

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
ACTION MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2013
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor JoAnne Servais called the meeting to order and read the OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT statement at 7:00pm.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor JoAnne Servais led the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL

All Committee Members present except for Committeeman Morton who was excused.. Doug Burry Esq. was in for George Saponaro.

PRESENTATIONS

Michelle Behm, Tax Assessor, went over qualifications for a Qfarm and how the assessment for a Qfarm property is calculated. She said currently there are 158 Qfarms. She said in order for a property to qualify, the property has to be a minimum of 5 acres and actively farmed for 2 years. She said a home cannot be attached to the property and that proof of income from farming has to be submitted every year. She said the applicants must re-apply every year by August 1st. She also said the state gives an average value each year and that value is multiplied by the total number of acres to get the total assessed value of the Qfarm.

OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Moved to Open to the Public by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor; Voted unanimously

Marion Kennedy - 31 Beck Drive

Mr. Kennedy asked if the Committee was still going to pass Resolution #119 even though the City of Bridgeton wasn't doing this anymore. He also said to be careful because when he was Mayor Bridgeton wanted to absorb the Township.

Benjamin Byrd - 368 Fairton-Gouldtown Rd

Mr. Byrd asked about Zane's Western apparel on the Bill List. He also asked if there was a separate bill for when the Animal Control Office has to go to court.

Sgt. Greg Leach, NJ State police, arrived at 7:11pm to give a presentation for the month to the Committee.

Sgt. Leach gave a report of all the calls received in the Township. He urged the public to call police if they see anything suspicious. Committeeman Sharp commented about trucks dumping tires in the Township and asked Sgt. Leach to keep an eye out. Sgt. Leach also talked about people passed school buses. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes also mentioned she had noticed speeding from Buckshutem Road all the way down Fairton-Gouldtown Road.

Cindy Zirkle - 24 Back Neck Road

Mrs. Zirkle talked about the Special Event Permit for La Mexicana. She said the noise has been excessive. She asked the ordinance be followed.

Moved to Close Public portion by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor; Voted unanimously

ORDINANCES:

NONE

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 90-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Renewing Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0605-33-002-005, Issued To Toad Fish Bar And Grill, LLC

Moved To Adopt by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor

Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Resolution 115-2013 A Resolution By The Township Committee Of The Township Of Fairfield Accepting the Bank Courier Policy.

Moved To Adopt by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor

Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Resolution 119-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Supporting The Placement Of A Primary Social Services Facility In Downtown Bridgeton

Moved To Adopt by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor

Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Resolution 120-2013 A Resolution For Refund Of Tax Overpayment Of \$1551.84 To Richard B & Alice Blew

Moved To Adopt by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor

Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Resolution 121-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Appointing Business License for Drive and Drop Transportation

Moved To Adopt by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor

Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Resolution 122-2013 A Resolution By The Members Of The Fairfield Township Committee Correcting The Title Of The Position To Construction Code Secretary And Planning Board Secretary At 16 Hours Per Week.

Moved To Adopt by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor

Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

REPORTS

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Doug Burry, Esq.

The Solicitor had nothing to add from his report from the previous week.

ENGINEER'S REPORT - Fralinger Engineering

The Engineer submitted a written report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Leo Selb

The Administrator reported that all the wells at the municipal building were properly chlorinated. He also reported there was a blockage at the sewer station. He also said he received a quote for the Senior Center ramp and there were questions about getting a architectural drawing. He said he would check with the Construction Office. He also said the demolition on Buckshutem Road is moving forward. He also said the report on the landfill been filed. He said there is no cost until the Engineer meets with the DEP. He said fire prevention week is coming soon and Fire Company #2 requested assistance with refreshments. He talked about the Township's roll off truck being down and in the past the Township used the Federal Prison's roll off. However due to a change in Administration something needs to be drafted in writing to give to the prison so the service can continue. Committeeman Sharp asked if the County had been asked. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes agreed and asked if the Committee could vote tonight to have an agreement prepared.

Resolution #125-2013

Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes motioned to authorize the Solicitor to draft a shared services agreement for Federal Prison for use of the roll-off truck.. Committeeman Taylor seconded the motion.

Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

The Administrator also mentioned there would be work done on the railroad crossing at Fairton - Gouldtown and Fairton-Millville Road. He also talked about possibly doing a shared service with the County for hot lunches for the Senior Center. He also again commented that the landfill was moving along. Committeeman Sharp asked what line item the money would come from out of the budget. The Administrator reminded the Committee they had passed an emergency resolution to for the funding up to \$90,000.

NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor mentioned sending a letter to the school and the sidewalks would be taken care of by the school.

The Special Event permit for La Mexicana was discussed. Mr. Felipe Matias, Jr. spoke on behalf of the event. He said he believed the bass is the issue and that it would be turned down. He said that they are doing their best to comply. Mayor Servais mentioned she attended the last event they had and someone complained about the noise and they did turn it down.

Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes motioned to approve the event application. Committeeman Taylor seconded.

Committeeman Michael K. Sharp N Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes asked for the SPCA bill if it mattered how many animals they sheltered. Mayor Servais said the electric bill id astronomical. The Administrator said he had reached out to some energy companies. He said he was also looking at a co-op with the County.

