

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 PM CLOSED SESSION 7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

March 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with all present. Resolution 3-7-16 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss the administrator position.

The meeting was again called to order and reopened at 7:09 PM by Mayor Daniels. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times on January 14, 2016. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence. Mayor Daniels thanked everyone for coming out tonight, he likes seeing students in attendance; it is good for them to see the civic process.

Roll Call:

Committeewoman Chang	Present
Committeeman Lopez	Present
Committeewoman Smith-Hartman	Present
Committeewoman Teleisa	Present
Mayor Daniels	Present

Al Marmero, Solicitor, was present.

Donna Ryan, Clerk/Administrator and Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk were present.

Approve 3/7/16 Agenda – motion to approve by Ms. Chang; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Closed Session Meeting Minutes 2/16/2016 – motion to approve by Ms. Chang; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Regular Meeting Minutes 2/16/16 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes, Ms. Chang abstained.

Scheduled Appointments

7:00 PM - Black History Month Awards. Committeewoman Chang presented the awards. Mayor Daniels thanked school Superintendent Ms. Grossman for their participation; he thanked Ms. Chang for continuing the essay contest process; it has been 4 years now that the Committee has been holding this contest. It began in 1926 (Black History Week). In 1976 Black History week became Black History Month. It is fitting to acknowledge the contributions of black Americans.

Students were required to analyze a poem written by Maya Angelou. They were students in the WMS 7th and 8th grades. TD Bank contributed to the monetary prizes; Virginia

Grossman also contributed last year and this year; Ms. Chang's office has always contributed; special thanks to Ms. Teleisa for her unwavering support of the essay contest. Ms. Chang thanked Ms. Teleisa for her many hours she sat at her kitchen table reading hundreds of essays and looking at artwork.

WMS student Assata Allah Shabazz received first prize which was a \$300 TD Bank gift card. She read her essay aloud to the audience. Mayor Daniels thanked her, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa; the school district, her parents and all in the audience. We all need to come together in harmony and this is what can make our community even better than what it is today.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mary Weston – is excited and happy to know that we have students who can express themselves; she is disappointed not to see more students here tonight. There have been more participating in previous years. She wanted to know how the contest was publicized and promoted. She hopes in the future for greater participation in the essay contests. She volunteered to help. Ms. Chang stated that she provided the essay questions directly to the superintendent with no less than 30 days to respond to it. In prior years she was told that the essay questions were always made part of a classroom assignment. She is unsure of whether or not this occurred this year. The first year they had about 100 entries, the second year it was at least 50. She hasn't figured out what happened this year.

Nancy Burkley – it seems like every meeting we have lots and lots of cancelled taxes and it seems to take away from taxes that are collected. She wanted to know if these were new owners moving into the Township. She asked about purchasing the property on Blue Jay Hill Road; she doesn't think we should purchase it now since we are having budget problems and it doesn't seem as if the property is being used for anything specific.

Mary Weston – asked if this property was in Timbuctoo; it is. When she moved there the area was a mess; she has spent much money cleaning it up. She is happy the Township is working on cleaning up the area. Mr. Lopez stated that the property being purchased is slated for a Timbuctoo educational and historic site; the Township wishes to preserve and promote Timbuctoo as an open space area. He will do his part to work to bring this vision to fruition. They spoke about the possibility of hosting a workshop on what to do with the site for Township residents; this needs to be done. He thinks this will address questions and concerns for the site. Ms. Chang stated that there is a Timbuctoo Committee that was appointed by Ordinance; there is a great deal of interest in the site from Rutgers and Temple Universities. They are examining the possibility of constructing a museum there one day or converting the existing house on the lot to house all the artifacts exhumed on the site.

Lori Hustus – thinks it's fantastic but asked if we can get funding or grants for this. Mayor Daniels stated that there are ongoing discussions regarding funding and grants by the Timbuctoo Committee. They are examining fund raising possibilities and other ways

of funding as well. There was a recent presentation regarding Timbuctoo on Feb. 27th at the Mt. Holly Lyceum. Ms. Chang stated that the Committee is working hard to make sure the public is educated regarding the site.

New Business

None

Resolutions

20-16 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Ms. Chang; seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

21-16 Cancel Taxes, Block 1102, Lot 24 & Block 108, Lot 4 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Chang. All voted yes.

22-16 Cancel Taxes, Block 1201, Lot 7; Block 604, Lot 3, Block 401, Lot 8, Block 401, Lot 2 & Block 1001.08, Lot 14 – motion to approve by Ms. Chang; seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

23-16 Refund Taxes, Block 901, Lot 1, Home Depot – motion to approve by Ms. Chang; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes. Ms. Chang asked if this could be moved forward as a credit to another year's tax; it could have, but they wanted a refund instead.

Ordinances

1-2016 Amend Code of the Township, Chapter 117, Prohibited Conduct (second reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. This was opened to the public for comment. Vernita Jones asked about another matter. Mayor Daniels told her that comments made at this time were to be related only to this ordinance. There being no further comments, the meeting was closed. All voted yes.

