

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Monday, September 14, 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: Ann Moore, Burlington County, Office of Recycling

Ms. Moore went over the recycling cart program along with the funding plan, funding details, steps the Township must take and the recycle bank options. She said if the Township wishes to participate she needs a commitment letter from Mr. Carew within the next 2 weeks. She answered questions from the residents.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Residents shared their comments during the public portions for the Budget Amendment and the Adoption of the 2009 Municipal Budget.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT:

Township Manager Carew said he is working on a letter regarding the Homes of Hope and why the Township is not appealing the decision.

Township Manager Carew said that the Public Works Director is repairing the Carriage Park sign and it should be up soon. The sign had an infestation of bees inside and it had to come down to be repaired.

Township Manager Carew said he received a letter from Burlington County indicating which pieces of land in Eastampton are being targeted for farmland preservation; and he placed a phone call to them because he believes the letter was sent by accident.

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Township Manager Carew said he applied for funds under the Greenhouse Gas Grant Reduction Program. He is specifically looking to obtain funds to engineer the improvements outlined in the Urban plan for Woodlane (from Monmouth to Jacksonville) and Powell (from Knightsbridge to the Mt. Holly border).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

August 10, 2009

August 10, 2009 (Closed Session)

It was MOVED by MAROCCIA and seconded by TAFE that the August 10, 2009 regular and August 10, 2009 closed session minutes, be approved.

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the August 10, 2009 regular and August 10, 2009 closed session minutes, were approved.

ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING:

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 TAFE and seconded by MAROCCIA to approve Ordinance 2009-7.

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 2009-7 was adopted.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution R2009-88

Approval to Amend the 2009 Municipal Budget

Deputy Municipal Clerk Carew read the Amendment to the 2009 Municipal Budget in full.

Mayor Nagler opened the budget amendment to the public for comments.

The sign in sheet is on file in the Municipal Clerks Office and made a part of the record.

Residents asked questions regarding the 2009 Municipal Budget for an explanation of in cap and out of cap, how much open space money to maintain the land, open space referendum, if the Township keeps NJ State tax money, which department received a 12.5 percentage raise increase, the old Eastampton Elementary school, why reductions in surplus, how much is the police budget and percentage of tax money that goes to schools.

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Township Manager Carew and Chief Financial Officer answered all the questions that the residents had concerns about. They advised the residents that they are looking into re-opening negotiations to have the employees pay a percentage of the healthcare costs. He explained how the school budget impacts the taxes in a municipality. They advised them on the number of shared services the Township has gone with to keep costs down.

Township Manager Carew explained that the two unions received a four percent increase for 2009 that was agreed in the contract which was adopted by the Council in December 2008. He advised that non-union employees have not received a raise for this year yet. He also stated that the 12.5 percentage increase was for the Public Works Department for four people.

Township Manager Carew and Chief Financial Officer addressed the remaining questions and concerns of the residents that were in attendance.

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by CAMPBELL to approve Resolution R2009-88.

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

There being three (3) ayes, two (2) nays, Resolution R2009-88 was approved.

Resolution R2009-52 Adoption of 2009 Amended Municipal Budget

Mayor Nagler opened the public hearing on the budget for comments.

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by SPRINGER to approve Resolution R2009-52.

Councilwoman Campbell said it pains her but her answer is yes. She also asked what would happen if the budget did not pass?

Deputy Mayor Springer said he thanked the Township Manager and Chief Financial Officer for maintaining essential services and meeting with the State of NJ and fighting for extraordinary aide and receiving it. They have done an exceptional job and have off set the property taxes. He said the taxes would go up approximately one cup of coffee a week.

Councilman Tafe said he has to take exception to the comment regarding one cup of coffee a week because whether it is one cup of coffee or a slice of pizza it is his coffee or pizza and no one has the right to drink it but him. He is voting no on the budget because he is absolutely opposed to the pension deferral and the Public Works percentage raises.

Mayor Nagler said that Mr. Tafe made an excellent point and he is very upset about the \$163,000 police pension deferral. To live in Eastampton right now the average home is paying \$4.01 per day for police services, trash collection, leaf collection, storm water management, Tax Collector, Registrar, Public Works, Parks, Recreation, snow plowing, Tax Assessor and street lighting among other services. The taxes will increase the average home \$157.30 a year or \$.43 a day.

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He said he is proud to report that in 2005 DCA reported that Eastampton had the lowest per capita spending of \$643.00, with this current budget the per capita spending for 6800 residents is \$659.00 and they managed over 2.5 years to cut over \$300,000 of expenses. He said if the budget does not pass tonight the municipality will not open and will be in the hands of the State.

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

There being three (3) ayes, two (2) nays, Resolution R2009-52 was approved.

Resolution R2009-65 Authorizing sale to highest bidder of tax certificate and subsequent lien held by the Township of Eastampton on certain properties

It was MOVED by MAROCCIA and seconded by TAFE to approve Resolution R2009-65.

