

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING – May 22, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Cafferty calls the workshop meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asks the Clerk to call the roll:

Roll Call	Present/ Absent
Dr. Michael Brantley	<u>Arrived at 6:07PM</u>
Robert Lane, Jr.	<u>Present</u>
Nicholas Williams	<u>Present</u>
Tassie D. York	<u>Present</u>
Keith Cafferty	<u>Present</u>

Also present: Gina M. LaPlaca, Business Administrator; Gene Anthony, Township Attorney; Gabriella Siboni, Municipal Clerk and Michael Bascom, C.F.O.

Mayor Cafferty announces that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster and the Asbury Park Press on January 5, 2023, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda is posted on the Township web site (www.neptunetownship.org).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN OPEN SESSION

1. Sponsoring of Juneteenth Celebration

Mr. Anthony stated there was an application for a special event for Juneteenth. This event has happened in years prior, with a major change to the request which was the request for financial contribution to the event. Mr. Anthony stated he has advised the Township Committee that they cannot offer monetary or in-kind contributions. Mr. Anthony stated the resolution was prepared to indicate a co-sponsorship of the event to provide services, but a financial contribution is unallowable.

Mayor Cafferty stated the Township Committee would like to sponsor the event as much as they are able to.

2. Volunteer Emergency Responder Reimbursement Program

Mr. Bascom stated there are issues of an increase in call volume and decrease in volunteers. Mr. Bascom stated the ranks have thinned due to COVID as well. Years ago, the paid division was established, and the calls have increased. The Fire Department has put in place in the program that allows for reimbursement. The Fair Labor states that volunteers can be compensated for twenty (20%) of what the cost of paid staff would be. Mr. Bascom stated they have calculated to allow a reimbursement of \$60.00 per six-hour (6) shifts and \$30.00 per three-hour (3) shift.

There is money in the budget through the American Rescue Plan for this program.

Deputy Mayor York asked how the program would be advertised. Mr. Bascom stated that EMS and OEM will be recruiting, and you must be active on either in order to be eligible.

3. Committee Calendars

Mr. Lane stated that the Veterans Memorial Day Service is scheduled for Sunday, May 28th at 1:00PM at Veterans Memorial Park.

Mr. Lane stated the Scholarship Winner will be presented at the Military Ball this weekend.

Deputy Mayor York stated the ROTC Ball is scheduled for this Friday.

Res #23 - 210 Authorize An Executive Session As Authorized By The Open Public Meetings Act.

Offered by:	<u>Lane</u>	Seconded by:	<u>Williams</u>
Vote:	Brantley <u>Yes</u> Lane <u>Yes</u> Williams <u>Yes</u> York <u>Yes</u>		<u>Yes</u> Cafferty <u>Yes</u>

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – May 22, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Cafferty calls the meeting to order at 7:04PM and asks the Clerk to call the roll:

Roll Call	Present/ Absent
Dr. Michael Brantley	<u>Present</u>
Robert Lane, Jr.	<u>Present</u>
Nicholas Williams	<u>Present</u>
Tassie D. York	<u>Present</u>
Keith Cafferty	<u>Present</u>

Also present: Gina M. LaPlaca, Business Administrator; Gene Anthony, Township Attorney; Gabriella Siboni, Municipal Clerk.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND FLAG SALUTE

The Clerk states, "Fire exits are located in the rear of the room and to my right. In the event of a fire, you will be notified by fire alarm and/or public address system, then proceed to the nearest smoke-free exit."

Mayor Cafferty announces that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster and the Asbury Park Press on January 5, 2023, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda is posted on the Township web site (www.neptunetownship.org).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion offered by Lane, seconded by York to approve the minutes of meetings of May 8, 2023. Mr. Williams abstained due to absence at the May 8 meeting; remainder present were in favor.

PRESENTATION

Proclaiming May 21- May 27 Emergency Medical Services Week

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service and the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, each year, thousands of Neptune Township residents and visitors require emergency medical care for traumatic injuries, burns, poisonings, spinal cord injuries, heart attacks and other critical emergencies; and,

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and,

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and,

WHEREAS, the members of Neptune Township’s volunteer first aid squads and paid EMS Division engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is important for the citizens of Neptune Township to know about our emergency medical services system and to realize the high quality of emergency care that is provided by the volunteer efforts of their friends and neighbors,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Keith Cafferty, Mayor of the Township of Neptune, do

hereby proclaim the week of May 21 to May 27 as EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK in the Township of Neptune and with the theme, “EMS Strong: Always in Service”, I encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Mayor Cafferty presented the proclamation to Bil Rosen, EMS Director.

