

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

March 23, 2015

7:30 pm Regular session

Mayor Zeno called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Everyone participated in the flag salute.

Mayor Zeno certified that notice of this meeting was published in the Burlington County Times on January 9, 2015. 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: Council Member John Adams, Council Member Robert Apgar, Council Member Matthew Edson, Council Member Jay Springer, and Council Member Anthony Zeno. Also present were: Township Attorney Eileen Fahey, Kim-Marie White and Township Manager Eric Schubiger.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Geary, 6 Knotty Oak Drive, said the speeding on Student Drive is outrageous. He suggested speed bumps. He said the speeding is worse during the hours of 5pm and 6pm.

Township Manager Schubiger said he would speak to the Chief of Police and report back to Council.

ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance 2015-2 An Ordinance Amending Article XVII, Section 5-45 "Economic Development Committee"

Mayor Zeno opened the public hearing. There being no comment from the floor the public comment was closed.

It was MOVED by APGAR and seconded by SPRINGER to approve Ordinance 2015-2.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the Ordinance was approved.

RESOLUTIONS:

Public Hearing on Fire Budget

Mayor Zeno opened the public hearing.

Mayor Zeno said the Fire District budget was defeated by the voters on February 21st. The finance committee met with the fire district to go over the budget that was submitted. A Special meeting was held on March 17th with the fire commissioners and they reviewed the information that was gathered. Mayor Zeno said they spent hours reviewing the material.

Resolution R2015-49 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Eastampton Certifying the Amount Necessary to be appropriated for the 2015 Budget of the Eastampton Fire District

It was MOVED by ADAMS and seconded by SPRINGER to approve Resolution R2015-46.

Councilman Adams said he does not want to harm the firefighters or harm the safety of the residents. He has spent in excessive of fifty hours reviewing their budget and trying to piece it all together. He mentioned that the 2015 budget was never posted to their website, so how could a taxpayer make an informed decision on their budget. He stated that he has done the best he could with their budget with the information that was provided to them; therefore, he supports the new budget amount. He said he does not want them to come back if the budget gets defeated again. If the budget does get defeated again then the fire commissioners need to come back with justifications on their budget. He said the Council looks at every dime that is spent with taxpayer money.

Councilman Edson said he is supportive of the fire department, but after looking at the fire budget, he is disappointed with the fire district. He said the lack of responses to the questions that were asked at the March 17th meeting made the process much more difficult.

Deputy Mayor Apgar said the comments presented were stronger than he would have presented them but they are fair. He said no one is disappointed with their service to the community. He said a subcommittee should be created so they could go over the specific areas they had objections in. He stated that they looked at every line item in their budget to make judgments in each area that was fair to cut, based on the information they received without impairing the safety of the community. He said their presentation was not as detailed, as they would have liked.

Councilman Springer said he echoes much of what was said this evening. He said being the senior member of Council; it was a very frustrating process for him. He said in the past it was a very fluid and quick process where the fire district would work with the Township Council. He said he spent a lot of time over the weekend going over the budget. He said he is most disappointed that they never answered what the \$40,000 in the small equipment capital line item would be spent on. He said he was waiting on a response and never received one and that was extremely frustrating.

Mayor Zeno said that \$18,000 was explained to them that the money would be used to purchase air supply tanks that they needed to replace, but the other \$22,000 was never justified. Mayor Zeno said the lesson to be learned is that Council gave them plenty of time to provide the answers to the questions they asked but they never did answer. He also said that Council has to account for taxpayer money. He stated that there is a reason the fire budget was defeated and as

the Mayor if he thought the cuts would affect the safety of the residents he would not have agreed to do it, but the cuts that were made do not affect the safety of the community.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Zeno
Nays - Springer

There being four (4) ayes and one (1) nays, the Resolution was approved.

Resolution R2015-50 Introduction of 2015 Municipal Budget

Mayor Zeno said Township Manager Schubiger provided them with the budget details.

Township Manager Schubiger said Chief Financial Officer Mingin was instrumental in the budget process and provided historical facts for him. Mr. Schubiger said the Township is in good shape. He said his goal was to stabilize the tax rate and maintain the level of services and programs provided by the Township and he was able to accomplish that. He said the 2015 municipal budget would not have a tax increase. The total budget would be \$3,646,069.28. He said Mr. Mingin has very good fiscal practices. Mr. Schubiger said the tax collection rate is 99.59%, which is extraordinary for a municipality, and it is the highest it has been in a while.

Councilman Springer asked about the open space tax.

Chief Financial Officer Mingin said they could increase the open space tax a penny every other year.

Mayor Zeno said the public hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 27, 2015.

It was MOVED by APGAR and seconded by EDSON to approve Resolution R2015-50.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the Resolution was approved.

Resolution R2015-51 Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2014 to June 2019

It was MOVED by ADAMS and seconded by SPRINGER to approve Resolution R2015-51.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the Resolution was approved.

Resolution R2015-52 Authorizing Self-Examination for 2015 Municipal Budget

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by APGAR to approve Resolution R2015-52.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the Resolution was approved.

Resolution R2015-53 Extending Budget Adoption Deadline to April 24, 2015 and to Increase Temporary Appropriations to Provide for Period to Budget Adoption

It was MOVED by ADAMS and seconded by EDSON to approve Resolution R2015-53.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the Resolution was approved.

MINUTES:

- March 9, 2015

It was MOVED by ADAMS and seconded by APGAR to approve the minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

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

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

- Court
- Engineer
- Police (January)
- Treasurer

It was MOVED by APGAR and seconded by SPRINGER to approve the reports.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the reports were approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

It was MOVED by ADAMS and seconded by EDSON to approve the bills.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the bills were approved for payment.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Township Manager Schubiger said that he and Municipal Clerk White attended a networking event for developers and it was a nice event to attend.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Summer Camp

Township Manager Schubiger said in the past the Township and School District provided summer camp that equaled a whole day. The school would provide before care and afternoon care. The Township offered summer camp from 9 am to noon. The school is not providing the extended day program anymore and closing the school on Fridays during the summer. Previously during bad weather, the Township would utilize the school, but since the school is not open on Fridays, so they could save on energy costs, he needed to adjust the summer program. He spoke with Lumberton School District and made arrangements. He said it is a partnership with Lumberton and would be providing an eight (8) week program that would be housed at the Florence L. Walther School (56 Chestnut Street, Lumberton) and open to students entering Grades 1 – 8. The dates would be June 29 to August 21 and hours are 7am to 6pm daily. The online registration begins on April 20th. He said the Township would be offering several weekly half day and full day recreation programs including Mad Science enrichment programs, US Sports Institute multi-sport camps and Youth Stages theatre arts workshops for parents that still want to take advantage of a half day program. The programs would be offered at Buttonwood Park from July 6 to August 14.

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Councilman Adams thanked Eric and Kim for being patient with him during the last few weeks with all of his questions regarding the fire budget and receiving the information for him.

Mayor Zeno thanked everyone for their input and working together on the fire budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Cliff, 1080 Monmouth Road said the fire district was lectured heavily on their budget and tossed out the term “grant money” but he wanted to point out that grant money comes from the tax payers. He also said it is unsafe to cross at Lakeview Terrace across Monmouth Road and the sidewalks were installed by using “grant money”.

It was MOVED by APGAR and seconded by SPRINGER to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Adams, Apgar, Edson, Springer, Zeno
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the motion was approved.

Kim-Marie White

Kim-Marie White
Municipal Clerk

Anthony Zeno

Anthony Zeno
Mayor

Approved: May 11, 2015