

## **CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP REGULAR SESSION JUNE 27, 2024**

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 Matt Litt 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, Rebecca Hughes, Denise Koetas-Dale and Matt Litt

Also present: George Jackson, Administrator; Caryn M. Hoyer, Township Clerk; Rachel Fryc, Deputy Clerk; Dominic P. DiYanni, Township Attorney; Joe Hirsh, Township Engineer; Michael Davison, Chief of Police and Troy Ulshafer, Public Works Manager

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to approve the May 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. All were in favor except Mr. Dhopte and Ms. Blazic who abstained. Ms. Hughes made a motion seconded by Ms. Koetas-Dale to approve the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. All were in favor except Mr. Dhopte who abstained.

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

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to open the meeting to public comment for matters on the agenda. All were in favor.

Bob Bruch - 193 Chesterfield-Crosswicks Road recommended the Township Committee review the Tree Removal Ordinance from Lower Alloway Creek Township. Their ordinance did not go into play until 10 trees were removed. It was a 1 on 1 replacement with a list of acceptable tree. You could either plan on your own or pay \$100 per tree. They extend the exclusions for cutting firewood and timbering activities. They also go on the honor system to make it easier on the Municipality. Their DPW does spot checks and fines are up to \$500. Hearing no further comments, Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to close public comment. All were in favor.

### **ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION**

Ms. Blazic made a motion seconded by Ms. Koetas-Dale to table Ordinance 2024-13 until the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Voice vote - All were in favor.

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Koetas-Dale to introduce Ordinance 2024-16. Voice vote - All were in favor. The public hearing for this ordinance will be July 25<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Hughes asked if the businesses are aware of this ordinance. Mayor Litt agreed to share it with all of the restaurants in town.

**ORDINANCE 2024-16**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 130 ENTITLED "LAND DEVELOPMENT" OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE WITH THE ADDITION OF SECTION 130-88.4 ENTITLED "OUTDOOR DINING"**

**ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to open the meeting to public comment on Ordinance 2024-12. All were in favor. Hearing none, Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to close public comment. All were in favor. Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to adopt Ordinance 2024-12. Roll Call: Blazic – yes; Dhopte – yes; Hughes – yes; Koetas-Dale - yes and Litt – yes.

**ORDINANCE 2024-12**

**A CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTERFIELD PROVIDING FOR A FULLY FUNDED CAPITAL PROJECT AND APPROPRIATING \$22,936.41 FOR POLICE ALCOTEST 9510 SYSTEM FUNDED FROM THE CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP GRANT FUND – DRUNK DRIVING ENFORCEMENT FUND OF \$12,636.41 AND THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF \$10,300.00**

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to open the meeting to public comment on Ordinance 2024-14. All were in favor. Hearing none, Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to close public comment. All were in favor. Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to adopt Ordinance 2024-14. Voice vote - All were in favor.

**ORDINANCE 2024-14**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 182 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTERFIELD, ENTITLED: "TRAFFIC REGULATIONS" TO ADD SUBSECTION 10 GOVERNING "PROHIBITED TURNS"**

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to table the public hearing for Ordinance 2024-15 until the July 25<sup>th</sup> Township meeting. All were in favor. Ms. Hughes stated she is not against the cricket pitch improvements. She is concerned there is no policy behind how the Township Committee chooses who gets funds. We previously told the Community Garden members that we would not fund the garden. She would like to see a long-term plan. Mayor Litt agrees there should be a uniform way to spend the recreation funds.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Ms. Hughes made a motion seconded by Ms. Koetas-Dale to approve Resolution 2024-6-17. Voice vote - All were in favor

**RESOLUTION 2024-6-17**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING CONTACT PERSON FOR THE EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY ATTORNEY CONSULTATION SERVICE OF THE BURLINGTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND**

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to approve Resolution 2024-6-18. Voice vote - All were in favor

**RESOLUTION 2024-6-18**

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

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve Resolution 2024-6-19. Voice vote - All were in favor

**RESOLUTION 2024-6-19**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION UNDER NJSA 40A:4-87 FOR RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,994.86 IN THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve Resolution 2024-6-20. Voice vote - All were in favor

**RESOLUTION 2024-6-20**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO PLANNING BOARD AND SHADE TREE ADVISORY BOARD**

**BILL LIST**

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve the bill list. Voice vote – All in favor.

**REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

**Engineer Report:**

- **Storm water Compliance** – Mapping information received and ERI will prepare final maps for DPW site.
- **NJDOT Sykesville Rd Phase IV & V** – Meeting with the Contractor next week to discuss punch list completion and contract closeout.
- **NJDOT Margerum Road** - He is working on design plans.
- **NJDOT Hogback Road** - Grant application will be submitted before the 7/1/24 deadline.
- **FY2023 DCA LRIG Fenton Lane Parking Lot** – Project was awarded at 6/11/24 meeting in the amount of \$93,974.10 to Richard T. Barrett. Contract is being prepared and bonds and insurance have been requested from the contractor.

