

## **CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP REGULAR SESSION DECEMBER 28, 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 December 14<sup>th</sup> 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. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to close public comment. All were in favor.

### **ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to open the meeting to public comment on Ordinance 2023-21. All were in favor. Hearing no comments, Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to close public comment. Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to adopt Ordinance 2023-21. Voice vote – All in favor.

**ORDINANCE 2023-21**

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

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to table 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. Roll Call Vote – Blazic – yes; Dhopte – yes; Liedtka – yes; Litt – yes; Koetas-Dale – yes.

Mr. Litt asked that public comment be heard since there is public present regarding the ordinance. The Township Committee agreed.

Mr. Litt made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to open to public comment for on the tabled ordinance. All were in favor.

Nick Peters, 4 Marlton Lane stated he has lived here for 16 years and never had any issues with parking or traffic on Marlton Lane. He stated that Marlton is not an alley. It is very similar in width to Berryland and Recklesstown. He believes there is plenty of parking on both sides of Marlton Lane. He suggested the Township Committee get input from the residents on Marlton Lane. He is asking the Township Committee to vote no to this ordinance.

Jay Leon, 10 Marlton Lane echoed what Mr. Peters said. Mr. Leon stated the fence on the corner of Marlton and Lakehurst is the problem. He has had conversation with law enforcement. It is dangerous especially with delivery people and lots of drive through of Marlton Lane. He said you should take into consideration garbage and recycling cans left out on the street taking up parking.

John Chapman, 6 Marlton Lane stated this ordinance was created without merit. He stated that Marlton is 50% wider than other lanes. He said that #6 & #8 on the north side is deemed an intersection and that is wrong. He understands that safety is the issue but fences are one foot from the street. If Marlton parking is restricted, you need to look at other streets. He stated that Marlton was constructed to accommodate parking for Marlton residents since they could not park in front of their home. Mr. Chapman said the 6 foot fence on Marlton is the problem.

Prashant Srinivasa, 8 Marlton Lane stated that this alley is unique in that it is for the residents to park. In the last 3 months he has called the cops 4 times. He is struggling with just 2 cars to park. He thanked the cops for working with him. There is no strong reason to write this ordinance.

Kathy Peters, 4 Marlton Lane has four cars in her home and wants to be able to park on Marlton Lane. She stated there are 6 driveways, 6 mailboxes and no room to park. Deliveries and landscapers occupy the parking spots. She stated she should be able to park on Marlton.

Mukesh Shah, 6 Colemantown Drive stated that all the parking is illegal on Marlton Lane. He was told he could only have a 4 foot fence. How could the Township allow a 6 foot fence one foot from the roadway?

Harsh Mehta, 9 Berryland Street said that when people park against the fence it is difficult to see and dangerous. He stated nothing against his neighbors but if cars parked along the fence and par on the other side of the road, there is not enough room.

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

### **RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-12-15. Voice vote - All in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12-15 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR SYKESVILLE ROAD PHASE IV & V IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AWARD TO PAVING PLUS LLC**

### **BILL LIST**

Mr. Litt made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve the bill list. Voice vote – All in favor.

### **REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

**Emergency Management Coordinator** – Chief Davison suggested putting together a sub-committee in order to fill the EMC position. Chief Davison stated that the individual that holds this position does not need to be a Chesterfield Township resident and has one year to get certified after appointment to the position. The Township Committee agreed with Chief Davison to move forward with creating a sub-committee.

**Village Square Park - Deposit for Use** – The Township Committee discussed security deposits for use of parks due to damage that has been done in the past. Mr. Liedtka suggested a deposit for events that are more than one day. Mayor Koetas-Dale asked Rachel Fryc to bring back some suggestions to the next Township meeting regarding charging rental fees and or security deposits for the parks. Mr. Litt asked Troy Ulshafer to put together a report of any damage done to the parks at past events and cost associated with it and bring it to the next meeting.

## **REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION**

### **MAYOR:**

Mayor Koetas-Dale reported that Tom Sahol is leaving his position as Township Administrator at the end of this week and going to another town. She stated we have learned a lot from him and he gave the township great guidance. She thanked him for his service and wished him all the best.

Mayor Koetas-Dale thanked Mr. Liedtka for his years of dedication as he served on the Township Committee for 12 years and the Planning Board for 4 years. She stated he served many of those years as Mayor and put a lot of time in for Chesterfield Township.

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

**Route 677/660 Roundabout Update** – Mr. Sahol reported that Burlington County is currently in the design phase of the roundabout and anticipates a public hearing in the beginning of next year.

Mr. Sahol thanked the Township Committee for his experience here. He enjoyed working here. It was a rewarding experience.

### **ENGINEER**

Township Engineer, Carmella Roberts gave the following updates:

**Sykesville Road** – The work is completed and they are working on the punch list. Some items may go to the spring as they are whether dependent.

**Storm Water** – The Storm Water Pollution permit was submitted to the State today. The Storm Water Management Plan is still being worked on.

**Public Works Evaluation** – Ms. Roberts stated she has a verbal agreement with Green Acres that the restriction generally follows the walking path but does not go onto the first aid or fire company property. Once they receive this notice in writing, the ROSI will be updated. She stated in 2010 there were 4 green acre sites. Two were funded and two were not. This area is not funded. The 400' behind the public works building is not encumbered. The parking spaces for the parks will need to be determined. Ms. Roberts will send a written report and evaluation to the Township Committee with all options and costs.

**Fenton Lane Park & Olivia Park Gazebo** – She stated that she has received approval and moving forward.

**Generators** – Waiting on the funding to be authorized and then will advertise.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Donated Time Policy** – Mr. DiYanni said this would be a policy so that employees can donate their time to fellow employees that are in need due to illness, etc. Mayor Koetas-Dale asked Ms. Hoyer to put this on for the last meeting in January to discuss during Executive.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Litt made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to open the meeting to public comment. All were in favor.

Lee Panfili, 518 Ward Avenue thanked Jeremy Liedtka for serving on the Township Committee for 12 years. He also thanked Tom Sahol and said the Town is better off because of both of them.

Susie Mahon, 16 Chesterfield-Crosswicks Road asked when the HPC ordinance will be on the agenda. She is waiting for the fee to homeowners to be removed. Ms. Hoyer replied the ordinance will be on for the January meeting.

Brian Mahon, 16 Chesterfield-Crosswicks Road asked about moving the property line for the Historic District. Mayor Koetas-Dale replied they are working on that. Mr. Mahon thanked Mr. Sahol and Mr. Liedtka for their time.

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

## **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Litt thanked Mr. Sahol and Mr. Liedtka. He also thanked Troy for his help with the beavers.

At 8:06 PM, Mr. Litt made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-10-16 for executive session to discuss Contract Negotiations. All were in favor. Mr. DiYanni stated there will be no action taken after executive session.

Mr. Litt made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to return to regular session at 8:58 PM. All were in favor.

Mr. Liedtka made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Caryn M. Hoyer, RMC  
Township Clerk