

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REGULAR ACTION MEETING  
APRIL 17, 2024

The Regular Action Meeting of the Township Committee of Fairfield Township was held on April 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Committee Chambers Room, 70 Fairton-Gouldtown Road, Fairton, New Jersey 08320 with Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. presiding.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr. called the meeting to order.

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 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 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 following 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., present.

ALSO PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WORK SESSION ACTION MEETING APRIL 3, 2024

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to approve the Work Session Action minutes of April 3, 2024 as written seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

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.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 73 - 2024 into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 73 - 2024

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$415,695.39

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman moved to adopt Resolution No. 73 - 2024 seconded by Committeewoman Julia Burrs. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson and Mayor Pierce.

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 74 - 2024 into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 74 - 2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SELF-EXAMINATION OF 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 74 - 2024 seconded by Deputy Mayor Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 75 - 2024 into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 75 - 2024

A RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL OF 2024 BUSINESS REGISTRATION

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 75 - 2024 seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

Mayor Pierce announced that Neil Young, Chief Financial Officer and Nancy Sbrolla, Municipal Auditor are present tonight for the Public Hearing on the 2024 Municipal Budget to address any questions during the hearing prior to adoption of the budget.

PUBLIC HEARING / 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

NEIL YOUNG, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

NANCY SBROLLA, MUNICIPAL AUDITOR, FORD SCOTT & ASSOCIATES

Neil Young, Chief Financial Officer reported that the 2024 Municipal Budget is a \$4 million budget that is inclusive of the Township grants. The budget is under the Appropriation CAP, under the Tax Levy Cap and the budget comes with a 1 cent tax increase. As previously discussed, he reported that the Township has not had a tax increase in 5 to 6 years and kudos for doing a wonderful job in keeping it down for our taxpayers, therefore tonight is the Public Hearing and then adoption of the 2024 Municipal Budget.

Nancy Sbrolla, Municipal Auditor approached and advised that as the Chief Financial Officer reported there have been no amendments to the budget that was introduced last month and that we are still at a 1 cent tax increase. She stated that the Township Committee and the Chief Financial Officer did a wonderful job of keeping everything where it should be.

She reported that the Township is in good financial shape and this budget will keep us there. She reported that last year about \$1.7 million dollars in surplus and that we are using about \$400,000 which is consistent in what we have been using and making back and it is a very responsible budget.

The Township Committee thanked Neil Young and Nancy Sbrolla.

There being no questions from the Township Committee, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing.

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

There was no comment. Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

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.

RESOLUTION

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 76 - 2024 into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 76 - 2024

ADOPTION OF THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 76 - 2024 seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING) (TWO)

Mayor Pierce read Ordinance No. 3 - 2024 into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 3 - 2024

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD

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.

Mayor Pierce read Ordinance No. 4 - 2024 into the record as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 4 - 2024

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE CHAPTER 326 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FAIRFIELD, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, ENTITLED "NOISE"

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

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

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

Committeewoman Julia Burrus had no report / remarks to make at this time.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. thanked Nancy Ridgeway and Deputy Mayor's son for attending tonight's meeting.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Pierce echoed the same remarks by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. and thanked Neil Young, Chief Financial Officer and Nancy Sbrilla, Municipal Auditor.

Mayor Pierce read the Public Comment on Current Agenda Items & Non-Agenda Items 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 step up at the appropriate time and state your name and address for the record.

Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to open Public Comment on Current Agenda Items & Non-Agenda Items.

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved seconded by Committeewoman Julia Burrus. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

There was no comment. Mayor Pierce 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; 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)

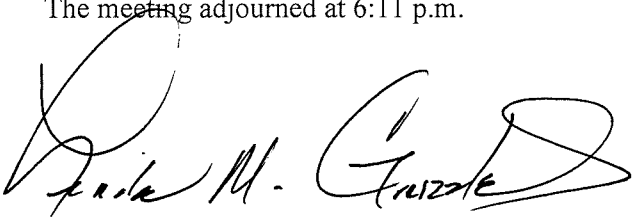
AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN)

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda M. Gonzales". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and is positioned above the printed name.

Linda M. Gonzales, RMC  
Municipal Clerk