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

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

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

Township Manager Carew said the Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund asked that all manuals be updated. He updated the manual and made some minor changes to positions the Township no longer has. He said that the Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund has approved all the changes.

It was MOVED by TAFE and seconded by MAROCCIA to approve Resolution R2009-86.

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

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

Resolution R2009-89 Amended TWA Permit for Eastampton Village Center

It was MOVED by MAROCCIA and seconded by CAMPBELL to approve Resolution R2009-89.

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-89 was approved.

Resolution R2009-90 Approval of 2010 Municipal Drug Alliance Grant Application

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Mayor Nagler asked why there is only one resident participant on the drug alliance. He said according to the list some positions can be filled and would like Township Manager Carew to reach out to Donna Ryan from Westampton.

It was MOVED by MAROCCIA and seconded by CAMPBELL to approve Resolution R2009-90.

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-90 was approved.

Resolution R2009-91 Authorize Public Auction of Abandoned Vehicles

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by TAFE to approve Resolution R2009-91.

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-91 was approved.

Resolution R2009-92 Approval of Creation of Green Team for Sustainable Jersey

Township Manager Carew said this is for Sustainable Jersey points.

Township Attorney Fahey said the appointments are only good until the end of the year.

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by MAROCCIA to approve Resolution R2009-92.

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-92 was approved.

Resolution R2009-93 Closed Session

It was MOVED by CAMPBELL and seconded by MAROCCIA to approve Resolution R2009-93.

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2009-93 was approved.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

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- Clerk's
- Construction
- Police (July)
- Public Works
- Tax Assessor

Mayor Nagler asked where the Court report is.

Township Manager Carew said that a report has been submitted to Officer Townsend but he would check.

Mayor Nagler said he would like to know how much income the court is generating from Eastampton and out of all the tickets written what is uncollected and what they are doing to collect the money. He also asked what happened to the uncollected fees prior to Theresa leaving.

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

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

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

It was MOVED by TAFE and seconded by SPRINGER to approve the report for Tax Assessor.

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

There being four (4) ayes and one (1) abstention, Tax Assessor report was approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Proclamation for Constitution Week (September 17-23, 2009)

Mayor Nagler said the proclamation would be read Thursday morning in celebration of Constitution Week.

- Proclamation for Patriot's Day (September 11, 2009)

Mayor Nagler said that the school asked for this proclamation for the dedication of Patriots Path at the school.

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- COAH CTM Training for Trust Funds

Township Attorney Fahey said the Township needs to appoint a MHL Municipal Housing Liaison to fill out the annual reports for COAH.

Mayor Nagler asked if the Tax Assessor's office can do it.

Township Manager Carew said he is willing to be the MHL Municipal Housing Liaison.

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.

- Economic Development Topics

Township Manager Carew said nothing new to report.

- Codification

Township Clerk White said nothing new to report.

- Comcast Franchise Renewal Agreement

Township Attorney Fahey said she received a letter from James Mallon and will forward it to Council.

- RFP/RFQ's for 2009
Publish in newspaper and on the webpage (October 13)
Receiving RFP/RFQ's (November 5 @ noon, distribution to members on November 9)

Township Clerk White said one electronic version and six hard copies would be submitted. She said that she would distribute them all on November 9.

Councilman Tafe said going through them he looked at the evaluation criteria and he doesn't understand knowledge of the Township and the subject matter to be addressed by the contract.

Township Attorney said in most municipalities' the professionals have a history of the Township and knowledge of projects. If Council wants it deleted it could be deleted.

Councilman Tafe said he thinks it should be deleted and the individual should know the laws not

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the knowledge of the Township.

Mayor Nagler said he believes the individual should have some knowledge, especially with projects, because it would take longer to get something finished.

- LUPB fees for informal or conceptual review

Township Attorney Fahey said she stated at the last meeting that she thought they already had something in place, but after she looked it was for redevelopment fees. Township Attorney said this Ordinance would be provided for introduction on September 28, 2009.

- Criminal Background checks for Recreation Employees and Volunteers

Councilwoman Campbell said that Mrs. Maureen Kanka would be attending the September 28, 2009 Council Meeting to give a presentation regarding the background checks on recreation employees and volunteers.

Township Attorney Fahey said that she gave the draft ordinance to the Chief of Police to review and he has some comments that would be incorporated into the ordinance for introduction.

Mayor Nagler said the Township Engineer sent a memo to Township Clerk White stating that dumpster ordinances need to be passed by Council in regulation with the storm water management regulations.

Township Attorney Fahey said they have to be in effect by September 2010. The Township Manager has to speak with Rich Parks the Public Works Director to see how violations would be handled. These could go on an agenda in January 2010.

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

The staff and Council Members wished Township Manager Carew and Mayor Nagler Happy Birthdays.

Councilman Campbell said that Fun day is coming up on September 19.

Deputy Mayor Springer said after looking at the sales report from the Tax Assessor the homes are selling for their assessed value and looks forward to seeing them stay that way.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by MAROCCIA to adjourn the open session meeting at 10:45 P.M.

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

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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: October 26, 2009