

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR ACTION MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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 20th day of September 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

Deputy Mayor Peterson led the flag salute and gave a moment of prayer.

ROLL CALL

The roll call was recorded as follows:

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

MEMBER ABSENT

Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WORK SESSION ACTION MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

Deputy Mayor Pierce asked the Township Committee if they had any questions on the Work Session Action minutes of September 6, 2023. Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman and Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. entered that they both would have to abstain as they were absent from the September 6, 2023 meeting, therefore leaving only two (2) members, Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr., and Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. who was not present at tonight's meeting would have made three (3) votes cast for the approval of minutes.

At this time, Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to table the Work Session Action minutes of September 6, 2023 to the next scheduled meeting seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Committeeman Clark, yes and Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (TWO)

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson read Ordinance No. 6 - 2023 into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 6 - 2023

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 19.13, LOT 18

Deputy Mayor Peterson entertained a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 6 - 2023 on first reading.

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

Deputy Mayor Peterson read Ordinance No. 7 - 2023 into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 7 - 2023

BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND

DOLLARS (\$150,000) IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY

Deputy Mayor Peterson entertained a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 7 - 2023 on first reading.

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

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

REVIEW OF BILL LIST PROVIDED BY THE CFO

Deputy Mayor Peterson 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, Deputy Mayor Peterson read Resolution No. 143 - 2023 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 143 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$348,098.66

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

Deputy Mayor Peterson read Resolution No. 144 - 2023 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION NO. 144 - 2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 AND FIRE COMPANY NO. 2 AIR-PAKS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

(RESOLUTION NO. 145- 2023 THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 151 - 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

Deputy Mayor Peterson read the Consent Agenda into the record and asked the Township Committee if they had any questions and or conflicts.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. entered the record a conflict with Resolution No. 151 - 2023 whereby he would vote abstain. There being no further questions and or conflicts, Deputy Mayor Peterson entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 145 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY APPROVING CATERING PERMIT APPLICATION / LA ESPERANZA, INCORPORATED

RESOLUTION NO. 146 - 2023

A RESOLUTION FOR REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT OF \$1,607.10 TO CORELOGIC FOR BLOCK 33, LOT 39

RESOLUTION NO. 147 - 2023

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBER TO THE CANNABIS REVIEW BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 148 - 2023

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

RESOLUTION NO 149 -2023

TAX EXEMPTION GRANTED TO 100% PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN AND CANCELS 2023 TAX AMOUNT

RESOLUTION NO. 150 - 2023

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 - COMMAND VEHICLE FOR FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE COMPANY NO. 2

RESOLUTION NO. 151 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF AN AGREEMENT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HUSTED LANDING ROAD TO SOUTH STATE, INCORPORATED

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman moved seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes, but abstain on Resolution No. 151 - 2023; Committeeman Clark, yes and Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR USAGE OF TOWNSHIP FIELD BY LOCAL TRAVEL GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM
Deputy Mayor Peterson stated that everyone should have received the request for usage of Township Field by Local Travel Girls' Softball Team in their meeting packet for their review and asked if the Township Committee members had any questions or concerns.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. advised that the request from the applicant appears to be in order as indicated by the Township Solicitor and the Risk Management Consultant. There being no questions, objections or concerns, the request was approved.

Deputy Mayor Peterson asked the Township Committee if they had any New Business to report. There were none from the Committee Members nor the Deputy Mayor at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

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

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. thanked the residents for calling in and to be safe as it seems like the COVID cases are going up and down and hopes everyone stays safe and protect yourselves.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. quoted same remarks. He reported that unfortunately he had a family member who just recently tested positive for COVID and that COVID is still real and that he wears a mask and to please be careful.

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Deputy Mayor Peterson echoed the same remarks. Deputy Mayor Peterson stated that the weather is starting to change and with the change, school children are going back to school and a lot of germs are going to go into the air so please protect yourselves and thanked everyone for taking the time out to call in and listen to tonight's meeting.

Deputy Mayor Peterson read the Public Comment on Current Agenda & 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.

Deputy Mayor Peterson 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 and Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes.

Efren Flores, head coach for the Local Travel Girls' Softball Team asked the Township Committee if they approved his request as he could not hear what transacted via telephone.

Deputy Mayor Pierce advised Mr. Flores that his request was placed on tonight's Agenda under New Business and that the Township Committee had no conflicts with his request for the usage of the Township Field at this time and directed Mr. Flores to contact the Township Administrator Burden to advise him what he needs to do going forward from here.

Mr. Flores thanked the Township Committee. He stated that he wanted to do sometime in the Township to prevent the girls from having to drive an hour to play on some competitive travel team.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. thanked Mr. Flores for his efforts.

There being no further comments from the public, Deputy Mayor Peterson entertained a motion to close the 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 and Deputy Mayor Peterson, 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)

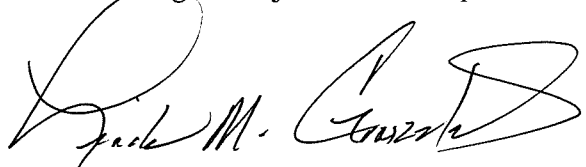
ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Deputy Mayor Peterson announced the next Township Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.



Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Township Clerk