COMMENTS FROM THE DAIS

Comments from the Dais regarding business on this agenda or any reports on recent events in their respective departments.

- Mr. Williams Mr. Williams stated the Marina is currently open and is at 100% capacity. There was a lot of activity the last few weeks with people putting their boats in the water for the season. Mr. Williams stated on June 23rd, the Library will have their reading event. If interested, you may register in advance on the Library website. There are over 30,000 e-books available through the library and the availability continues to grow. A new bicycle rack has been installed outside the library and increased Wi-Fi speeds. Mr. Williams stated there is a resolution on for consideration tonight related to volunteer recruitment.
- Mr. Lane Mr. Lane stated he attended the Cops vs. Kids game; the cops did win, but they looked worse for wear. Mr. Lane attended the ‘Stronger Together’ event and it was a great event to discuss how to make a better Neptune. Mr. Lane highlighted the following events: Veterans Memorial on May 28th, the Memorial Day Parade in Shark River, and the Memorial Day Parade that will begin at Town Hall. Mr. Lane stated that Resolution 23-212 is a company seeking to come into Neptune and they prioritize hiring of Veterans.
- Deputy Mayor York Ms. York stated the Antique Car Show was cancelled due to weather. Ms. York met with Neptune United, which is a new group in Town. Ms. York congratulated Neptune United on their successful food drive. Ms. York stated that the EDC met and discussed an opportunity for a new Chamber of Commerce. Ms. York stated graduation is scheduled for June 21st.
- Mayor Cafferty Mayor Cafferty stated the Township is working on encouraging more arts in the community including additional theatre. Mayor Cafferty attended the New Jersey Sharing Network 5k over the weekend and touched on the importance of organ donation.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The Business Administrator will report on capital projects and matters of general interest.

- **Update on Homeless Encampment:** On May 10th, the Police Department participated in a monthly case conference hosted by the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County and including representatives of the Monmouth County Continuum of Care, Adult Services, and Garden State Home to discuss ongoing joint efforts to address the conditions at the “Tent City” homeless encampment. Participant agencies reported on their visits to the camp – which took place on April 28th and May 5th – and efforts to secure housing placement for the residents of the encampment. To date, 14 individuals have been identified as qualifying for Monmouth County Low Income Housing while another 10 individuals have not been assessed due to missing vital documents. Tomorrow, I will be participating in an informational Zoom call hosted by the Monmouth County Homeless System Collaborative that has been set up to provide technical assistance for agencies interested in applying for FY2023 Continuum of Care funding administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to see if the Township is able to qualify for any assistance in conjunction with the homeless encampment.
- **Sustainable New Jersey Grant Announcement:** This morning, Sustainable Jersey held a Grant Awards Event at TCNJ where it was announced that Neptune Township is the recipient of a \$2,000 grant from the PSEG Foundation in support of our application to improve the Liberty Park Community Garden. Specifically, the funds will be used to purchase supplies (mulch, pesticides, seeds, plants, etc.) that will help convert the garden to organic methods. Special thanks to Green Team member Pat Monroe, Diana Harris, and Sustainable Jersey liaison/Municipal Clerk Gabriella Siboni for their efforts in applying for and supplying the justifications for this grant.

- **Deadline to Apply for Vote-by-Mail Ballot:** For all registered voters who are still interested in voting by mail for the June 6th Primary Election, the deadline to apply for a Mail-in Ballot *by mail* is Tuesday May 30th.

Dr. Brantley thanked the Business Administrator for the progress made regarding the homeless encampment in such a short time

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS

The Clerk will announce additional information regarding Separated Resolutions if necessary.

Res #23- 226 A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions- Reclassification

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DEPT</u>	<u>PREVIOUS POSITION</u>	<u>RECLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Teresa Richard	Senior Center	Senior Kitchen Aide	Kitchen Manager	\$45,758.93	May 23, 2023
Nicholas Pasquella	Code and Construction	Yard Attendant	Customer Service Representative	\$30,139.38	May 23, 2023
Joseph Acerra	Public Works	Operator	Driver	\$42,000.00	May 9, 2023
Courtney Langer	Finance	Payroll Accountant	Department Secretary	\$58,000.00	June 1, 2023

Public comments regarding resolutions presented on this agenda only.

