

**MINUTES
WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MARCH 20, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Mayor Craig Frederick.

Mayor Frederick made the following statement:

The March 20, 2023 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: Marino: PRESENT Minhas: ABSENT Nocentino: PRESENT
Callahan: PRESENT Frederick: PRESENT

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

Those present saluted the American Flag.

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

Aiden Weinert, 19 Gabrielle Circle presented his Eagle Scout project to the Committee consisting of a seating area at Tranquility Trails, shade trees and dog posts.

Mayor Frederick thanks Mr. Weinert for his thoughts and suggested that the location be away from disc golf area to prevent unintended accidents. He suggested that Aiden work with the Director of Municipal Services.

Committeeman Nocentino asked if there are plans for watering the trees.

Steve Wolfson introduced himself as the owner of 500 acres in Woolwich Township. He noted that as a part of his settlement agreement with the Township, he was to transfer of half of sewer EDU's that he purchased from Logan Township MUA and no longer has the need for. He advised that he has found a purchaser for all of the EDU's and plans to pay the Township one-half of the net sale (\$1,000,000). He advised that the details are spelled out in resolution R-2023-83 on the agenda authorizing the Township as a Joinder to the EDU purchase agreement.

Mayor Frederick replied that he is excited about the partnership.

Mr. Wolfson then provided a brief update on the status of development. He advised that the footings are being installed for the water and with completion anticipated 1Q 2024.

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

Mayor Frederick read the following Ordinance by title only upon second reading.

2023-10 An Ordinance Making Salary Ranges for Certain Officials and Employees of the Township of Woolwich in the County of Gloucester for the Year 2023

Motion to open public hearing: Callahan Second: Marino All in favor
No comment

Motion to close public hearing: Marino Second: Callahan All in favor

Motion to adopt: Callahan Second: Marino

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

Deputy Mayor Callahan moved for a consent agenda for resolutions R-2023-82 through and including R-2023-90. Committeeman Marino seconded. All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Callahan moved to adopt resolutions R-2023-83 through and including R-2023-90. Committeeman Marino seconded.

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

R-2023-83 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Approving and Authorizing the Township of Woolwich as a Joinder to a Purchase and Sale Agreement Between Woolwich Commons, LLC and Ready Pac Foods, Inc. Towards the Sale of Equivalent Domestic Units (EDU's)

R-2023-84 Resolution Authorizing Street Opening Permit to South Jersey Gas-Tavistock Drive

R-2023-85 Resolution Making an Elevation within the Woolwich Township Police Department

R-2023-86 Resolution Authorizing Totally Disabled Veteran Deduction

R-2023-87 Resolution Authorizing Change Fund for Use by Parks and Recreation for Special Events

R-2023-88 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Endorsement of a Statement of Consent Form-WH Development

R-2023-89 Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester 2023 Emergency Temporary Budget NJSA 40A:4-20

R-2023-90 Resolution Authorizing Budget Appropriation Transfers During the First Three Months of the Succeeding Year for the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

The following reports were provided for the month of February:

Tax Collector: \$4,380,148.13 remitted

Woolwich Fire Company: Monthly Report

Thanked the team and residents for their support subsequent to a devastating house fire.

Police: Monthly Report

Deputy Chief Massing noted a recent event at Hens and Honey Coffee Shop where officers were present to serve coffee and raise money for the County Animal Shelter.

Township Engineer: Monthly Report

Alaimo Engineers advised that plans were submitted for the Swedesboro Avenue 2022 grant project. Plans are being developed for the High Hill Road trail grant program. Work is being coordinated for an easement along Viereck Road prior to moving forward with plans for the NJDOT grant for Viereck Road. Alaimo awaits CAD program from CES to complete the street map. Lake lowering at Mill Road dam continues. No word on fish salvage. The engineers continue to look into drainage and sink hole issues near Commodore warehouse.

The engineers further advised of subdivision statuses.

Committeeman Nocentino questioned an issue with sidewalk in Villages Section 2.1. The engineer responded that it has been frustrating to have a non-responsive developer, and intends to communicate with the Beazer Homes corporate office. Mayor Frederick advised that it may be helpful for a letter to be sent to Beazer Corporate from the Township Atty.

Precision Land: Monthly Sewer Project Update

Andrew Shawl, Precision, provided a sewer update, and noted that a problem was encountered at the end point connection. He further advised that S. Jersey Gas awaits county street opening approval from Gloucester County.

Mayor Frederick advised that Dermody has received NJDOT permits for the Locke/Oak Grove intersection realignment. The project should be completed by November.

Administrator's Report: Monthly Report

Ms. DiBella presented her report as self-explanatory, but noted the following: Locke Avenue Park Archeological survey has begun; TDR meeting with landowners is scheduled for March 21st; JB Liquors submitted plans to the JLUB Secretary for over 48,432 sq of retail construction on Center Square Road across from Shop Rite; provided update on stormwater Tier A elevation and grant opportunity.

