

**MINUTES
WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
JUNE 7, 2021**

Mayor Marino called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with the following statement:

The June 7, 2021 regular 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: Callahan: PRESENT Frederick: PRESENT Nocentino: PRESENT
Matthias: PRESENT Marino: PRESENT

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

Present in the audience was CFO Pine and Chief Jaramillo.

Those present saluted the American Flag.

Chief Jaramillo and Patrolman Lopez presented "Operation Steel Guardian" to the Township Committee. The commemorative plaque was given to Ptlm. Lopez for his part in protecting the United State Capital Building after the events of January 6th as a member of the National Guard.

The plaque encased an American Flag that flew over the Capital on April 20, 2021.

Mayor Marino and Deputy Mayor Matthias presented Proclamations to the following upon their Eagle Scout designation:

Alexander Mitchell
Lucas Santos
Daniel Carbone
Pratik Jacob
Christian Sullivan
Joseph Sullivan
Adam Williams

Joe Henry-Hardenberg Insurance Group presented on Seatbelt Safety as an insurance requirement of the Joint Insurance Funds Safety Program "Safety on the Agenda."

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias and seconded by Committeeman Frederick to open the meeting to public comment. All were in favor.

Hearing none, the public portion closed upon a motion by Committeeman Frederick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Mathias. All were in favor.

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

2021-07 An Ordinance of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester and State of New Jersey Deleting Article II of Chapter 157 of the Code of the Township of Woolwich Entitled "Stormwater Control" and Replacing with the Following

Open public hearing: Nocentino Second: Frederick All in favor
No public comment
Close public hearing: Nocentino Second: Frederick All in favor
Motion to adopt: Matthias Second: Nocentino
Roll Call: Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES Motion carried

2021-08 An Ordinance Making Salary Ranges for Certain Officials and Employees of the Township of Woolwich in the County of Gloucester for the Year 2021

Open public hearing: Frederick Second: Callahan All in favor
No public comment
Close public hearing: Matthias Second: Nocentino All in favor
Motion to adopt: Matthias Second: Callahan
Roll Call: Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES Motion carried

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

2021-09 Ordinance of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester and State of New Jersey Authorizing and Approving a Financial Agreement Between the Township of Woolwich and Liberty Commodore I Urban renewal, LLC for Property Known as Block 11, Lots 20 and 21, Pursuant to the Long Term Tax Exemption Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq.)

Motion: Matthias Second: Nocentino All in favor

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias and seconded by Committeeman Nocentino to adopt resolution **R-2021-118 Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, Resolution to Read Budget by Title Only**. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Committeeman Frederick and seconded by Committeeman Nocentino to open the public hearing on the 2021 municipal budget. All were in favor.

With no public comment, motion was made by Committeeman Frederick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Matthias to close the public hearing. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias and seconded by Committeeman Nocentino to adopt resolution **R-2021-119 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Adopting the 2021 Municipal Budget**.

CFO Pine provided a recap of the budget, noting that most line items remained flat with the exception of health, pensions and down payments on funding ordinances. Additionally, he noted that the Township is working on building back fund balance

Committeeman Frederick expressed concern with increases to the average homeowner over the last three years and suggested that anticipated COVID funds be used to offset the 2% tax increase. Discussion ensued.

Committeeman Callahan agreed and asked that consideration be given to reduce to a 1% increase.

Mayor Marino asked the CFO what that would look like.

Mr. Pine replied that he would hesitate to make any changes to the budget this year, and added that if the Township does not receive the funds anticipated, it would create a downward trend in fund balance.

Committeeman Frederick moved to amend the 2021 budget to adjust to a 1% increase as opposed to 2% utilizing anticipated COVID reimbursement funds. Committeeman Callahan seconded.

Deputy Mayor Matthias asked the CFO when the funds are anticipated. Mr. Pine replied that it will be 60 days at least.

Roll Call on Motion: Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES, Nocentino: NO, Matthias: NO, Marino: NO Motion failed

Committeeman Nocentino moved to approve resolution **R-2021-119 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Adopting the 2021 Municipal Budget** as stated as presented. Deputy Mayor Matthias seconded.

Roll Call: Callahan: NO, Frederick: NO, Nocentino: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES Motion carried

Deputy Mayor Matthias moved to approve a consent agenda for resolution R-2021-120 through and including R-2021-126. Committeeman Frederick seconded.

R-2021-120 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Recognizing June 2021 as Pride Month in the Township of Woolwich

R-2021-121 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing Reduction of Letter of Credit #20-04 Posted on the Behalf of Villages 1, Section 6.3

R-2021-122 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Execution of an Assignment and Assumption of Redevelopment Agreement with Liberty 1 Urban Renewal, LLC on Block 11, Lots 20 and 21

R-2021-123 Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Plenary Retail Distribution Liquor License #0824-44-004-002 to JSSB, Inc.

R-2021-124 Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to Transfer/Refund Overpayment of Taxes

R-2021-125 Resolution Authorizing Renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License #0824-33-002-008 to Earl C. Rode Jr., Inc.

R-2021-126 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, of Intent to Involuntarily Retire Patrolman William Cook

Committeeman Callahan questioned the intent of resolution R-2021-120. Mayor Marino responded that its purpose is to show all citizens that the township is inclusive of everyone and that all rights are equal.

Deputy Mayor Matthias added that citizens have asked that attention be brought forth on these issues.

Roll Call on Consent agenda:

Roll Call: Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES Motion carried

Under old business, motion was made by Committeeman Callahan and seconded by Deputy Mayor Matthias to remove discussion on cannabis regulations from the table. All were in favor.

Mayor Marino noted that the township planner has recommended that it is better to say no to at this time which will allow the township to build in regulations as it sees fit. He added that if the township adopts regulations at this time, those regulations would be locked in for five years, while opting out allows the township to opt in once it has had the proper time to review.

Committeeman Frederick noted that the state has not promulgated clear guidelines.

Committeeman Callahan stated that he is hesitate as potential businesses will not come to towns that say no.

Deputy Mayor Matthias said that she would like to make it clear that the township will revisit the subject once more guidance is provided.

Solicitor Alice was asked to obtain some more answers for the next meeting.

Engineer Timothy Staszewski provided an update on the Oliphants Mill Dam repairs, noting that the owners have not yet reached out as to cost share with the county of township for the dam repairs.

He added that discussions with FEMA regarding the dam repairs have been favorable, and that a follow up meeting with FEMA will be held on June 24th.

Also under new business, Ms. DiBella asked the Township Engineer to consider the road priority list for the NJDOT FY2022 grant cycle. Mayor Marino asked that Viereck Road be included.

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

Atty. Clint Allen apologized for being late to the meeting, but inquired as to the status of Resolution and Ordinance that affect his clients.

The Mayor advised that Ordinance 2021-09 was introduced and that resolution R-2021-122 was adopted.

Ann Dorset, of 169 Russell Mill Road asked that consideration be given to delivery trucks parking in streets. Chief Jaramillo and Mayor Marino advised that the situation will be reviewed.

With no further public comment, Deputy Mayor Matthias moved to close the public portion. Committeeman Frederick seconded. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Matthias and seconded by Committeeman Nocentino to approve the bill list and purchase orders.

Roll Call: Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias: YES, Marino: YES

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane DiBella
Administrator/Clerk

Minutes not verbatim
Audio recording on file