

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Monday, August 10, 2009
7:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Nagler certified that the meeting was noticed in the Annual Meeting Notice. Notice was published in the Burlington County Times, sent to the Courier Post, filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted in the Eastampton Township Municipal Building, all on January 10, 2009. All requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" were satisfied.

Everyone participated in the flag salute.

Present were, Mayor Keith Nagler, Deputy Mayor Jay Springer, Council Members Louise Campbell, Joseph Maroccia, and Walter Tafe. Also present were: Township Manager Scott Carew, Township Attorney Eileen Fahey and Municipal Clerk Kim-Marie White.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Campbell, Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Springer, Mr. Tafe and Mr. Nagler

PRESENTATION: Northern Burlington County Growth and Preservation Plan

Mark Remsa gave a power point presentation to the Council regarding Northern Burlington County Growth and Preservation Plan. "The Northern Burlington County region is growing with new homes on large lots, which are followed by stores, shops and offices located along highways and at key road intersections. As developable land becomes scarce in the county and state, pressures mount for industrial and commercial operations to expand in the region. When growth and development occur in the region, highly productive farmland is consumed. By the end of 2007 the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with municipal and state agencies, invested more than \$140 million dollars to preserve farmland in the region. Certainly, there isn't enough money to preserve all of the farmland and open space in Northern Burlington County."

"The Northern Burlington County and Preservation Plan (GAPP) is the result of a six year consensus-building process among residents, farmers and other businesses, property owners, community groups, thirteen municipalities, and various County and State agencies. The GAPP is a sensible and practical regional approach to land use planning – a balance of growth, development and preservation. Participating municipalities are encouraged to endorse the GAPP, along with the County, and then use the plan's strategies to achieve the regional vision, goals and objectives for Northern Burlington County. A local endorsement means County commitment to support municipal implantation of the GAPP."

Mark Remsa answered the questions from the audience.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

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Township Manager Carew said that complaints have come in from residents about the Tax Collector not collecting taxes all day. Mr. Carew said the posted hours for the Tax Collector are 8:30-12:30 pm. He has instructed all staff to take the tax payments and turn them into Doris.

Township Manager Carew said Superintendent Dr. Krastek has asked that the Council prepare a proclamation for Constitution Week.

Township Manager Carew said that Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund asked that the Employee Manual be updated; Council would need to pass a Resolution. There were only a few revisions to be made regarding positions.

Mayor Nagler said he saw that in the absence of the Township Manager the Municipal Clerk shall be the Acting Township Manager and asked why the Clerk and not the Chief Financial Officer.

Township Manager Carew said that he has spoken with the Municipal Clerk and the Chief Financial Officer and since the Clerk is in the Manor House most of the time it would be easier to make executive decisions. The financial decisions of the Township would remain the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer. He also mentioned that at times signatures are needed on checks and Gerry would not have to sign twice, and Clerk could sign in the absence of the Township Manager.

Township Attorney Fahey said that she would like Mr. Carew to check with the Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund for their opinion being that the Chief Financial Officer position is a higher capacity than the Municipal Clerk for authority.

Township Manager Carew said that the Township has received \$250,000 from extraordinary aide. He said it looks like a six cent increase for the tax payers. Mr. Carew said a budget amendment needs to be approved by the Council to accept the \$250,000 and the \$10,000 for the Sustainable Jersey Grant.

Mayor Nagler asked for Council thoughts.

Councilman Tafe said he does not oppose having a special meeting to accept the budget amendment.

Council decided to have a special meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. to introduce the budget amendment.

Township Manager Carew asked what the tax increase would be.

Mayor Nagler said he would like to see a four cent increase for local purpose and reducing the open space tax by a penny.

Township Manager Carew said if they go with a four cent increase it would not help the Township's problem with the surplus.

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Mayor Nagler asked how much money they would save in furloughs.

Township Manager Carew said they would save \$7,000 for one furlough day.

Councilman Tafe said he opposes furloughs days.

Mayor Nagler said that the taxpayers are suffering.

Councilman Tafe said that the employees did not create the situation that the Township is currently in.

Township Manager Carew said if they do not increase by six cents they could be in trouble next year, because the Township may not get extraordinary aid two years in a row,

Councilman Tafe said that deferring of the pensions was a mistake for the Township. Instead of doing furloughs there should be wage freezes and layoffs.

Councilman Maroccia asked that contracts be opened back up to see if raises could be taken back.

Mayor Nagler and Council said they would go with a five cent increase for local purpose and one penny decrease for open space tax. The tax increase would \$167.00 a year on a house assessed at \$275,000.

Township Manager Carew said he forwarded the Township Engineer's proposal to Council. The total cost of the three roads is \$328,000. They are looking to bond \$150,000 with section 20 expenses included. If they go with the \$150,000 they would do one of the three roads.

