

AGENDA
FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR ACTION MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
DECEMBER 16, 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 16th day of December, 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 December 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 Mark K. Pierce, Sr., present; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., present and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., present.

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the minutes for the Regular Action Meeting November 18, 2020. There were none. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2020.

Committeeman David Gonzalez present at 6:03 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REGULAR ACTION MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. moved to approve the minutes as written seconded by Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, abstained; 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.

Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. and Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. entered into the record their conflict on payable 20-00985 for Pitts Escrow - Subdivision.

Mayor Byrd read Resolution No. 154 - 2020 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION NO. 154 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$205,414.53

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 154 - 2020 seconded by Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes, but abstained on payable 20-00985; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr., yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes, but abstained on payable 20-00985.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSION:

JOHN CARR, COUNTY SOLICITOR AND JOHN KNOOP, COUNTY ENGINEER REGARDING SOUTH AVENUE CULVERT OPERATIONS AND OPTIONS

John Knoop, Cumberland County Engineer thanked the Township Committee for having him on tonight

to discuss the concept plans for the South Avenue culvert. The culvert is situated on the property line between Fairfield Township and the City of Bridgeton. The culvert is failing and is approximately 150 years old and is made of steel and granite. He advised that the County has tried to repair it several times over the past 10 years and now it is basically not in repair and is basically not worth repairing it in its current state. He indicated that we now have a decision to make, do we replace it or abandoned it. He advised currently as the Township Committee is aware, the County has traffic barrels on the west side and down to one lane. He stated that they are monitoring it and is currently safe. He reported that the County tries to go there on a daily basis especially after storms like today to make sure it is still safe. He reported that he is going to add additional barriers to keep traffic and pedestrians out of the area where the failing structure is.

Mr. Knoop indicated that if the culvert was replaced based on their experience, the one replaced recently by the Township's fire hall, that project cost over \$1.5 million dollars and that he expects the South Avenue culvert is going to cost the same range and it takes three (3) years to design & permits. He advised that the County has not started the process. He advised that the Township Committee was presented with a concept plan given back in September. He explained the concept plan would make Grove Street a two-way traffic and South Avenue also a two-way traffic as well. He explained Grove Street would take the by-pass traffic and that it would be an extension of Bridgeton and Fairton Road and South Avenue, a dense residential street would be more of a local street. He advised if we abandon the culvert, we would return it back to nature and remove the culvert. He said they would terminate the south end of South Avenue in a cul-de-sac at the last residence which is basically on the opposite of the solar field. He advised that some of those roads would remain as a driveway to the pump station. He reported that it would make major improvements to both the north and south end of Grove Street at South Avenue so that we can transition the traffic on the south end smoothly on the Grove Street and on the north end of South Avenue that would come into a "T" intersection to Grove Street. He said Grove Street would be the thru street carrying the major traffic and South Avenue would be the stop. The concept plan would cost the County approximately half of a million dollars. He advised that some of the advantages of the concept plan would be that it would save the County money. He advised the City of Bridgeton officials have approved the plan.

County Engineer Knoop asked the Township Committee if they had any questions for him.

Mayor Byrd advised that he had discussed this matter previously with the Township Administrator and understands that if the funds are just not available to repair then there is no funds available and that he knows the County has developed this concept plan as far as making traffic safe, therefore he does not really have any questions as per himself.

John Knoop indicated that an option is still open to replace the culvert, but unfortunately, it is in a state of disrepair and does not know how long we can keep it open in the state that it is in, but that he keeps monitoring daily and if there had to be a detour, they would use Shoemaker and South Avenue and that would take several years.

John Carr, Cumberland County Counsel stated that John Knoop did a perfect job tonight in explaining. He advised that the Commissioners essentially want to hear from Fairfield Township or make sure that we are communicating fully. Mr. Carr stated that while savings are great, but on the other hand, we have people that matter along this road that they want to make sure of the communication and that is why this matter is on tonight's agenda.

Mayor Byrd speaking of his own opinion stated that if the funds were available to correct it, it would be good to use the road as it had been used, but if it is dangerous and hazardous then of course diverting the traffic would be the smart thing to do. He further stated that if you have the funding to repair it, it would be great to have the road back the same way, but if you do not have the funding then we have to bear with what we do have because we do understand how finances are with just handling things that we have to do in our Township.

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they had any questions that they would like to entertain.

There were no questions from the Township Committee as the County has explained the matter fully.

Mayor Byrd indicated to County Counsel John Carr that the Township would contact him through the Township Administrator if there are any other questions and or concerns that should come up.

John Carr and John Knoop thanked the Township Committee for listening to them tonight. Mayor Byrd thanked them both for being present tonight.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING)

None

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if possible, he would like to table Resolution No. 155 - 2020 so that we can communicate more in detail with the Union and everyone to have a clear understanding on the direction that the Township is considering going into. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to table Resolution No. 155 - 2020 and revisit at a Special Meeting on December 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. which will give the Union ample time and anyone else if this date is satisfactory with everyone. There were no objections.

Mayor Byrd read the following Resolutions into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 155 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP AND INSPIRA MEDICAL CENTERS, INC.

