

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP REGULAR SESSION JUNE 8, 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 Koetas-Dale at 7:00 p.m. followed by a flag salute and moment of silence.

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

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

Absent: Jeremy Liedtka

Also present: Thomas A. Sahol, Township Administrator; Caryn M. Hoyer, Township Clerk; Rachel Fryc, Deputy Clerk; Troy Ulshafer, Public Works Director; Cameron Corini, 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 May 25th regular and executive meeting minutes. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to open the meeting to public comment. All were in favor. Hearing no comments, Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to close public comment. All were in favor.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Mr. Litt to introduce Ordinance 2023-8. All were in favor. Public hearing on the Ordinance will be at the next regular Township Committee meeting on June 22, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

ORDINANCE 2023-8

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 182
“VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” OF THE
CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP CODE FOR
ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMITS”**

ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to open the meeting to public comment on Ordinance 2023-8. All were in favor. Hearing no comments, Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to close public comment. Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to adopt Ordinance 2023-8. All were in favor.

ORDINANCE 2023-8

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PRIVATE SALE OF CERTAIN TOWNSHIP OWNED LAND NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE TO CONTIGUOUS PROPERTY OWNERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL LANDS AND BUILDINGS LAW, NJSA 40A:12-1

RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-6-1. Voice vote - All were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2023-6-1

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT UNDER A NATIONAL PURCHASING ORGANIZATION – OMNIA PARTNERS – TO PROVIDE UNIFORM RENTAL SERVICES UNDER FACILITIES MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS AND SOLUTIONS.

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2023-6-2. Voice vote - All were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2023-6-2

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PL 1994, CHAPTER 72

Mr. Litt made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve Resolutions 2023-6-3 and 6-4. All were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2023-6-3

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NO 0307-33-001-005 TO SALTY ENTERPRISES LLC

RESOLUTION 2023-6-4

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE NO 0307-44-001 TO CHESTERFIELD LIQUOR LLC

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve Resolution 2023-6-5. All were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2023-6-5

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BOND AND SUBSTITUTION OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS OLIVIA PARK IN PHASE 6 OF TRADITIONS

BILL LIST

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

REPORTS & ADMINISTRATION

MAYOR:

Draft of the Dog Ordinance –The Mayor stated that a draft dog ordinance was sent out to the Township Committee for their review. The Township Committee agreed to place on the agenda to introduce it at the June 22nd meeting.

Township Event Internal Review Form – The Mayor stated that the Township Committee received and reviewed a copy of the internal review form which was already reviewed by Mr. Sahol, Chief Davison and Ms. Fryc. Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to start using the form internally immediately. All were in favor.

ADMINISTRATOR: No report. He deferred Mr. Ulshafer.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Aerators – Mr. Ulshafer stated that the aerators are turned on April 1st and shut off on November 1st. The DPW deals with the aerators on a daily basis they have many parts and break frequently. Aerator #11 is currently broken and will be replaced with another aerator or a bubbler system. Aerators 7, 14, 17 & 18 are all down due to leveling work that was done at the ponds recently. Once there is enough rainfall, the basins will regenerate and aerators turn back on. Aerator #16 shut off due to a broken valve. It is now fixed and will turn back on once it rains and regenerates. Mr. Ulshafer stated that bubblers are a better solution for the deeper basins as they put air into the water where. They do not work well in the shallow basins where aerators would be used.

Tennis Wall – Mr. Ulshafer reported that DPW painted and sealed the tennis wall and it is ready to use. The lines will be painted during their down time.

Road Mowing – Mr. Ulshafer reported that the tractor has been fixed and the DPW has been working overtime to get the sides of the roads mowed.

Ms. Blazic asked what can be done about the algae in the ponds. Mr. Ulshafer replied that Black Lagoon will be treating some of the ponds next week. He stated

that the algae does not look good but is actually good for as it adds oxygen into the water.

Summer Schedule – Mr. Ulshafer requested that the DPW have summer hours again to beat the heat starting next week from 7am to 3pm. He stated that if found to be beneficial to the operational needs, he may request this to be year-round. The Township Committee agreed to start the summer hours for DPW on Monday June 12th.

Juneteenth Update – Chris Bond, 1 Chilton Drive and Chair to the 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration through the Interfaith Community Builders. Mr. Bond reported that the celebration will take place on Saturday, June 17th at the Quaker and Community grounds in Crosswicks. There will be food, music and dancing. The Interfaith Community Builders are putting up lawn signs around town to advertise for the event. Mr. Bond has been in contact with the Clerk's office regarding vendors selling food. Ms. Hoyer said that all food vendors must supply the Clerk's office with a certificate from the Board of Health and \$50.00 fee. Church's and other organizations are exempt.

ENGINEER:

NJ DOT Grants – Mr. Corini reported that the grants for Margerum and Waln Roads are 70% complete and will be submitted before the July 1st deadline.

Pump Station Generators – Ongoing process. Applications are in to PSE&G. They have completed the field surveys and are in contact with the County Engineer to coordinate the project with the county paving project. Burlington County is paving between August and November but they will work with us on the timing.

Sykesville Road Phases 4 & 5 – Bid documents are substantially complete. Mr. Corini has been in contact with Mr. Sahol and Mr. Ulshafer and plans to meet with Chief Davison again to finalize traffic control. They are submitting to DOT shortly and plan to bid in August in order to pave by November.

