



MINUTES
TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 02, 2023 AT 6:30 PM

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT

"This meeting is being held with the benefit of public notice as required by the Open Public Meetings Act"

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Councilmember Pasquale "Pat" Papero, Jr.
Councilmember Nancy Phillips
Councilmember Richard Tighe
Council Vice President Anthony Carabelli, Jr.
Council President Charles Whalen

ALSO PRESENT:

Kathryn Monzo, Business Administrator
Elissa Grodd-Schragger, Township Attorney
Alison Sabo, Municipal Clerk

FLAG SALUTE

The Salute to the Flag was led by Council President Whalen.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Council Vice president Carabelli.

DISCUSSION

ADMINISTRATION TO DISCUSS CHANGE IN HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

Motion made by Councilmember Papero and seconded by Council Vice President Carabelli to update the agenda.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Papero, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Tighe, Council Vice President Carabelli, Council President Whalen

Ms. Monzo stated the Township has been with Amerihealth for about seven years. The Township's broker go out to market and receive proposals. The Township would like to do what is good for the residents while keeping the same benefits for the employees. The initial proposal which the Township received from Amerihealth was a 21% increase from last year. The Township waited to receive proposals from other companies before making a final decision. The proposal the Township received from Aetna was much better. In addition, the Township received a proposal from Aetna as a township to go to self insured instead of a fully insured policy. The Township feels there will be a significant savings if they go to self insured. The Friday before the meeting, the Administration met with the union representatives to inform them of the possible change. They were understanding and asked good questions. Ms. Monzo added the transition from AmeriHealth to Aetna should be very smooth. The enrollments will be done electronically based on the information which AmeriHealth has. The Township feels the plan is just as good, if not better than the one from AmeriHealth. Councilmember Tighe asked for an explanation on self Insured verses Fully Insured. With self insured, the Township would only pay for whatever claims come in and with fully insured, the health provider pays the claims and the Township pays them a fixed amount.

Councilmember Phillips asked the status of the Partnership Health Center, and was told by Ms. Monzo that the Township is still in talks with them. She added that there could be a potential savings there as well, but she and the Mayor would like to see numbers before bringing that to Council.

MINUTES

Motion made by Council Vice President Carabelli and seconded by Councilmember Tighe to approve the Minutes.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Papero, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Tighe, Council Vice President Carabelli, Council President Whalen

M1. FEBRUARY 21, 2023 - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

M2. MARCH 7, 2023 - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

COMMUNICATIONS

C1. JOINT COMMENDATION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Councilmember Tighe read the proclamation into the record for the members of the audience.

RESOLUTIONS

CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Whalen gave a brief explanation on the items listed on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Tighe asked if Consent Agenda CA17 had to do with the new municipal building, and was told that it did. There was a house on the property which needs to be condemned. Relative to Consent Agenda CA13, Council Vice President Carabelli was glad that the amount came in 2% lower than the engineer's estimate.

Councilmember Phillips was glad there was a reduction in Consent Agenda CA3. Ms. Janice Glonek of 432 Trinity Avenue asked about the location of the house and what that area was going to be used for. Councilmember Tighe stated it was adjacent to it. It will give more flexibility to how things are laid out.

Mr. Steve Clegg of Wolfpack Road asked for an explanation on Consent Agenda item CA2. Ms. Monzo stated that the Township has a change drawer for petty cash funds for many departments. Any amount not used must go back to the finance department at the end of the year. Some time in the new year, they end up reestablishing it for departments. Council President Whalen stated it is made up of eight departments and the total comes to \$2,737.00.

Motion made by Councilmember Phillips and seconded by Councilmember Papero to adopt Consent Agenda items CA1-CA17.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Papero, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Tighe, Council Vice President Carabelli, Council President Whalen

CA1. **23-201** - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION TO AN AGREEMENT (21-228) FOR INSURANCE SERVICES WITH DELTA DENTAL OF NEW JERSEY, INC. IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DENTAL PLAN KNOWN AS THE DELTA DENTAL PPO PLUS PREMIER PLAN FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES/RETIREES FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2025 (not to exceed \$723,954.00 annually)

CA2. **23-202** - RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH CHANGE FUNDS FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

CA3. **23-203** - RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 23-013 AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS WITH APPROVED COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM WITH MERCER COUNTY (CK09-MERCER) CONTRACT VENDORS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023 (ADDING CMF BUSINESS SUPPLIES)

CA4. **23-204** - RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR RECYCLING PROGRAM REQUIRED BY PL 1981 CHAPTER 178 AMENDED BY PL 1987 CHAPTER 102 AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION 23-099

CA5. **23-205** - RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FIRST ONE (1) YEAR EXTENSION TO CONTRACT 21-180 WITH THE OVERHEAD HOIST & CRANE, INC. D/B/A MOYE HANDLING SYSTEMS FOR ANNUAL INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF SMALL CRANES AND HOISTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (\$12,385.00 MAXIMUM)

