

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR ACTION MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
JANUARY 19, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tommy Clark, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Clark 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 ensure 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 January 2022 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 10, 2022 and also duly posted on the Township website.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / MOMENT OF PRAYER

Mayor Clark led the flag salute followed by a moment of prayer provided by Committeeman Mike Peterson.

ROLL CALL

The following roll call was recorded as follows:

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman, present; Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr., present;
Committeeman Mike Peterson and Mayor Tommy Clark, Jr., present.

ALSO PRESENT

Township Administrator Michael Burden, Township Solicitor Albert K. Marmero and Township Clerk Linda M. Gonzales.

Mayor Clark asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the Regular Action minutes of December 15, 2021. There were none. Mayor Byrd entertained a motion to adopt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REGULAR ACTION MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2021

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to approve the Regular Minutes of December 15, 2021 as written seconded by Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Clark, yes.

Mayor Clark asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the Reorganization minutes of January 3, 2022. There were none. Mayor Clark entertained a motion to adopt.

Committeeman David Gonzalez was present at 6:07 p.m.

REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2022

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to approve the Reorganization minutes of January 3, 2022 as written seconded by Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Clark, yes.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING) (ONE)

Mayor Clark read Ordinance No. 1 - 2022 into the record and asked the Township Committee if they had any questions. There were none. Mayor Clark entertained a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 1 - 2022 on first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 1 - 2022

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 14, LOT 15

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

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

REVIEW OF BILL LIST PROVIDED BY CFO

Mayor Clark asked the Township Committee if they had any questions and or conflicts on the Bill List provided by the Chief Financial Officer. There were none. Mayor Byrd read Resolution No. 47 - 2022 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 47 - 2022

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$614,670.71
Committeeman Stephen M. Batman moved to adopt Resolution No. 47 - 2022 seconded by Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Clark, yes.

RESOLUTION NO. 48 - 2022

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE SALE, RECYCLING OR PROPERTY DISPOSAL OF VARIOUS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT
Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 48 - 2022 seconded by Committeeman David Gonzalez. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Clark, yes.

RESOLUTION NO. 49 - 2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION TO THE NJ CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM
Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 49 - 2022 seconded by Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Clark, yes.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

(RESOLUTION NO. 50 - 2022 THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 53 - 2022)

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. 50 - 2022

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CONTACT PERSON FOR THE EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY ATTORNEY CONSULTATION SERVICE - GLOUCESTER, SALEM, CUMBERLAND COUNTIES MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

RESOLUTION NO. 51 - 2022

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBER

RESOLUTION NO. 52 - 2022

A RESOLUTION APPROVING ANNUAL BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 53 - 2022

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF STREET OPENING PERMIT(S) TO SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY

PERMIT NO. 1 - 2022 / INSTALLATION OF GAS SERVICE / 360 CLARKS POND ROAD (1261' SE C/L FAIRTON-MILLVILLE ROAD)

PERMIT NO. 2 - 2022 /INSTALLATION OF GAS SERVICE / 7 HARTZ DRIVE (646' E C/L WALDEN DRIVE)

PERMIT NO. 3 - 2022 /INSTALLATION OF GAS SERVICE / MARK DRIVE (396' TO 741' EAST OF C/L OF FORDVILLE ROAD)

On a motion by Committeeman Mike Peterson moved to approve the above Resolutions by Consent Agenda seconded by Committeeman David Gonzalez. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Clark, yes.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

PLANET NETWORK RIGHT-OF-WAY REQUEST

Township Solicitor Albert K. Marmero reported that a request was made to Fairfield Township from Planet Networks, LLC. Upon his review, he explained to the Township Committee that they were publicizing their intentions of upgrading and expanding fiber optics network in Fairfield Township and as part of this, they are seeking consent granting permission to locate and operate in the right-of-way by attaching to both existing and new utility poles and/or underground conduits by ordinance or resolution from the governing body.

After his discussion, Robert Boyle, CEO, Planet Networks, Inc. went into the record and gave a general background history to the Township Committee. He advised that Planet Network, Inc. was granted authorization to provide local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout New Jersey by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

Mr. Boyle advised that Planet Network, LLC is and has been deploying fiber optic cable to several municipalities and county right-of-way that provides both high speed fiber optic internet and phone services to both businesses and residents. Mr. Boyle stated that under New Jersey State statute Planet Networks, LLC must obtain consent from the Township of Fairfield to locate and operate in the right-of-way.

After much discussion, Mayor Clark asked the Township Committee if they had any questions and or concerns.

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. asked the Township Solicitor if he had Mr. Robert Boyle's contact number in order to reach out to him to address any questions and or concerns from the Committee.

Township Solicitor Al Marmero affirmed.

There being no further questions from the Township Committee, Mayor Clark thanked our Township Solicitor and Mr. Boyle.

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman had no reports or comments at this time.

Committeeman David Gonzalez thanked everyone that is on the call tonight and taking out the time out of your busy day to participate in democracy at work and to also encouraged everyone to wear their face mask and continue to social distance as this virus has a mind of its own on playing havoc.

Committeeman Mike Peterson had to reports or remarks at this time.

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. echoed the same remarks as Committeeman Gonzalez regarding the virus and thanked all of our residents for listening in and being a part of our Township Committee meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Tommy Clark, Jr. echoed the same remarks as Committeeman Gonzalez and Deputy Mayor Byrd regarding COVID-19 as it is real, and it is here and does not seem to be going anywhere. Mayor Clark stated to wear your mask and continue social distancing when appropriate and he thanked everyone for being on tonight's teleconference call.

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

Mr. Robert Boyle, Planet Network entered the record and stated that he was not familiar with the governing bodies process, but that he would like to ask if there would be a motion entertained tonight in entering into an Agreement with Planet Networks, Inc.

Mayor Clark addressed Mr. Boyle's question that at this time, the Township Committee is not at a point to make their decision on his request.

Mayor Clark advised Mr. Boyle that once the Township Committee receives additional communication from our Township Solicitor on questions that the Township Committee may have and investigate the information provided and the guidance on how to proceed, the matter will be brought back to the Township Committee for their consideration.

At this time, Township Solicitor Marmero advised Mr. Boyle that he will be in touch with him via email most likely tomorrow to exchange information and then we can start the process by getting the additional information that we need from him in order to craft an agreement. Mr. Boyle thanked the Township Solicitor and the Township Committee.

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

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved and seconded by Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Clark, yes.

There was no need for an Executive Session.

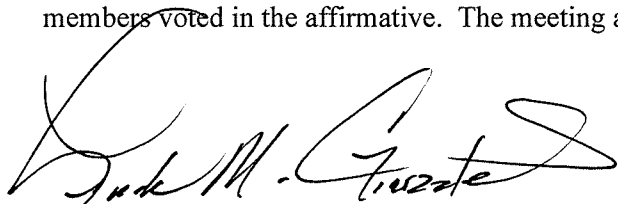
EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)

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 Clark entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved and seconded by Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman. All members voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.



Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Township Clerk