The public comment portion of our meeting is to allow the public to bring to the Committee’s attention their concerns or comments. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10: 4-12(a) and the Neptune Rules of Committee, the Committee asks the public to limit their comments to five minutes or less. The Committee will respect the public’s time by refraining any comment until the speaker has finished with their allotted time. It should be further noted that public comment portion of our meeting is not structured as a question-and-answer session. If a member of the public has questions, they seek answers to, an appointment can be made with the appropriate office, Business Administrator or Township Committee Liaison during regular business hours. The Township Clerk will regulate the time during the comment portion of our meeting. The Committee reserves the right to respond to comments or questions at the conclusion of the speaker’s time.

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| Hank Coakley, Valley Rd. | Mr. Coakley asked about Resolution 23-212; Mr. Coakley asked what affect does taking cannabis when you drive. Mr. Coakley asked if there are laws or regulation regarding taking the drugs and then driving. |
| | Mr. Anthony stated there is a state statute that you cannot drive under the influence. |
| Richard Williams, 1 Abbott Ave. | Mr. Williams asked to confirm the name of the individual for Code and Construction. |
| Dianna Harris, 17 Willow Dr. | Ms. Harris asked about Resolution 23-220 for cosponsoring the Juneteenth Celebration. Ms. Harris summarized the event. Ms. Harris also asked about Resolution 23-221, Volunteer Reimbursement. Ms. LaPlaca summarized the program. |

ORDINANCES - For each ordinance with a public hearing, the public is permitted one visit to the microphone with a limit of five minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION ORDINANCES:

There are no ordinances for public hearing.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

Ordinance 23-21 Ordinance Authorizing Grant Of Deed Of Open Space Easement To The County Of Monmouth On Block 1807, Lot 2 (Formerly Known As Block 307.26, Lot 5) Owned By The Township Of Neptune

Explanatory Statement: This ordinance authorizes the deed of open space easement to Monmouth County for Block 1807 Lot 2

Offered by:	<u>Lane</u>	Seconded by:	<u>Williams</u>
<i>Vote:</i> Brantley	<u>Yes</u> Lane	<u>Yes</u> Williams	<u>Yes</u> York <u>Yes</u> Cafferty <u>Yes</u>

The Clerk announces the public hearing on ordinances listed will be held on June 12, 2023

CONSENT AGENDA

- Res #23- 211** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Appointing Members To The Neptune Township Sewerage Authority
- Res #23- 212** Resolution Of The Township Of Neptune Approving Victory Natural Farms LLC For A Cannabis Business License To Operate As Recreational Use Cannabis Establishment Within The Township Of Neptune
- Res #23- 213** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Accepting Resignations
- Res #23- 214** Authorizing Settlement In The Professional Liability Lawsuit Against Former Labor Attorney, Nita Raval, Esq. By Neptune Township
- Res #23- 215** Place Lien On Various Properties
- Res#23- 216** Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune To Terminate Employee
- Res#23- 217** Amendment To Resolution Authorizing Michael Burns, Esq. Of The Rainone, Coughlin, Minchello Law Firm To Represent The Township Of Neptune In The Third Party Complaint In The Case Of Savage V. Kezmarsky V. Neptune Township Filed In The Superior Court Of New Jersey, Law Division, Monmouth County, Under Docket No. Mon-L-2588-21
- Res#23- 218** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing A Chapter 159 Budget Amendment To Insert Revenue Received For The Stormwater Assistance Grant Application
- Res#23- 219** Authorizing The Rejection Of Bids Of Bids Received For Improvement To Public Works Facility, Phase II
- Res#23- 220** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Co-Sponsoring The Third Annual Juneteenth Celebration
- Res#23- 221** Establish Policy For Volunteer Recruitment And Retention Program – Reimbursements
- Res#23- 222** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Accepting The Voluntary Surrender Of Liquor License 1334-36-037-003 And Placing The License In History
- Res#23- 223** Authorize Intra-County Mutual Aid And Assistance Agreements With Participating Units In The County Of Monmouth
- Res#23- 224** Authorize Payment of Bills
- Res#23- 225** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions- Office Of Emergency Management

CONSENT AGENDA

Offered by: Brantley Seconded by: Williams
Vote: Brantley Yes Lane Yes Williams Yes York Yes Cafferty Yes

SEPARATED RESOLUTIONS

Res #23- 226 A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions- Reclassification

Offered by: Lane Seconded by: York
Vote: Brantley Yes Lane Yes Williams Yes York Yes Cafferty Yes

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address any concern relating to the Township.

The public comment portion of our meeting is to allow the public to bring to the Committee’s attention their concerns or comments. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10: 4-12(a) and the Neptune Rules of Committee, the Committee asks the public to limit their comments to five minutes or less. The Committee will respect the public’s time by refraining any comment until the speaker has finished with their allotted time. It should be further noted that public comment portion of our meeting is not structured as a question-and-answer session. If a member of the public has questions, they seek answers to, an appointment can be made with the appropriate office, Business Administrator or Township Committee Liaison during regular business hours. The Township Clerk will regulate the time during the comment portion of our meeting. The Committee reserves the right to respond to comments or questions at the conclusion of the speaker’s time.

Eliza Greenblad, 142 Franklin Ms. Greenblad stated she must wear a cross on a beach badge if she goes to the beach in Ocean Grove. Ms. Greenblad stated she should not have to wear a cross to visit the beach. Ms. Greenblad thanked Mayor Cafferty for meeting with Camp Meeting Association. Ms. Greenblad stated there is not consideration of her Human or Civil Rights.

Shane Martins, 138 Mt. Hermon Way Mr. Martins stated he should ask the employees who have resigned, why they have resigned in reference to the policy adopted for Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Program. Mr. Martins brought a program book relating to Ocean Grove and referenced its content. Mr. Martins stated he was assaulted by an individual at the Democratic Club meeting. Mr. Martins stated that the Mayor followed this man outside of the meeting.

Paul Martin Mr. Martin stated he is a lifelong Democrat, and for the first time in his life that he has been embarrassed being a part of the party because of this party. Mr. Martin stated the party represents civil rights. Residents have come before the Committee time and time again to ask for assistance with the issues being faced in Ocean Grove. Mr. Martin stated he doesn’t believe the Committee doesn’t have the leverage to change the badges. Mr. Martins stated he values diversity.

Mr. Anthony stated he has provided an opinion letter regarding the aspects of the Law that can be enforced specifically at the beach. Mr. Anthony stated Ocean Grove is very unique legally. Mr. Anthony stated the view of Ocean Grove as a political entity was found to be illegal and to be made part of Neptune Township. Mr. Anthony summarized different scenarios that the Township may have ability for enforcement and oversight and times when they do not.

Gary Brown, Cardinal Rd. Mr. Brown thanked Gina for her efforts on the progress with the homeless encampment. Mr. Brown stated there were always a few homeless living in the area in question, but recently it has grown so fast and to be so large. Mr. Brown played a noise clip of what the residents are experiencing. Mr. Brown stated he would really like to see assistance to the disabled members of the homeless encampment.

Barbara Burns, 4
Ocean Ave.

Ms. Burns stated with the beach badges it implicates first amendment rights, free association and freedom of religion. Ms. Burns stated the Township Committee could use moral authority over this issue. Ms. Burns stated people should not be required to purchase a badge to access the beach that includes a religious symbol on it.

Douglas Johnson, 7th
Ave.

Mr. Johnson requested the Township Committee RICE notice Mr. Johnson to engage in a conversation regarding his employment, Human Resources and Directors at Public Works. Mr. Anthony stated the matter has been referred to the Labor Attorney. Mr. Johnson requested the Township Committee to hear his side of the story and is hopeful that the right thing will happen. Mr. Johnson stated he has issues with the departments over seeing this issue.

Hank Coakley, Valley
Rd.

Mr. Coakley stated that the lanes on the street coming to the Township, and he asked why. Mr. Coakley has requested the Township provide a letter for a sign on Gulley and Brighton intersection. Mr. Coakley asked why there are not addresses on the municipal buildings, even though it is required. Mr. Coakley asked if names could be painted on the overpasses.

Richard Williams, 1
Abbott Ave.

Mr. Williams thanked Committeeman Lane for his work on the Veteran's Banners in Ocean Grove. Mr. Williams spoke in support of the residents seeking a resolution for the beach badges. There is a growing number of residents who do not subscribe to the mission of the Camp Meeting Association. The Camp Meeting Association is not open to a solution for the issues being raised and to address the concerns of the residents of the area.

Dianna Harris, 17
Willow Dr.

Ms. Harris asked if Rent Control still in effect in Neptune Township. Mr. Anthony stated yes and that there is a Rent Leveling Board. Mr. Anthony stated the code stated there must be a minimum unit to be subject to the ordinance. Newer complexes may file for an exemption to the local code.

Joyce Klein, 105 Mt.
Hermon Way.

Ms. Klein stated she is disappointed that the Township has not used the moral authority or any form of persuasion to address the beach tag issues. Ms. Klein stated the Camp Meeting Association could accommodate the concerns of Neptune, but they only care about Catholic residents or visitors.

Ms. Klein asked when and if the Township will regulate electric bikes on the boardwalk.

ADJOURNMENT

Offered by: Lane

Seconded by: Brantley

Time adjourned: 8:16PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Gabriella Siboni
Township Clerk