

## **CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP REGULAR SESSION DECEMBER 14, 2023**

The Township Committee met on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 295 Bordentown-Chesterfield Road, Chesterfield, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Denise Koetas-Dale at 7:00 p.m.

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

### **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Present: Belinda Blazic, Shreekant Dhopte, Jeremy Liedtka, Matthew Litt and Denise Koetas-Dale

Also present: Thomas A. Sahol, Administrator; Caryn M. Hoyer, Township Clerk; Rachel Fryc, Deputy Clerk; Troy Ulshafer, Public Works Manager; Carmela Roberts, Township Engineer; Dominic P. DiYanni, Township Attorney and Michael Davison, Police Chief

**AGENDA MATTER(S) REQUIRING RECUSAL(S)** – None.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Litt made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve the November 9th Regular minutes. All were in favor.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

Ms. Koetas-Dale advised the public of the “public comment code of conduct” as listed on the agenda.

Mr. Litt made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to open the meeting to public comment. Hearing none, Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to close public comment. All were in favor.

### **ORDINANCES(S) FOR INTRODUCTION**

Mr. DiYanni explained a law was changed in the spring of 2023 which sets the limit for political contributions. This ordinance is for housekeeping purposes to remove from our code so there is not confusion.

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to introduce Ordinance 2023-21. All were in favor. Public hearing on the Ordinance will be at the next regular Township Committee meeting on December 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

#### **ORDINANCE 2023-21**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTIONS 39-33 THROUGH 39-40 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE REGARDING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS**

Mr. Sahol explained Mr. Shah has concerns with the parking on Marlton Lane. Marlton is wide enough to handle parking on one side only. This ordinance will set the area where cars can park on Marlton Lane. Mr. Litt asked if there are other streets that were looked at that fit this same situation. Mr. Sahol said we did not look at others but most alleys are not as wide as Marlton. This is a unique situation. Ms. Blazic asked Chief Davison if he has any concerns. The chief stated he does not see a need for the ordinance but that is up to the Township Committee.

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to introduce Ordinance 2023-22. All were in favor. Public hearing on the Ordinance will be at the next regular Township Committee meeting on December 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

**ORDINANCE 2023-22**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTERFIELD AMENDING CHAPTER 182 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTERFIELD TO ESTABLISH PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON A PORTION OF MARLTON LANE**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mayor Koetas-Dale asked for a motion on Resolution 2023-12-1 a Resolution Authorizing Appropriation Transfers to Enable the Professional Services Contract for Reevaluation of the Historic Resources Survey.

Roll Call Vote: Blazic – NO; Dhopte – YES; Liedtka – NO; Litt – Yes; Koetas-Dale-YES. Resolution was defeated.

Resolution 2023-12-2 cannot be considered as it relied on the adoption of Resolution 2023-12-1.

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-12-3. Voice vote - All were in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12-3**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION UNDER N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 FOR BULLETPROOF VEST GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,264.00 IN THE 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve Resolution 2023-12-4 Voice vote - All were in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12-4**

**RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2023-9-1 ASSIGNING BUDGET CCOUNTS RELATED TO EMPLOYEE SALARIES AS OUTLINED IN SALARY ORDINANCE #2023-11**

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-12-5. Voice vote – All were in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12-5            RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION FOR  
2024 AMUSEMENT GAMES LICENSE FOR  
FUNDAES ARCADE LLC**

Mr. Sahol explained the resolution is needed to write off old items on the bank recs. These are just housekeeping items.

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-12-6. Voice vote – All were in favor

**RESOLUTION 2023-12-6            RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WRITE-OFF OF  
OLD BANK RECONCILIATION ITEMS**

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-12-7. Voice vote – All were in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12-7            RESOLUTION CANCELLING EMERGENCY  
APPROPRIATION AUTHORIZED BY  
RESOLUTION 2023-8-1 FOR VEHICLE  
MAINTENANCE**

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-12-8. Voice vote – All were in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12-8            RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION  
OF TAX ASSESSED TO MUNICIPAL  
PROPERTY**

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve Resolution 2023-12-9. Voice vote – All were in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12-9            RESOLUTION APPROVING FIRE DISTRICT #1  
COMMISSIONER COMPENSATION FOR 2024**

Mayor Koetas-Dale stated Chief Davison will fill the Emergency Management position for now however he would like the township to find a permanent replacement. Mr. Dhopte asked about position requirements. The Chief stated there is training that must be completed within one year. The clerk indicated the person would also need to be a township resident.

