

August 12, 2021 – Special Meeting

The Township Committee met on the above date with Mayor Liedtka calling the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call was taken showing present: Mayor Jeremy Liedtka, Deputy Mayor Lido Panfili, Committeemen Shreekant Dhopte and Michael Russo, Committeewoman Denise Koetas-Dale. Also present Administrator, Thomas Sahol; Township Clerk, Caryn Hoyer and Township Attorney, John Gillespie.

The Open Public Meetings Act statement was read and compliance noted.

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2021-8-1. All were in favor. Resolution approved.

RESOLUTION 2021-8-1

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A MEETING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Chesterfield is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6, et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12 provides that an Executive Session not open to the public may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Township Committee of the Township of Chesterfield to discuss, in a session not open to the public, certain matters relating to the item or items authorized by Resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Township Committee of the Township of Chesterfield to discuss, in a session not open to the public, certain matters relating to the item or items authorized by NJSA 10:4-12b and designated below:

- Matters required by law to be confidential.
- Matters where the release of information would impair the right to receive funds.
- Matters involving individual privacy.
- Matters relating to collective bargaining agreements.
- Matters relating to the purchase, lease, or acquisition of real property or the investment of public funds.
- Matters relating to public safety and property.
- Matters relating to litigation, negotiations and the attorney-client privilege.
- Matters relating to the employment relationship.
- Matters relating to the potential imposition of a penalty.
- Matters relating to deliberations on administrative and/or quasi-judicial matters.
- Matters relating to contract negotiations.

Chief of Police during the Chief's absence or disability, to the same extent as the control vested in the Chief set forth in this Section. Said "Officer-in-Charge" shall be compensated for said additional responsibilities as determined appropriate by the Township Committee.

ARTICLE TWO. REPEALER, SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

- A. Repealer. Any and all Ordinances inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of any such inconsistencies.
- B. Severability. In the event that any clause, section, paragraph or sentence of this Ordinance is deemed to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, then the Township Committee hereby declares its intent that the balance of the Ordinance not affected by said invalidity shall remain in full force and effect to the extent that it allows the Township to meet the goals of the Ordinance.
- C. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon proper passage in accordance with the law.

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

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**RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Russo made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolutions 2021-8-2, 2021-8-3 and 2021-8-4. Roll Call: Mr. Dhopte – yes; Ms. Koetas-Dale – yes; Mr. Panfili – yes; Mr. Russo – yes; Mr. Liedtka – yes.

**RESOLUTION 2021-8-2**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT  
WITH TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR**

**WHEREAS**, Thomas A. Sahol was hired by the Township Committee of the Township of Chesterfield on September 1, 2020, and has served in the position of Township Administrator pursuant to the duties and responsibilities imposed upon that position by both statute and Township ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township is desirous of further establishing the parameters of the terms and conditions of Mr. Sahol's employment, to the extent that they are not otherwise set forth in local ordinances, and/or Township personnel policies and handbooks; and

**WHEREAS**, both the Township Committee and the Township Administrator have been advised by the Township Solicitor that position of Municipal Administrator is a public office, and that a Contract, or Employment Agreement, between the Parties is to a large extent, not enforceable, but nevertheless, the Township Committee and the Administrator prefer, for purposes of establishing their understandings, and to create a better comfort level regarding the requirements for the employment relationship, to reduce same to an Employment Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee has reviewed this document and has had the benefit of advice from both the Township Solicitor, and Township's Labor Counsel, and Mr. Sahol has had the benefit of such advice as he has sought on his own behalf; and

**WHEREAS**, both the Township Committee and Mr. Sahol are comfortable that the attached "Chesterfield Township Administrator Employment Agreement" reflects their understanding of the relationship between the Parties, and the duties and responsibilities, as well as the benefits and emoluments, of the position of Township Administrator.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Chesterfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached "Chesterfield Township Administrator Employment Agreement", within an effective date of August 12, 2021.

**CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

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RESOLUTION 2021-8-3

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF "OFFICER-IN-CHARGE",
AND PROVIDING APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2020, due to physical incapacity of the Chief of Police Kyle Wilson, effective December 3, 2020, Chief Wilson designated Sergeant Mike Davison, the responsibility to act in the Chief's place, and to manage the day-to-day operations of the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the Township of Chesterfield, as the "Appropriate Authority" under both municipal ordinance, and as permitted by State statute, has, over the course of the past eight (8) months, joined in that appointment and recognition of Sergeant Davison as the "Officer-in-Charge" of the Chesterfield Township Police Department in the absence of the Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee deems it appropriate to both confirm that designation of Sergeant Mike Davison as the Acting "Officer-in-Charge" of the

Chesterfield Township Police Department, and to compensate Sergeant Davison, retroactively to January 1, 2021, at the rate of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per month as a stipend for and in recognition of the services provided, under the Acting designation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Chesterfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, that the appointment initially by the Chief of Police, and then by the Mayor as the appropriate authority, of Sergeant Mike Davison as the “Acting Officer-in-Charge” of the Chesterfield Township Police Department be and the same is hereby confirmed, retroactive to January 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that subject to budgetary availability and applicable Salary Ordinances, the Township Committee hereby authorizes and directs a payment of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per month to Sergeant Davison retroactive to January 1, 2021, for having served as the Acting Officer-in-Charge” and further authorizes the continued payment to Sergeant Davison of that stipend, so long as the Mayor, in his role as the “Appropriate Authority” under both Township ordinances and State statutes, continues the designation of Sergeant Davison as the Chesterfield Township “Acting Officer-in-Charge” of its Police Department.

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

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**RESOLUTION 2021-8-4**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING MICHAEL SCHEPIS  
AS A FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER**

**WHEREAS**, Michael Schepis was appointed as a part-time Class II Special Officer by Resolution 2020-8-5 with an effective date of September 10, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief of Police has requested the Township Committee appoint part-time Officer Michael Schepis to a full-time Police Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee believes it is in the best interest of the public to hire an additional officer; and

**WHEREAS**, Michael Schepis possesses all of the qualifications required by State Statute and Township Ordinance; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Chesterfield in the County of Burlington and State of New Jersey that Michael Schepis is hereby appointed as full-time Police Officer for the Township of Chesterfield, effective August 1, 2021; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Michael Schepis is hired at Step 1 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Township of Chesterfield and the Chesterfield Police FOP Lodge 114, Fraternal Order of Police/New Jersey Labor Council;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this appointment is subject to the probationary period outlined in Chapter 42 Section 8A(1) of the Code of the Township of Chesterfield, waiver of Class II to full certification and successful completion of EMT with defibrillation certification.

**CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

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Mr. Panfili made a motion seconded by Ms. Koetas-Dale to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryn M. Hoyer, RMC
Municipal Clerk