



MINUTES
TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2022 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:

Councilman Anthony Carabelli
Councilman Pasquale Papero
Councilman Richard Tighe
Council Vice President Charles Whalen
Council President Nancy Phillips

ALSO PRESENT:

Joy Kerlin, Assistant Business Administrator
Elissa Grodd-Schragger, Township Attorney
Eileen Gore, Municipal Clerk
Alison Sabo, Deputy Municipal Clerk

FLAG SALUTE

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

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Councilman Anthony Carabelli.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Phillips gave a brief overview of the items listed on the Consent Agenda for the members of the audience. When asked if any member of the public had any questions, no comments were received.

Motion was made by Council Vice President Whalen and seconded by Councilmember Papero to approve Consent Agenda Items CA1 through CA4.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Carabelli, Councilmember Tighe (Abstained on Item CA1), Councilmember Papero, Council Vice President Whalen, Council President Phillips

- CA1. 22-405 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 21-483 OF HAMILTON TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY SUPPORTING TRENTON EQUITY HOLDINGS LLC'S APPLICATION TO THE CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A CLASS 1 CANNABIS CULTIVATOR AND/OR A CLASS 2 MANUFACTURER LICENSE**
- CA2. 22-406 - RESOLUTION APPROVING FIRST AND FINAL EXTENSION TO THE CONTRACT 21-393 WITH ROYAL PRINTING SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN, PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY OF THE 2023 MUNICIPAL CALENDAR (\$27,720.00 MAXIMUM)**

Councilman Tighe abstained on the above resolution.

CA3. 22-407 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS WITH ACT ENGINEERS, INC.; AECOM TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC.; ALAIMO GROUP; ATLAS TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS; BUCHART-HORN, INC.; CME ASSOCIATES; ELECSYS ENGINEERING GROUP, PLLC; ENVIRONMENTAL RESOLUTIONS, INC.; H2M ASSOCIATES, INC.; KEYSTONE ENGINEERING GROUP; KLEINFELDER, INC.; MOREHOUSE ENGINEERING, INC.; R3M ENGINEERING, INC.; REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS; RJ WALSH ASSOCIATES, INC.; ROBERTS ENGINEERING GROUP, LLC; SUBURBAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.; T&M ASSOCIATES; AND VHB VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTLIN, INC. TO PROVIDE VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 6, 2022 TO OCTOBER 5, 2023 (\$450,000.00 shared combined maximum)

CA4. 22-408 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSFER OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL LICENSE 1103-33-045-011 FROM MA BEV-OP1, INC. TO EATERS DIGEST RESTAURANT GROUP, INC. T/A ROSSI'S BAR & GRILL

ORDINANCES

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

ORD1. 22-042 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOWNSHIP'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP, APPROPRIATING \$6,750,000 THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$6,750,000 IN SEWER UTILITY BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE SAME

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

After the above ordinance had been read by title, the President declared the public hearing open and asked if anyone wished to be heard concerning same. There being no response from the public, a motion was made by Councilmember Carabelli and seconded by Councilmember Tighe to close the public hearing.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. James Walters voiced his support for law enforcement officers who are fair. He relayed an alleged incident involving the physical restraint of an individual by placing a knee to the back of the person's neck that took place while serving on the Hamilton Township Police Department. He indicated that as a result, he was forced to retire and stripped of his insurance benefits, which he now pays himself. He stated that he was in possession of portions of the internal affairs file on the matter. He felt that the matter was a systematic failure of command leadership and was seeking assistance on the matter.

Mr. Dywon Kelsey of 300 Staunton Court, Williamstown, NJ who was a lifetime member of law enforcement did not understand why the issue has not been corrected after eight years.

Mr. Craig Pressley of Lafayette Avenue inquired as to the outcome of the other officers involved and it was stated by Ms. Schragger that personnel issues cannot be discussed in a public meeting by the governing body..

Ms. Janice Glonek of 432 Trinity Avenue felt that Mr. Walters is a reputable individual and the matter should be reviewed by the Township..

Mr. Eric Thomas of 822 Northumberland Way, , NJ stated he has known Mr. Walters for many years and that his clean records should be taken into consideration.

Ms. Channel Vickers-Ames of 301 Ridge Avenue felt that something has to be done to enable our children to trust police officers with their safety. She felt that the incident should be a learning tool and move forward.

Mr. Carlos Herrera of 12 Hoffman Drive stated that when he moved into the Township, Mr. Walters was the first person he met and found him to be trustworthy and knowledgeable.

Mr. Richard Swain of 619 Wilfred Avenue asked what were Council's plans are to correct the situation.

Mr. Herbert Gore of 340 Borden Avenue stated he was disturbed with the situation regarding Mr. Walters and questioned what is going to be done about it.

Ms. Rita Prassas of 6 Hoffman Drive also spoke very highly of Mr. Walters and his family. She is hopeful that the right thing is done for him and his family.

Mr. Larry Powe of 101 Fetty Avenue, Toms River, NJ stated he grew up having faith in local government. He works with people who have been left behind and helping them to make a change in their lives. He feels in order to do that, he needs to have examples of people to follow. Lately, he feels he does not see any good including the situation regarding Mr. Walters. He does not want to lose faith in his system when he is out telling people to have faith.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Council President Phillips stated she was unaware of Mr. Walter's issue until he brought it to Council's attention and she was appreciative of all who were at the meeting supporting Mr. Walters. She asked that the Township Attorney, Ms. Schragger speak on the matter for legal purposes.. Ms. Schragger stated that several correspondences have been received from Mr. Walters and indicated that his concerns have been taken very seriously and have been escalated within the Township as well as with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office. The Mercer County Prosecutor's Office has jurisdiction over the matter and the Township would not be able to comment personnel issues of any officers as well as those of Mr. Walters. She stated that a review will take time and when it is concluded, it will be up to Mr. Walters to inform the public. When asked by Councilman Papero if she was able to indicate who did the investigation or any outcome.

Councilman Tighe thanked all for attending. He stated on the advice of Ms. Schragger, he was not going to speak on specifics regarding Mr. Walters' matter. He was inspired by the involvement from citizens as he strides for good government for every citizen in the Township. He voiced his pride for the work the Mayor and Council have done. He gave a reminder of the upcoming t Oktoberfest and encouraged everyone to attend.

Councilman Carabelli thanked all for attending the meeting and he stated was appreciative of all who spoke at the meeting.

Council Vice President Whalen gave thanks to all for attending. He felt that the comments made at the meeting was indicative of how a community can support one another. He concluded by asking for prayers for the residents of Florida and the Carolinas who have lost their homes in Hurricane Ian.

Councilman Papero asked for everyone to wait and see where the investigation leads and reiterated that the Council has no authority over the investigation. He thanked all for coming out and not to lose hope or faith. He stated that while this happened in the past and while the past cannot be changed, it can help to ensure it does not happen again.

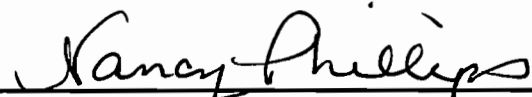
Council President Phillips stated that facts will be gathered and will seek justice, if necessary. She thanked all for attending the meeting and urged people to attend their meeting to express concerns on any issues.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p m.



Eileen Gore, RMC, CMC, MMC
Municipal Clerk



Nancy Phillips
Council President