Committeeman David Gonzalez moved to table Resolution No. 155 - 2020 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 156 - 2020

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 156 - 2020 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., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

RESOLUTION NO. 157 - 2020

A RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF PROTECTION TO PERMIT FARMER TAGGED VEHICLES TO DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE AT A MUNICIPAL CONVENIENCE CENTER

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. inquired what type of household waste trash is permitted to farmer tagged vehicles. Mayor Byrd stated it is the same household waste that all township residents take to the convenience center.

Committeeman David Gonzalez moved to adopt Resolution No. 157 - 2020 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 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. 158 - 2020 through Resolution No. 165 - 2020.

CONSENT AGENDA

(RESOLUTION NO. 158 - 2020 THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 165 - 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. 158 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD, COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE INSTITUTION OF AN IN REM TAX FORECLOSURE

RESOLUTION NO. 159 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR INACTIVE LIQUOR LICENSE PURSUANT TO SPECIAL RULING N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 TO CENTURY SAVINGS BANK FOR THE

2020 - 2021 LICENSE TERM

RESOLUTION NO. 160 - 2020

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF NEIL YOUNG AS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

RESOLUTION NO. 161 - 2020

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF LINDA M. GONZALES AS REGISTERED MUNICIPAL CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 162 - 2020

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CARLA SMITH AS CERTIFIED TAX COLLECTOR

RESOLUTION NO. 163 - 2020

TRANSFERS OF APPROPRIATIONS - 2020 BUDGET

RESOLUTION NO. 164 - 2020

APPROPRIATIONS CANCELATIONS - 2020 BUDGET

RESOLUTION NO. 165 - 2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE SALE, RECYCLING OR PROPER DISPOSAL OF VARIOUS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. to approve the above Resolutions by Consent Agenda 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, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

FURNACE AND DOOR PROPOSALS

Three (3) quotes were presented to the Township Committee for the furnishing and installment of a heater furnace for the Public Works/EMS Building. Heating Specialties, Inc.(\$7,290.00), Laury Heating Cooling & Plumbing (\$8,220.00) and Woodruff Energy (\$8,750.00). Upon the review of each quote, it was the consensus of the governing body to accept the proposal from Heating Specialties, Inc.

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Clerk if we needed to adopt a Resolution for Heating Specialties, Inc.

Township Clerk advised that the amount is under the threshold, therefore a motion on the floor and seconded to accept their proposal is appropriate.

Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to accept the proposal from Heating Specialties, Inc.

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. moved to approve the quote from Heating Specialties, Inc. in the amount of \$7,290.00 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.

DOOR PROPOSAL

Two (2) quotes have been obtained for the Public Works/EMS building. The Township will obtain a third quote and revisit this matter in the near future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. had no reports or remarks at this time.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. thanked everyone who joined in the meeting tonight and to continue the practice of all CDC guidelines and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Committeeman David Gonzalez echoed the same remarks issued by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. He reported that the numbers are rising and to be safe and wished everyone a blessed Holiday season.

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. thanked everyone who joined into tonight's meeting and wished everyone a safe a Happy Holiday.

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Byrd shared the same reflections as everyone else of being safe and most importantly keeping yourself safe and your family. He stated that the COVID-19 is ramping up and has noticed more and more cases are getting into our Township. He stated that he gets texts all the time giving the numbers that are in our Township and it seems like they are ramping up more and more so we want to make sure that we keep ourselves safe and our families and not take it for granted and also thanked those that joined our teleconference meeting.

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 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.

Mr. Patrick Conahey, 240 Fairton-Cedarville Road made referenced to the tabled Resolution No. 155 - 2020. He stated the Township Committee tabled it to December 28, 2020 and asked Mayor Byrd if the public was going to be notified with this and will the public have an opportunity to voice before the Township Committee takes a vote on it. Mayor Byrd indicated that the public is going to be notified and also that whatever agreement that the Township is considering in getting involved in that you should be able to OPRA request it you would be able to have it and read it in detail and that there will be an open public session as with every meeting. Mr. Conahey stated but you opened the meeting tonight to the public after you voting on everything and are you going to listen to the public before you vote on it.

Mayor Byrd stated we can do that and listen to the public. Mr. Conahey thanked the Mayor and stated that it would be greatly appreciated and had no further comments.

Mr. Mike Peterson, 31 Piercetown Road, on behalf of Glory Tabernacle thanked the Township Committee for their consideration and approval for the Fireworks Display that will be hosted by Glory Tabernacle. He stated it is going to be a community event and that they thought it would be a positive event for the community considering the type of year we all have had.

Mayor Byrd thanked Mr. Peterson and agreed with him and that he believes that it is going to be an awesome community event.

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

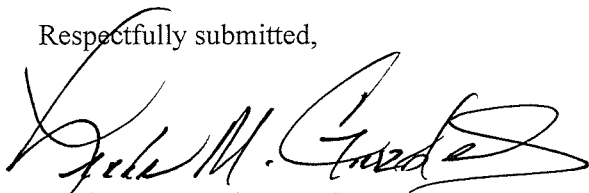
Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. moved and seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr., yes; Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

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 seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. All members voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Township Clerk