

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

5:45 PM WORKSHOP/EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

October 1, 2019

The meeting was called to order and opened at 7:00 PM by Mayor Wisniewski. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times on January 4, 2019. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Committeeman DeSilva	Present
Committeeman Eckart	Present
Committeeman Henley	Present
Committeewoman Hynes	Present
Mayor Wisniewski	Present

Carol Berlen, Solicitor, was present. Administrator James Brady and Marion Karp, Clerk, were present.

Approve Agenda – motion to approve the agenda made by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. DeSilva. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 9/17/19 meeting; 9/17/19 closed/executive session minutes; 9/17/19 workshop minutes – motion to approve by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. DeSilva. All voted yes.

Resolution 99-19 Appoint Westampton Township Police Sergeant, Patrick Gleason. Motion to approve by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. Eckart. All voted yes.

Resolution 100-19 Appoint Class II Police Officer, Tyler Morrison. Motion to approve by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. Eckart. All voted yes.

Scheduled Appointments:

Mayor Wisniewski swore in Patrick Gleason as Sergeant & Tyler Morrison as a Class II Police Officer.

At this point, a five-minute recess was taken. The meeting was called back to order at 7:17 PM.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Tammy Schuyler, Mt. Holly – spoke about the evening the dog was caught by the ACO Charles Garrity; she said he was hostile and arrived with a chip on his shoulder. She thought he was acting in anger. They would like his contract ended.

Lance Jones, Westampton – was there that night; he said the ACO was rude on the phone; he told them he wasn't coming out that night. His actions weren't professional.

Frank Nash, Westampton – is involved in animal rescue; has some experience using a catch pole. He has never lifted a 50-pound dog with a catchpole. This ACO has no business doing anything with animals.

Nicole Gebhardt, Westampton – she wasn't there; however, she owns 4 dogs and fosters dogs on the side. She can't believe he is our dogcatcher; she wants the Township to look into finding another agency.

Jennifer Brennan, Southampton – she has watched the videos; she is very upset. She doesn't think he should be employed as an ACO.

There being no further comments, the meeting was closed for public comment on agenda items.

New Business:

Proclamation: Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day, October 10, 2019 – Westampton Township is in support of this.

Proclamation: honoring Nancy Burkley – Linda Hynes presented her with a proclamation for her support and her commitment to Timbuctoo. They wanted to present her with it on Timbuctoo Day but she didn't attend due to illness so the Committee was presenting it to her tonight.

Animal Control Services – Mayor Wisniewski stated that matter is being looked into by our police department; the investigation is still underway so they can't comment on it. They did discuss it in closed session to see what the options are. They aren't taking this lightly and they are working on it and will provide the public with updates as they come available.

Resolutions

a.101-19 Payment of Vouchers - this resolution approves the payment of bills through 9/27/19. Motion to approve by Mr. Henley; second by Mr. Eckart. All voted yes, Ms. Hynes abstained.

b.102-19 Refund Taxes, Block 203.07, Lot 17 – this resolution refunds taxes due to a duplicate payment. Motion to approve made by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. DeSilva. All voted yes.

c.103-19 Cancel Taxes, Block 1704, Lot 53 – this resolution cancels taxes on a property declared exempt for a 100% disabled veteran. Motion to approve made by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. DeSilva. All voted yes.

d.104-19 Chapter 159, FEMA AFG Grant – this resolution approves the insertion of a special item of revenue into the 2019 budget, amount is \$15,000.00. Motion to approve made by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. DeSilva. All voted yes.

e.105-19 2018 Audit - this resolution certifies that the Township Committee has received and has personally reviewed and are familiar with the Annual Report of Audit. Motion to approve by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. DeSilva. All voted yes.

f. 106-19 Refund Homestead Rebates, Block 906.01, Lot 23 & Block 401.01, Lot 37 – this resolution refunds rebates received by the Township on totally tax exempt properties. Motion to approve by Mr. Henley; second made by Mr. DeSilva. All voted yes.

g.107-19 Appoint Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator – this resolution appoints Brian Ferguson as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. Motion to approve by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. DeSilva. All voted yes.

