

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR ACTION MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 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 November 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 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 for the Township, Township Committee, Township Staff and Township Residents and to continue to pray for Committeeman Mike Peterson and his family during the grieving process.

ROLL CALL

The following roll call was recorded as follows:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman and Committeeman David Gonzalez.

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 and Closed Session minutes of October 19, 2022. There were none. Mayor Clark entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REGULAR ACTION MEETING OCTOBER 19, 2022

CLOSED SESSION MEERTING OCTOBER 19, 2022

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to approve the minutes as written seconded by Mayor Tommy Clark, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Peterson, abstain and Mayor Clark, yes.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING)

None

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

At this time, Mayor Clark announced the Public Hearing regarding the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program to be presented by Mark Blauer, Grant Consultant.

PUBLIC HEARING

SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

MARK BLAUER, GRANT CONSULTANT

Mark Blauer announced that we are conducting a Public Hearing as part of applying again for the Small Cities Block Development Program that is offered by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Mr. Blauer advised that since 2019, the Township of Fairfield received approximately \$1.7 million dollars for improvements to the Recreation area, the Municipal Building and for continued Home Rehabilitation

for our lower income residents. He advised that we have an opportunity to apply again between now and December 7, 2022. He advised tonight's hearing is the essential requirement to apply. He advised that all seven (7) Resolutions indicated on tonight's Agenda, we are looking at two (2) applications, one for \$200,000 for Home Rehabilitation assistance for low moderate-income families. He advised that we have been running the Home Rehabilitation Program for approximately ten (10) years and we assist between six (6) to eight (8) homeowner's each year with a variety of home improvements.

He stated in addition, the Township Administrator has spoken with our Engineer, CME Associates and have put together a plan to build upon our success of our work at the Municipal Building. They looked at the Senior Center and came out with a plan to improve the food pantry, improve the kitchen and put in an elevator to the basement to improve the basement as a craft area and a computer lab to do various things now with the additional equipment and improve the restrooms at the Senior Center to make them more handicap accessible. He advised that project is identifiable as Project is \$452,126.00. He advised that if we get awarded, the Township would receive \$400,000 for that work. He advised that we will be applying now in December and we should receive an answer from the Lt. Governor in mid-February 2023.

He advised these are the two (2) projects and that he is very fond of the project at the Senior Center and that it was very thought out. He commends the Township Administrator and the Engineer for coming up with a good plan and advised tonight is the opportunity for the public to ask any questions or comments about our two (2) applications for this year.

Mayor Clark thanked Mr. Blauer for his presentation. At this time, Mayor Clark asked if there were any questions and or comments to be made regarding the two (2) applications.

There being no questions and or comments from the public, Mayor Clark entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

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

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 no questions and or conflicts. Mayor Clark read Resolution No. 167 - 2022 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION NO. 167 - 2022

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,584,858.16

Committeeman Mike Peterson moved to adopt Resolution No. 167 - 2022 seconded by Deputy mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Clark, yes.

ANNOUNCEMENT/PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

2022 MUNICIPAL BEST PRACTICES WORKSHEET SURVEY

Mayor Clark announced the results of the 2022 Municipal Best Practices Worksheet Survey completed and filed online on November 8, 2022. The Township received a score of 32 points whereby enough points were scored to receive our full state aid payment.

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. to accept the 2022 Municipal Best Practices Worksheet Inventory seconded by Committeeman Mike Peterson. All members voted in the affirmative.

The thresholds for aid withholding are as follows:

Inventory Score	Final Payment Amount Disbursed	Aid Withheld
0 - 15	0%	Lose 100% of final CMPTRA & ETR Payment
16 - 19	50%	Lose 50% of final CMPTRA & ETR Payment
20 - 23	75%	Lose 25% of final CMPTRA & ETR Payment
24+	100%	No withholding

CONSENT AGENDA

(RESOLUTION NO. 168 - 2022 THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 174 - 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. 168 - 2022

IDENTIFYING SMALL CITIES FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICER

RESOLUTION NO. 169 - 2022

ADOPTION OF STATE MODEL CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR DCA SMALL CITIES PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 170 - 2022

APPROVING HOUSING REHABILITATION GRANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. 171 - 2022

APPROVING PUBLIC FACILITIES GRANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. 172 - 2022

APPROVING TO APPLY FOR AND OBTAIN A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR APPROXIMATELY \$200,000 TO CARRY OUT A FISCAL YEAR 2023 HOUSING REHABILITATION FUND PROJECT

RESOLUTION NO. 173 - 2022

APPROVING TO APPLY FOR AND OBTAIN A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR UP TO \$400,000 FOR A SENIOR CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

RESOLUTION NO. 174 - 2022

APPROVAL OF HOUSING REHABILITATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

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: Deputy Mayor Byrd, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Clark, yes.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

Committeeman Mike Peterson had no report or remarks to make at this time.

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. thanked those who joined tonight's teleconference meeting and for everyone to stay safe as COVID is still present.

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Clark wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving holiday and to continue to stay safe and wear your face masks when all possible.

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.

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

Nancy Ridgeway, 582 Irving Avenue reported that the Township Committee Agenda nor the Planning & Zoning Board Meeting Agenda was posted on the website. Ms. Ridgeway also stated that she had inquired before and has not received a response on how the Township expended the ARP funds.

Mayor Clark advised Ms. Ridgeway that they would respond to her inquiry regarding the ARP funds and that he was unaware that the Agenda's were not posted on the website.

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

Deputy Mayor Byrd moved and seconded by Committeeman Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Deputy Mayor Byrd, 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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Committeeman Mike Peterson moved seconded by Deputy Mayor Benjamin Byrd, Sr. All members voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

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