

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

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

May 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with all present.

Resolution 5-12-15 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss police contract, promotions and redevelopment.

The meeting was again called to order and reopened at 7:03 PM by Mayor Chang. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times January 6, 2015. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Committeeman Daniels	Present
Committeeman Maybury	Present
Committeewoman Teleisa	Present
Committeeman Thorpe	Present
Mayor Chang	Present

Justin Yost, Solicitor, was present.

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

Approve 5/12/15 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 4/28/2015 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Ms. Teleisa. There was a correction to be made regarding the motion and second on a resolution. All voted yes, Mr. Daniels and Mr. Thorpe abstained. Minutes of the 5/5/15 Budget Meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes, Mr. Daniels abstained.

Scheduled Appointments:

None

Public Comments on agenda items

Nancy Burkley – would like to say that the Mayor was right; the budget meeting was indeed open to the public for the entire meeting. She is aware that Donna shared her email with the Committee; she hopes that the comments in the minutes can be changed. Regarding the Humvees; one resident suggested we sell them if not needed. She suggested that the amount of furniture purchased be reduced. Another suggestion she made was to increase revenue to help the budget – we give much more help than we

receive from other Townships especially Mount Holly and Willingboro. We are being called on to help with lots of other districts that only have volunteer departments. Can we ask for some kind of payment to help with gas, etc.? She was told that Mount Holly was approached and we were denied any kind of payment or reimbursement. She also suggested that Mayor Chang and Mr. Maybury do some of the negotiations instead of hiring an expensive labor attorney since they had experience with negotiations.

Mayor Chang – Nancy Burkley had asked a question whether we were reimbursed for EMS and Donna answered that we were. The Mayor disagrees with Ms. Burkley that she had simply made comments and asked questions and had not made any suggestions to reduce the budget. We have a billing company that bills for EMS.

Abraham Lopez – was shocked when he got the agenda; he feels that the minutes from the budget meeting do not belong on the agenda. The Committee should not be blaming the public for not attending the meetings. Not every resident subscribes to the Burlington County Times; the Township Facebook page has not been updated in months. He is a huge supporter of the Timbuctoo project and thinks the site merits recognition; he disagrees about how the Township is going about doing it. He doesn't think there needs to be a new advisory committee. He encourages the Township Committee to get the residents involved. It doesn't need to be tainted by the political process. Do we need an additional bureaucratic level of government when it can be a community led nonprofit instead? When it comes to residents involvement in preparation of the budget he believes that residents will come if they know about the meetings. The Committee was entrusted by the residents to make these tough decisions by the voters who elected them. If they don't feel up to it they should let the residents know. He thinks more can be done to keep the residents informed.

Mayor Chang – asked if the budget meetings were advertised. They all were, according to Donna Ryan. They appeared in the Burlington County Times as well as on many agendas.

Abraham Lopez – asked who is in charge of the Township's Facebook page; Donna answered that there is no one in charge of it.

Mayor Chang – the May 5th meeting, in addition to being advertised in the paper, was also discussed at the last meeting.

Gil Gehin Scott – asked that a correction be made to the minutes of the budget meeting; his son was listed as Jr., he is the 3rd.

Old Business

None

New Business

Proclamation Honoring Yvonne Cobb – the Mayor read the proclamation aloud.

Proclamation in Honor of Public Works Departments – the Mayor read the proclamation aloud in honor of Public Works week.

Resolutions

62-15 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

63-15 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

64-15 Adoption of 2015 Municipal Budget – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes, Ms. Teleisa voted no. Mr. Daniels explained that he was unable to make it to the budget meeting since he was out of town. While he will probably vote in the affirmative for the budget; he can't be in conflict with himself. He has a problem with the \$90,000 salary line item under EMS. He has questions that represent a fatal flaw to him; he has questions relative to the intent and spirit of the law, and is conflicted. However he realizes that it is in the best interests of the Township to vote in the affirmative.

65-15 Designation of Redeveloper of Block 203, Lot 4.03 – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

66-15 Project Freedom Redevelopment Agreement, Block 203, Lot 4.03 – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

67-15 Click It or Ticket – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

68-15 Green Acres Enabling Resolution – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

69-15 Amend Development Agreement with Project Freedom – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

70-15 Option Agreement with Project Freedom – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

Ordinances

6-2015 Establish a Timbuctoo Advisory Committee (first reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes. Mr. Daniels thanked Mr. Lopez for offering an alternate suggestion regarding the formation of this committee. He thanked him for letting them know that he is sensitive to this issue. He wants the best for the community in regards to Timbuctoo.

