

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR ACTION MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
MARCH 16, 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 16th day of March 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 given 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 David Gonzalez, present; Committeeman Mike Peterson, present and Mayor Tommy Clark, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

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

Mayor Clark asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the Work Session Action minutes of March 2, 2022. There were none. Mayor Clark entertained a motion to approve.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WORK SESSION ACTION MEETING MARCH 2, 2022

Committeeman Mike Peterson moved to approve the minutes as written seconded by Committeeman David Gonzalez. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, abstain, Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Clark, yes.

ANNOUNCEMENT/PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION / 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

NANCY SBROLLA, CPA, RMA, FORD•SCOTT& ASSOCIATES, LLC

Nancy Sbrolla, Municipal Auditor, Ford•Scott & Associates, LLC reported that our budget is zero percent tax increase and apologized for the late distribution due to the State Aid information not being certified until late yesterday afternoon. She advised that the budget has been prepared by the Township Committee and the Chief Financial Officer and that we should have everything covered within the budget to cover anything that the Township would need for the current year. She advised that we are in a good financial position right now.

Mayor Clark thanked Ms. Sbrolla for her presentation and the great news. Mayor Clark asked Ms. Sbrolla if she had anything else to add.

Ms. Sbrolla stated that when she mentioned the State aid, the Garden State Pilot Aid, they had increased our aid amount last year and originally told us that we could budget that revenue for the current year, however at the Governor's Address a week or so ago, the Governor pulled that money back. Ms. Sbrolla advised that it was \$20,000.00 that we got in last year that we will not get this year. She explained that this will not devastate the Township in no way, but this is one major change that the Township Committee should be aware of as the State Aid has dropped a little bit.

Mayor Clark thanked Ms. Sbrolla for explaining the Budget and for her time. Ms. Sbrolla stated if anyone had any further questions, to please reach out to the Township Clerk as she knows how to get in

touch with Ms. Sbrolla. Ms. Sbrolla advised that she will also be present for the Budget Hearing next month.

Mayor Clark read Ordinance No. 4 - 2022 into the record and entertained a motion to introduce.

ORDINANCE NO. 4 - 2022

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Committeeman David Gonzalez moved and 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.

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

REVIEW OF THE BILL LIST

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 no questions and or conflicts.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Clark read Resolution No. 68 - 2022 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION NO. 68 - 2022

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$320,486.13

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 68 - 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.

Mayor Clark read Resolution No. 69 - 2022 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION NO. 69 - 2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE 2022 BUDGET TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 69 - 2022 seconded by Committeeman Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Clark, yes.

Mayor Clark read Resolution No. 69 - 2022 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION NO. 70 - 2022

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 70 - 2022 seconded by Committeeman Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Gonzalez, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Clark, yes.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

(RESOLUTION NO. 71 - 2022 THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 74 - 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. 71 - 2022

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 72 - 2022

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY ENDORSING THE SUBMISSION OF A RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION

RESOLUTION NO. 73 - 2022

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD, COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY, NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES

RESOLUTION NO. 74 - 2022

A FIRST RESPONDERS RESOLUTION / FIRE COMPANIES

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. to approve the above Resolutions by Consent Agenda seconded by Committeeman Mike Peterson. 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

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. thanked everyone who took the time to participate in tonight's teleconference meeting and to also thanked the Mayor and the Township Committee for their efforts that they put into the budget. Deputy Mayor Byrd stated that the Township has not had a tax increase in six (6) years.

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

Committeeman Gonzalez stated that the Township has had six (6) years in a row a zero-tax increase except for one (1) year because we were obligated to purchase new fire trucks on our end. He advised so as the public knows the school system and the county taxes go up, however we as the Township have been frugal with the public's tax dollars and that was due to the credit of the Township Administrator, the Township Clerk, Tax Collector and all the support staff that run our township as well as his fellow Committeemen, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor.

Committeeman Gonzalez advised to be conscious of the COVID as everything has been relaxed, but to still maintain precaution as this virus is still in existence.

Committeeman Peterson thanked the public that dialed in tonight's teleconference meeting that is very appreciated and that residents entrust in them to do the work of the Township.

Committeeman Peterson stated the virus is still out there and that the weather is turning out nice where people are out and about to try to stay safe in the same manner and hopefully that we do not see a spike in the virus.

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Clark echoed the same remarks issued by his fellow Committeemen and the Deputy Mayor and to continue to work together. He stated that the township employees and this governing body is doing an excellent job as it takes teamwork and that he appreciates them all and that he appreciates the residents who call in and who do not call in. He stated that for those that do not call in, he keeps the public abreast that everyone is doing a good job and that there is no need to call in because they are comfortable in knowing what we are doing.

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

Mayor Clark entertained a motion to open Public Comment Agenda Items & Non - Agenda Items into the record.

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

Nancy Ridgeway, 582 Irving Avenue apologized for the earlier interruption. She advised that she inadvertently did not mute her call as she was attending another conference call.

Ms. Ridgeway thanked the Township staff and the members of the governing body that we have a no tax increase and that she really appreciates that.

Ms. Ridgeway inquired if the Municipal Building will be opening up soon. Mayor Clark advised Ms. Ridgeway that the Township is trying to put some dates together for possible opening of the Township Municipal Building and for in person Township meetings. He explained that at the moment, they are monitoring on what is going on around us and see's that a lot of places are reopening and as the Committee members have mentioned time after time, we cannot let our guard down because the virus is still in existence and we just want to make sure that we do not open up too early and make sure that we can put this virus a little behind us where we can feel comfortable with in reopening.

Ms. Ridgeway stated that the meetings she was on was the Board of Health and their meetings are now open to the public and that some of the reports from the Board of Health the virus is still steady in Cumberland County.

Mayor Clark stated that he does participate in the COVID Committee Meetings and that he does know the numbers as well and that we are trying to come up with a date on reopening that makes everyone feel safe.

Committeeman David Gonzalez added that once the Township does open to the public that we have to make sure we have precautions in place to ensure it is safe for everyone and that this is also a plan in place that Mayor Clark speaks of and that we are trying to open up the Municipal Building to conduct in person business as well as conducting in person meetings and that hopefully it will not take too long from now.

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

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 Mike Peterson. All members voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Township Clerk