

**EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
April 9, 2007
7:30 p.m.**

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

Pledge to the Flag. Everyone participated.

Opening Statement

Notice of this meeting was published in the Burlington County Times on January 9, 2007. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and sent to the Courier Post for information.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Maroccia, Mr. Renzulli, Mr. Hartman, Mr. Tafe, and Mr. Nagler

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Scott Carew, Chief Financial Officer Gerald Mingin and Solicitor Eileen Fahey

ABSENT: Clerk Linda Lovins

Public Comments

Mayor Nagler opened the meeting to the public, hearing no comments from the public, Mayor Nagler closed the meeting to the public.

Township Manager's Report

Manager Carew will be meeting with Nancy Jamanow and Sharbell tomorrow to go over final plans for the recreation building.

Manager Carew will also be meeting with the Governor's office, the township electrician and Jim White from the school district to go over final details for the governor's visit on Wednesday.

Manager Carew met with Ed Kensler last week to try to get the County OEM procedures up to speed. One of the things that will be done on the third Thursday in April is a table-top exercise which will be put together by Mr. Kensler. Mr. Kensler will make up a scenario and all of the emergency management team will be here as well as the county to go through their parts of the scenario.

Manager Carew was made aware of a problem with the water basin at the end of Liat Drive. There seems to be something stopping the water causing substantial backup. ERI is looking into it. The problem was beyond what public works can take care of. There is a possibility that this could be related to what Sharbell is doing. Sharbell has been contacted. If that is the case, Sharbell will take care of the situation. There is also a tree growing very

close to the stoppage which could also be the problem.

Manager Carew attended a JIF meeting last week and received a plaque for Eastampton being the only Township ever to have no time lost in a year due to workman's compensation. That was for 2006. He thinks it says a lot about the safety team for last year which was Mary, the Chief and Rich Parks. They had training on a monthly basis.

Judy Taylor will be retiring after 32 years of service to the Township. The employees are planning a party for her. Members of the police department have been given their gun upon retirement per Chief Mingin. The value of the gun is roughly \$500.00. The question to council is - what, if anything, does council feel comfortable with spending towards Judy's retirement. The party and the gift is roughly about \$500-\$600. Chief Mingin stated the dinner is at Charley's on May 18 and that he will be getting her a plaque in recognition. Her retirement is effective June 1. Mayor Nagler asked Chief Mingin his thoughts. Chief Mingin stated that although she is not a police officer she is just as invaluable to the organization and would like to see a like amount. Councilman Hartman cannot see how the township can do any less for her especially given that she has probably had more years than any of the officers that have retired.

Councilman Maroccia asked Chief Mingin where the money typically came from when previous officers retired. Manager Carew stated that what is being asked, is that the township cover the cost of her and her family to go to the dinner and contribute to the gift. Manager Carew stated that everyone else has to pay their own way. Tickets will be about \$30-\$35 a piece.

Councilman Tafe suggested that since there are five council members and rather than spending the taxpayer's money each council member donate \$100.00. Both Chief Mingin and Manager Carew stated that if council is willing to do that they will both chip in an equal amount. Council agreed to the donation.

Chief Mingin stated that the lieutenant wants nothing. Usually when someone retires they are given a luncheon at Charleys. The Chief has ordered a plaque.

At the last meeting Mr. La Pierre brought up payment of the water bill. Mr. La Pierre then dropped that bill off to the Township the following Friday and stated that the fire department is not paying it. Mr. Carew told Mr. La Pierre that likewise the township is not paying it. Manager Carew gave council a background on this matter. Up until the fire district was created in 1983 or 1984 the township was paying the water bill. The fire district paid it from that point on. This year's bill is \$68,000 which is paid in CAP. One of the reasons the fire district was created is that they do not have a spending CAP. The fire district budget, which was voted down by the voters and subsequently adjusted by council, had included within it the money to pay this bill. Mr. Carew asked Eileen to reach out to the water company because he sent them a letter back in November asking that the township name be taken off the bill.

Manager Carew is willing to allow Eileen to fight this and wants to know if that is what council wants if that is what it comes down to. If the township were to pay the bill it would mean \$68,000 in job cuts and the fire district has the money to pay it. Manager Carew also spoke with DCA and was told that virtually every township that has a fire

district, the fire district pays that bill.

Councilman Renzulli asked if there was anything in writing that shows that this is a request of the full board of fire commissioners. Manager Carew stated that there is not.

Chief Mingin stated that in light of the recent developments that have taken place the township can introduce on April 23. Chief Mingin reminded council that the final adoption of the tax assessor ordinance has to happen and the estoppel period run before they can introduce the budget. It was decided that introduction could take place on May 14.

Councilman Renzulli reminded everyone that if the school budget fails the township will be dealing with that as well.

Acceptance of Minutes

Motion by Councilman Hartman, seconded by Councilman Tafe to accept the following Minutes:

February 28, 2007 Environmental Commission Minutes

All voted in the affirmative.

