

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION ACTION MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
APRIL 5, 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 5th day of April 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 Stephen M. Bateman, present; Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr., present; Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson, present and Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., present.

ALSO PRESENT

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

Mayor Pierce asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the Regular Action minutes of March 15, 2023. There being none, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to approve.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING MARCH 15, 2023

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

ANNOUNCEMENT / PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

NANCY SBROLLA, CPA, RMA FORD-SCOTT & ASSOCIATES, LLC
2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Pierce announced that tonight an announcement and discussion will be provided by our Municipal Auditor, Nancy Sbrolla, Ford-Scott & Associates on our 2023 Municipal Budget.

Nancy Sbrolla reported that she is a partner with Ford- Scott & Associates, an outside auditor for Fairfield Township and that her firm also assists in the preparation of the municipal budget. Ms. Sbrolla stated that the budget presented tonight in front of the Township Committee was worked on with the Chief Financial Officer, Neil Young and members of the Township Committee to get a zero-tax increase for the current year. She advised that the Township ended the year 2022 with a very strong financial position and that the Township is looking very good financially now and that her firm will be back to the Township to wrap up the audit in about a month or so.

Mayor Pierce asked the Township Committee if they had any questions for Ms. Sbrolla. There were none. Mayor Pierce thanked Ms. Sbrolla for her presentation.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING) (ONE)

Mayor Pierce read Ordinance No. 2 - 2023 into the record as follows and entertained a motion to introduce on first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2 - 2023

AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to introduce on first reading seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

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. There were none.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 76 - 2023 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION NO. 76 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$52,041.04

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to approve Resolution No. 76 - 2023 seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 77 - 2023 into the record as follows and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION NO. 77 - 2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE 2023 BUDGET TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved to adopt Resolution 77 - 2023 seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 78 - 2023 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION NO. 78 - 2023

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman moved to adopt Resolution No. 78 - 2023 seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

At this time, Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. enters the teleconference call.

Mayor Pierce read the Consent Agenda into the record and asked the Township Committee if they had any questions. There being none, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

(RESOLUTION NO. 79 - 2023 THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 80 - 2023)

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. 79 - 2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 TO THE CONTRACT FOR THE PHASE 3 ADA IMPROVEMENTS AT THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

RESOLUTION NO. 80 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY HIRING TARON BYERS AS PART TIME PUBLIC WORKS LABORER

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson to approve the above Resolutions by Consent Agenda Resolution No. 79 - 2023 through Resolution No. 80 - 2023 seconded by Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Committeeman Clark, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

Before going to the next business item, Old Business, Mayor Pierce asked if the Chief Financial Officer was on the call. Neil Young, Chief Financial Officer responded that he was. Mayor Pierce asked the Chief Financial Officer if he had anything that he would like to bring up or address the Township Committee.

In regard to the 2023 Municipal Budget, Neil Young, Chief Financial Officer advised that the Township Committee did a fine job again and that he wanted to point out to everyone that is on tonight's call that since 2018, the Township has only raised the tax to one penny and that the Township Committee has done a fine job in keeping the taxes low and doing their best to stay steady.

The Township Committee thanked Neil Young.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman had no report or remarks to make at this time.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. thanked everyone on tonight's call and gave thanks to the Township Committee, the Deputy Mayor, and the Mayor for their hard work they put in each year to try to make sure that the residents in our Township does not get a tax increase on a Township level and that they did a great job.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. apologized for his tardiness as he was having some difficulty in getting access to tonight's call and thanked everyone on tonight's teleconference call.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Pierce thanked everyone and the residents for being on tonight's teleconference call and wishes everyone a safe and happy Easter holiday.

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

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

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

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

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman moved seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; 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)

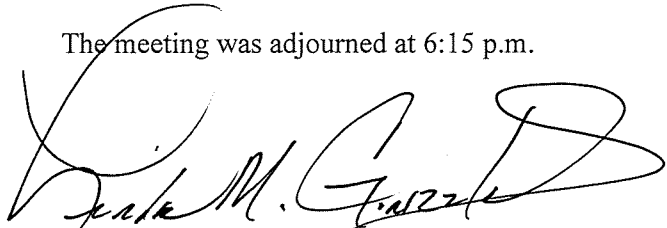
AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)

ADJOURNMENT

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

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Committeeman Clark, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.



Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Township Clerk

