

**MINUTES
WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
SPECIAL CLOSE-OUT MEETING
DECEMBER 30, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Mayor Marino who made the following statement:

The December 30, 2019 Special Close-Out Meeting for the Year 2019 is being called to order. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Battisti: PRESENT Frederick: PRESENT Santore: ABSENT* entered at 5:08 p.m.
Matthias: PRESENT Marino: PRESENT

Also present on the dais were Solicitor Alice and Administrator/Clerk DiBella.

Those present saluted the American Flag.

Deputy Mayor Matthias moved to open the meeting to public comment. Committeeman Battisti seconded. All were in favor.

Earl Burak, 220 New Sweden Road, asked if a decision has been reached by the Committee as to residents obtaining additional vegetative carts.

Mayor Marino advised that the Committee would hold further discussion later in the meeting and that a public hearing would be conducted on Ordinance 2019-26 relative the new trash/recycling collection method. He asked that particular questions he held until that public hearing.

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

Mayor Marino read the following Ordinance by title only upon second reading:

2019-25 An Ordinance of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Adopting an Amendment to the Redevelopment Plan for Numerous Blocks and Lots Known as "Kings Landing" Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et. seq.

Open public hearing: Battisti Second: Frederick All in favor

No public comment

Close public hearing: Matthias Second: Battisti All in favor

Motion to adopt: Battisti Second: Santore

Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES, Santore: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES Motion carried

2019-26 Ordinance of the Township of Woolwich Amending Chapter 155 of the Woolwich Township Code Entitled "Solid Waste" was briefly held.

Mayor Marino read the following Resolutions by title only for the Committee's consideration:

R-2019-298 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement Between the Township of Woolwich and Liberty Venture LLP

Motion: Battisti Second: Santore

Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES, Santore: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES Motion carried

R-2019-299 Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to Transfer or Refund Overpayment of Taxes

Motion: Santore Second: Battisti

Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES, Santore: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES Motion carried

Under old business, discussion commenced regarding additional cart pricing and vegetative cart pricing.

Deputy Mayor Matthias suggested amendments to Ordinance 2019-26 as introduced, to include certain verbiage. She suggested adding “rings and caps must be removed” to recycling definitions. She further suggested amending the Ordinance to add wording regarding cart lease as well as adding the word “annually” to lease specifications.

Discussion then ensued regarding the cost of vegetative tonnage when considering vegetative cart lease pricing. The CFO advised that trash disposal cost is \$78/ton, recycling cost is \$92/ton and vegetative disposal is in the low \$20's/ton.

Deputy Mayor Matthias suggested that the ordinance be amended to include an annual vegetative cart lease in the amount of \$40.00.

Committeeman Battisti said that the community should be educated about composting.

Discussion ensued regarding residents requests for additional carts. Committeewoman Santore suggested that the Committee lean on the experience of the provider.

The Committee agreed that quarterly reports should be provided as to these issues.

Deputy Mayor Matthias moved to amend Ordinance 2019-26 to add wording excepting out rings and caps from recycling definition, to add the cost of \$40/additional vegetative cart lease, and to add the word “annually” to additional cart leases.

Committeeman Frederick asked if a further amendment was needed to state that the responsibility for damaged carts would be at the discretion of the Director of Municipal Services. Solicitor Alice advised that language is already included in the Ordinance.

Deputy Mayor Matthias moved to amend Ordinance 2019-26 as described above. Committeewoman Santore seconded. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias, seconded by Committeeman Battisti and unanimously passed to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2019-26. All were in favor.

Earl Burek, 220 New Sweden Road asked if there will be an option to borrow additional cans. Mayor Marino replied that trash and recycling and vegetative carts could be requested under certain parameters under special circumstances, but that there would have to be a limit in place.

Steve Nieves, 211 New Sweden said that he has the same issue with the need for additional vegetative carts and is looking for allowances. Mayor Marino replied that these issues are new and time must be given to work out some things, but the Committee is willing to work with the residents.

Solicitor Alice said that the transition may work seamlessly. The Mayor added that residents should give the system a chance.

Mr. Nieves then stated that the new carts seem flimsy. CFO Will Pine replied from the audience that the Township stayed away from cheap when ordering the cans.

Terry Stanley, 225 New Sweden Road advised that he uses between 8-12 cans for grass clippings and that composting is not an option for him. He said that he is interested to know how lot size is taken into consideration due to larger lots paying more in taxes.

Committeewoman Santore asked if Mr. Stanley feels the fee to be burdensome. Mr. Stanley replied that it is not burdensome, but rather unreasonable, and that higher taxes should entitle him to more service.

Mayor Marino advised that the decision to enter into the service with Logan will save between \$60,000-\$100,000/annually.

Deputy Mayor Matthias said that all the points that are being making require time to evaluate. She suggested in the meantime, the residents contact the Director of Municipal Services to request extra carts.

Discussion then ensued regarding the need to have further data. Committeeman Frederick suggested that data be provided in June at which time these issues can be re-addressed.

Jordan Schlump, 10 Wilshire Blvd. said that there should be a weight limit on vegetative collection since dirt will be put in the carts.

Mr. Schlump then asked how three truck lifts are monitored and enforced, suggesting that unused lifts be divided out among the town. Mayor Marino replied that the lifts are written in the contract.

Mr. Schlump then asked what happens in the event of foreclosures and cans not being left. Mayor Marino replied that the can would be replaced if that were to happen.

The public hearing was then closed upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Matthias, seconded by Committeewoman Santore and unanimously passed.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Santore and seconded by Committeeman Battisti to adopt Ordinance 2019-26.

Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES, Santore: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES Motion carried

Motion was made by Committeeman Battisti and seconded by Committeewoman Santore to approve resolution **R-2019-300 Resolution for Closed Session**. All were in favor.

The Committee entered closed session at 5:54 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m. upon a motion by Committeeman Santore, seconded by Committeeman Frederick and unanimously passed.

It was noted that Deputy Mayor Matthias had to leave the meeting during closed session due to another commitment.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Santore and seconded by Committeeman Frederick to approve the minutes of December 16, 2019 regular and closed session. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Santore and seconded by Committeeman Battisti to approve the bills and purchase orders presented by the finance officer.

Roll Call: Battisti: YES, Frederick: YES (except Verizon bills), Santore: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES
Motion carried

Having no further business, motion was made by Committeeman Battisti, seconded by Committeewoman Santore and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane DiBella
Administrator/Clerk

Minutes not verbatim
Audio recording on file