Approval of Current Year Minutes

Motion by Councilman Maroccia, seconded by Councilman Tafe to approve the following Minutes with the changes as noted:

- March 19, 2007 Budget Workshop
- March 26, 2007 Regular Session

Councilman Hartman asked that his comment be added when he suggested that they not open and close to the public after each item on the March 19 minutes. All voted in the affirmative.

Resolutions

Motion by Councilman Hartman, seconded by Councilman Maroccia to adopt the following Resolutions:

2007-40 Award of Contract for Alterations and Renovations at Municipal Police Department. (This resolution was given a number at the previous meeting and tabled).

2007-46 Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Burlington County Shared Services Forum

2007-47 Approval of Application for Amended Raffle for Tabernacle

Township, PTA, Inc.

2007-48 Resolution Implementing the National Incident Management System.

Manager Carew briefly explained each resolution. Councilman Hartman had a comment relative to a blank space on 2007-40. Ms. Fahey stated that Gerry will fill in that appropriation number.

Councilman Tafe asked if the charges for raffle resolutions were ever settled. Ms. Fahey explained that there was no charge for 2007-47 because it was previously approved but had to be amended for the date because the organization could not hold their dinner due to weather.

Councilman Renzulli read 2007-48 and wants to know what it does for the township. Ms. Fahey explained that it is just stating that the township will participate in the day-to-day emergency response system. Mayor Nagler asked if this has an impact on the township's recent poor review from the County. Manager Carew stated that it did.

Ms. Fahey stated that this says that the township is agreeing to be part of a standardized system. Councilman Maroccia asked if we are part of the system will the State mandate equipment purchases and the like. Ms. Fahey stated that it is not that they can't obligate, but it is also a regional system so it has to be a regionalized effort. Manager Carew took it one step further and stated that if the township chooses not to participate it could preclude the township from receiving grant money.

Mayor Nagler asked if the homeland security money is tied to this agreement. Manager Carew stated that it wasn't that he was aware of.

Councilman Renzulli stated that he was not happy with the approach taken for municipal, state and counties to work together in New Orleans. Councilman Renzulli stated that they are still not working together and it has been two years. However, if it affects grant money it is worth adopting it.

All voted in the affirmative.

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2007-03 and set Public Hearing for April 23, 2007

_____ Motion by Councilman Hartman, seconded by Councilman Maroccia to adopt the following ordinance on first reading:

2007-03 An Ordinance to Supplement the Code of Eastampton Township to Provide an Amendment to Section 2-28 to Create the Office of Municipal Tax Assessor, Creating Such Office Jointly with The Township of Maple Shade, Providing for the Appointment of a Joint Municipal Tax Assessor, for the Operation and Cost Thereof, Authorizing Periodic Agreements with the Township of Maple Shade to Fix Further Conditions, and Abolishing the Existing Position of the Tax Assessor, All Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48B-14, ET SEQ."

Mayor Nagler advised that this is the shared services agreement with Maple Shade. Manager Carew stated that as Gerry has said before, this ordinance needs to be done for us to move forward as quickly as possible. The township has been paying the cost since January 1. As the agreement is written, the township will be reimbursed retro-active to January 1 and all costs will be removed from CAP.

Upon roll call vote, all voted in the affirmative

Old Business

None

New Business

Zoning Ordinances -Master Plan Re-Examination - Mayor Nagler explained that we are reviewing these ordinances to send back to the planning board for their April 18, 2007 meeting. They will then review the ordinances, propose any changes and send them back to council, at which time council will introduce the ordinance.

Councilman Renzulli stated that the zoning map of that area shows it as C O which is transitional commercial office and the ordinance is calling it a planned office or PO. Mayor Nagler stated that his understanding from Barbara was that it is supposed to be planned office.

Ms. Fahey explained to council that they are not being asked to introduce an ordinance only to review the suggested ordinance and send it down to the planning board for their comments.

Councilman Hartman stated that he pointed out a lot of discrepancies and typos to Nancy at the last planning board meeting and she was going to take it back to Barbara.

Mayor Nagler explained that rather than having a bulk BP/LD area off Smithville Road it is being divided into two zones – a planned office area and behind that would be a business park instead of the business park butting right up against Smithville Road. It would create a buffer of office buildings.

Motion by Councilman Maroccia, seconded by Councilman Renzulli to send the proposed zoning ordinance to the planning board. All voted in the affirmative.

Public Comments

Mayor Nagler opened to the public.

Paul Fish, Durham Terrace thanked Manager Carew for getting back to him on his question regarding the signs. He stated that the signs are not considered to be a danger and asked Chief Mingin what type of signs would be considered a danger. Chief Mingin stated those at an intersection within a sight triangle that cause obstruction either looking left or right. Mr. Fish asked if the Chief thought a person driving a car or a bus

coming around that corner may look at the signs and be distracted. Chief Mingin stated that the signs are on the homeowner's property. Chief Mingin stated that there are signs put up along many roadways and they cannot stop motorists from reading signs. Chief Mingin explained that the homeowner is within his rights because he is violating no laws. Chief Mingin further stated that Mr. Fish is asking if motorists could be distracted by the signs and the answer is yes. Chief Mingin further stated that there are no laws prohibiting signs in a homeowner's own yard.

