

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
7:00 PM Regular Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order and opened at 7:00 PM by Mayor Sandy Henley. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times on January 6, 2023. This meeting was held in person in the Westampton Township Municipal Building Courtroom. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Committeewoman Burkley	Present
Committeeman Carr	Present
Mayor Henley	Present
Committeewoman Mungo	Present
Committeewoman Wright	Absent

Township Solicitor Robert Wright, Township Administrator/Clerk Wendy Gibson, and Police Chief Brian Ferguson were also present.

Monthly Reports:

- a. Construction
- b. Police
- c. Public Works
- d. Court
- e. Fire/EMS
- f. Tax Collector

Approval of Minutes:

- a. December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Carr; seconded by Ms. Burkley.

Motion carried 4-0.

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Mungo, Mayor Henley

Naye: none

Abstain: none

Open Meeting for Public Comments on Agenda Items Only:

Township Solicitor Robert Wright commented that if anyone had any comments on the Ordinances, to save it for the Public Hearing portion for each.

All in favor to close public comment.

Ordinances: Second Reading – Open Public Comment

- a. 10-2023 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 88 of the Township Code of Westampton: Animals

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Carr seconded by Ms. Mungo.

Motion carried 3-1.

Ayes: Carr, Mungo, Mayor Henley

Naye: Burkley

Abstain: none

Committeewoman Burkley commented that the Committee should serve the whole township and compromise. She stated that the Ordinance could have been compromised in all zones, and the square footage is too small for some people to have chickens. She stated she cannot support it unless all of the 9,000 people are taken into account.

Mayor Henley stated that the Committee compromised by changing the terms of the pilot program and if it doesn't work out, the program can be changed. He stated that it is of Ms. Burkley's opinion that the Committee could have compromised more. He stated that the Ordinance has been on the agenda for a while, and not everyone will be happy nor disappointed.

- b. 11-2023 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 250 of the Township Code of Westampton: Zoning

Township Solicitor Robert Wright commented that there were some changes provided by resident Mr. Berberian, that he shared with the Committee. He advised that Ordinances cannot be introduced in one year and then adopted in another. He advised that the Ordinance can be tabled and reintroduced in 2024.

Mayor Henley suggested that we table the Ordinance to make sure it is done correctly.

Committeewoman Mungo made a motion to table the Ordinance; seconded by Mr. Carr.

Motion carried 4-0.

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Mungo, Mayor Henley

Naye: none

Abstain: none

Resolutions:

- a. 169-23 Payment of Vouchers – this resolution approves the payment of bills through 12/19/2023.

Motion to approve was made by Ms. Burkley; seconded by Ms. Carr.

Motion carried 4-0.

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Mungo, Mayor Henley

Naye: none

Abstain: none

Committeeman Carr stated that he was happy we were paying our bills.

Consent Agenda Resolutions – Resolutions Note: Consent Agenda items are considered to be routine and will be enacted with a single motion; any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of funds; any items requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda.

- a. 170-23 Resolution Authorizing Cancellation of Checks
- b. 171-23 Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Appropriation Funds
- c. 172-23 Resolution Approving Refunds for Totally Disabled Veteran

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Carr; seconded by Ms. Burkley.

Motion carried 4-0.

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Mungo, Mayor Henley

Naye: none

Abstain: none

Open Meeting for Public Comment:

Diego Minacapelli, 211 Bridge Street, commented that he thanks the Committee for listening to the community and including all of the zoning for the Chicken Ordinance. He stated that he provided research and that he was bothered that not all of the Committee members read the research, which would have answered questions pertaining to chickens. He stated that it was pointless to provide the research if they weren't going to read it.

Ms. Burkley asked Mr. Minacapelli how he knew that the research wasn't read, to which Mr. Minacapelli answered that it was because of all of the questions she had. He stated that if she had read the published information she would understand.

Committeeman Carr requested a point of order to allow the resident to continue to comment without Ms. Burkley's interruption.

He continued to thank the Committee for including the residents of the Village and thanked everyone for listening and doing the right thing. He also volunteered to be part of the Chicken Committee.

All in favor to close public comment.

Dates to Remember:

Township Committee Reorganization Meeting January 2nd @ 6:30PM, Land Development Board Reorganization Meeting January 3rd @ 7PM. NOTE: The Free Rabies Clinic was rescheduled to Feb 17th, 2024.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Gibson wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays. It was a pleasure working with all of the Committee members and the Professionals. She thanked the residents for coming out and providing feedback.

Committee Liaison Reports/Comments:

Committeeman Carr wished all of the residents a Happy Holidays and appreciated everyone coming out. He looked forward to visiting Township Code Chapter 252 next year.

Committeewoman Mungo wished Happy Holidays to everyone and thanked everyone for coming out. She hoped everyone had a great and safe New Year.

Committeewoman Burkley commented that the Senior Dinner was a success, noting there were about 250 dinners served. She thanked Todd and the Recreation Committee.

She stated that she has no hard feelings. She is one voice and accepts whatever happens as a Committee. She stated that everyone has a right to their opinion.

Mayor Henley thanked everyone for coming out and wished everyone a Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. He stated that the Committee will continue to follow some of the changes and things to celebrate into 2024.

He wanted to let everyone know that he was holding a coat drive for the kids in the school and asked if there was anyone in need that they receive a coat.

He commented that he stated that Ms. Maureen Malecki, from the Westampton Township School Board, was also helping Recreation Director Todd Mitzelman in providing Senior Dinners. He stated that it takes a team to get everything done.

He asked Ms. Burkley if she had had an opportunity to speak with the Westampton Township School Superintendent about bullying in the schools. She stated that she has had discussions, and she was happy to report that the schools have come up with a new Mission Statement. She stated that many of the victims had been bullied before.

Mayor Henley then discussed having School Resource Officers at the schools and noted that the Township was lucky to have the Police Department next to one of the schools, but that it would be effective to have an officer present within the schools.

Ms. Burkley commented that information was incorrectly posted on social media, and that many people don't understand what is really happening.

Ms. Mungo commented that she is a middle school principal and that bullying continues to rise across the country. She stated that having a School Resource Officer is one of the best things you can do to ensure safety. She stated that the students, parents, and community members all need to be educated on the topic, and that bullying is killing our

youth. She stated that bullying isn't just happening in schools, but in their homes because people are attached to their phones.

Executive Session

Resolution No. 12.19.2023 - Resolution Authorizing the Township Committee and Support Staff to Meet in Private Session and Authorizing the Exclusion of the Public From that Portion of the Meeting Dealing with Specific Issues Requiring Non-Public Discussions: Attorney-Client Privilege – Personnel.

Motion to approve executive session resolution was made by Ms. Mungo; seconded by Ms. Burkley.

Motion carried 4-0.

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Mungo, Mayor Henley

Naye: none

Abstain: none

The committee exited the regular meeting at 7:21 pm and entered into Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gibson, Acting Municipal Clerk