- **FY2024 DCA LRIG Fenton Lane Park Walking Path** – Preparing revised scope of work. Will provide engineering proposal and scope of work with cost estimate.
- **Olivia Way Park Gazebo/Cricket Pitch Dugout** – Bid was rejected at 6/11/24 meeting. Project has been readvertised for bids which are due 7/17/24 at 10:00 AM. There will be a base bid and alternate bid to split the two parts of the project.
- **Marlton Lane Parking** – Mr. Hirsh has not located the RSIS waiver the developer would have been required to get to construct something different then the state standards. The plans scale to 30' however there is a label of 22'. It appears to be a drafting error. Mr. Hirsh stated the tax maps are created based on approved plans and is clear it was intended to be 30' wide. Mr. Hirsh stated that title 39 standards would apply.

### **Harvest Festival:**

Rachel informed the Township Committee that she has started working on this year's festival scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>. She stated the cost is approximately \$18,000 to run the festival and we have budgeted \$10,000. She has sent out sponsor letters looking for sponsors. She has reached out to vendors and posted flyers on social media about the event. Last year we received \$6,500 in sponsorships.

### **REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATION –**

Mayor Litt thanked Scout Pack 55 for a great job at the Flag Ceremony and for all of the work they do for the community.

**Website** – Ms. Hoyer stated she has been looking into several website companies since our current vendor will no longer be in business by year end. Ms. Hoyer recommends Civic Plus, they are easy to maneuver and have a low cost of \$6,000.00 a year with a \$1,000.00 for the initial setup. Mr. Jackson agrees with Civic Plus and has worked with them in the past. Ms. Hoyer stated it will take three months to get the new website set up and is asking the Township Committee for approval to move forward. After much discussion, the Township Committee agreed to use Civic Plus. Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to add Resolution 2024-6-21 authorizing purchasing of Civic Plus software for website not to exceed \$7,500.00. All were in favor.

**Community Garden** – Mr. Jackson stated that he and Troy met with Roseanne Greenburg in regards to the Community Garden. They made a lot of progress and discussed to do lists, budget, funding and expenses. They also discussed what department would oversee the Community Gard. He has seen in other towns where it has been, the Environmental Commission, Shade Tree, Recreation and Public Works.

**Recreation Advisory Committee** – Mr. Jackson suggested using a this committee in order to discuss recreation type requests and make recommendations prior to going before the Township Committee for final approval.

**Batting Cages/Volleyball** – Mr. Jackson reported that DPW removed the two batting cages from the recreation building and the volleyball teams are happy with the results. Kartik Gopal suggested a volleyball mounting system. Mr. Jackson said it is less than \$700.00 and will prevent drilling holes into the floor. Troy is going to make sure the building can support the system.

**Request for day off after 4<sup>th</sup> of July** – Mr. Jackson stated that the administrative staff works additional hours during the week to have the half day Fridays. He recommended giving the Administrative staff off on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. The Township Committee agreed.

**Garbage Collection** – Mr. Dhopte and Ms. Hughes asked Mr. Jackson for a detailed analysis regarding the garbage collection by the next Township meeting. Mr. Jackson agreed.

Mayor Litt thanked Mr. Jackson and Ms. Hoyer for being responsive to a resident on Ginger Road.

Ms. Koetas-Dale reminded everyone about Music in the Square on Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> hosted by the Municipal Alliance.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to open the meeting to public comment. All were in favor.

Nick Cirilli - 156 Davenport Drive is very disappointed that he will be directly affected with the circle, widening of Margerum Road and the 911 Memorial right behind his home. He stated where it is proposed in Charlotte Rogers Park, there are a dozen mature pine trees that will be cut down. There are other areas in the Park where it could go without the impact. He would rather see a playground at Margerum Road and the 911 Memorial at Town Hall. He is concerned about financing of the project and that the Township is bypassing Green Acre approval. He would like to see more time for consideration and planning and do the project in 2025.

Mukesh Patel - 6 Colemantown Drive brought his concerns again to the Township Committee requesting no parking along Marlton Lane. He stated you cannot use Title 39 if there is no RSIS waiver.

Joseph Gaffney - 8 Margerum Road echoes everything that Nick said and asked not to rush the 911 project for this year.

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

## **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

Ms. Blazic spoke about having the walking paths and bike paths that Mr. Sikorski spoke about at the last meeting. She asked if this is something we can get grants for. Mayor Litt asked to put this item on the agenda for the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Koetas-Dale will send George and the Township Committee the study that was done.

Ms. Hughes made a motion seconded by Ms. Blazic to approve Resolution 2024-6-21 to go into closed session at 8:47 PM.

Ms. Hughes made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to return to regular session at 9:07 PM.

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 PM. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryn M. Hoyer, RMC  
Township Clerk