Feasibility Study for DPW – Mr. Corini said that based on the feasibility study that was done a few years ago for a new Public Works building, he and Carmella are ready to have a sit down with Mr. Sahol and Mr. Ulshafer to discuss options.

Fenton Lane Park – Mr. Corini stated they are waiting on a survey from the Township that was noted in the grant application. Mr. Sahol said they have supplied everything they have.

Ongoing Stormwater Issues – Mr. Corini stated that Stormwater will be ongoing and they are working with Tom and Troy as needed.

Mr. Dhopte thanked Troy and the DPW for helping make the repairs to the cricket pitch.

NEW BUSINESS:

Eagle Scout Project – Mahil Selvakumar, 25 Recklesstown Way. He is a member of Troop 55. He presented his Eagle Scout project "Sensory Painted

Play Space” to the Township Committee. The project consists of enhancing the walkways around the playgrounds in Old York Village with games such as Hop Scotch, Jumping Jacks and Tippy Toe. He will do this with re-usable stencils and long-lasting paints. Troop 55 will assist him in completing the project. He is requesting approval of his project and funding from the Township in the amount of \$1,000 which is half of the project costs. Ms. Blazic suggested that the Township Committee discuss and review the project further and vote on it at the next Township meeting. All were in agreement.

Community Garden – Roseanne Greenberg 17 Iron Bridge Road – She has done extensive research on community gardens and shared her findings with the Township Committee. There are 29 residents who are interested in the community garden as of October 2022. Those interested live in Old York Village and they have nowhere to grow their own vegetables. She stated that she and Suruchi Batra visited some community gardens and they are all different. They all have rules, fees and waiting lists. A good location would need to have parking and water. Eagle Scout projects could be to build raised beds, compost areas, etc. There are two grant sources to cover some of the costs, Sustainable Jersey and USDA Urban Agriculture. There was discussion regarding different locations and size of plots. Mr. Ulshafer will reach out to Bordentown Township to get information about their Community Garden. Mayor Koetas-Dale suggests keeping all plot sizes to 4x10 to start out. Mr. Ulshafer will give an update at the next Township meeting on his findings and possible location options for the garden.

OLD BUSINESS:

5k Race – Mr. Sahol reported that he, Chief Davison and Mr. Ulshafer met and went over the 5K route in order to address potential impacts on the town. There are 26 intersections and ten of those must have police presence. There will need to be no parking zones and parking is already at a minimum in Old York Village. Their findings included a cost of \$3,375.00 for outside police and \$516.00 for DPW based on road closures, need for police presence, barriers, garbage collection etc. They will also need to provide liability insurance. Mr. Litt stated we have done this before. Chief Davison stated he has no recollection of an event to this scale. He is aware there have been 5k's before but were very small in numbers. Mr. Dhopte stated he participated in one with 50-100 people in 2017. Chief Davison stated he is not aware of the measures that were taken to address the safety of the participants. He would like to hear from the organizer of the 5K. Ms. Blazic stated that Jeremy Liedtka is going to donate to help with the costs.

Abigale Nanola, 8 Saddle Way and 5K Organizer, said that there are volunteers to help with the costs. She doesn't understand why we need so many officers present. She has been to races and they don't have an officer at every intersection. Chief Davison stated that there is not a police officer at every intersection. Chief Davison suggested finding another route with less intersections and requiring less resources. Ms. Blazic suggested using Fenton Lane Park as a starting point. Abby and Chief Davison agreed to meet and discuss another route and then discuss at the next meeting. The date of the event is Sunday October 15th at 9 AM. Mr. Litt requested a 5 minute recess.

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

Kisan Barot, 96 Applegate Way read a letter he wrote to the Township Committee regarding the fencing regulation of 4" high and must be 10' away from the road. He stated that the height of the fencing does not allow for privacy and is more expensive since it is not standard. He said by changing the fence height requirements from 4 feet to 6 feet, it will reduce cost and supply more privacy to the homeowners. He also suggests reducing the required 10 feet minimum from road to fence to 5-7 feet to give the homeowners more space and privacy. Mr. Barot stated he has an online petition with over 90 homeowner's signatures. Mayor Koetas-Dale will pass this along to Mr. McMahon and stated we will keep you posted.

Mr. Litt asked about why the guidelines were put into place. Ms. Hoyer stated the distance to the roadway is probably sight triangle and snow plowing.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE:

Mr. Litt reminded all the 6th grade graduation ceremony is this coming Wednesday at 6:30pm. He encouraged all to attend.

Mr. Litt stated that several residents received a letter from the Township regarding lawn signs. He would like to know the policy for lawn signs and have it in writing. He is concerned that residents don't know what the policy is. Mr. Litt stated we need to see what the rules are and review. Mr. Sahol will speak to Mr. McMahon about why the letters were sent out and will discuss at the next Township meeting.

Mr. Litt is requesting the Township update the monument that is in front of the Municipal Building since it has not been updated since the Korean War. He asked Mr. Sahol to look into how this project can be funded.

Motion by Ms. Blazic seconded by Mr. Dhopte to adjourn the meeting. All in favor 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryn M. Hoyer, RMC
Township Clerk