Deputy Mayor Callahan voiced his concerns with traffic at the proposed retail site.

Municipal Services: Monthly Report

The following Committee liaison reports were provided:

Committeeman Marino:

Solid Waste/Recycling; Provided monthly collection statistics. JLUB; Approved bulk variance and a one year extension of a warehouse application. Also approved an Atlantic City Electric substation on Stone Meeting House Road. Bulk variance approved for property on Davidson Road. Special Projects; Discussed sewer issue with county connection. Communicated with person seeking land for ball parks and clubhouse.

Committeeman Nocentino:

Municipal Services; 41 zoning permits issued. Ready fields for Lacrosse and baseball. Irrigation is up and running. 3 tons of asphalt used on roads, and landscape mulch being installed. Env. Commission; Swore in two new members. Social Media/IT; No report

Deputy Mayor Callahan:

Educational Partners (SWSD/KRSD); Kingsway Varsity teams geared up for spring. District is adding girls flag football program. Leadership Academy DECCA ranked in top ten. Spring Jazz Festival is upcoming. Students shadowing at local businesses. BOE next meeting is the 23rd. State Aid seems to be up by approx. 17% Resident Communications; Park Utilization; Fields ready for spring.

Mayor Frederick:

Administration; Looking at Budget numbers expenses/revenues. Public Safety: Police report presented earlier in the meeting.

In Committeewoman Minhas's absence, it was noted that Parks and Rec will conduct the annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 25th.

Under old business, it was noted that Remington and Vernick submitted a change of scope for the Oliphants Mill Road project which is currently pending.

Mayor Frederick advised that a request for funding tent/table/chairs and stage rentals for the Juneteenth Event was reviewed and considered.

Mayor Frederick moved to authorize payment in the amount of \$600 (one-half of stage rental) for the Juneteenth Celebration. Committeeman Nocentino seconded.

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

There was no new business.

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

Ann Dorsett, 169 Russell Mill Road stated that often things go unnoticed and to that end, complimented staff for a great job at the annual Rabies Clinic on 3/18.

Dawn Fenza, 714 Lois Drive, Williamstown asked if there has been any consideration of the feral cat trap, neuter, vaccinate, release ordinance. Mayor Frederick replied that it may be considered at the end of the 2nd quarter as many projects are currently taking the township's attention.

Hearing no further comment, motion was made by Committeeman Marino, seconded by Deputy Mayor Callahan and unanimously passed to close the public portion.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Callahan and seconded by Committeeman Marino to approve resolution R-2023-92 Resolution for Closed Session. All were in favor.

The Committee entered closed session at 7:22 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the following matters:

Contractual Matters: Rt. 322 Development
Contractual Matters: Developer Request-Cannabis
Acquisition of Property: Potential Foreclosure
Personnel Matters: Police Matter

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:12 p.m. upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Callahan, seconded by

Committeeman Marino and unanimously passed.

The Committee then heard Grievance-Step Three of employee Robert Walker. Personnel Attorney Eric Riso led the hearing. It was noted that Mr. Walker requested that the hearing be held in open session.

Mr. Riso noted that the grievance is regarding use of all accrued time prior to taking an unpaid leave of absence. The Administrator denied the grievance under Step 2 at which time the employee was advised that he had a right to proceed to Step 3.

Mr. Walker stated that the policy is unfair to him and all employees. He noted that he could have delayed his surgery with the ability to use all of his time and then take an unpaid leave. He feels that it should be up to the employee as to how much time is used. In the alternative, he said that perhaps only accrued sick time be used. He asked that the Committee consider amending the policy to allow employees the choice as to how much time is used.

Mr. Riso advised that Mr. Walker is not grieving on the behalf of all employee's, but rather just himself. He then advised that the township's policy is no different than other municipalities. He further advised Mr. Walker that other options could have been utilized by Mr. Walker.

Mr. Walker responded that at some point, policies need to be updated and changed according to circumstances. As it is, he said the policy is cold and callous.

Mayor Frederick advised that the Committee needs time to review and consider the grievance and therefore does not recommend any action that evening, but will take the matter under consideration.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Callahan and seconded by Committeeman Marino to approve the following minutes:

February 21, 2023 and Closed Session

March 6, 2023

All were in favor.

Motion was made by Committeeman Marino and seconded by Deputy Mayor Callahan to approve the bills and purchase orders.

Roll Call: Marino: YES, Nocentino: YES, Callahan: YES, Frederick: YES (abstain from Verizon)

Motion carried

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane DiBella
Administrator/Clerk

Minutes not verbatim. Audio recording on file.