- CA6.** **23-206** - RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FIRST ONE (1) YEAR EXTENSION TO CONTRACT 21-179 WITH THE OVERHEAD HOIST & CRANE, INC. D/B/A MOYE HANDLING SYSTEMS FOR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL'S 47-TON CRANE (\$35,000.00 MAXIMUM)
- CA7.** **23-207** - RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A ONE YEAR CONTRACT WITH UNIVAR FOR THE PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF LIQUID CAUSTIC SODA TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL. (NOT TO EXCEED \$153,087.20)
- CA8.** **23-208** - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PHOENIX ADVISORS, LLC TO SERVE AS THE TOWNSHIP'S FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR MATTERS RELATING TO FISCAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE TERM JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023 (\$40,000.00 maximum)
- CA9.** **23-209** - RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FIRST ONE (1) YEAR EXTENSION TO CONTRACT 21-218 WITH EDWARD H. CRAY FOR ANNUAL TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE, EMERGENCY REPAIRS, INSTALLATION OF RAPID FLASHING BEACONS AND DRIVER FEEDBACK SIGNS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (\$45,000.00 MAXIMUM)
- CA10.** **23-210** - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND PAID BY TRINITY SOLAR FOR CONSTRUCTION PERMITS (\$959.00)
- CA11.** **23-211** - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF FEE PAID BY KIMBERLY CUSHMAN FOR A CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY FEE (\$205.80)
- CA12.** **23-212** - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF 2023 REAL ESTATE AND 2022-2023 SEWER OVERPAYMENTS (\$3,567.25)
- CA13.** **23-213** - RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CONTRACT WITH A. TAKTON CONCRETE CORP. FOR THE SOUTH CLINTON AVENUE ACCESSIBLE RAMP IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION OF ENGINEERING (\$138,063.00 MAXIMUM)
- CA14.** **23-214** - RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FLEET PARTS SUPPLY AFTERMARKET VEHICLE PARTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/GARAGE WITH NAPA AUTO PARTS UTILIZING THE SOURCEWELL NATIONAL PRICING SYSTEM CONTRACT #032521-GPC (NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000.00)
- CA15.** **23-215** - RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2023 EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS
- CA16.** **23-216** - REMOVED
- CA17.** **23-217** - A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 1922, LOTS 5 AND 7 BE DESIGNATED AS A CONDEMNATION AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET SEQ., AND AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

ORDINANCES

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION

- ORD1.** **23-020** - ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE *CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER 485, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE II, PARKING, § 485-19, HANDICAPPED PARKING (Repealing space established at 136 Emanuel Street by Ordinance No. 06-036)*

Motion made by Councilmember Tighe and seconded by Councilmember Phillips to introduce the above ordinance on first reading.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Papero, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Tighe, Council Vice President Carabelli, Council President Whalen

ORD2. **23-021** - ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VINCE PADALINO, HIS SUCCESSORS AND/OR ASSIGNS, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF IMPROVEMENTS AND PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1760 EAST STATE STREET, AND DESIGNATED AS BLOCK 1637, LOT 10, HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY (Purchase Price: \$75,000.00; Estimated closing costs: \$4,000.00 +/-; Total amount of funding: \$79,000.00)

Motion made by Council Vice President Carabelli and seconded by Councilmember Tighe to introduce the above ordinance on first reading.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Papero, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Tighe, Council Vice President Carabelli, Council President Whalen

ORD3. **23-022** - ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF MERCER FOR A PORTION OF TOWNSHIP OWNED PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 2163, LOT 5 (REAR LOT LOCATED IN THE ECOLOGICAL FACILITY)

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Lisa Williams of Briner Lane referred to the April 18th Council meeting and the question posed about OPRA requests. At that meeting, a comment was made about some requests being malicious. She asked who made the determination about requests being malicious. She added that there are still dogs which she reported in September of last year which are still not licensed. Councilmember Papero stated that it is unknown for who is sending the OPRA requests, also, it is not known who is and is not being malicious. Councilmember Tighe added the consensus which Council had come to was to make information as transparent as possible for the public. Ms. Williams stated that if information is provided, she would not need to submit OPRA requests. She added that each time she gets a response for her OPRA requests dealing with the animal shelter, she forwards it to Councilman Tighe. Council President Whalen requested that Ms. Williams also sends it to the rest of the Councilmembers so they can follow up on the issues as well. Councilmember Papero clarified that he was the one who had raised the question about OPRA at the budget workshop. He added that when he used the term malicious, it was not directed at Ms. Williams. He was involved in a case through his day time job which had to do with OPRA. Councilmember Papero asked Ms. Monzo if the Mutual Aid Agreement proposal the Township had with Trenton has been acted upon. Ms. Monzo advised she would have to follow up because there were specifics which needed to be worked out. Regarding the ACO's, Ms. Monzo stated that their shifts had been staggered so there would always be coverage. She added that the time calls come in, will have to be looked at and maybe employee's shifts could be reconfigured. Council President Whalen stated the issues with the animal shelter will be looked at and they can come back with some better answers. Relative to OPRA, Ms. Monzo stated that they will try to put as much information as possible on the web site, without having people have to go through a process to obtain the information. Some things cannot automatically be put on the web site without having to be redacted. Council President Whalen noted that there has been a great deal of progress made at the animal shelter. The fact that there was a three-hour response time needs to be looked at. Council President Whalen added that protocol needs to be put in place that if a dog is picked up and is unlicensed, the owner can pick it up once they obtain a license and their rabies vaccine has been updated. He added that all members of Council are concerned about the shelter and its operation.

