

**MINUTES
WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Matthias at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Matthias made the following statement:

The February 5, 2024 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: Frederick: PRESENT McGovern: PRESENT Minhas: PRESENT
 Nocentino: PRESENT Matthias: PRESENT

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

Those present saluted the American Flag.

Committeeman Nocentino moved to open the meeting to public comment. Committeeman Frederick seconded. All were in favor.

Al Sweeten, 187 Westbrook Drive addressed the Committee regarding algae in the pond at the rear of his property. Mayor Matthias reminded Mr. Sweeten that the algae can only be treated seasonally, but offered to follow up.

Sherry Hall and Yusef Fluellen representing H.E.L.P. Inc. advised the Committee of a February 25th Event celebrating Black History Month.

She further advised that the Juneteenth Celebration will be held on June 8th at 12 noon on the grounds of Kingsway High School and requested that the Committee fund the small stage, tent and chairs for the event at the proposed cost of \$2,000.

Mayor Matthias thanked Ms. Hall for all that she does and asked Ms. Hall to forward the invitation to the Black History Month Event which the Township will share via social media.

Committeeman Frederick moved to authorize the Township to rent the small stage at the cost of \$600 dependent upon the availability of the stage. Committeeman McGovern seconded. All were in favor.

The Committee advised that they will check with the CFO as to funding the tent and chairs.

Hearing no further public comment, the public portion was closed upon a motion by Committeeman Nocentino, seconded by Committeewoman Minhas and unanimously passed.

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

2024-01 An Ordinance of the Township of Woolwich Amending the Code of the Township of Woolwich to Amend Chapter 192 of the Woolwich Township Code Entitled "Wedding and Civil Union Ceremonies"

Motion to open the public hearing: Nocentino Second: McGovern All in favor.
There was no comment.

Motion to close the public hearing: Frederick Second: Nocentino All in favor

Motion to adopt: Nocentino Second: McGovern

Roll Call: Frederick; YES, McGovern: YES, Minhas: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias; YES Motion carried

2024-02 An Ordinance of the Township of Woolwich Amending the Code of the Township of Woolwich to Amend Chapter 59 of the Woolwich Township Code Entitled “Animals”

Motion to open the public hearing: Nocentino Second: Frederick All in favor.

There was no comment.

Motion to close the public hearing: Nocentino Second: Frederick All in favor

Motion to adopt: Nocentino Second: McGovern

Committeeman Frederick prompted discussion regarding the fee increase of 50%. Mayor Matthias advised that the total fee includes state fees. Solicitor Alice said that it is a small adjustment.

Roll Call: Frederick; YES, McGovern: YES, Minhas: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias; YES Motion carried

Mayor Matthias read the following Ordinances by title only upon first reading:

2024-03 An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Motion: McGovern Second: Nocentino

Mayor Matthias advised that the township does not intend to increase the CAP, but the Ordinance is done annually as a precaution.

Roll Call: Frederick; YES, McGovern: YES, Minhas: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias; YES Motion carried

2024-04 An Ordinance of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Amending Section 203-137 of the Township Code

Motion: Nocentino Second: McGovern

Committeeman Frederick suggested that the SF. Size of light industrial and assembly operation be reduced from the suggested 50,000 to 40,000 sf. Committeeman Frederick also asked if cannabis sale should be added to item 27 as a restricted use. Discussion ensued regarding whether this would be needed as cannabis retail has already been excluded within the township.

Committeeman Frederick then moved to amend Ordinance 2024-04 as to item 11 reducing to 40,000 sf and add cannabis retail to item 27 as a prohibited use. Committeewoman Minhas seconded.

Committeeman Nocentino questioned the reasoning behind the reduction in size from the proposed 50,000 sf to 40,000 sf for light industrial and assembly operations. Committeeman Frederick said it is just a matter of making it smaller.

Mayor Matthias asked Samantha Boonstra if the reduced size would matter under any circumstance. Ms. Boonstra said “not much.”

All were in favor of the proposed amendments.

Deputy Mayor Nocentino moved to introduce Ordinance 2024-04 as amended. Committeeman McGovern seconded.

Roll Call: Frederick; YES, McGovern: YES, Minhas: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias; YES Motion carried

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Nocentino to approve a consent agenda for resolutions R-2024-49 through and including R-2024-60. Mayor Matthias seconded.

Committeeman Frederick moved to remove R-2024-59 from the consent agenda.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Nocentino and seconded by Committeeman McGovern to adopt resolutions R-2024-49 through R-2024-60 with the exception of R-2024-59.

Committeeman Frederick offered thanks for addressing his concerns with R-2024-49 and suggested the Committee see if additional salary increases are possible once through the budget process.

Roll Call-Resolutions R-2024-49 through R-2024-60 with the exception of R-2024-59.

