

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
February 28, 2011
7:30 p.m.

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Everyone participated in the flag salute.

Mayor Campbell certified that notice of this meeting was published in the Burlington County Times on January 7, 2011. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and sent to the Courier Post for information. All requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" were satisfied.

Present were: Mayor Louise Campbell, Deputy Mayor Keith Nagler, Council Member Rovenna Overton, Council Member Jay Springer and Council Member Ricardo Rodriguez. Also present were: Township Attorney Eileen Fahey, Municipal Clerk Kim-Marie White and Township Manager Scott Carew.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

Township Manager Carew said he had invited Ed Fox from Burlington County to discuss the Northern Burlington County Growth and Presentation Plan with the Township Council.

Ed Fox gave the Township Council an overview of the Northern Burlington County Growth and Presentation Plan. He said currently there are thirteen townships that are in Northern Burlington County.

Township Manager Carew said he attended a meeting last week for reimbursement for the snow storm in December of 2010.

Township Manager Carew said the fire district budget was defeated on February 19, 2011.

Township Manager Carew said Public Works Director Parks put together a synopsis outlining in house trash and shared service with another township for trash pickup. Mr. Carew said he made an offer to Southampton for a shared service and is waiting for their Council to discuss and get back to him. He asked Council Members to forward him any questions they have.

Township Manager Carew said Township Attorney Fahey submitted the codification to General Code.

BUDGET PRESENTATION: Chief Financial Officer Gerald Mingin

Township Manager Carew said they plan on introducing the 2011 municipal budget on March 14, 2011.

Township Manager Carew and Chief Financial Officer Mingin discussed the 2011 municipal budget with Township Council.

The Chief Financial Officer said the taxes would be increased for 2011 and the local purpose rate would be 3.6 cents to 67.7 cents per \$100 of assessed property value of \$275,300, which equates to \$1,864 in taxes, an increase of \$102.

Township Manager Carew said the biggest increase was pension and social security.

Deputy Mayor Nagler asked why the increase in Municipal Apartment and Condominium Collection Services (MACCS) and what are the breakdowns of the administrative fees.

Walter Tafe, 8 Cypress Drive, asked if obtaining salt for the roads is considered an emergency. He also asked how much was deferred for school taxes.

Chief Financial Officer Mingin said the purchase of salt is only an emergency if the Governor declares a state of an emergency. Chief Financial Officer Mingin said they deferred \$56,000 in school taxes from Rancocas Valley.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 4, 2011

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by OVERTON to approve the January 4, 2011 minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the January 4, 2011 minutes were approved.

January 10, 2011

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by NAGLER to approve the January 10, 2011 minutes with changes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the January 10, 2011 minutes were approved with changes.

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ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance 2011-2 An Ordinance To Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Mayor Campbell opened the public hearing, there being no comments she closed the public hearing.

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by RODRIGUEZ to approve Ordinance 2011-2.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 2011-2 was adopted.

Ordinance 2011-3 An Ordinance of the Township of Eastampton to amend the Township Code at Section 79 - “Shade Trees”

Mayor Campbell opened the public hearing, there being no comments she closed the public hearing.

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by OVERTON to approve Ordinance 2011-3.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 2011-3 was adopted.

Ordinance 2011-4 An Ordinance of the Township of Eastampton to amend the Township Code at Section 85 - “Storm Sewer’s” with respect to Stormwater Management

Mayor Campbell opened the public hearing, there being no comments she closed the public hearing.

It was MOVED by OVERTON and seconded by NAGLER to approve Ordinance 2011-4.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 2011-4 was adopted.

Ordinance 2011-5 An Ordinance of the Township of Eastampton to amend the Township Code at Section 88 - “Subdivision of Land and Site Plan Review”

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Mayor Campbell opened the public hearing, there being no comments she closed the public hearing.

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by SPRINGER to approve Ordinance 2011-5.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 2011-5 was adopted.

Ordinance 2011-6 An Ordinance of the Township of Eastampton to amend the Township Code at Section 103 - "Zoning" In Particular, the Provisions of Section 103-90 Addressing the Town Center District

Mayor Campbell opened the public hearing.

John LaPierre, 122 Farmdale Road asked if drive-through windows are allowed.

Township Attorney Fahey said they are not allowed and will only be permitted by a variance.

There being no further comments she closed the public hearing.

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by RODRIGUEZ to approve Ordinance 2011-6.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 2011-6 was adopted.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution R2011-42 Approval of Recycling and Solid Waste Disposal Services with Burlington County

It was MOVED by RODRIGUEZ and seconded by OVERTON that Resolution R2011-42 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2011-42 was approved.

Resolution R2011-44 Joining the New Jersey Sustainable Energy Joint Meeting

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by SPRINGER that Resolution R2011-44 be approved.

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ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2011-44 was approved.

Resolution R2011-45 Authorize Executive Session Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 10:4-12
Matters Relating to the Employment Relationship regarding RFP's
for Bond Counsel

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by SPRINGER that Resolution R2011-45 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2011-45 was approved.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

- Police

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by SPRINGER to approve the Police report.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the monthly report for Police was approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by OVERTON that the February 24, 2011 bill list be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the bills dated February 24, 2011 was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Fire District Budget

Chief Eugene Oberfrank, Secretary Mark Searfoss, and Treasurer John Robertshaw from the Board of Fire Commission were present to discuss the defeated fire budget with the Township Council.

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Township Council decided to form a committee to discuss the budget. The committee consisted of Chief Eugene Oberfrank, Secretary Mark Searfoss, Treasurer John Robertshaw, Mayor Campbell and Council Member Overton. They would have a meeting to discuss budget cuts to the fire district budget.

- Market Competition and Consumer Choice Act

Township Council discussed the changes that are outlined in the bill.

Mayor Campbell asked if the resolution could be on the March 14, 2011 agenda for Council's consideration.

- RFP's received for Bond Counsel (closed session)

Township Attorney Fahey said this topic would be discussed in closed session.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Shared Service Update

Mayor Campbell said the next meeting of the Mayors is March 9 and she is attending. Mayor Campbell said she responded to Mayor Camp's letter and it would be attached to the minutes.

- Codification

Township Manager Carew said this was discussed during his manager's report.

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Deputy Mayor Nagler asked Township Manager Carew when Nixle would come out to a meeting. He also asked for a follow-up on the Reverse 911 System.

Township Manager Carew said he would work on that for the next meeting.

Council Member Springer said he attended the basketball game over the weekend and noticed some hard fouls given and things were starting to get out of control.

Mayor Campbell asked Township Manager Carew to send an email to Acting Chief Chris Muraglia to make him aware of the situation.

Council Member Springer said the Environmental Commission had their first meeting on February 23 and they had a few residents in the public. One resident from Eastampton Farms asked about the green team and Mr. Springer mentioned they have not meet in awhile. The resident would like to get the green team members together for a meeting. Township Clerk White stated she would pass the resident's information along to the Township Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John LaPierre, 122 Farmdale Road, said that he and Mr. Diaz are representatives for Rancocas Valley so if they need anything to please reach out to them. He invited them to the community basketball game on April 1. He said he is concerned with the fire district budget. He believes the budget was voted down by the residents for several reasons: emergency services was outsourced to Westampton and they continue to take the tax money from the residents, the fire district is paying the mortgagee on the rescue squad building because they are parking their fire trucks in the building. He said all of their equipment can fit into the Smithville fire house. He said the taxpayers do not know that they are paying to use the rescue squad building. He said the fire district had a vote to buy an ambulance and a chief's vehicle and the resident's voted no and they then used capital money to buy the vehicles anyway.

Mr. LaPierre asked when he would receive the fuel bill so the fire commission could pay it.

Council Member Springer and Deputy Mayor Nagler asked if they could get clarification when the fuel bills are sent out.

Township Manager Carew said he would look into that.

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by SPRINGER to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:40 p.m. and go into closed session.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the motion passed to adjourn the regular meeting and proceed into closed session. Township Council came back into open session to adjourn the meeting.

It was MOVED by NAGLER and seconded by OVERTON to adjourn meeting at 9:57 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Nagler, Overton, Rodriguez, Springer, Campbell
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the motion passed to adjourn the meeting.

Kim-Marie White

Kim-Marie White
Municipal Clerk

Louise Campbell

Louise Campbell
Mayor

February 22, 2011

Sidney Camp, Mayor and Westampton Township Committee
Westampton Township
710 Rancocas Road
Westampton, NJ 08060

Dear Mayor Camp and Westampton Township Committee:

I want to thank you for your letter of February 9, 2010 regarding your request for a meeting to discuss a shared service agreement to merge the police departments of Eastampton and Westampton Townships. The Mayors' meetings between Mt. Holly, Lumberton, Hainesport, Westampton and Eastampton that have taken place in the past year have been helpful in identifying ways in which we can work together that would be beneficial to our constituents but also ways that would not be beneficial.

While the current financial crisis has forced most New Jersey municipalities to find ways to cut costs while avoiding the reduction or elimination of services, Eastampton has always provided our services in the most efficient and responsible way possible. As such, we have been researching and analyzing shared services (including police) for many years. Eastampton Township Council has looked closely at the few instances in New Jersey where towns have merged police departments and know that merging does not lower costs, without greatly reducing services. While the general public may think shared services automatically equate to cost savings, police departments are the one municipal department where this has never been the case.

There are far more state regulations that govern police mergers than any other department. Merging police departments requires significant start-up costs with necessary modifications of vehicles, weapons, uniforms and equipment. Police mergers also typically result in higher pay scales so line items like salaries & wages and pensions actually increase. The only way to reduce costs when merging police departments is if the cumulative staffs of the departments involved are significantly reduced. When neither town has an excess of police staff, the reduction in cumulative staff WILL result in the reduction of police coverage in at least one of the participating towns, if not both.

Shared services in general are only beneficial when one municipality has an excess of specific resources that they can "share" with another municipality in a way that is economically advantageous to both towns. Our inter-local agreement to share Court services is a good

example of this; Westampton had an excess of staff in your Court office and could therefore provide those services at a cost savings for Eastampton. But those conditions do not exist with our police departments.

At the Mayors' meeting of September 2010, your Chief of Police was clear in stating that he did not have resources to share. While ignoring this fact may be politically advantageous, it could also compromise public safety. In fact, it is my understanding that the Police Chiefs of Eastampton, Westampton and Lumberton, as well as the County Sheriff all concluded at the September 2010 meeting that a County wide regional police force would be the only way "sharing" police services could work. Since you were in attendance at that meeting, can you tell me if my understanding of what was concluded is incorrect?

Considering our understanding of police mergers, the fact that we provide police services on a per capita basis cheaper than our neighbors, and our overall satisfaction with our Police Department and it's officers, the Eastampton Township Council has repeatedly adopted motions that state that the only scenario where we would be willing to discuss police shared services is if we were the lead agency. This was re-affirmed yet again upon receipt of your letter and is a condition that is never likely to change. So the only scenario where we would be willing to discuss merging police departments is if Westampton were willing to pay Eastampton to provide them with police services. If Eastampton is ever in the position that we have to reduce police services for financial reasons, we will make those cost savings measures ourselves rather than eliminate a police department we consider second to none.

I would be remiss if I didn't point out that you incorrectly identified and addressed the Eastampton governing body as a committee. Eastampton has a Town Council and governs under the Faulkner Act's Council-Manager form of government. Which form of government a municipality adheres to plays a part in shared service agreements so it is a detail you may want to pay closer attention to.

Sincerely,

Louise Campbell, Mayor

C: Eastampton Township Council
Donna Ryan, Westampton Township Clerk/Administrator
Scott Carew, Eastampton Township Manager
file