

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
7:00 PM Regular Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2022

The meeting was called to order and opened at 7:00 by Mayor Sandy Henley. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times on January 10, 2022. 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
Committeeman DeSilva	Present
Mayor Henley	Present
Committeewoman Mungo	Absent

Acting Clerk/Administrator Wendy Gibson, Township Solicitor, and the Chief of Police were also present.

Presentation of Oath of Office: Mayor Henley swore in Police Patrolmen Jack Washington and Shaun Lally.

Presentation of Spring Meadows Playground: Township Administrator Wendy Gibson presented two different options for the new playground that will be going into Spring Meadows. The presentation consisted of showing design layout as well as the cost difference between the two.

Approval of Minutes:

July 12, 2022, Regular and Executive meeting minutes. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Burkley; seconded by Mr. Carr. Motion carried 3-0-1.

Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Gary Berberian, 138 Winstead Dr., commented that he thought the police department reports may be a duplication from the July 12th meeting. Gary also commented on the public works reports, mentioning that leaf pickup should happen more than once a year. He wanted clarification on the emergency appropriation for the fire truck; specifically, if the \$48,500 was a raised charge outside of the existing Cap. He was also seeking clarification on the Capital budget, noting that the wording of the resolution was very vague. He also questioned if the grace period for the tax payments was accurate, since the township website and the resolution didn't match up.

Anthony Goetz, 109 West Maple Tree Dr., wanted clarification on if we were buying the fire truck brand new.

Kristina Goetz, 109 West Maple Tree Dr., commented on the playground options that were presented during the meeting. She stated that having a playground with shade or coverage would be a lot more beneficial, considering the playground equipment can get very hot and can potentially burn the children playing during the summer months. Christina also commented on the grant money, asking if we could use that money towards the playground upgrades.

All in favor to close public comment.

Monthly Reports: Westampton Township Police Department Report, Department of Public Works, Westampton Township Construction Report.

Ordinances:

- a. 7-2022 A Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Fire Apparatus for the Township of Westampton, County of Burlington, New Jersey; Appropriating the sum of \$1,600,000. First reading, Motion and second required.

Motion to introduce Ordinance 7-2022 made by Ms. Burkley; Seconded by Mr. DeSilva
Motion carried 4-0.

Resolutions:

- a. 116-22 Payment of Vouchers- this Resolution approves the payment of bills through 08/09/2022

Motion to approve Resolution 116-22 made by Mr. Carr; Seconded by Mr. DeSilva.
Motion carried 4-0.

- b. 117-22 Resolution for Emergency Appropriation of Purchase of Fire Apparatus

Motion to approve Resolution 117-22 made by Mr. DeSilva; Seconded by Mr. Carr.
Motion carried 4-0.

- c. 118-22 Resolution to Amend Capital Budget

Motion to approve Resolution 118-22 made by Mr. DeSilva; Seconded by Ms. Burkley.
Motion carried 4-0.

Consent Agenda Resolutions:

- a. 119-22 Resolution Approving Tax Lien on Block 1406, Lot 16
- b. 120-22 Resolution Authorizing Sale of iPad
- c. 121-22 Resolution Approving Refunds Not Properly Issued
- d. 122-22 Resolution Authorizing an Extension of Time for Payment of Tax Bill
- e. 123-22 Resolution Awarding a Construction Contract for Roadway Improvements

- f. 124-22 Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Grant Contract with the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

Motion to approve Resolutions 119-22 through 124-22 made by Ms. Burkley; seconded by Mr. Carr. Motion carried 4-0.

OPM Mailbox & Correspondence:

None.

Open to Public Comment:

Gary Berberian, 138 Winstead Dr., commented on peddling solicitors in our township approaching residences without a permit. He thinks we should revisit the Ordinance to enforce having a permit. He also commented on the construction that is happening across from the DSW warehouse, stating that the developer should consider putting up road signs for all the construction vehicles, showing them exactly where they should be entering the construction site. He mentioned that the construction trucks are making a mess on the roadway outside of the construction sites.

Terrence Brown, 9 Pine Tree Dr., commented that he has a hearing disability and that he has a hard time listening to the meetings online since the microphone isn't projecting out sound properly. Mr. Brown complimented the council members for doing a good job, but he mentioned needing better communication between one another. Mr. Brown mentioned that he is unsure of who oversees making the decisions on the Land Board pertaining to the Master Plan. Mr. Brown brought up the fact that he is noticing that crime and littering in our town has gone up and is becoming concerning.

Anthony Goetz, 109 West Maple Tree Dr., made a comment on the calendar that's on our township website doesn't appear to be accurate. Anthony also made a comment about national night out, saying how he would like to see it go back to the way it was before covid where it was in one spot, and it was a big event.

Kristina Goetz, 109 West Maple Tree Dr., stated she is looking for clarification on the process of how the zoning works in our town. Mrs. Goetz would like to know why the residents in town don't have a say or get to vote on the process. Kristina would like to know why the Land Board agendas are not posted to our township website until only 24 hours before their meetings. She feels that it doesn't give the residence enough time to prepare for the meetings. She also commented that she has emailed Mayor Henley multiple times, and hasn't had any responses.

Kirsten Bjork-Jones, 120 West Maple Tree Dr., commented on the fact that the Land Board does not put out their agendas ahead of time, which makes it very hard for a resident to request documents ahead of time. She also stated that the Land Board said that the residents had to come to this committee meeting to find out about the Master Plan. Ms. Bjork-Jones expressed that we don't have many businesses, a downtown area, not many restaurants, and limited opportunities, and that we need to start thinking outside of

the box. We have plenty of opportunity to make Westampton a hub/destination for people to come visit/live.

Ryan Bird, 304 Irick Rd., commented that residents are not happy with the warehouses, and that they can't find out information pertaining to them, or any deadlines on our township website, since the Land Board does not post information correctly.

All in favor to close public comment.

Dates to Remember:

Next Scheduled Meeting September 6th @7PM; Red Cross Blood Drive September 6th from 9AM-2PM @ the Westampton Rec Center.

Committee Liaison Reports/Comments:

Committeeman DeSilva congratulated the 2 officers who were sworn in, saying they are going to be a great asset to our already great police department. Mr. DeSilva thanked all the residents for coming out, and for all of their comments and concerns.

Committeewomen Burkley sent out a survey to the senior citizens community to see if they felt comfortable coming back to in-person meetings and activities since covid. Ms. Burkley suggested that the next Land Development Board meeting have a question and answer forum, she thinks it would go a long way with the community, and possibly put more residents' minds at ease. Nancy also mentioned that she thought National Night Out was wonderful.

Committeeman Carr addressed Mr. Berberian's comment on the solicitors, agreeing that solicitors in our township have become very pushy. Mr. Carr suggested that even though the solicitors are coming to your door, it is not a major emergency, and that the residents should still call the non-emergency police line. Mr. Carr also mentioned that it would be nice to have a street sweeper to follow behind the construction vehicles that are making such a mess at the construction sites. He commented on the Land Development Board issues that the residents brought up, stating that he understands the residents' frustrations and he is trying to give them as much information as possible. Mr. Carr addressed the National Night Out comment about why it is not a big event anymore, and because the police were trying to saturate as much of the township as possible to make it easier for residents to get to each location closest to their homes.

Mayor Henley had an open forum with the residents in the meeting, where the warehouses, Master Plan and future development was discussed.

Executive Session

Resolution 8-9-2022 Authorizing the Mayor, 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: Real Estate Property & Personnel.

Motion to enter into Executive Session made by Ms. Burkley; seconded by Mr. Carr.
Motion carried 4-0.

The regular meeting concluded at 8:37PM, and Executive Session began at 8:43PM.

Motion adjourn the public meeting made by Ms. Burkley; seconded by Mr. DeSilva. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gibson, Acting Municipal Clerk