Roll Call: Frederick; YES, McGovern: YES, Minhas: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias; YES Motion carried

R-2024-49 Resolution Fixing the Salaries for Certain Officers and Employees of the Township of Woolwich in the County of Gloucester Previously Tabled

R-2024-51 Resolution Authorizing Totally Disabled Veteran Deduction

R-2024-52 Resolution Authorizing Cancellation of Municipal Certificate of Sale

R-2024-53 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Endorsement of a "Statement of Consent" Form- Pancoast Road, Block 60, Lot1 and Block 61, Lot 6

R-2024-54 Resolution Consenting to the Proposed Tri-County Quality Management (WQM) Plan Amendment

R-2024-55 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, 2024 Emergency Temporary Budget NJSA 40A:4-20

R-2024-56 Resolution Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State Contract Vendors for Contracting Units Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a

R-2024-57 Resolution Authorizing Budget Appropriations Transfers During the First Three Months of the Succeeding Year for the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

R-2024-58 Resolution Authorizing Release and Closure of Escrow Account

R-2024-60 Resolution Referring Proposed Amendments to Section 203-137 of the Woolwich Township Code to the Woolwich Township Joint Land Use Board for Review and Consideration

Motion was made by Committeeman Frederick and seconded by Committeewoman Minhas to approve resolution **R-2024-59 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich Authorizing the Sale of Township Owned Property- Block 11, Lot 29.**

Committeeman Frederick asked why the resolution only references the assessed value of the property and does not reference the sale price and requested that the third "Whereas" paragraph be amended to reference the bid sale price of \$2,026.00.

Committeeman Frederick then moved to amend resolution R-2024-59 accordingly. Committeewoman Minhas seconded. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Committeeman Frederick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Nocentino to adopt R-2024-59 as amended.

Roll Call: Frederick; YES, McGovern: YES, Minhas: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias; YES Motion carried

There was no old business.

The following discussions took place under new business.

Committee accepted the resignation of Maura Miller from the Swedesboro-Woolwich Parks and Rec. with thanks and regret.

The Mayor noted that two officers approved for hire at the 1-16 meeting will no longer be hired. The Chief requested authorization to go back to the application and interview process and also to hire Class II/III to fill vacancies within the schools.

Based upon the Police Chief's recommendation, motion was made by Committeeman McGovern and seconded by Committee Frederick to authorize same. All were in favor.

The Committee reviewed and discussed a request for a six month extension on payment of past due taxes currently in foreclosure. It was noted that only one extension can ever be made and that would follow the property, not the owner.

Discussion ensued among the Committee as to tax sale law, setting precedence etc.

Deputy Mayor Nocentino stated that six months will not hurt the township and moved to grant the extension on the property located at 120 Moravian Church Road. Mayor Matthias seconded.

Roll Call: Frederick; NO, McGovern: YES, Minhas: NO, Nocentino: YES, Matthias; YES Motion carried

Mayor Matthias also advised that the Tax Collector was contacted by a realtor regarding vacant property at 220 Moravian Church Road with a delinquent tax balance of over \$42,000 offering to purchase for \$50,000 but requesting that accrued interest be waived. Based upon the solicitor's opinion, the Committee turned down the offer.

Also under new business, Committeeman McGovern led discussion regarding what to do about the park concession stand, noting that SWSA and SWLL may be interested in running the stand. Committeeman Frederick stated that he is up for anything, however he would like to see a smaller pop up food location at the far fields. Further discussion ensued. Committeeman McGovern stated that he will continue to discuss with the teams and will have more information for consideration at the next meeting.

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

Jordan Schlump, 10 Wilshire Blvd. said in regards to the park concession stand, that Mr. Softee and food trucks are always at the park and advised that is against the town ordinance. He added that code enforcement should address this matter.

Committeeman Nocentino said that enforcement is not the Committee's role.

Committeeman Frederick added that during discussions when the last lease was issued, the discussions had been in favor of having food trucks at the parks during tournaments.

Mr. Schlump was advised that there is not much that can be done about the food trucks that night.

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

Deputy Mayor Nocentino moved to approve the bills and purchase orders. Committeeman McGovern seconded.

Committeeman Frederick questioned the following bills.

- Regarding the Viereck Road property asking if the project was completed. The Administrator/Clerk advised that the billing was for preliminary work and that milling and paving are to commence when asphalt plants reopen.
- Payment to Woolwich Housing-as to which project the funding is for, and was advised it is for the Tavistock property.

Roll Call: Frederick: YES (abstain from Verizon); McGovern: YES, Minhas: YES, Nocentino: YES, Matthias: YES

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane DiBella
Administrator/Clerk

Minutes not verbatim
Audio recording on file