

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR ACTION MEETING
MAY 21, 2025

The Regular Action Meeting of the Township Committee of Fairfield Township was held on May 21, 2025 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 Pierce 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 21st day of May 2025 is held pursuant to notice having been submitted to The South Jersey Times and The Daily Journal on January 8, 2025 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., present.

ALSO PRESENT

Township Administrator Michael Burden, Township Solicitor Albert K. Marmero, Township Clerk Linda M. Gonzales, Neil Young, Chief Financial Officer and Nancy Sbrolla, Municipal Auditor, Ford, Scott & Associates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WORK SESSION ACTION MEETING MAY 7, 2025

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved to approve the minutes of May 7, 2025 as written seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, abstain, Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes, Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING)

None

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (SECOND READING)

None

PUBLIC HEARING / 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Neil Young, Township Chief Financial Officer and Nancy Sbrolla, Municipal Auditor with Ford, Scott & Associates were present for the Public Hearing on the 2025 Municipal Audit.

Neil Young reported that the Township Committee introduced the 2025 Municipal Budget in early April.

The 2025 Municipal Budget is a \$3.44 million dollar budget and comes with a 4.5 cent tax increase to the municipality. He advised that the Township has done great with taxation and that there were only two (2) tax increases in the last 8 years. He advised that the 4.5 cent tax increase is only \$18.00 per quarter to the average residential property owner in the township.

He reported that some of the items that were affecting the budget were loss of municipal relief aid; Fairfield Township Convenience Center is up to \$14,000.00; Animal Control Services is up \$7,000.00; Health Benefits are up \$27,000.00 and Debt Services up \$40,000.00, therefore, that is what this tax increase is needed.

Neil Young, stated the next step is to have a Public Hearing so that if a member of the public would like to speak, they can and after the Public Hearing, there is an Amendment that has been prepared based upon the State Review that we previously had and that it is increasing the Township's State Aid slightly and

increasing the Township's Surplus and once the Amendment Resolution is adopted, the Township Committee can adopt the Amended Budget.

Neil Young asked Municipal Auditor Nancy Sbrolla if she had anything to add and she indicated that the Chief Financial Officer had covered everything.

At this time, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to open the Public Hearing on the 2025 Municipal Budget.

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

There being none, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing on the 2025 Municipal Budget.

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

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 82 - 2025 into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 82 - 2025

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND BUDGET

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 82 - 2025 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 read Resolution No. 83 - 2025 into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 83 - 2025

ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 82 - 2025 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 thanked Nancy Sbrolla, Municipal Auditor and Neil Young, Chief Financial Officer.

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 were none.

Mayor Pierce read Resolution No. 84 - 2025 into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 84 - 2025

A RESOLUTION OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF TOWNSHIP BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$453,964.64

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to adopt Resolution No. 84 - 2025 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.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS / REMARKS

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

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

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

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

MAYOR'S REPORT / REMARKS

Mayor Marvin Pierce had no report or remarks to make at this time.

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. 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 & Non - Agenda Items.

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.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED)

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

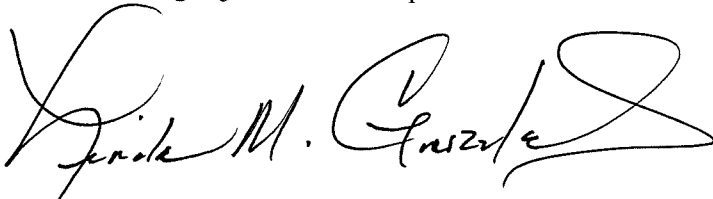
There was no need for an Executive Session.

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 to adjourn 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 6:10 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda M. Gonzales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Municipal Clerk