Councilmember Papero noted that he was out of town for the previous Board of Health meeting. In 2021, he had suggested that dog license terms be changed from one year to three years, and he has yet to get answer for the status of his request. By the next Board of Health meeting, he wants an answer to his request.

Ms. Williams stated that when she saw the three hour response, she sent a message to Chris Hellwig. He responded and advised her that there was only one ACO on duty at that time who was dealing with an injured cat. By the time he had gotten to the dog, it had been reunited with its owner

Mr. Steve Clegg of Wolfpack Road noted that every week, he submits OPRA requests for the animal incident reports. Relative to Ms. Monzo stating that the administration is looking at times which calls go into the animal shelter, Mr. Clegg stated that the shelter does not keep a log of calls that come in. Councilmember Papero felt it was unfair that Hamilton assists other towns when needed and we never get the help. Ms. Monzo stated there was a suggestion that 24-hour coverage needs to be provided. The Township's interpretation of the law is not so they do not provide that amount of coverage and after hour coverage is covered in a certain manner. Other towns do not have ACO coverage unnecessarily. She did not know why there was only one ACO on that Monday morning, but she would find out details. Councilmember Papero stated his biggest issue was why it took three hours for the ACO to take care of the injured cat. Councilmember Tighe asked what hospital injured animals are taken to and was told it was Columbus. Councilmember Papero noted that progress has been made at the shelter and he did not want it to fall back to where it was

Ms. Janice Glonek of 432 Trinity Avenue asked about the flags being at half-mast. Ms. Schragger stated

that according to Executive Order #328 the flags of the United States and the State of New Jersey in recognition and mourning of the 50th anniversary of the passing of State Trooper Werner Foerster, Badge #2608. Ms. Glonek noted that in speaking with her neighbor, she had heard that the movie theater on Sloan Avenue was being demolished, and asked what was going to be built there. Council President Whalen stated there are developers coming into the Township looking to develop. He added that Council had not been informed of any potential investors coming into AMC. Relative to the Wawa being built on Quakerbridge Road, Ms. Glonek was hopeful the gas station across the street does not go out of business because of it being built.

Mr. Steve Clegg of Wolfpack Road asked about the requirements for ACO coverage. He recalled that at, at least two Board of Health meetings, it was asked about the requirements for the ACO coverage. Mr. Clegg recalled Mr. Hellwig stating that he was required to have someone respond 24/7. Hamilton has four fulltime ACOs which is more than they have ever had. Trenton also has four ACO's, and they do provide 24/7 coverage, and are responsible for everything that happens in their shelter. The Hamilton ACO's have all been relieved of all of that. Hamilton has a Shelter Manager, Attendants, and Clerks. The ACOs job is just animal control. Mr. Clegg asked why we were looking to Trenton who has no more staff than we do for help. He felt it was an embarrassment to us for not being able to take care of our own issues. Relative to the strays, Mr. Clegg suggested that it should be considered that chip implant be made mandatory. Council President Whalen was appreciative of the time and effort that Mr. Clegg and others put in and that they care about the animal welfare. He noted that Council and Ms. Monzo were taking notes at the meeting, and was hopeful that they will get positive feedback.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Councilmember Phillips acknowledged the Hamilton Township School District who has been holding the Child Fair at Hamilton High School West. Also, she gave a reminder of the AzaleaFest coming up on May 13th.

Councilmember Tighe commented on the beauty of Sayen Gardens, and he was glad to be supporting the continued beautification of it in this budget. Relative to OPRA requests, Mr. Tighe stated there is one employee in the Clerk's office who spends almost all of her time working on OPRA. Councilmember Tighe stated that no one will be happier than her if ways are found to provide information more easily accessible. He added that the Township website has been improved for citizens to navigate and find information. He gave a reminder that on May 11th, there will be a walk with the Mayor event taking place at the Abbott Marshlands.

Council Vice President Carabelli wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day. He thanked everyone for their comments and was looking forward to following up on issues raised that evening.

Councilmember Papero wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day. He gave thanks to the citizens for bringing information to Council. He asked that if any citizens come up with ideas for putting information on the Township Website, to please let Council know.

Council President Whalen gave a reminder of Armed Forces Day coming up on May 20th. He was hopeful the weather would cooperate for the event. Council President Whalen also gave a reminder of the Senior Dance aking place on May 11th. Thanks was also given to all for coming out to the meeting and for their comments. He also wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Alison J. Sabo, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Charles F. Whalen
Council President