

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR ACTION SESSION MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
DECEMBER 20, 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 20th day of December 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;
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 and Township Clerk
Linda M. Gonzales.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REGULAR ACTION MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 2023

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

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

None

ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING) (THREE (3))

Mayor Pierce read Ordinance No. 13 - 2023 into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 13 - 2023

AN ORDINANCE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND,
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 406, ENTITLED
"TAXATION," OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE TO IMPOSE A TRANSFER TAX ON THE SALE OF
CANNABIS BY LICENSED BUSINESSES OPERATING IN THE TOWNSHIP AND A USER TAX
ON CONCURRENT LICENSE HOLDERS OPERATING MORE THAN ONE ESTABLISHMENT
AND TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CLASS 5 RETAILER LICENSES

Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 13 - 2023.

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved seconded by Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman. Roll Call Vote:
Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeeman Byrd, abstain; 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 Ordinance No. 13 -
2023.

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

Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 13 - 2023 on final reading.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. 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.

Mayor Pierce read Ordinance No. 14 - 2023 into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 14 - 2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 375, ENTITLED "SEWERS" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO PREVENT IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTE INTO THE STORM SEWER SYSTEM

Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 14 - 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 on Ordinance No. 14 - 2023.

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

Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 14 - 2023 on final reading.

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.

Mayor Pierce read Ordinance No. 15 - 2023 into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 15 - 2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 274, ENTITLED "HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO REGULATE PRIVATELY OWNED SALT STORAGE

Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 15 - 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 on Ordinance NO. 15 - 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.

Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 15 - 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 Clark, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

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.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. reported conflict with payable #00031 to South State, Incorporated.

Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. reported conflict with payable #23-01007 to Continental Fire Safety, Incorporated for Fire Company No. 2.

There being no further questions and or conflicts, Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 179 - 2023 into the record as follows and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 179 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$273,755.51

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved seconded by Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes, but abstain on payable #00031; Committeeman Clark, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Byrd, yes, but abstain on payable #23-01007.

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 180 - 2023 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION NO. 180 - 2023

A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR AND OBTAIN A GRANT APPLICATION FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS THROUGH ITS AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM / FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

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 and Mayor Pierce, yes.

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 181 - 2023 into the record and entertained a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION NO. 181 - 2023

A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR AND OBTAIN A GRANT APPLICATION FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS THROUGH ITS AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM / FIRE COMPANY NO. 2

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 Mike Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, abstain.

Mayor Pierce read the Consent Agenda into the record and asked the Township Committee if they had any questions and or concerns. There being none, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda Resolution No. 182 - 2023 through Resolution No. 192 - 2023

CONSENT AGENDA

(RESOLUTION NO. 182 - 2023 THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 192 - 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. 182 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD APPOINTING MICHELLE D. WRIGHT-HINSON AS THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

RESOLUTION NO. 183 - 2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A COMMAND VEHICLE UNDER STATE CONTRACT SOURCEWELL #090122-WHL)

RESOLUTION NO. 184 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 185 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF STREET OPENING PERMIT TO SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY
PERMIT NO. 5 - 2023 / INSTALLATION OF GAS SERVICE / 734 STEWARD AVENUE

RESOLUTION NO. 186 - 2023

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF STREET OPENING PERMIT TO SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY PERMIT NO. 6 - 2023 / INSTALL GAS MAIN / GOULD AVENUE

RESOLUTION NO. 187 - 2023

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

RESOLUTION NO. 188 - 2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE

RESOLUTION NO. 189 - 2023

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF DISCHARGE OF MORTGAGE

RESOLUTION NO. 190 - 2023

CANCELING OUTSTANDING OUTDATED CHECKS IN THE CURRENT ACCOUNT

RESOLUTION NO. 191 - 2023

CANCELING UNEXPENDED 2023 APPROPRIATION BALANCES

RESOLUTION NO. 192 - 2023

TRANSFERS OF APPROPRIATIONS - 2023 BUDGET

On a motion by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. to approve the above Resolutions by Consent Agenda Resolution No. 182 - 2023 through Resolution No. 192 - 2023 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.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. stated that he wanted to take his hat off to Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. for his years of service and the opportunity to have served with Mr. Clark as a Committeeman and also as Mayor and for standing up to our community to the best of his ability and that he did a great job during his tenure and that he is very proud to have had the opportunity to serve along with him.

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson thanked Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr as well. Deputy Mayor Peterson stated that when he himself first started in governing that Mr. Clark assisted him a lot over the years and that he appreciates everything that he did and that he knows Mr. Clark is not leaving the community and that Mr. Clark will always be a part of our community.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. thanked the Township Committee for their remarks and that he did want people to know that it was three (3) consecutive terms in his 9 years and that he has done nothing but learn and learn. He stated that nobody is perfect and that this job as a Committee person that there is not a lot of people running for office as it is not an easy job and not a rewarding job to get accolades from other people so therefore you have to find some kind of accolades within yourself that you are trying to do the right thing for the community, the Township, the residents and so forth, even though they won't give you that pat on the back and even though you get scrutinized a little bit for the bad things, but never commended for the good things and that he was going to stop there as a wise man once stated to keep the waters still and make no waves on your way out.

Committeeman Clark stated that he wanted to thank a couple of people and that he knows that he may miss some and that he apologizes up front and started with Michael Burden, Township Administrator for doing an excellent job and to keep doing what he is doing. Mr. Clark stated that he went through quite a few Administrators prior to Mr. Burden and that he can tell us we are going in the right direction on what he is doing with the Township and that he appreciates him. Next, he thanked Township Clerk Linda M. Gonzales and that he appreciates everything she had done and brought to the table and for her service and that all the things that he needed for her to do is very appreciated. He thanked Township Tax Collector Carla Smith, Code Enforcement & Housing Officer Clarence Dixon, Planning & Zoning Board Secretary Kathi Burno and that he knows there are a few others that he does not want to forget to mention but that he will keep moving on.

Mr. Clark thanked Township Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman for what he is bringing to the table and that he appreciates that Committeeman Bateman ran for office.

Mr. Clark thanked the new in coming elected Township Committeewoman Julia Burrus that he appreciates her taking his seat and that he knows she is going to do well and bring diversity to this Committee.

Mr. Clark thanked Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. He stated that Mr. Peterson's next title would be Mayor whether he likes it or not that it is going to happen. Committeeman Clark stated that he did not have the luxury of being a Deputy Mayor where he went right into the role of Mayor. Committeeman Clark stated Deputy Mayor Peterson has been a person that has shown him how strong a person can be even outside of his own personal life that he has never seen a person as strong as Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson and that he commends him and appreciates everything he does for the Township and the Township Committee.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. thanked Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. and about family time and that this is a decision that he needs to make for his family. He stated that it has been 9 years, and he knows that Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. stepped away for a bit and not sure if he himself would return as fast as Mr. Pierce did, however he would leave the door open and thank him for his remarks.

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. thanked our legal team, Albert Marmero, Marmero Law, LLC and former Township Solicitor John Carr, they both have been so great with their legal advice and everything they have done and keeping us honored, professional and keeping us from lawsuits.

Committeeman Clark thanked Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. Mr. Clark stated that there was a time that Mr. Byrd was the Mayor consecutively for several years and nobody wanted to serve the role as the Mayor and that he got coverage from Mr. Byrd to be nominated as the Mayor. Mr. Clark stated that Mr. Byrd has shown him so much and that he appreciates everything that he has done for him and believing in him that he could serve in the role of Mayor because he felt like he really could not do the job and is very thankful for him as Mr. Byrd has done so much for the Township and that if no one gave him a pat on the back, that he himself would give Mr. Byrd a pat on the back and that he appreciates his honesty and that he sees things in other people by pushing them to the next level.

Committeeman Clark stated that he loves this Township and the 9 years of service and that he is going to go out in the sunset and enjoy his family & holidays and wishes the same to all and God Bless All of You!

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Marvin Pierce Jr. thanked Mr. Clark for his services and said that it was a pleasure serving with him during a few terms in office prior to this one. Mayor Pierce wished Mr. Clark the best and hopefully that he realizes that sometime away is nice and if someday Mr. Clark decides that he wants to return that he is always welcome.

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

Committeeman Tommy Clark, Jr. 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 was no need for an Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)

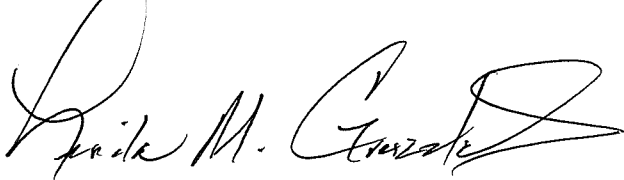
AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)

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 adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda M. Gonzales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "G".

Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Township Clerk