Township Engineer Jamanow said that the proposal consisted of the following streets and roads Nottingham Way from Stonegate Drive to Kingsley Road, Kingsley Road from Knightsbridge Road to Nottingham Way and Lancashire Drive from Knightsbridge Road to Nottingham Way.

Councilman Maroccia asked the Township Engineer are the roads an absolute emergency to get done.

Township Engineer answered no.

Councilman Tafe asked how they got from early this year indicating they were not doing any roads to now need to repair roads.

Township Manager Carew said in the beginning of the year he was saying no to redoing any roads because of the financial situation. However, now we will be paying off some bonds and the money would be available to pay for the roads.

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Councilman Tafe asked if the Township puts down the five percent down payment how much is left in that line item for an emergency.

Township Manager Carew said it would leave next to nothing in an event of an emergency.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 13, 2009

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by MAROCCIA that the July 13, 2009 minutes, be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the July 13, 2009 minutes, were approved.

ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION:

Ordinance 2009-6

A Bond Ordinance of the Township of Eastampton Providing for 2009 Road Improvements Program by the Township of Eastampton and Appropriating One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds and Notes in the Amount of \$142,500.00

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by SPRINGER to introduce Ordinance 2009-06 and set public hearing for September 14, 2009.

Mayor Nagler said the publication date on the ordinance would be August 14, 2009.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Springer, Nagler
Nays - Maroccia, Tafe

There being three (3) ayes and two (2) nays, Ordinance 2009-6 was not approved on introduction.

Ordinance 2009-7

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 61 of the Township Code to Address Requirements of The Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) Regarding Compliance with the Township's Prior Round and Third Round Housing Obligations and Creating New Chapter 62 to Incorporate Development Fees

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by TAFE to introduce Ordinance 2009-07 and set public hearing for September 14, 2009.

Mayor Nagler said the publication date on the ordinance would be August 14, 2009.

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Mayor Nagler asked that the Township Planner provide a memo to the Council for the September 14th meeting outlining the procedure with COAH.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 2009-07 was approved.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution R2009-52 Adoption of 2009 Municipal Budget

Public Hearing Tabled from May 11, 2009, May 26, June 8, July 13

It was MOVED by TAFE and seconded by CAMPBELL to table Resolution R2009-52 to the September 14th meeting.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-52 was approved to be tabled.

Resolution R2009-64 Assignment of Tax Liens

It was MOVED by MAROCCIA and seconded by CAMPBELL to rescind Resolution R2009-64.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-64 was rescinded.

Resolution R2009-65 Authorizing Sale of Tax Liens through Public Bid

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by CAMPBELL to table Resolution R2009-65 to the September 14th meeting.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-65 was approved to be tabled.

Resolution R2009-78 Approving Renewal of Shared Services Agreement with Burlington County for Integrated Law Enforcement Computer Project

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by MAROCCIA that Resolution R2009-78 be approved.

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ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-78 was approved.

Resolution R2009-81 Approval to Adopt Temporary Capital Budget

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by SPRINGER that Resolution R2009-81 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Springer, Nagler
Nays - Maroccia, Tafe

There being three (3) ayes and two (2) nays, Resolution R2009-81 was approved.

Resolution R2009-82 Authorized Public Auction of Abandoned Vehicles

It was MOVED by TAFE and seconded by SPRINGER that Resolution R2009-82 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-82 was approved.

Resolution R2009-83 Refund Taxes Paid From June 25, 2009 to Current Date and
Cancel Taxes Due for Block 902, Lot 34 (Disabled Veteran)

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by CAMPBELL that Resolution R2009-83 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Nagler
Nays - None
Abstain - Tafe

There being four (4) ayes and one (1) abstention, Resolution R2009-83 was approved.

Resolution R2009-84 Increasing the Police Department Change Fund

It was MOVED by MAROCCIA and seconded by CAMPBELL that Resolution R2009-84 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-84 was approved.

Resolution R2009-85 Authorizing the Funding of The Township of Eastampton's Share of the MACCS Contract with AVR Resource Group, Inc.

It was MOVED by MAROCCIA and seconded by CAMPBELL that Resolution R2009-85 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-85 was approved.

Resolution R2009-86 Approval to Adopt Revised Policy and Procedures Manual

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by MAROCCIA to table Resolution R2009-86 to the September 14th meeting.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-86 was approved to be tabled.

Resolution R2009-87 Closed Session (Matters Relating to Litigation, Negotiation and the Attorney – Client Privilege; Matters Relating to the Purchase, Lease or Acquisition of Real Property or the Investment of Public Funds)

It was MOVED by TAFE and seconded by MAROCCIA that Resolution R2009-87 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-87 was approved.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

- Clerk's Office
- Construction
- Police (June)
- Public Works
- Tax Assessor (May, June & July)
- Treasurer

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by TAFE to approve the reports for Clerk's Office, Construction, Police (June), Public Works and Treasurer.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler

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Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the monthly reports for Clerk's Office, Construction, Police (June), Public Works and Treasurer were approved.

