

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

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

October 2, 2017

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Mayor Daniels. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times January 5, 2017. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence. Mayor Daniels spoke regarding the mass shooting in Las Vegas and asked that we think of those that lost their lives and keep them in our hearts and prayers. Sgt. Caulfield was activated and left for Puerto Rico today. Mayor Daniels welcomed all guests.

Roll Call:

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

Albert Marmero, Solicitor, was present. Township Engineer, Doug Johnson was present. Administrator Maria Carrington and Municipal Clerk Marion Karp were present.

Approve 10/2/17 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Regular Meeting minutes of 9/18/17– motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Scheduled Appointments

None

Public Comments on agenda items

No comments were made.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Resolutions

120-17 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Wisniewski; second by Ms. Teleisa. All present voted yes.

121-17 Chapter 159, Distracted Driving – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; second by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

122-17 Express Opposition to Legislative Proposals – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

123-17 Appoint Public Works Director – motion to approve Parker Smith, III made by Ms. Teleisa; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes. Mayor Daniels knows he will bring leadership and innovation to Westampton Township. Mr. Smith thanked them for the opportunity. Mr. Wisniewski stated that he is very qualified and he is happy to have him on board. Mr. Lopez enjoyed the interview process; Mr. Smith was all in for the township and has unquestionable experience, coming from Deptford Township. He also is interested in career development for current employees and he likes that.

124-17 Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes.

Ordinances

14-2017 Amend the Code of the Township of Westampton, Chapter 232, Vehicles & Traffic, Article 1, “General Provisions”, Section 232-11, “Turn Prohibitions” (second reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. This was opened to the public for comment. All voted yes.

Correspondence

None

Dates to Remember

October 4th – National Coffee with a Cop Day, 7-9 AM, Springside Road Dunkin Donuts

October 8th – Rancocas Nature Center 40th Anniversary, the Township will be presenting a proclamation

October 12 – Groundbreaking ceremony for the Willows at Westampton, 11 AM.

October 12 – Westampton Township Fire/EMS Open House

October 14 – Westampton PTO Fun Run, rain date 10/15/17

October 14 – Rancocas Ham Dinner, 4 – 7 PM

October 27, Fall Festival, 6 – 9 PM

October 27 – Susan G. Komen fundraiser, bingo, Police are partnering with them at Crescent shrine

November 5 – 5 K walk and run at Great Adventure, Police will be attending

November 6 – Westampton Middle School, Veterans Day celebration

November 14-16 – NJLM Annual Conference, Atlantic City

Open to public Comment

Juanita Smith – asked if the day of the week could be added to the Dates to Remember list

Nancy Burkley – congratulations to Mr. Lopez, according to the Burlington County Times he has been chosen as one of the top 25 emerging leaders, it is quite an honor

Gary Berberian – commented regarding tree trimming operations on Springside Road that were done recently; he thought it was the County but it was PSE&G. No notice was provided to the homeowners of the tree trimming. Because there was a power outage on August 20, they told him they didn't need to give notice of the tree trimming. He asked if, as a township, we could get a better idea of what their notice requirements are. He would like to know dates and where they would be trimming in advance. He asked if the police department has a policy about posting vehicles near where this kind of work is being done. Chief Joe Otto explained that they will sometimes hire officers for traffic control. They left debris when the trimming was done and when he called he was told our public works department would pick it up, which clearly wasn't true.

Juanita Smith – asked about the new left turn prohibition at the Wawa. There would be a new sign installed; Chief Joe Otto stated that they would have their electronic sign out on the road as well as send out a Nixle blast.

Todd Johnson – has recently found out about a felon living on their street; a two time offender and parole violator who just finished serving an 8 year sentence. It's very frightening and no one was notified. He wanted to know why no one was notified. Solicitor Al Marmero explained how Megan's Law works; it is a state process. This person doesn't meet the level requiring notification. Mr. Lopez stated that perhaps they should have a conversation with their legislators; perhaps this needs looking at. He asked if the Township was notified about this; they were not. Mr. Johnson stated that apparently, they don't have the same rights as this person does and he wants to know what the Committee is going to do to keep the children safe. Mr. Lopez explained that the schools should have received notice for a Tier 2 offender. Chief Joe Otto said there

are websites out there with information that residents could use. The neighborhood is upset and is disappointed. Mr. Lopez hears his concern loud and clear; he heard the Chief state that there will be increased police activity in the area.

Nancy Burkley - explained how these matters are dealt with in the schools, it depends on the tier level. The school is barred from discussing this with anyone; teachers aren't allowed to discuss it with students, etc. They, as teachers, if informed, must keep this information to themselves or they were threatened they could lose their jobs.

Ernestine Jones, 19 Brighton Road – lives right across the street from this person and has a young grandchild. This man's picture is on the website. He is a renter, he doesn't own the property. They are worried; the neighborhood is full of children. She wants to know what responsibility the Township has. Mr. Lopez will speak with our legislators and see what he can do.

Ms. Smith-Hartman – as a realtor, she was told that they can only offer the website to prospective buyers.

Chief Otto read from the NJ State police website regarding sharing information; information may not be shared with anyone outside the immediate family, etc.

Administrator Maria Carrington would reach out to the superintendent of schools to discuss this.

Mayor Daniels thanked all the residents for their comments, they take this very seriously.

Janet Curran – it is a good idea to have a block captain or a Town Watch. They had a large group at one time. She spoke about Open Space Funds and if the Township could preserve some land. She didn't like all the affordable housing coming into the Township.

Comments from Department Heads

Chief Otto – congratulations to our new Public Works director

Solicitor Marmero – welcome aboard to the new director

Administrator Maria Carrington – congratulations to Mr. Lopez and the new Public Works director

Committee Members Comments

Ms. Smith-Hartman – thanked everyone for coming out tonight; to the residents of Brighton Road; our hands are tied but we heard you.

Mr. Wisniewski – thanked all for coming out; department heads keep up the good work; congratulations to the new Public Works director; good luck to Daryl in Puerto Rico.

Ms. Teleisa – the Timbuctoo Day was amazing; it was a lovely day and extremely educational. There were descendants who attended who spoke about the history; Guy Weston did a phenomenal job. Mary Weston still lives there and is a descendant. She was so glad to be a part of it; thanks to the Timbuctoo committee and to Maria Carrington who stepped up and organized a lot of things and thanks to Todd Mitzelman who also stepped up to help with the event. Lou LaRose and Bruce Boone were instrumental in setting up and getting everything ready. Let us remember Daryl Caulfield and think about him and all the people in Puerto Rico who have been affected by this catastrophic event. Thanks to Parker Smith for accepting the Public Works position, his knowledge and expertise will really benefit the town. Our hearts go out to our Brighton Road neighbors, we all have children and we know how they feel. Thanks for coming out.

Mr. Lopez – thanked all for coming out; his family is doing well but his wife's family in Puerto Rico lost everything; but they are alive, they thank god for that. They have a lot to be thankful for; to all residents; he will check with our legislators and find one who will sympathize with us enough to propose new legislation.

Mayor Daniels - Timbuctoo Day was truly one of the best, he was happy as an outgoing Mayor to have attended and presented them with proclamations. It is truly rich in its history. They had the highlight of honoring Judge Murray. He thanked all for coming out tonight.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Municipal Clerk