Motion to approve the Payment of Bills as Reflected on the Bill List as Certified as to the Availability of Funds by the Chief Financial Officer.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor
Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

OLD BUSINESS

Committeeman Sharp reads the business license ordinance. He said J&R Servais is a business in the Township and it should fall into compliance.

Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes again mentioned getting a 4 way stop at Burlington Road and Fairton-Gouldtown Road. She asked if we could get something to the County to get them to look at the issue. Marion Kennedy was allowed to come up and speak. He said that the State had made changes to make the process easier. Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes also mentioned supporting Mr. Lloyd in getting signs that say Gouldtown. The Mayor said she spoke with Don Ulbrich at the County and he said signs were going to be put up. She mentioned surveillance cameras for certain areas in the Township. The Administrator said he had 2 quotes so far. Deputy Mayor Thomas Hughes also mentioned again entrance for municipal building during court and sidewalks on Route 49. Committeeman Sharp also asked about excessive sand at Reeves Road and Walden Drive. Deputy Mayor Thomas -Hughes also reminded everyone about the Crime Watch meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at 6pm

Resolution #126-2013

Deputy Mayor Thomas -Hughes motioned to request to the County a 4-way stop at Burlington Rd and Fairton-Gouldtown Road. Committeeman Taylor seconded.

Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes Work Session, Regular Action, and Executive Session Meetings for July 9, 2013, and July 16, 2013.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor
Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Motion to approve the minutes Work Session, Regular Action, and Executive Session Meetings for August 20, 2013.

Moved by Committeeman Don Taylor, Seconded by Mayor JoAnne Servais
Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes A Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

OTHER BUSINESS

The Administrator asked the Committee to approve the job description for construction code secretary so the position can be advertised. He mentioned the Construction Official said it was fine.

Motioned by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor
Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Moved to Open to the Public by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor; Voted unanimously

Shameka Watson & Nicole Adamson

Ms. Watson & Ms. Adamson presented the Committee with a Certificate of Appreciation for helping with the Community Day event. They also would like the Committee to give approval for a Harvest Festival. They wanted to have a haunted hayride, bobbing for apples and some other events.

Committeeman Michael K. Sharp Y Committeeman Don Taylor Y
Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes Y Mayor JoAnne Servais Y

Benjamin Byrd - 368 Fairfield-Gouldtown Road

Mr. Byrd asked when the Township will look into the Mayor's business license.

George Harris - 409 East Avenue

Mr. Harris asked about the cost of the senior center ramp quotes. He also asked about using the Township's dumpster on Buckshutem Road. He asked why Alphonso Roberts asked Bridgeton for funding for Fire Prevention. He also said he hasn't seen the Fire Marshall and his mailbox is overflowing.

Marion Kennedy - 31 Beck Drive

Mr. Kennedy asked about the press-box being repaired and if there is insurance money left over. He said it should be done soon because of the changing weather.

Russell Pierce - 376 Fairton-Gouldtown Rd

Mr. Pierce stated when he said the comment about the monkeys, he didn't put a name to it. He also sad Committeeman Sharp should sign a complaint against the Mayor if he has a problem with her business license.

Wendell Lloyd

Mr. Lloyd asked the Committee to put something in writing about the progress with the request for the Gouldtown signage.

Nancy Ridgeway

Ms. Ridgeway asked the Committee about Trick or Treat hours and that the other municipalities are having it October 31st 4pm-7pm

Moved to Close Public portion by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor; Voted unanimously

REMARKS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committeeman Sharp said his reasoning for reading from the business license ordinance was to follow the law. He said when you follow the law you can't go wrong. He also said that according to the State you cannot transfer business licenses.

Committeeman Taylor thanked the public for coming out and said people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

Deputy Mayor Thomas-Hughes asked about contacting the Court to get the entrance issue resolved.

REMARKS BY MAYOR

Mayor Servais said the Township would need people to help out with the Halloween Event. She also mentioned the toy giveaway again and the age is 3-12 years old. She said drop off could be made by November 1st and the giveaway would be on December 15, 2013 from 11am - 2pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 124-2013 A Resolution to Move adjourn into Executive Session from which the public be excluded to discuss issues involving matters as permitted by the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 relating to: Litigation, CBA Negotiations - Union Contract, Personnel

Minutes will be kept and once the matter(s) no longer require confidentially, the minutes will be made public and upon completion, the Committee will return to the Public Session and action may be taken.

Moved To Adopt by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor; Voted unanimously

Out of Executive Session 9:01 pm

Moved to close Executive Session and Return to Public Session by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor; Voted unanimously

ADJOURNMENT

Moved to Adjourn by Deputy Mayor Viola Thomas-Hughes, Seconded by Committeeman Don Taylor; Voted unanimously

ADJOURNED 9:02 pm.

Approved by the Township Committee at a Public Meeting held on _____.

Vote: MM ____, MS ____, DT ____, VTH ____, JS ____; ____ - ____ - ____

Carla Smith, Acting Municipal Clerk