

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
7:00 PM Regular Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2022

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 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
Mayor Henley	Present
Committeewoman Mungo	Absent
Committeewoman Wright	Present

Township Administrator, Deputy Clerk, Township Solicitor, Chief of Police and Fire Chief were also present.

Approval of Minutes:

- a. October 18, 2022, Regular meeting minutes.

Nancy Burkley made a comment regarding the verbiage in the minutes, stating that the minutes that were written for the October 18th meeting need to say what the motion was for.

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

Motion carried 3-1-0

Ayes: Carr, Mayor Henley & Wright

Naye: Burkley

Abstain: None

- b. November 1, 2022 Regular meeting minutes.

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

Motion carried 4-0-0

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Mayor Henley & Wright

Naye: None

Abstain: None

Open Meeting for Public Comments on Agenda Items Only:

Gary Barbarian, 138 Winstead Drive, made some comments on the monthly reports. He was most concerned about the fees listed on the Construction reports, and how they are calculated.

He was also concerned about the graduates from the Police Academy, and wanted celebrate them. He questioned personnel, activity and mileage on the Police Department report.

Gary commented on Resolution no. 153-22, Authorizing Cooperative Purchase Ladder Truck. He is in favor of this Resolution and hopes that it is strongly considered by the Committee and approved. He also suggested having a student competition naming the apparatus.

Gary also brought up concerns that he would like addressed on Resolution no. 163-22, Authorizing a Tax Appeal Settlement. He asked about the conversations regarding the tax appeal, and how to get copies of the record. He also expressed his concerns about the loss of revenue from the property.

All in favor to close public comment.

Monthly Reports:

- a. Construction Department
- b. Police Department
- c. Fire/EMS Department

Resolutions:

- a. 161-22 Payment of Vouchers – this Resolution approves the payment of bills through 12/6/2022

Nancy requested to have two bills pulled from the bill list, because she does not feel as though they were spent correctly. Township Attorney Robert Wright advised that she may make a motion to have the bills pulled but would need a second to continue. Nancy motioned to have the bills pulled from the list, there was no second.

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

Motion carried 3-1-0

Ayes: Carr, Mayor Henley & Wright

Naye: Burkley

Abstain: None

- b. 153-22 Resolution Authorizing Cooperative Purchase Ladder Truck

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

Motion carried 4-0-0

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Mayor Henley & Wright

Naye: None

Abstain: None

Consent Agenda Resolutions:

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. 162-22 Resolution Accepting Assistance to Firefighters Grants
- b. 163-22 Resolution Authorizing a Tax Appeal Settlement
- c. 164-22 Resolution Authorizing Execution of Recreation Grant Application
- d. 165-22 Resolution Authorizing Withdrawal of Bid
- e. 167-22 Resolution Authorizing Tax Refunds

Motion to approve 162-22 through 167-22 was made by Mr. Carr; seconded by Ms. Wright.

Motion carried 4-0-0

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Mayor Henley & Wright

Naye: None

Abstain: None

OPM Mailbox & Correspondence:

None.

Open Meeting for Public Comment:

Michelle Miller, 8 Steinway Court, came to the meeting on behalf of the American Legion Post 509, to present a thank you letter to Mayor Henley, Nancy Burkley and Odise Carr for coming out to help with their annual Veterans Day breakfast. Michelle also asked that the Township continue to support the Veterans and consider helping to update their building; specifically, their front porch, which is not accessible now because of structural issues.

Christina Goetz, 109 W Maple Tree Drive, thanked Mr. Carr for helping on the revision of the Master Plan. She questioned how long it should take to come back to the Committee for a vote, and how long will it take for the public to view it. Ms. Goetz mentioned that Mansfield Township put a pause on accepting any new applications regarding industrial zones, and was wondering if it was possible for Westampton Township to consider doing the same. She said Mansfield Township had to create a Resolution or Ordinance stating that new applications will no longer be accepted until further notice, and asked our Township to consider the same.

She also asked about the comment that Ms. Burkley made about removing the two bills from the bill list, regarding the conference, and if the funds came from taxpayer money, and if there was a maximum amount budgeted.

Mayor Henley confirmed that there was a budget for the expenses.

Mr. Wright updated everyone on the Master Plan, and explained the adoption process of the Township Committee. He noted that it cannot occur until the next calendar year due to the turnover of a new Township Committee.

Gary Berberian, 138 Winstead Drive, presented to the Committee a picture that he had taken on his phone of the stop sign at the intersection of Rolling Hills and Winstead, showing the stop sign leaning over. He requested that it be fixed as soon as possible.

Vernita Jones, 20 Amara Lane, asked if everyone could recognize that tomorrow is December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, and would like to take a moment of silence to remember those who fought and lost their lives for our country.

A moment of silence was given in remembrance.

All in favor to close public comment.

Dates to Remember:

Next Scheduled Meeting December 20th @7PM; Annual Reorganization Meeting January 3rd @ 6PM; Holiday Lights Judging beginning December 19th; Santa Around Town December 20-22nd

Administrator's Report:

None.

Committee Liaison Reports/Comments:

Nancy Burkley announced that the senior dinner will be next week, and meals will become available to those who have signed up for either pick up or delivery.

Ms. Burkley also wanted to congratulate Ms. Wright and Mr. Carr for getting elected and she looks forward to working with them and listening to their ideas. Last year around this time she had suggested that the Committee members and department heads come up with ideas and goals for the township to be discussed before the budget meeting.

Ms. Burkley had expressed to Mayor Henley that a resident had come up to her at the Veterans Day breakfast, commenting on how impressed he was that the mayor showed up to support and serve breakfast to the Veterans, and how much of an impact he had made.

Odise Carr thanked all the residents that came to the meeting to voice their opinions. He expressed to the American Legion Post 509 that it was an honor to come out and help serve breakfast and support all the Veterans. Mr. Carr also thanked the employees in the front office for issuing the Westampton Watch and mentioned that Public Works is still going around every day collecting leaves till December 31st. He also commented that the Fire Department announced their Santa drive through town schedule on Facebook.

Mayor Sandy Henley recommended Department heads be present for meetings to cover topics in their purview. Mayor Henley also thanked John Wisniewski for donating food for the Veterans breakfast.

He noted that he would like the Committee to talk about the township's redevelopment funds, and if they can look into repairing township owned property, such as the American Legion Post 509 building. He mentioned that not only is Committeeman Odise Carr an Attorney now, but he is also very handy and can look into others in helping out with repairs to help lower the expense.

Mayor Henley addressed Mr. Berberian's request to have the stop sign in Rolling Hills fixed, noting that he is confident that Ms. Gibson will address it with the Public Works Director immediately.

Mayor Henley also addressed Ms. Goetz's concerns about the Master Plan. He stated that the current Master Plan was completed over 20 years ago, and that most of the current members of the township and Committee have not been involved in the process, thus far, and that everyone's input is key.

Executive Session:

Resolution No. 12.06.2022 - 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 - Personnel.

Motion to enter Executive Session was made by Ms. Burkley; seconded by Mr. Carr.

Motion carried 4-0-0

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Mayor Henley & Wright

Naye: None

Abstain: None

Executive Session began at 7:46PM and concluded at 8:19PM. All in favor to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gibson, Acting Municipal Clerk