2-2016 Authorize Purchase of Property, Block 604, Lot 16 (second reading) – motion to approve by Ms. Chang; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. This was opened to the public for comment; no comment was made and the meeting was closed. All voted yes.

3-2016 Amend Chapter 99, Building Construction (first reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Chang. All voted yes.

4-2016 Approve & Adopt the Westampton Interchange Redevelopment Plan (first reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes, Ms. Chang abstained.

5-2016 Amend Chapter 232, Vehicles and Traffic (first reading) – motion to **table** by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes. The motion was made to table this ordinance in order to get further definitions.

Correspondence

None

Dates to Remember

None

Open to public Comment

Nancy Burkley – asked if any new housing being built should be required to have driveways; otherwise there is no place to park a car; this would affect the new snow plowing ordinance.

Vernita Jones – asked why there were cancelled taxes. Some are totally disabled military residents; some are lots owned by Westampton Township. She congratulated the essay winner for Black History Month; there should be more students participating. It took a lot of courage to come up and read her essay. She thanked the Committee for sponsoring a student to attend Boy's State. There are more students than ever that applied to go this year. She was riding through Willingboro and saw that OTC was going down the streets picking up litter. She wondered if there was anything like this that we could do. OTC also collects litter in Westampton, according to Mayor Daniels. She wanted to know if she could get copies of invoices that our Solicitor has submitted. Ms. Jones was advised that she needed to submit an OPRA request. Mayor Daniels stated that the bill list was the method by which they examined and paid bills. The entire Committee reviews the bills to be paid each meeting. The bill list is also posted on the Township website several days before each meeting for anyone to view.

Jerry Mengel – the Township did a great job during the snowstorm, however when they plowed, they plowed in the driveways in Fernbrooke. They put the snow on the corners where the handicapped ramps are. He asked if something could be done in the future, they are all older residents and found it very difficult to dig out their driveway aprons. Also, the fire hydrants were all buried in snow. Mayor Daniels stated that it was especially bad in Deerwood where there is no place to put the snow. He thanked him for his comments. Mr. Lopez commented that tonight we tabled the snow ordinance; this past snowstorm he rode along with Public Works and experienced plowing first hand. We only push snow here, we don't have equipment to lift it and move it. This is the best they can do to push it onto corners. This is part of the reason why they tabled the ordinance; they need to address the concerns such as fire hydrants.

Susan Knispel – lives in Tarnsfield on Dover Road, on an eyebrow. By the time Public Works got to them the plow got stuck and they couldn't get out of the cul de sac. They

can't wait that long to come through and residents need to remove their cars from the streets.

Michael Hannon – there is a new advisory committee called Parents of Color in the WMS school district. We need to be culturally responsive to our students.

Mayor Daniels – thanked him for his efforts; there are certainly challenges. He looks forward to the mutual exchange of ideas that will move this community forward.

Cheryl Delgardo – regarding the snow ordinance; don't we have an ordinance that says you can't park on your front lawn. She wondered how long they will be able to park on their lawns after a snowfall. Ms. Teleisa said this is one of the reasons that we tabled the ordinance this evening.

Police Chief Joe Otto – if we are under a state of emergency they would suspend the ordinance while the state of emergency was in effect. Joe would meet with the Committee liaison and they would come up with the timing.

Comments – Department Heads & Professionals

Joe Otto – congratulated the winner of the essay contest.

Craig Farnsworth – all of the hydrants are mapped out on GIS even if they aren't visible after a snowstorm. Congratulations to the essay winner.

Solicitor Al Marmero – congratulations to the essay winner, it is not easy to get up in front of the public and put your thoughts out there.

Donna Ryan – congratulations to the essay winner.

Committee Members Comments

Ms. Smith-Hartman – congratulations on the essay. She asked if she knew her grandson Colin.

Ms. Teleisa – she read the essay beautifully; she admires that.

Ms. Chang – the Maya Angelou poem was a difficult piece to analyze; she did a phenomenal job. She is proud of her and the fact that she read it herself.

Mr. Lopez – thanked everyone for coming out tonight; it is important for them to share their concerns. Congratulations to the essay winner. He commends her parents; the family has to be involved. He commends all those celebrating Irish American month as well as those celebrating Black History Month.

Mayor Daniels – had the opportunity to speak over at WMS as well as judging the door contest. We have a community that is always looking to grow. While we embrace who we are as Americans, we still do have some work to do. Please look for more to come on the Timbuctoo project; he thanked Ms. Jones for her work with Boy's State.

Ms. Chang – recently celebrated Read Across America; she had the honor to read to the entire 4th grade class, they were very attentive and engaged.

Mayor Daniels – his 9 year old grandson needed emergency surgery today at Virtua in Voorhees; he thanked the Deputy Mayor for helping him out today; he explained that he was a bit distracted today.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk