. moved and seconded by Committeeman David Gonzalez. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Committeeman David Gonzalez moved and seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. All members voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda M. Gonzales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "G".

Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Township Clerk