

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REGULAR ACTION MEETING  
VIA TELECONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 15, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pierce 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023 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 5, 2023 and duly posted on the Township website.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG / MOMENT OF PRAYER

Mayor Pierce led the flag salute followed by a moment of prayer given by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson.

ROLL CALL

The following roll call was recorded as follows:

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

MEMBER ABSENT

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WORK SESSION ACTION MEETING FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to approve the minutes of February 1, 2023 as written seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Byrd, yes; Committeeman Clark, yes, Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

REVIEW OF BILL LIST PROVIDED BY CFO

Mayor Pierce asked the Township Committee if they had any questions and or conflicts on the bill list provided by the Chief Financial Officer.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. entered his conflict on payable 23-00149 to South State, Incorporated. There being no further questions and or conflicts, Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 63 - 2023 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt Resolution No. 63 - 2023.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 63 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$400,235.01

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved to adopt Resolution No. 63 - 2023 seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Byrd, yes, but abstain on payable 23-00149 to South State Incorporated; Committeeman Clark, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 64 - 2023 into the record and asked the Township Committee if they had any questions and or conflicts.

Mayor Pierce entered the record his conflict as he is a member of the Gouldtown Volunteer Fire Company No. 2. There being no further questions and or conflicts, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to adopt Resolution No. 64 - 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 64 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SAFETY AIR-PAKS SCOTT NJ STATE CONTRACT 17-FLEET-00819

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 64 - 2023 seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Byrd, yes; Committeeman Clark, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, abstain.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING)

None

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. had no report or remarks to make at this time.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. thanked everyone for joining our teleconference meeting and to please wear your face masks when all necessary as the Coronavirus continues to evolve.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. thanked everyone for their time in joining our teleconference meeting.

Mayor Pierce 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 step up to the microphone at the appropriate time and state your name and address for the record.

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

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

Hope Johnson, 301 Clarks Pond Road brought a matter to the attention of the Township Committee regarding an incident that occurred on the morning of February 10, 2023. She reported that she and her husband were walking their dog on a leash and were viciously attacked by a German Shepherd dog that was running loose. Ms. Johnson advised that this was not the first time this has happened. Ms. Johnson asked if the Township has an existing ordinance that would protect the residents of Fairfield Township from dog owners who do not leash their dogs and let them run freely and are vicious. She explained that her dog was hospitalized for two (2) days and that she lost a weeks' worth of work because her dog requires 24-hour care.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. advised Ms. Hope that he had the same issue with a resident's dog in the Township. He advised Ms. Johnson that the Township does have an ordinance codified regarding dogs are to be leashed and vicious dogs are codified in the ordinance and also Shore Animal Control Services are the Animal Control Officers for the Township.

Committeeman Byrd explained to Ms. Johnson that she could personally file a complaint in court against the dog owner citing the Fairfield Township Dog Ordinance.

Ms. Johnson advised that the dog owner is being served a summons but feels that this matter has gone beyond and that she wonders if they or anyone else in the Township will ever be safe walking in the community whereas a person should not have to walk with a stick or mace for protection.

Committeeman Byrd explained several avenues that Ms. Johnson can pursue and advised her the direction he personally took which was very similar to her situation and the problem was resolved.

Township Solicitor Marmero stated that it sounds like a summons has already been issued and that at some point, the dog owner will have to report to court if there is a mechanism in the municipal court to declare a dog as vicious and that if that is the case, the municipal court can order confiscation of the dog as well. He advised Ms. Johnson to report the matter should this continue to the Township, Animal Control and the State Police.

Ms. Johnson thanked the Township Committee and the Township Solicitor for their time and information.

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

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

There was no need for an Executive Session.

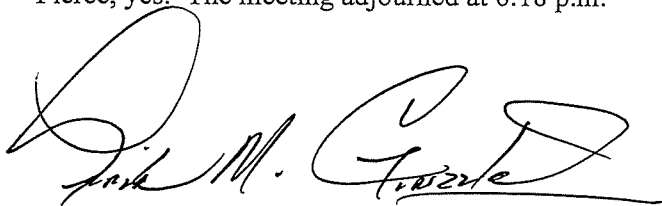
EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)

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 Pierce entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Byrd, yes; Committeeman Clark, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.



Linda M. Gonzales, RMC  
Township Clerk