

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR ACTION MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
AUGUST 18, 2021

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 18th day of August 2021 via teleconference is held pursuant to notice having been submitted to The South Jersey Times, The Daily Journal, and The Press of Atlantic City on January 11, 2021 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 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 Michael Burden, Township Solicitor Al Marmero, Township Clerk Linda M. Gonzales and Township Grant Consultant Mark Blauer, Blauer Associates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WORK SESSION ACTION MEETING MAY 5, 2021

Committeeman David Gonzalez moved to approve the Work Session Action minutes of May 5, 2021 as written seconded by Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr., abstained; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr., abstained, Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

REGULAR ACTION MEETING JULY 21, 2021

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. moved to approve the Regular Action minutes of July 21, 2021 as written seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, 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.

WORK SESSION ACTION MEETING AUGUST 4, 2021

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. moved to approve the Work Session Action minutes of August 4, 2021 seconded by Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. yes; Committeeman David Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr., abstained, Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., abstained.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING)

None

ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

REVIEW OF BILL LIST PROVIDED BY CFO

Mayor Byrd asked the Township Committee if they had any questions and or conflicts on the bill list provided by the Chief Financial Officer to please put them on the record. There were none. Mayor Byrd read Resolution No. 114 -2021 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 114 - 2021

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$354,652.93

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 114 - 2021 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.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

Mayor Byrd advised that tonight's Public Hearing is a proposed application not to exceed \$200,000 to continue Fairfield Township's Housing Rehabilitation Program and a Public Facilities application in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for a Phase 3 ADA Compliance Improvement at the Municipal Building.

Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, 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.

Mark Blauer announced that in June, the Township of Fairfield was awarded \$400,000 for the Phase I ADA Compliance for the Township Building and \$200,000 for Home Rehabilitation and that almost immediately the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs opened another round due on September 24, 2021.

Mark Blauer stated so far the Township Clerk and Township Administrator have proceeded with the advertising for an architect/engineering services for the Phase I grant that the Township does have. He indicated the report from last year from the architect identified more work at the Township Building which we call Phase II. Mr. Blauer recommended that the Township apply for this opportunity for the \$400,000 grant for the Municipal Building and since we have a very long waiting list for home rehabilitation, that we again apply for the \$200,000 grant for home rehabilitation and that the applications are due in September and that we probably will get an answer in December or in January and again we have done a lot of work in this regard and this is another opportunity we have and he is suggesting that we take it.

Mayor Byrd asked if there were any concerns or questions from the public or the Township Committee for Mr. Blauer.

There were no concerns or questions from the Township Committee.

There were no concerns or questions from the public.

Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

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.

In closing the Public Hearing, Mayor Byrd thanked Mr. Blauer.

Mayor Byrd read the Consent Agenda into the record and asked the Township Committee if they had any questions. There were none. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

(RESOLUTION NO. 115 - 2021 THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 117 - 2021)

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. 115 - 2021

A RESOLUTION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPROVING THE ANNUAL AUDIT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

RESOLUTION NO. 116 - 2021

CREDIT FOR OVERPAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES DUE TO ASSESSMENT APPEAL

RESOLUTION NO 117 - 2021

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR INACTIVE LIQUOR LICENSE NO. 0605-33-002-007 PURSUANT TO SPECIAL RULING N.J.S.A.

33:1-12.39 TO H & H PARMAR, LLC FOR THE 2021 - 2022 LICENSE TERMS

On a motion by Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. moved 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., yes and Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., yes.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT / REMARKS

Deputy Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. thanked everyone who joined tonight's teleconference meeting.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. thanked everyone who joined tonight's teleconference and to stay safe and to continue to wear your face masks.

Committeeman Mark K. Pierce, Sr. thanked everyone as well and for everyone to stay safe at all times as things are starting to get worse with the pandemic.

Committeeman David Gonzalez echoed the same remarks. He reported that the numbers are rising in our State and that now our children under 12 years are getting the virus and spreading it to the elderly and he encouraged our residents to consider getting the vaccine.

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Byrd thanked the Township Committee for all the work they put in on the Municipal Audit. He reported that there were zero findings for the calendar year 2020.

Mayor Byrd also thanked the Township Committee for the work that they have put in for the last 5 years in a row with a zero tax increase to our residents on our multi-purpose tax. He praised them for their good work in helping our residents and that it is a great thing as we do not get to hear it at all. He stated that we instead hear a lot of complaints and sometimes a lot of negativity. In closing, he stated for everyone to stay safe as this variant is getting out of control.

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. At the appropriate time, please state your name and address for the record.

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

Committeeman Tommy Clark, 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.

There were no comments from the public. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to close Public Comment on Current Agenda Items & 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.

There was no need for an Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)

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

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 Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. All members voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.



Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Township Clerk