

TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON
6101 THIRTEENTH STREET
MAYS LANDING, NJ
March 4, 2019

The regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, Atlantic County, New Jersey was called to order March 4, 2019 at 6:30 pm with Mayor Art Schenker presiding.

Flag Salute.

Township Clerk Rita Martino certified adequate notice of this meeting was provided pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law by posting a notice on the bulletin board in the municipal building and by publication in The Press of Atlantic City on 1/10/19, and the Atlantic County Record on 1/16/19.

Roll Call:

Present: Rodney Guishard, John Kurtz, Judith Link, Art Schenker, Roger Silva

Absent:

Also present: Rita Martino, Township Clerk; Michael Jacobs, Township Administrator;
Robert Sandman, Township Solicitor; Steven Filippone, Township Engineer

A moment of silence for private reflection was observed.

Resolution #2019-0133 – Resolution Reappointing Rita Martino as Township Clerk for a three year term effective April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2022.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2019-0134 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Administration of Oath of Office to Rita Martino as Township Clerk for a three year term effective April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2022 – Administered by the Honorable Michele Verno, JMC.

Ms. Martino gave special thanks to retired Township Clerk and friend Joan Anderson for her attendance and support.

Addition/Deletion of Late Agenda Items

None.

Early Public Comment

Item 10A. – Authorization to advertise for Cove Staff.

Aline Dix of Park Road stated that the past year has been the worst one since she moved across from the Cove in 1986. She stated that on May 3, 2010, a Cove Subcommittee was appointed and filed a report of nearly three pages in the May 17, 2010 minutes, which set forth the policies to operate the Cove. She hoped that Committee would receive a hardcopy of this for review and discussion at the next Township meeting as to the parameters they want to set for Cove operation. Mrs. Dix stated that she and her neighbors watched this year as Cove personnel were gone by 6:00, and she said that it is our responsibility to keep people safe and not leave early.

She also spoke briefly about the need for an arborist to trim the trees during the dormant season, in order to keep people safe from falling branches. She closed by stating that she looks forward to Committee's discussion at the next meeting. Mrs. Link agreed that the trees should be inspected for safety. Some discussion ensued.

Discussions

None.

Public Hearing/Adoption of Ordinances

None.

Introduction of Ordinances

None.

Award of Bids/Contracts/Change Orders

None.

Consent Agenda

Motion to Approve Business Registration Licenses.

Upon motion of Mr. Kurtz, second of Mr. Silva it was moved to approve the following Business Registration Licenses:

- 1. Jack Lyon – ACRC Auction 4/4/19 – 4/6/19

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva
 Nay: XXX
 Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Resolution #2019-0134 – Resolution accepting Contiguous Owner Land Sale Bid of John Raiford for Lot 12 in Block 24 (4.86 acres – 1421 Poplar Avenue) for the purchase price of \$4,000.00.

Mr. Kurtz moved, seconded by Mr. Silva that Resolution #2019-0134 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva
 Nay: XXX
 Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Resolution #2019-0135 – Resolution supporting the 2019 Distracted Driving Crackdown – U Drive. U Text. U Pay.

Mr. Kurtz moved, seconded by Mr. Silva that Resolution #2019-0135 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva
 Nay: XXX
 Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Resolution #2019-0136 – Resolution for 2019 Temporary Budget Amendment.

Mr. Kurtz moved, seconded by Mr. Silva that Resolution #2019-0136 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva
 Nay: XXX
 Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Motion of no objection to the Division of ABC granting a special liquor license to Cologne Volunteer Fire Company for their Chicken BBQ to be held June 1, 2019 from 10am – 10pm, beer and wine to be dispensed.

Upon motion of Mr. Kurtz, second of Mr. Silva it was moved to confirm no objection to the granting of a Special Liquor License to Cologne Volunteer Fire Company as outlined.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva
 Nay: XXX
 Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Resolution #2019-0137 – Resolution authorizing the release of Performance Guarantee for Eaglesmere (Glen Eyre Palette III) – 9 Matisse Drive – Sidewalk and Concrete Apron (Block 1132.26, Lot 3) in the amount of \$1,745.50 (M&T Bank Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit #SB1796900001), as recommended by Township Engineer Steve Filippone in his correspondence dated 2/26/19.

Mr. Kurtz moved, seconded by Mr. Silva that Resolution #2019-0137 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva
 Nay: XXX
 Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Personnel

Authorization to advertise for Cove Staff.

Mayor Schenker stated that they should have a conversation about this while moving ahead with advertisement.

Upon motion of Mr. Silva, second of Mr. Guishard it was moved to authorize advertisement for Cove Staff.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX
Motion Carried 5-0.

Approvals:

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Kurtz that the regular meeting minutes of the February 19, 2019 meeting are approved as presented.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX
Motion Carried 5-0.

Resolution #2019-0138 – A Resolution authorizing payment of approved payrolls and bills - \$3,951,947.99.

