

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR ACTION MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
AUGUST 16, 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 16th day of August 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 roll call was recorded as follows:

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

ALSO PRESENT

Township Administrator Michael Burden, Township Solicitor Albert K. Marmero, Township Clerk Linda
M. Gonzales and Township Grant Consultant Mark Blauer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WORK SESSION ACTION MEETING AUGUST 2, 2023

Mayor Pierce asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the Work Session Action
minutes of August 2, 2023. There being none, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to approve the minutes.

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

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

None

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING) (TWO)

Mayor Pierce read Ordinance No. 4 - 2023 into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 4 - 2023

AN ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER OF THE CODE OF TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD,
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, ENTITLED "CANNABIS" SPECIFICALLY CREATION SECTION -1
ESTABLISHING A CANNABIS REVIEW BOARD

Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 4 - 2023.

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved 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.

There being none, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

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

Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 4 - 2023 on final reading.

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

Mayor Pierce read Ordinance No. 5 - 2023 into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 5 - 2023

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PROPERTIES

Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 5 - 2023.

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

There being none, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

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.

Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 5 - 2023 on final reading.

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

PUBLIC HEARING / MARK BLAUER, GRANT CONSULTANT

SMALL CITIES PROJECT #21-0322-00 (\$400,000)

SMALL CITIES PROJECT #22-0440-00 (\$397,300)

SMALL CITIES PROJECT #21-0312-00 (\$107,000)

SMALL CITIES PROJECT #22-0445-00 (\$163,000)

Mark Blauer, Grant Consultant advised that tonight's public hearing is required by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to tell the public what the Township has done with the money that they have granted to us. He advised that Project #21-0322-00 is Phase 2 ADA improvement work done at the Township Municipal Building which is completed by Fabbri Construction and that all of that money has been drawn.

Project #22-0440-00 is Phase 3 ADA improvements at the Fairfield Township Municipal Building that is largely completed by Capri Construction. Payment application #1, #2, & # 3 have been submitted and reimbursed and payment application #4 & #5 of Capri Construction have been submitted to the State for reimbursement.

Mr. Blauer reported that the Township of Fairfield is running a home rehabilitation program for low-income homeowners. He reported that recently we received a very nice thank you letter from one of our residents addressed to our mayor.

Project #21-0312-00 was used to help five (5) families and the monies have been entirely spent and Project #22-0445-00 is currently assisting five (5) other homeowners and work is continuing to help those residents. He stated that we continue to accept applications from for home rehabilitation and that we have additional money from the 2023 home program so we certainly are encouraging more applicants to come and see the Township Clerk and the Township Administrator so that we can assist them as well.

At this time, Mark Blauer suggested that we open the Public Hearing to the public for their comments and questions.

Mayor Pierce thanked Mark Blauer and entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing for the Small Cities Projects.

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.

There being none, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing on Small Cities Project.

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman moved 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.

Mayor Pierce thanked Mark Blauer for joining us tonight and that he would like to say for himself and on behalf of the Township Committee that we really appreciate all the work that you have done with the Small Cities Projects and that it is noted in our Township, and I am our residents also appreciate you as well.

Mark Blauer thanked Mayor Pierce. Mark Blauer announced another good news. He reported that the monies are being reimbursed to the Township for the air packs for Fire Company No. 1 and Fire Company No. 2 and that we just received an announcement for the \$30,000 grant as part of the purchase of a new command vehicle and again a lot of thanks to the work that the Township Clerk, Township Administrator and the Chief Financial Officer to pull that together for the command vehicle and that we are all pulling in the same direction together.

REVIEW OF BILL LIST PROVIDED BY THE 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 being no questions and or conflicts, Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 133 - 2023 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 133 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$482,242.13

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

Mayor Pierce read the Consent Agenda into the record and asked the Township Committee if they had any questions. There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

(RESOLUTION NO. 134 - 2023 THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 136 - 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. 134 - 2023

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FINANCIAL WELLNESS INSTITUTE APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, NEW JERSEY NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 135 - 2023

A RESOLUTION FOR REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT OF \$1232.31 TO EVERGREEN ESTATES NJ MHC LLC FOR BLOCK 20 LOT 6 & BLOCK 20 LOT 9

RESOLUTION NO. 136 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO CEASE PROVIDING CROSSING GUARD SERVICES TO THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

On a motion by Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman to approve the above Resolutions by Consent Agenda Resolution No. 134 - 2023 through Resolution No. 136 - 2023 seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes, Committeeman Byrd, yes; but abstained on Resolution No. 127 - 2023; Committeeman Clark, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

RE-EVALUATION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

Mayor Pierce reported that everyone should have received in their meeting packet, a letter from Cliff Hester, Planning & Zoning Board Chairperson for the re-evaluation of the Fairfield Township Master Plan and asked the Township Committee if they had any questions or concerns at this time.

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman had no questions or concerns.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. had no questions or concerns.

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson had no questions or concerns.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. inquired when was the last time the Township's Master Plan was reviewed as he understands that they are done every 5 or 10 years.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. advised that it was in the year 2012.

Township Administrator Burden stated that was correct in 2012 and he advised that our Township Solicitor could elaborate further. He advised that the Planning & Zoning Board has already re-examined the Master Plan and that the letter of recommendation issued by the Planning & Zoning Board Chairperson was for the Township Committee to approve.

Township Solicitor Marmero stated that he reviewed the recommendation letter and that he had spoken with the Township Administrator and that at first when he read the letter it sounded like the Board was asking the Township Committee to initiate the process, but from the call he received from the Township Administrator from what he is being told, the Planning & Zoning Board has essentially reviewed the Master Plan and that they are asking from us to finalize the process and to adopt the report. He advised that we can certainly coordinate with the Board to see what needs to be done and he believes from what the Township Administrator stated that pretty much all the heavy lifting has already been done and completed.

Mayor Pierce asked the Solicitor that the Township Committee should be expecting the report from the Planning & Zoning Board is that correct. The Township Solicitor advised that was correct and that typically the governing body endorses but the work is essentially done through the Planning Board.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. inquired with the Solicitor if he knew the extent of time of the Master Plan when it is done.

Solicitor Marmero advised that the law requires a period of 10 years. He stated that if the community has changes or different things worth looking into, then you can certainly revisit the Master Plan before then, but the law requires a period of 10 years.

Mayor Pierce stated that it sounds like the Township Committee will be receiving something further from the Planning Board, their report of what they have done. He stated that the letter of recommendation that was in our meeting packet sounded like the Planning Board wanted the Township Committee to initiate the re-examination of the Master Plan and that we will be in contact with the Planning/Zoning Board Chairperson and see what they have come up with.

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

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

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. reported that he is proud of the work that the Administration and our Committee has done over the last few years as far as holding our taxes down and also being able to acquire the new vehicles and navigate through some of the tough times that the Township goes through and we are still able to purchase new vehicles and do good things for the community with some of grants that we have been receiving and we are moving on and that he just wanted to put it on the record that he appreciates what the Committee, the Administration and the employees do to make it happen.

Mayor Pierce concurred with Committeeman Byrd's comments.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. had no report or remarks to make at this time.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Pierce thanked everyone for their time to make sure they were on tonight's teleconference call, Mr. Mark Blauer and the Township Solicitor.

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 Items & Non-Agenda Items.

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman moved 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.

There being none, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to close the Public Comment on Current Agenda Items & Non-Agenda Items.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. moved seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, yes. 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)

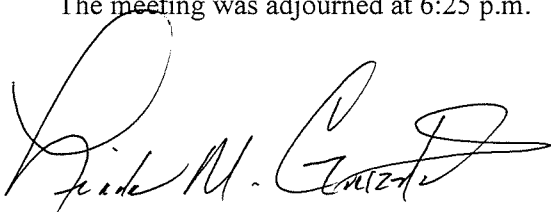
AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)

ADJOURNMENT

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

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Township Clerk