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by CAMPBELL to approve the reports for Tax Assessor's May, June and July reports.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Springer, Tafe, Nagler

Nays - None

Abstain - Maroccia

There being four (4) ayes and one (1) abstention, Tax Assessor's May, June and July reports were approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

It was MOVED by TAFE and seconded by MAROCCIA that the August 6, 2009 bill list be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler

Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the bills were approved dated August 6, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS:

- LUPB fees for informal or conceptual review

Mayor Nagler said due to lack of business and development in town several applicants have come to the Land Use Planning Board to have their plans reviewed prior to submitting their application. The Land Use Planning Board would like to charge a \$500.00 conceptual review fee plus an escrow fee.

Township Attorney Fahey said she knows there is something in the code and she will look it up and get back to Council.

- Creation of Policy for New Township Sign

Township Manager Carew said the laptop was purchased to update the sign. The software needs to be configured on all laptops. At the time the sign needed to be changed Kim's laptop was not configured. From this point on the laptop would be kept in Scott's office in case the sign needs to be changed.

Deputy Mayor Springer asked if Public Works would be redoing the wooden Welcome to Eastampton signs because some of them are in bad shape. They need to be sanded and painted.

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Township Manager Carew said he would look into how they can be updated.

Mayor Nagler asked that Council have input for the RFP process. He would like to have the RFP's in hand the beginning of November. He also asked that the RFP package be given to the Council.

Township Attorney Fahey said that RFP's would be received on November 5, 2009 at noon.

Municipal Clerk White said that once received they could be handed out at the November 9 meeting and placed on the November 23 agenda to discuss.

Councilman Maroccia said maybe instead of one meeting a month during the summer they should have two meetings. The agendas have been way too heavy.

Township Manager Carew said that if they see a heavy agenda coming they could discuss it at that time to have a second meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Leaf Composting Program with Britton Industries, Inc.

Township Manager Carew said nothing new to report.

- Sustainable Jersey

Township Manager Carew said nothing new to report.

Deputy Mayor Springer mentioned that part of the grant money has been received.

- Economic Development Topics

Township Manager Carew said nothing new to report.

- Policy for those who attend the NJ League

Township Manager Carew said he wrote a policy for the employees regarding who can attend the NJ league to obtain certification units.

- Codification

Township Manager Carew said nothing new to report.

- Road Improvement Program

Township Manager Carew said nothing new to report.

- Criminal backgrounds checks and finger printing on Recreation Volunteers

Township Attorney Fahey said the draft ordinance that was provided to her is very good and comprehensive. Council needs to review the procedure to see who would be fingerprinted for the leagues. The criminal background checks would be done every three years.

Councilwoman Campbell said in speaking of the dollar amount there is a grant available from the Megan Kanka Foundation which would pay half of the fee for one hundred percent participation. She said if it is a large amount of coaches that need to be fingerprinted she would see if they can set up a temporary center for a day and have everyone come in to be fingerprinted all at once. She has reached out to Mrs. Kanka to come and give a presentation to the Council Members.

Township Attorney Fahey asked if Council wishes to have this Ordinance on for introduction for the September 14, 2009 agenda.

Council agreed to have it listed for introduction on the September 14, 2009.

- Comcast Franchise Renewal Agreement

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

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Nagler asked Township Manager Carew to reach out to the Burlington County Reporter Melissa Hayes and let her know that the Township Council is not a Committee.

Mayor Nagler asked why Council is not seeing a Court Report. This is the second time he asked for it.

Township Manager Carew said it is an excellent point and he would ask Donna.

Township Attorney Fahey said being Westampton is the lead agency the report would go to their Council for approval but a courtesy report goes to the participants.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Biagio Leopanto, 36 Willowbrook Way, asked if any of the stimulus money being given out by the President of the United States will come to the Township?

Township Manager Carew said he was not sure how they were disbursing funds.

Biagio Leopanto, 36 Willowbrook Way asked why the taxes keep going up? He said that people are watching them and he has been going around to the neighbors educating them on the decisions of the Council. Residents in Eastampton are hurting bad and he will keep coming to the meetings.

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John Geary, 6 Knotty Oak Drive, asked if the employees can start to contribute to the healthcare in the Township.

It was MOVED by MAROCCIA and seconded by CAMPBELL to adjourn the open session meeting at 11:05 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Campbell, Maroccia, Springer, Tafe, Nagler
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

Keith Nagler

Keith Nagler
Mayor

Approved: September 14, 2009