Mr. Kurtz moved, seconded by Mr. Silva that Resolution #2019-0138 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX
Motion Carried 5-0.

Reports

Administrator – Nothing to report.

Solicitor – Nothing to report.

Engineer – Mr. Filippone gave a brief update on the situation with Chancellor’s Place and Atlantic City Electric. He has been in touch with Ken Mosca, and ACE has interviewed three engineers and will choose one this week. They are aware of the problem and committed to retaining the stormwater on their site. Mr. Filippone also spoke with three members of the Stormwater Board and will be attending a meeting of the Homeowners’ Association. Some discussion ensued.

Mr. Filippone concluded with a brief report to supplement his written report.

Mrs. Link asked for an update of the Conifer project. Director of Community Development Phil Sartorio stated that their engineer came up with a remediation plan for the basin, and a second engineer is involved as well. Their performance guarantee is still in place. A brief discussion ensued.

Township Committee:

Mrs. Link shared an inspirational quote recently heard at a relative’s birthday celebration.

Mr. Kurtz discussed the auction sale of the Bank of America building, which sold for \$120,000 to a sole bidder.

Mr. Silva mentioned an article he read about our Police Department having solved 31 burglaries, which says a great deal about the effective work they do.

He expressed dismay over the closing of JC Penney in Hamilton Mall. He stated that this will have a tremendous impact on our budget, which he hopes will be introduced at the next meeting.

He stated that he looks forward to the Chicken BBQ by Cologne Volunteer Fire Company.

Mr. Guishard also expressed dismay at the closing of JC Penney. He stated that shopping malls in general have suffered greatly as online services such as Amazon have dominated the market, and we must keep this trend in mind as we plan for the future.

Mayor Schenker stated that Hamilton Township is a Retail Town. If we do not stop using the internet, our stores will continue to disappear, and the Township will not have the means to pay its bills. The hole that the mall has left in our budget after the reassessment of last year is sizable, and it made this year’s budget extremely difficult. He expressed hope that some of the upcoming projects will result in some resurgence.

Mayor Schenker then opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Anne Marie Leone of 1305 Old Egg Harbor Road stated that she has been trying to contact Alternate Township Engineer Kevin Dixon for an update on her property situation. She stated that nothing has changed at this point. She said she knows the Township has many basin issues, and expressed sympathy for Chancellor’s Place. She hopes that some action will happen soon, and thanked the Township for their efforts. Mayor Schenker asked Mr. Sartorio to contact Kevin Dixon for an update.

Aline Dix of Park Road stated, with regard to Mr. Silva’s radio comments regarding schools, that we had to adopt a PILOT in 2014; we now have 99 fully occupied apartments that do not pay a penny in school taxes. There are many children now enrolled in our schools, which is an unexpected burden on the school districts because the occupancy was delayed for whatever construction reasons until after October 15th, which was the State Aid cutoff. She questioned how much the schools can really cut when they have an influx of students. Mr. Silva stated that he was referring to the fact that they went out and bonded for repairs that should have been addressed yearly in their capital budget if they had one. He further clarified that he is not referring to the teachers or students, but to the structures that they must maintain. Some discussion ensued.

Ms. Dix also stated that there is a great deal of Clean Communities money that might be used for weekend overtime to clean the litter and replace covered trash cans at the Cove.

Jim Kerrigan of Mays Landing stated that there are 604 school districts in the state. Thirteen of them do not have a school, yet a superintendent is still getting paid. A brief discussion ensued.

Hearing nothing further from the public, on the motion of Mr. Silva, second of Mr. Kurtz it was moved to close the public portion.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Resolution #2019-0139– A Resolution To Adjourn to Executive Session:

- Hannah Desmond – Future Employment**
- Ingrid Perez – Reorganization of Job Duties**
- Susan Giberson – Reorganization of Job Duties**
- Warren Dagrosa – Reporting Structure**
- Christopher DiBiase – Reporting Structure**

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard, that Resolution #2019-0139 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

Township Committee met in Executive Session at 7:20 pm.

Township Committee reconvened at 7:45 pm.

Solicitor Sandman stated for the record that Township Committee did indeed reconvene at 7:45 pm, and that discussions were restricted to those subjects that were announced, the minutes of which will be made available at such time that the nature of the material is no longer confidential. No other business was discussed, and no vote was taken.

Ms. Martino read the proposed resolution to appoint Hannah Desmond as Director of Community Development at \$70,000.00 annually, effective 3/5/19, with an increase of \$5,000.00 after earning professional planner license to be obtained within five years.

Resolution #2019-0140 – Resolution appointing Hannah Desmond as Director of Community Development.

Mr. Guishard moved, seconded by Mr. Silva, that Resolution #2019-0140 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Link, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0.

On motion of Mr. Kurtz, seconded by Mr. Silva and carried the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Martino, RMC, CMR
Township Clerk