

**MINUTES
WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alan Schwager at 7:02 p.m. with the following statement:

The December 5, 2016 work session meeting of the Woolwich Township Committee is being called to order. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Carleton: PRESENT Lavender: PRESENT Schlump: PRESENT
Lavender: PRESENT Schwager: PRESENT

Also present on the dais were Solicitor Mark Shoemaker, Director of Community Development Matt Blake and Administrator/Clerk Jane DiBella.

Those present saluted the American Flag.

Motion was made by Committeeman Carleton and seconded by Committeeman Lavender to open the meeting to public comment. All were in favor.

Hearing no comment, the public portion closed upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzi, seconded by Committeeman Carleton and unanimously passed.

Mayor Schwager noted that the following Ordinance would remain tabled:

2016-11 An Ordinance of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Implementing Zoning Changes Necessary to Comply with the Duly Amended Master Plan

Mayor Schwager read the following Ordinance by title only as introduced on August and thereafter tabled:

2016-12 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 177 of the Code of the Township of Woolwich Entitled "Trees"

Motion was made by Committeeman Carleton and seconded by Committeeman Schlump to remove the Ordinance from the table. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Committeeman Carleton and seconded by Committeeman Schlump to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2016-12. All were in favor.

Hearing no public comment, the public hearing was closed upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Rizzi, seconded by Committeeman Carleton and unanimously approved.

Motion was made by Committeeman Schlump and seconded by Committeeman Carleton to adopt Ordinance 2016-12.

The Solicitor advised of the changes made to the prior Ordinance. He noted that in section 177-4, a list of exceptions from general rules governing trees provides allowances for any owner to remove trees for use as firewood. He suggested the Committee consider removing the word firewood, which would allow an owner to remove a tree for any use on the property. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Blake clarified that the change would only relate to residential properties.

Motion was then made by Deputy Mayor Rizzi to amend section 177-4 to read "By owner of residential property for use on the property". Committeeman Lavender seconded. All were in favor.

Roll Call: Carleton: YES, Lavender: YES, Schlump: YES, Rizzi: YES, Schwager: YES

Mayor Schwager suggested a consent agenda for Resolutions R-2016-250 through 260 with the exception of R-2016-257. So moved Lavender. Carleton seconded. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Lavender and seconded by Committeeman Carleton to approve the following resolutions:

R-2016-250 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing Renewal of Employee Assistance Program Through Apple Counseling Services

R-2016-251 Resolution Authorizing Quote of Crown Pipeline Construction Company for Repairs at 132 Holly Drive

R-2016-252 Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Street Opening Permit to SJ Gas-328 Forrest Lane

R-2016-253 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Execution of a Management Agreement between the Township of Woolwich and State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Regarding Block 5, Lot 6.07

R-2016-254 Resolution Rejecting All Bids for Heavy/Super Duty Truck with Dump Body for the Woolwich Township Department of Public Works

R-2016-255 Resolution Authorizing Addendum to a Municipal Services Agreement Between the Township of Woolwich and Lexington Mews Condo Association

R-2016-256 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing a Lease and Maintenance Agreement Between the Township of Woolwich and KDI Office Technology

R-2016-258 Resolution Authorizing Hiring of Per Diem Employees to Conduct Snow Removal

R-2016-259 Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Soil Removal Permit

R-2016-260 Resolution Authorizing Budget Appropriation Transfers During the Last Two Months of the Fiscal Year for the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

All were in favor.

Mayor Schwager read the following resolution by title only:

R-2016-257 Resolution Authorizing Release of Escrow-Wolfson Group

Committeeman Carleton moved to adopt resolution R-2016-257. Committeeman Schlump seconded.

Mayor Schwager then explained that the Wolfson Group is seeking to have \$5,000 in escrow funds returned. The Mayor then noted that earlier in the year the Township was forced into mediation at which time based upon a court order, the Township and developer were to each pay one-half of the mediators fees. Upon issuance of the first bill, the Township paid in full and asked the mediator to credit the Township for one-half (\$687.50) and re-invoice the developer. This has not yet occurred.

Mayor Schwager then suggested that approval for release of escrow be made, minus the \$687.50 until that prior invoice is resolved.

Deputy Mayor Rizzi then moved to amend **R-2016-257** to return the escrow in the amount of \$5,000 minus the \$687.50 owed. Committeeman Carleton seconded. All were in favor.

The Administrator/Clerk presented her report as self explanatory. There were no questions from the Committee.

The Director of Community Development presented his report. There were no questions from the Committee.

A presentation by Verizon was deferred until later in the meeting because the Verizon representative was not yet present.

Solicitor Shoemaker advised the Committee that the Township lost in the matter of Frank Craig at the appellate division. While the solicitor disagrees with the decision, the court ordered in favor of Craig and the Township will have to release the bond posted on Mr. Craig's subdivision. The Solicitor did not recommend any further action.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Rizzi and seconded by Committeeman Carleton to approve resolution **R-2016-261 Resolution for Closed Session**. All were in favor.

The Committee entered closed session at 7:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contractual matters regarding the Police Contracted Service Agreement with the Borough of Swedesboro.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

It was noted that Director of Community Development Matt Blake was no longer present.

The Committee then entertained Richard Komissar, Site Acquisition Specialist on behalf of Verizon.

Mr. Komissar requested consent to operate from township ROW nodes that work in conjunction with existing cell towers. He noted that currently, towers are at capacity and the nodes will fill gaps and provide better coverage..

Mayor Schwager replied that courts have established the inherent benefit of utilities such as this and noted that the Township would have no problem approving the request.

Mr. Kimissar explained the size and location of the nodes as small devices attached to poles.

Deputy Mayor Rizzi asked how many would be installed and was told that only between two and six are needed currently in the Township.

The Solicitor advised that this type of request is regulated by statute. He asked if Verizon would be willing to pay for administrative and review fees and was told that Verizon would be agreeable.

The Deputy Mayor asked what would be visible and was told that only the antennae would be.

Committeeman Schlump asked if they would be on shared use poles and was informed that they prefer new poles.

Mayor Schwager suggested that the Committee approve a resolution in this regard at the next meeting. All were agreeable.

There was no old business.

Under new business, motion was made by Deputy Mayor Rizzi to authorize the Woolwich Township Solicitor to send correspondence to the Swedesboro Solicitor to address recent correspondence from the Borough to the Township in regards to the Police Contracted Service Agreement pending the Mayors review. Committeeman Lavender seconded. All were in favor.

Also under new business, Mayor Schwager noted the success of the December 3rd Tree Lighting and Parade. He noted the efforts of the Woolwich Fire Company, Michele Blair of Parks and Rec and Sharptown North Church. He added that having Sharptown North as a part of the community is a great thing.

Motion was made by Committeeman Lavender and seconded by Committeeman Carleton to approve the bills and purchase orders pending the Mayors final approval. All were in favor.

Committeeman Lavender noted that this is his last meeting and thanked the Committee for the opportunity to serve Woolwich once again. He also thanked the Committee as a resident for a job well done. He added that he is only a phone call away if he can assist with anything. He also wished everyone a happy holiday.

On the behalf of the Committee, Mayor Schwager thanked Committeeman Lavender for serving.

With no further business, motion was made by Committeeman Lavender and seconded by Committeeman Carleton to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane DiBella
Administrator/Clerk

Minutes not verbatim
Audio recording on file