7-2015 Project Freedom Financial Agreement (first reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

Correspondence

Clean Air NJ – ozone exposure and reducing ozone levels

Mt. Holly MUA – notice of public hearing (6/11/15 at 6 PM)

Letter from Freeholders – ceremony for fallen firefighters will be held on May 20, 2015 at 7 PM.

Dates to remember

Ribbon Cutting at Spring Meadows Tot Lot – date TBA

Memorial Day – the Historical Society will lay two wreaths, one at the civil war cemetery at Timbuctoo, the other at the Veteran's memorial.

Comments – Department Heads & Professionals

Fire Official John Augustino – its springtime; keep grills away from the houses; clean your basements and garages

Fire Chief Jason Carty – responded to the comment Ms. Burkley made about Mt. Holly; there was never any official request asking for funds from Mt. Holly for EMS/mutual aid. There was some communication regarding shared services and that was it. Mutual aid statistics show that aid is pretty equal. At the end of the day the percentages are pretty even. There is no legal precedence to deny these calls. We do get reimbursed for calls. The mock crash at RV went well; the spaghetti dinner went well. The department will have a firefighter to be honored at the next Township meeting. Thursday night there was a cardiac arrest; Officer Einstein arrived first and started CPR on the resident. The Police Department took the time to drive the family to the hospital; he cannot emphasize enough the great working relationship between the Township Police and EMS. The resident survived and is doing well. AED (automated external defibrillator) was added in our Municipal Building lobby and at the Recreation Fields.

Police Chief Joe Otto – National Police Week is being celebrated this week.

Open to public Comment

Abraham Lopez – agrees that the Police Department is doing a great job. He asked if the town is doing anything for National Police Week that the residents can participate in. He asked what the Committees priorities are in the budget and wanted to know where Westampton was going as a town. Mayor Chang stated that for her the most important was economic development. She explained that we can't control pension and healthcare costs in terms of our budget. Those increases are what they are and we have to deal with them. The Mayor asked him to explain his question. Mr. Lopez asked what the Committee is doing to combat the loss of ratables. Mayor Chang stated that until the shovels are in the ground we are unable to realize any additional revenues. Ms. Teleisa answered that it was very important to her to maintain services. Mr. Lopez wants to know what the plans are to stop additional tax increases next year. He wants to know what the Committees' vision is for the town. Mayor Chang again stated that it is economic development.

Nancy Burkley – is happy the Committee had a resolution for Public Works. She would like one for the Police as well; she is so impressed with them. They are out looking for things and problems to solve and are very proactive in keeping us safe. Mayor Chang agrees with her.

Gil Gehin Scott – the March 24 minutes aren't on the website yet. No one seems to know how the money was spent on the Humvees. We should at least go through the winter season before doing anything about getting rid of them. He wanted more clarification on Resolution 68-15 regarding the Green Acres funding. This resolution combined all of our other Green Acres resolutions according to Donna. This is for a new round of funding in addition to funding we have previously received.

Committee Members Comments

Mr. Daniels – last Tuesday was National Teacher Appreciation Day; Wednesday was Nurse Appreciation Day. He was invited to the White House to be with the Secretary of Education. He was proud to represent our teachers here in Westampton Township. He thanked the Mayor for acknowledging that this week is Police Appreciation Week. Each of the Committee members deserves the chance to be Mayor of this community. He wants to make it clear that he won't do anything that will demean him as a person nor demean someone else for the chance to be Mayor. He still has an opportunity to help the community from the seat he sits in.

Mr. Thorpe – is a member of the American Federation of Teachers; our teachers in Westampton are very good. Thanks to the EMS and Police Departments.

Mayor Chang – had the distinct honor to take part in the NJ Bar Association's Law Day event on Friday May 8th along with Judge Bookbinder and other Superior Court Judges.

They spoke to Westampton Middle School 8th graders at the County Courthouse. The program lasted from 9:30 AM until after lunchtime. They spoke about possible careers in law to the students. It is her hope that the 8th graders will be included each year going forward since it usually was limited to high school age students.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk