

PRESENTATION

Remembering Dr. Michael Brantley

WHEREAS, the Divine Creator, in His infinite wisdom, has taken Dr. Michael Brantley and brought him to His Kingdom and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael Brantley was born on the 15th day of December in 1944 and departed this world on January 6th, 2024, and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael Brantley served as a Captain in the United States Army from 1967-1970, graduated from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey to become a Doctor of Dental medicine. Dr. Brantley excelled in his career of Dentistry in private practice for 36 years, and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael Brantley was elected to serve on the Neptune Township Committee in 2007. During his tenure on the Neptune Township Committee, Dr. Michael Brantley has served as Mayor and Deputy Mayor and has had leadership roles on multiple subcommittees including Wesley Lake Commission, Economic Development, Redevelopment and many community programs, and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael Brantley departed this life leaving behind his loving wife of more than 30 years, Jackie Keel-Brantley. Dr. Michael Brantley will be remembered fondly by those who were lucky enough to know and love him, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Tassie D. York, Mayor of the Township of Neptune, along with the entire Township Committee, do hereby recognize and celebrate the life of Dr. Michael Brantley and bestow the hope that he will always be remembered for his service to his country and community, his commitment to his faith and that he will always live in the hearts of his family and friends.

COMMENTS FROM THE DAIS

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

- Cafferty No reports
Mr. Cafferty stated that it is a heavy loss of Dr. Brantley.
- Lane Mr. Lane gave condolences to Dr. Brantley’s family. Dr. Brantley motivated Mr. Lane to run for Township Committee and he always appreciated Dr. Brantley.
Mr. Lane is looking forward to improvements in infrastructure throughout towns, improvements at parks, addition of a dog park and specific improvements to Bradley Park. Mr. Lane stated he wants to work with Department heads to have a safe and efficient workplace. Mr. Lane stated he would like to make informed decisions for Neptune Township by weighing public input, administration review and input from department heads. Mr. Lane is prioritizing fiscal responsibility this year to alleviate the tax burden on residents.

Mr. Lane stated the Senior Center is looking to have a constituent night so that residents may come to the senior center for services after regular business hours. The Senior Center is working closely with county and state offices to offer programs and information.
- McMillan Absent
- Williams Mr. Williams stated that Dr. Brantley was his running mate and a good friend. May he rest in peace. Mr. Williams thanked the Harbor Master and Marina staff for their diligent work at the marina this season. At this point, the marina is sold out for slips.
Office of Emergency Management has a long proud history that reflects the commitment of the team. OEM is regularly recognized as one of the best in the State under the leadership of Michael Bascom, Michael Dileo, Donald Collarusso, Kyle Bascom, Bil Rosen and Dave Milmoie.
- York Mayor York expressed deep condolences to Dr. Brantley’s family. Dr. Brantley was even the dentist for Mayor York’s children.

Mayor York wished everyone a Happy New Year and is looking forward to the year ahead. Ms. York attended the school board meeting where Chanta Jackson was sworn in as the Board President. The Board of Education is working hard with expected budget shortfalls.

Mayor York stated her goal for this year is to work for the public. Ms. York would like to work with the public and having public involvement.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

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

- **Ocean Grove Pier Update:** In my last report on this matter, I indicated that OGCMA would be engaging a 3rd party engineer – a meeting was held with that engineer last Thursday. Avakian Engineers informed me that they are still awaiting full feedback from the other engineers, but shared with me that the preliminary thought is to find

a company that can perform a sounding on the piles to determine their integrity under the sand floor.

- **Homeless Encampment Issues:** The Monmouth County Continuum of Care has their monthly case conference this Wednesday January 10th, and this Thursday January 11th the Township will be having its own meeting of internal stakeholders with our Special Counsel present to strategize long term solutions for the public health, safety and quality of life issues that continue to be raised and to address the various violations that have been issued thus far against the property owner.
- **Update on Street Light Outages and Repairs:** This week the Township engaged with JCP&L to inquire about the many reported street light outages that we have experienced throughout town, and which have been reported to the utility over the past 18 months. Specifically, JCP&L informed us that the lights on Route 33 between Atkins and Memorial in front of the firehouse are in the queue for repair, but were delayed because a NJ DOT permit was needed, and also confirmed that currently there are 30 streetlight repair orders open in their system from the Township. They assured us that their Operations team will prioritize these repairs and a follow-up conversation will take place in early February to assess what progress has been made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS

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

Public comments regarding resolutions presented on this agenda only. The public will be permitted one visit to the microphone with a limit of five minutes.

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Comment</u>
No Public Comment	

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 scheduled for this meeting.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

Ordinance 24-01 An Ordinance To Of The Township Of Neptune To Amend And Supplement Chapter 13 Streets And Sidewalks By Amending Section 1 “Excavation Of Streets And Sidewalks”

Explanatory Statement: This ordinance amends the application information, increases application fees, designates administrative responsibilities and powers to department representatives regarding the excavating and repaving of streets and sidewalks.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Res#24- 064** Place Lien On Various Properties
- Res#24- 065** Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Town Wide Garage Sale
- Res#24- 066** Establish Fee Schedule For Recreation Field Use
- Res#24- 067** Authorizing The Execution Of Contracts With Various Organizations To Provide Recreation Programs And Services
- Res#24- 068** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions- Reclassification

CONSENT AGENDA

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address any concern relating to the Township. The public will be permitted one visit to the microphone with a limit of five minutes.

Name and Address

Comment

Rich Robertson, Hillside Dr.

Mr. Robertson expressed his condolences on the loss of Dr. Brantley. Mr. Robertson stated the police were called again on 401 Overlook. Mr. Robertson stated it is believed there is an outside speaker system attached to their indoor system. There was also screaming from the property and neighbors were concerned someone was injured. Mr. Robertson asked if there has been any progress on the short-term rental or animal house rules.

Mr. Anthony stated that the owner of Embury and Overlook was in court last week and \$6,500 in fines were issued between the property. Mr. Anthony stated that he will be sending a nuisance ordinance to the Police Committee to review. Mr. Anthony stated there is nothing in the surrounding town ordinances that are related to "pop up" parties. The ordinance will be sent to the Police Committee next week and a short-term rental ordinance is being drafted for input by department heads.

Mr. Robertson asked if Ms. LaPlaca was able to find any information on the healthy tree ordinance. Ms. LaPlaca stated there was a drafted ordinance in the early 2000s but was never adopted by the Committee.

Kurt Cavanaugh, Abbott Ave.

Mr. Cavanaugh expressed condolences regarding Dr. Brantley. Mr. Cavanaugh congratulated Mayor York on her ascension to Mayor. Mr. Cavanaugh thanked Mr. Anthony on his work on the short-term rental ordinance. Ocean Grove is hurting from short term rentals between noise and increased rents, property values and taxes.

Mr. Cavanaugh stated he was happy that Fletcher Lake was drained in advance of the pending storm to alleviate flooding concerns.

Mr. Cavanaugh asked that now the Township is collecting millions in cannabis revenue, will it be put in the general fund to reduce the tax burden on residents. Mr. Cavanaugh asked the Township Committee their intent for the use of this revenue.

Ms. LaPlaca stated in the next two weeks there will be budget hearings between departments and their liaisons.

Mr. Cafferty stated once of the main reasons he pushed for cannabis in Neptune was the hope to reduce taxes.

Paul Martin, Franklin Ave.

Mr. Martin expressed condolences for the loss of Dr. Brantley. Mr. Martin stated for months have come before the committee and raised questions regarding the safety of the pier. The residents have asked for the Township to oversee permits and inspections. Now, it is clear, that the pier is unsafe. Mr. Martin asked if the new engineering firm will be paid by Camp Meeting. Mr. Martin asked if the Township would hire engineers to inspect the pier and to oversee the permits. Mr. Martin stated he believes the Committee has been absent with matters to the pier and Ocean Grove.

Mr. Anthony stated the Township does not have jurisdiction over the construction of the pier. Mr. Martin disagreed with Mr. Anthony since the Township inspected the construction of his home. Mr. Anthony stated that the State of New Jersey indicates that piers are not a local matter. Mr. Anthony stated a letter was submitted to the State regarding the violations of the Public Trust Doctrine based on the religious reasons for closure of the beach on Sunday.

Shane Martin, Mt. Hermon Way

Mr. Martin expressed condolences to Dr. Brantley's family. Mr. Martin stated that the Director of Land Use from the NJDEP that stated the Township has oversight of the pier and the State does not have oversight. Mr. Martin asked why Ms. LaPlaca reached out to Avakian Engineers on the pier when Mr. Anthony has advised the Township would be liable. Ms. LaPlaca stated asking for information and an update is not equivalent to intervention.

Mr. Martin asked Mr. Williams why special permission from OEM for the speakers, pier and board provided for emergency matters by way of a letter from the OEM Coordinator

Michael Bascom.

Mr. Martin brought up an e-mail that was sent up about the illuminated sign in Ocean Grove. Mr. Martin stated the sign only displays bible verses and advertising Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association. Mr. Martin asked Ms. LaPlaca will be monitoring the sign or instructing for the removal of the sign.

Mr. Anthony stated that the representative from the NJDEP made it clear to Mr. Anthony that the Township is not responsible for the pier and Mr. Martin misread the emails.

Aliza Greenblatt Franklin Ave.

Ms. Greenblatt stated the illuminated signs do not follow the HPC Guidelines of Ocean Grove. Camp Meeting states that the sign can be used for emergencies, but the sign projects messaging everyday with highly religious verbiage and scripture and to advertise Camp Meeting Programs. Ocean Grove Residents must abide by HPC regulations, but the Camp Meeting is not required to follow the same guidelines. Ms. Greenblatt asked why the Township is not enforcing the regulations on Camp Meeting.

Ms. LaPlaca stated she will speak to Mr. Haney and OEM about the history of the sign in Ocean Grove. Ms. LaPlaca stated that many times signs are approved so that they are available during emergencies but are allowed to be used in other matters.

Barbara Burns, Ocean Ave.

Ms. Burns stated she looked at the CAFRA permit for the pier. The permit stated the permit stated the pilings should be drilled 10 feet or to refusal. Ms. Burns asked that Ms. LaPlaca if she could inquire to Avakian how deep the pilings were driven.

Cindy Carhart, Broadway

Ms. Carhart congratulated the Mayor on her appointment.

Ms. Carhart stated her home flooded on September 29. A pod was used and was just removed after 3 months at the property. Ms. Carhart stated the illuminated sign should have noted that flooding possible in the area and the sign should be illuminated for the storm expected tonight.

Ms. Carhart stated her home overlooks where the lake was drained, and emergency services was not at the area until there was a foot of water flooded. Ms. Carhart asked who is responsible for lowering the level of the lake.

Mr. Lane stated it is a joint effort between Bradley Beach and Neptune Township. The municipalities have been in talks to lower the lake. The storm a few months ago was not an expected severity of storm and the lake was drained prior to the storm.

Ms. Carhart asked if there could be a contact list for who to call during emergency specifically related to Fletcher Lake.

Ms. Carhart stated she will forward the contact from NJDEP regarding the jurisdiction of the Township.

Joel Popkin, Inskip Ave.

Mr. Popkin asked if the Township could speak to the Police or OEM to see if contact was made to Ocean Grove Camp Meeting to place a message on the sign if it was ever disregarded.

The sign belongs to the Camp Meeting so he believes they can put their messaging on it but would prioritize emergency matters.

Joan Venezia Mt. Hermon Way

Ms. Venezia asked about 63 Cookman Ave. updates and is concerned about the safety of the property. Mr. Anthony stated new plans were submitted for major renovations at the property.

Ms. Venezia followed up on a reported light outage at Mt. Hermon and NJ.

Ms. Venezia asked for an update of the updated short term rental ordinance.

Mr. Anthony stated an ordinance has been drafted for short term rentals and is hoping to have a workshop on the matter and review from department heads by next meeting.

Ms. Venezia asked if there is any progress on the extension of the walking path at Fletcher Lake. Mr. Lane stated that Avakian has been looking into the extension and the pricing of the footpath and barriers for the parking lot.

Annabelle Bissett
Heck Ave.

Ms. Venezia asked for an update from the Township Committee regarding OGNED and encouraged the Township to not consider the settlement for this project because if residents are subject to the regulations of HPC, so should the OGNED redevelopment.

Ms. Bissett stated she had moved to Ocean Grove because of the historical nature. Ms. Bissett has done some research on Ocean Grove and there is a statement in the Chamber of Commerce, it is the most Victorian Architecture in the nation. Ms. Bissett stated there was a list of presidents who had visited Ocean Grove. Ms. Bissett provided historical information on Ocean Grove including the requirement for a Certificate of Appropriateness is required in Ocean Grove. Ms. Bissett stated there is somewhere in the agreement that states in the event that the hotel is unsuccessful it may be converted to condominiums.

Mr. Anthony stated he does not believe the Township Committee should comment on this matter.

Robert Ingato,
Seaview Ave.

Ms. Bissett asked if there has been any movement on the reduction of speed limit in Ocean Grove. Mr. Anthony stated he would if the Township Committee requested that he would. Mr. Ingato wanted to ask the Mayor what her priorities are for this year, and he was happy to hear Mayor York state she intended to listen to residents. Mr. Ingato expressed a desire along with other friends in Ocean Grove to volunteer for Neptune Township and asked if there is a formal way to engage the community. Mr. Ingato thanked the Police Department for their expedient response to an emergency he had experienced.

Gary Brown,
Cardinal Rd.

Mr. Brown expressed his condolences to dr. Brantley's family and friends.

Mr. Brown stated he appreciated what Code Enforcement, and the Township is doing regarding the homeless encampment and surrounding areas. Mr. Brown expressed concern that the property owner is not involved or caring enough about the issue. There are entities that are being told to come to the homeless encampment to provide aid to the residents in the encampment which is an encouragement to stay. Mr. Brown stated the property owner is affluent and will be able to talk down the accumulated fines through the court process. Mr. Brown is concerned there will just be a slap on the wrist rather than an appropriate ruling against the property owner for the continued issues.

Since the holidays there are significant increases in the debris at the property including furniture and excessive debris. The accumulated materials are ending up on the neighbors' properties and yards. Mr. Brown asked if it would be possible to attend one of the internal meetings that the Township is hosting to be aware of the continued work and discussions surrounding this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Offered by: Lane Seconded by: Cafferty

Time adjourned: 8:12PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Gabriella Siboni
Township Clerk