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve Resolution 2023-12-10. Voice vote – All were in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12-10            RESOLUTION APPOINTING EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR AND DEPUTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR**



Administration: Mr. Sahol stated he sent a letter to the Burlington County Engineer office advising them we have an issue with the guiderail and topography where the County recently completed work on Chesterfield-Georgetown Road bridge. He was advised that the County will be completing the other side of the bridge at a later date and the work will be done by an outside contractor. Those issues will be handled then. They are looking at probably 2025.

Mr. Sahol stated he sent a letter to the Chesterfield School advising the shared service agreement expires March 31, 2024. The school is making arrangements to handle the mowing and snow plowing. Mr. Litt asked if they want to extend the agreement. Mr. Sahol stated we do not have the staff to handle it. Mr. Liedtka stated that was part of the agreement when we purchased this property.

Mr. Sahol advised the committee the final bill list of the year may not be available until the day before the meeting and most likely will have changes right up to the meeting as we try to get everything paid by the end of the year.

Engineer: Ms. Roberts stated the SWMP will not be complete by the end of this year however they have made a lot of progress.

Ms. Roberts stated that Sykesville Road is moving along. Cebulka Drive will be paved tomorrow and next week Sykesville Road driveway restorations will be completed.

Ms. Roberts stated the plans for the generator are complete however they have been advised there needs to be a bond ordinance in place before it is advertised.

Ms. Roberts stated she is making progress with green acres on determining the area covered by the green acres restriction and looking at the outside of the path as the area. The clerk advised Ms. Roberts that the Fire Company owns some of the path area and that should not have any restriction.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Blazic asked about the \$1600 in damages at village Square Park. Mr. Sahol stated that he along with Rachel and Troy met with the organizers today. They will reimburse the town. Ms. Blazic stated that when that park is used we should consider a good faith deposit. She suggested \$250. Mayor Koetas-Dale asked to have put on the agenda for discussion on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Litt was concerned about the amount of time that went into getting this resolved.

Mr. Liedtka asked about the status of the circle at Chesterfield-Crosswicks and Old York Road. Mr. Sahol will reach out to the County.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to open the meeting to public comment. All were in favor.

Maria Montero – 15 Saddle Way – She stated she is a nurse at RWJ New Brunswick and she is requesting the Township Committee pass a resolution in support of A4536 and S304 which establishes staffing standards for certain facilities. She stated that short staffing puts patients and nurses at risk. She asked to have a resolution on at the next meeting.

Herb Ames – 10 Old York Road – He stated he was advised at the end of October that the County finished the design phase for the circle at 677/660.

Steve Hazen – 447 Main Street – Mr. Hazen asked the Township Committee to get rid of the \$100 COA fee for those in the historic district. He stated it is an unfair burden on those that live in the district. He stated between Stormwater management and potential new garage for public works, taxes will be going up and we don't need to pay an additional \$100. He asked the Township Committee to reconsider the fee.

Suzy Mahon – 16 Chesterfield-Crosswicks Rd – She agreed and ask the committee to remove the \$100 COA fee. No one outside the district has to pay. It is not fair. This has been talked about for a while and she would like to see it as an action item on the agenda.

Brian Mahon – 16 Chesterfield-Crosswicks Rd – He would like to see the historic district map changed. He asked if the Township Committee has a problem with that and how can we get this done. Mayor Koetas-Dale stated it is already being considered and believes the HPC is aware of your request. He stated he has talked with members of the HPC and they seem like very fair people.

Hearing no further public comment, Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to close public comment. All were in favor.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Liedtka stated the current HPC ordinance has had a lot of amendments. He thinks it should be repealed and replaced. Mayor Koetas-Dale stated it is being redone. The State Historic Preservation Committee has made some recommendations and they are being reviewed by the HPC. It will come to the Township Committee for final approval. Mr. DiYanni agrees there have been many changes and stated he has not seen it yet but when he does he will have recommendations for the committee.

Ms. Blazic asked about removing the fee for HPC Application. Mr. Litt stated he has asked about this months ago. He would like to see no fee for the resident but if a developer comes in to build a new home, there should be an increased fee.

Mr. DiYanni stated he will prepare an ordinance for January to address the COA fee.

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to approve Resolution 2023-12-14 to go into executive session at 7:59 PM. All were in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12-14    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**

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Caryn M. Hoyer, RMC  
Township Clerk