

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION ACTION MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2024

The Work Session Action Meeting of the Township Committee of Fairfield Township was held on February 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference with Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. presiding.

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 7th day of February 2024 is held pursuant to notice having been submitted to The South Jersey Times and The Daily Journal on January 8, 2024 and duly posted on the Township website and Bulletin Board.

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; Committeewoman Julia Burrus, present; Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr., present; Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson, present and Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REGULAR ACTION MEETING JANUARY 17, 2024

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved to approve the Regular Action minutes of January 17, 2024 as written seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING)

None

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

PUBLIC HEARING

COMMUNITY ENERGENCY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GRANT APPLICATION

Conner Schmiegel with The Aubrey Group, LLC along with Liam Fleming was present on tonight's call advising that they have been assisting Fairfield Township in developing the Community Energy Plan. He stated that in December 2023, the Township of Fairfield received a grant from the Board of Public Utilities to develop this plan. He explained what the plan does is to detail a specific strategy that a municipality can pursue in the coming years to reduce green house gas emissions from the local energy system. He advised that the plan covers municipal operations such as municipal vehicle fleet, buildings as well as municipal public policies and programs designed to reduce emissions.

Mr. Schmiegel advised that Fairfield Township Community Energy Plan is established on how the municipality will promote the transition of sustainability energy over the next several years. He advised that initiatives were selected based on demonstrative effectiveness, equal opportunities, and co-benefits as a whole for the community such as improving air quality energy savings for the residents and of course development.

At this time, Conner Schmiegel turned the meeting over to Liam Fleming, Aubrey Group to highlight the initiatives.

Mr. Fleming stated the first initiative is to install public electric vehicle charging stations infrastructure, He explained to goal here is to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure here in Fairfield Township that includes the charges itself, the signage and the safety capability features on for public use.

Mr. Fleming explained the second initiative is to adopt zoning and permitting for solar and that in the context of community solar project where large of groups of people having access to a single solar farm and that the residents of Fairfield Township would receive solar energy without having to install the panels or the infrastructure in their homes. He advised that so far, Fairfield Township has already had a permitting check list in place and that will be posted online this year. He explained that this initiative is dependent on the Township's energy grid being upgraded to manage its infrastructure and that this initiative will be included when taken in effect is when this occurs. Thirdly, the initiative to host a Community Solar Project on Fairfield Township property. He advised that most municipalities lease the site to a developer or enter into a power agreement with a developer to buy the electricity at a reduced rate.

Mr. Fleming advised that Fairfield Township's option is to install a Solar Farm at the Fairfield Township Convenience Center and that this initiative is dependent on Fairfield Township's energy grid being upgraded to manage the infrastructure and the last initiative would be to go over, the initiative to make the Community Energy Planning inclusive. He explained the goal is to ensure that low- and moderate-income residents are represented in the Energy Planning processes. Mr. Fleming stated this is both on the poor planning team and those that are contributing via public comment which involves scheduling public meetings that are in concert with Fairfield Township residents, engaging with community organizations that can bring in underrepresented voices and also advertising Planning Board meetings in as much as possible to increase exposure.

Conner Schmiegel thanked Liam Fleming for his initiative presentations.

Mr. Schmiegel indicated that in all the Energy Plans, they have identified grants and other funding opportunities that can make any of these initiatives possible which includes the Community Energy Plan and the Limitation Grant of which is upward to \$250,000 to make a lot of these initiatives possible.

Mr. Schmiegel advised that there is various strategies outlined in the plan, however they concluded with this and advised that if there is any public comment or questions that you would like to provide to them, to please free to contact them at hello@theaubreygroup.org or michael.burden@fairfieldtownshipnj.org

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.

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 51 - 2024 into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 51 - 2024

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$894,789.68

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 51 - 2024 seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

Mayor Pierce read the Consent Agenda and asked if anyone had any questions and or concerns. There was none. Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda Resolution No. 52 - 2024 through Resolution No. 56 - 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA

(RESOLUTION NO. 52 - 2024 THROUGH RESOLUTION NO. 56 - 2024)

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. 52 - 2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD ACCEPTING PROPOSAL FROM FRALINGER ENGINEER PA FOR ENGINEERING, SURVEYING AND INSPECTION/CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR SUNSET LANE, STEWARD AVENUE AND SUNSET AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION / 2024 NJDOT PROJECT

RESOLUTION NO. 53 - 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A JUNKYARD LICENSE TO B&M AUTO SALVAGE & TOWING, LLC (BLOCK 34, LOT 15)

RESOLUTION NO. 54 - 2024

A RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL OF 2024 BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 55 - 2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD, CUMBERLAND COUNTY
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF STREET OPENING PERMIT(S) TO SOUTH JERSEY GAS
COMPANY

PERMIT NO. 1 - 2024 / INSTALL GAS SERVICE / 24 LUMMIS MILL ROAD (279' SOUTH C/L
DAVE DRIVE)

RESOLUTION NO. 56 - 2024

A RESOLUTION FOR REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT OF \$27.14 TO AG-MART PRODUCE
INCORPORATED

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson to approve the above Resolutions by Consent Agenda
Resolution No. 52 - 2024 through Resolution No. 56 - 2024 seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd,
Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman yes; Committeewoman Burrus; Committeeman Byrd, yes;
Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

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

Committee member Burrus had no report or remarks to make at this time.

Committee member Benjamin Byrd, Sr. thanked everyone who called in to listen/join tonight's
teleconference meeting.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. thanked everyone who joined tonight's teleconference meeting and thanked the
Department of Public Works for clearing the roads during the snowstorm.

Mayor Pierce 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. 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; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, 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 Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved seconded by Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman. Roll Call
Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy
Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

There was no need for an Executive Session.

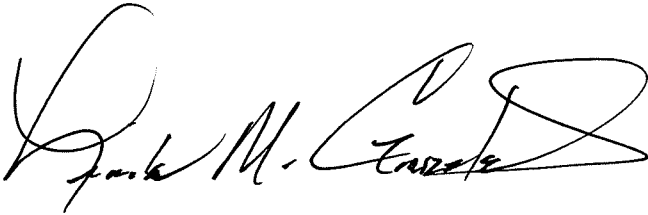
EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)

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 seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes. The meeting adjourned at 6:16 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
Municipal Clerk