Ordinances

a.11-2019 An Ordinance Amending the Code of the Township of Westampton, Chapter 232, Vehicles and Traffic (first reading) – this ordinance prohibits left turns out of the access driveway of the 7-11 convenience store, Block 1104, Lot 3 onto Woodlane Road, as per the recommendation of the Burlington County Planning Board. Motion to approve by Ms. Hynes; seconded by Mr. DeSilva. All voted yes.

Correspondence: None

Committee Liaison Reports

Ms. Hynes - the WTES is in full swing for fire prevention month; basically, something takes place every day. Their open house is October 10th; the next Board of Education meeting is October 16th. The RVRHS referendum passed; the superintendent wanted to pass along his thanks, Timbuctoo day was a success; big thanks for everyone who serves on the committee. She thanked Jim, Public Works and all who helped. The next HPC meeting is being held on October 23rd.

Mr. DeSilva – the first and third Wednesdays are the meeting days for the seniors at the Rec Center

Mr. Henley – the Fall Festival is October 11th; online registration for sports has been successful

Mayor Wisniewski – congratulations to our new class 2 officer and our new police sergeant.

Dates to Remember

Oct. 2 – Coffee with a Cop @ Dunkin Donuts, 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM

October 10 – WTES Open House, 6 PM – 9 PM

October 11 – Westampton Recreation Annual Fall Festival, 6 – 9 PM, Sports Complex

Burl. Co Restaurant Week – October 20 - 26

NJLM Annual Conference, Atlantic City, November 19-21

Burl. Co. Elected Officials Seminar, Dec. 5 @ 5:30 PM

Open to public Comment

Mary Weston – she thanked everyone who supported Timbuctoo Day; every year it gets better and better. She really appreciates it, her entire family does.

Garfield Harper – thanked the Committee for attending the ceremony in Willingboro; the proclamation he received from Westampton Township is the best by far. He fought for over 6 years to get this bill passed. He then complained about the people that hang out at the Wawa on Woodlane Road. There are woods behind the carwash where some homeless live in a tent; they go over to the Wawa and harass customers to try to get them to give them money. They usually approach older people for this. Someone is going to get hurt in the parking lot due to these people; it's getting out of hand. There is trash all over the parking lot. Clean it up. These people are here every day; they are the same ones. There is a drug problem there.

Mayor Wisniewski thanked him for his comments. He would speak with the police and see what they can do to try to eliminate this from happening.

Nancy Burkley – thanked the Committee; the Timbuctoo committee is very unique; they really care about Westampton and Timbuctoo. People take on many tasks, they work very well together. Mary and her son Guy do a wonderful

job. The Rancocas ham dinner normally held next Saturday has been cancelled; they hope to hold one in May. They didn't have enough volunteers to hold it.

Gary Berberian – attended the Route 541 Traffic meeting that was held here; he asked if they were incorporating the Township Vision statement; they seemed perplexed when he mentioned it. He thought it was a good program and were soliciting some good citizen feedback. He attended the most recent Willingboro MUA meeting and summarized his findings to the Committee. He thinks our solicitation ordinance needs revision. Only 8% voted on the RVRHS referendum.

Committee Members Comments

Ms. Hynes – congratulations to Sgt. Gleason and Officer Morrison; and to Nancy Burkley. Thanks to Mr. Harper for attending; she wasn't able to attend his ceremony. They did have an extensive discussion at their workshop regarding animal control; she thanked everyone for coming out; every man, woman, child and animal matters in Westampton.

Mr. Henley – thanked the residents for coming to voice their opinions; congratulations to Nancy; her dedication is much appreciated. She attends every meeting; it is well deserved.

Mr. DeSilva – thanked everyone for their comments; they are looking into the animal control situation. Congratulations to Sgt. Gleason and Officer Morrison.

Mr. Eckart – it was a pleasant surprise to see the turnout today for the meeting; he would like to see it on a regular basis as feedback helps them do their jobs more efficiently.

Mayor Wisniewski – thanked the residents who came out and voiced their concerns; good and bad. They want to make things better; this is part of their job. Congratulations to the two officers; congratulations to Nancy on her surprise proclamation; thanks for your tireless work on behalf of the township. He wasn't able to attend Timbuctoo Day but heard nothing but positive feedback regarding it.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Municipal Clerk