Mr. Fish asked council what they consider to be political signs. Mr. Fish stated there are signs naming particular politicians. Ms. Fahey stated that political signs are when there is an election. Mr. Fish stated that they are degrading people and threatening people. Ms. Fahey stated that they are public figures and are open to public criticism.

Mr. Fish stated he hopes someone doesn't get killed reading the signs and thanked council.

Mayor Nagler closed to the public.

Bill list - Chief Mingin stated that Manager Carew copied him on an email received from Councilman Maroccia regarding the bill list. Chief Mingin reminded Council that they are working with new software and anytime you work with new software it takes time to get acquainted with a new format.

Chief Mingin talked to the company regarding the different options that are available. Chief Mingin stated Councilman Maroccia asked for the invoice, the products, the date of the invoice and things like that. Chief Mingin handed out what it was that he came up with for Council. The first column is the PO number which is the authorization to purchase, the next column is the vendor, the next is what was purchased, then the individual cost and the next is the total charge, then there is a line for what account was charged.

Councilman Maroccia stated that he specifically brought up a payment made on behalf of Sharbell and stated that Clerk Lovins explained that to him. Chief Mingin stated that those are escrow accounts.

Manager Carew stated that Mayor Nagler had the same concerns earlier in the year. Manager Carew stated that the township may be able to email council the purchase orders with little extra time or money spent. He stated that Clerk Lovins is now the IT person and he will ask her when she returns.

Chief Mingin stated that they are still working with the vendor and that they are up and running on the new software. Chief Mingin asked council to document their questions and concerns and when the software company stops by he will present them to him.

Mayor Nagler would like to see the bill list be distributed via email instead of including it in the packets. Manager Carew agreed that way it ensures council gets the bill list in a timely manner and should there be any questions it can be brought to him prior to the meeting rather than tabling the bill list. Councilman Maroccia just wants a

warmer, fuzzier feeling and to be able to know what he is actually approving.

Mayor Nagler asked Councilman Maroccia if the above answered his questions. Councilman Maroccia stated it did and thanked Chief Mingin.

Comments

Chief Mingin thanked council for their vote on the contract for the bathroom.

Councilman Renzulli reported that the ice skating went well, as did the egg hunt and mentioned that the new exercise class is starting up.

Councilman Tafe noticed that the audience has gotten larger and asked them to tell a friend and bring more people to get involved and thanked the public for their attendance.

Mayor Nagler stated that volunteer night needs to be finalized and he would like to include the board of education for a nomination. Councilman Hartman stated he wouldn't vote to include the board of education. Councilman Renzulli stated that the township includes the fire department and doesn't see a difference. Mayor Nagler agreed.

Councilman Maroccia asked what the objective was. Mayor Nagler explained volunteer night to Mr. Maroccia. Mayor Nagler stated that this is usually done in March and we are a little bit behind at this point. Mayor Nagler asked Manager Carew if it could be done by April 26. Manager Carew stated pushing it back another week would be more feasible. Manager Carew stated that he is comfortable with the first week in May. It was stated that this person or persons would be a non-paid person and not a councilperson.

Discussion ensued on inviting the school board.

Manager Carew stated that these people are usually given \$100.00 check going back a few years. Councilman Renzulli stated that given the budget issues he would suggest that the township give \$50.00 per award. Councilman Renzulli stated that would mean if Councilman Hartman is going to nominate two then each would get \$50.00. Councilman Hartman stated if everyone else is getting \$100.00 then each of his nominations should get \$100.00. Councilman Renzulli suggested the Councilman Hartman only nominate one person. Councilman Hartman stated that it was going to be two.

Councilman Renzulli stated that the intent of this award money when council first started it was that even though these people are volunteers there are still expenses they take out of their own pocket, and it is a small token of appreciation. Councilman Renzulli stated times have changed and if council wants to drop it to zero he is okay with that too. Manager Carew suggested putting the money into a plaque. Councilman Renzulli stated he is okay with that.

Steve Gloria Court stated that he use to volunteer when he was younger and believes a plaque says a lot and goes a long way.

Councilman Renzulli stated that the intention was to get a plaque to hang in the hallway and each year add the name of the volunteer to it. Manager Carew will look into the costs of the plaques.

John Geary, Knotty Oak suggested also putting the names on the calendar that is sent out year. Councilman Renzulli stated that they did that a couple years back and can't remember why the township stopped, but thinks it's a great idea.

Chief Mingin stated that Mr. Carew has gone through the process to fill the patrolman position and he will have the oath administered at the next meeting. Class II Officers will also be appointed at the next meeting. They are used to control overtime costs and appointed by council not the manager. Councilman Hartman asked if there were any females being appointed to Class II. Chief Mingin replied no.

Motion by Councilman Hartman, seconded by Councilman Maroccia to adopt Closed Session Resolution 2007-49 at 8:50 p.m. All voted in the affirmative.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Maroccia, seconded by Councilman Renzulli to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. All voted in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Lovins, RMC
Township Clerk