

FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

February 22 , 2022

At 8:00 p.m. the Township Committee met in room 114 of the municipal building. Deputy Mayor Walker read the following statement:

“In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, (c. 231 P.L. 1975), this meeting was announced on January 10, 2022 by: 1.) posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building reserved for that purpose, 2.) by mailing such notice to the offices of the official newspapers of the Township and 3.) by filing such notice with the Township Clerk”.

In Attendance: Committeeman Ammiano, Committeeman Cook, Committeeman Preston, Committeeman Walker,

Absent: Mayor Fasano

Also in attendance: Mr. Valesi, Township Administrator; Mr. Ball Esq. Township Attorney; Mrs. Abouzeina, Municipal Clerk, Mrs. Bartolomeo, Deputy Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

MINUTES

None

REPORTS

Mrs. Abouzeina read the report of the Tax Collector for the Month of January 2022:

Net Receipt:	General Fund	\$ 24,367,645.33
	Water Account	\$ 356,060.22
	Sewer Account	\$ 748,970.29

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation - “National FFA Week” - February 19-26, 2022

Deputy Mayor Walker read and presented the proclamation to the High School students that are part of the FFA

Certificates of Achievement - Freehold Township High School Gymnastics Team

Deputy Mayor Walker presented the certificates of achievements to the High School Gymnastics Team.

OLD BUSINESS

O-22-3 - Ordinance Amending Chapter XI (Traffic), Section 11-4 (Parking), Schedule I, of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey

Deputy Mayor Walker opened Ordinance O-22-3 for public hearing and asked for any comments or questions.

There being no comments from the public.

Mr. Ammiano moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Cook

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mr. Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mayor Fasano

ABSTAIN: None

Mr. Ammiano made motion to adopt Ordinance O-22-3 seconded by Mr. Cook

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook Mr. Preston, Mr. Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mayor Fasano

ABSTAIN: None

NEW BUSINESS

O-22-4 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 190, Land Use, Article XI Zones and Schedule of Requirements, and Article XIII, Zoning Regulations, of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey

Mr. Ammiano moved ordinance O-22-4 for public hearing to the Township Committee meeting of March 29, 2022 seconded by Mr. Cook

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mr. Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mayor Fasano

ABSTAIN: None

R-22-50 - Resolution Approving Consolidated Bills List

Mr. Preston read Resolution R-22-50, the Consolidated Bills List in the amount of \$2,139,379.44 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Cook

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mr. Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mayor Fasano

ABSTAIN: None

FORMAL ACTION - CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

Matters listed under the items of "Consent Agenda" are required to conduct the day-to-day operations of the Township, and will be enacted by one (1) motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion of any item is desired, that item will be considered separately

- R-22-51 - Resolution Authorizing Application for the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Grant through the County of Monmouth - Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2020-June 2025
- R-22-52 - Resolution Supporting Senate Bill S-1200 and Opposing Continued Extension of Executive Orders Beyond the Public Health Emergency, Limiting the Governor's Unilateral Emergency Powers to Implement Restrictions and Circumvent Legislative Authority
- R-22-53 - Resolution Disbursing an Overpayment of Taxes
- R-22-54 - Resolution Authorizing the Planning Board to Determine if Block 49, Lots 46.01 and 46.02 is a Property in Need of Redevelopment
- R-22-55 - Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Proprietary Contract to RecDesk LLC for Annual Support and Software Management for the Parks and Recreation Management RecDesk Software
- R-22-56 - Resolution Approving Inrange Solutions' Wireless Communication Facilities Modification Application for 901 West Main Street, Block 86, Lot 8, WCFMA-06-21
- R-22-57 - Resolution Approving Wireless Communication Facilities Modification Application for NB+C for Verizon Wireless/American Tower Corp., 823 State Highway 33, Block 43, Lot 19, Application No. WCFMA-02-22
- R-22-58 - Resolution Approving Wireless Communication Facilities Modification Application for NB+C for American Tower Corp., 98 Crow Hill Road, Block 44, Lot 8, Application No. WCFMA-01-22
- R-22-59 - Resolution Approving Wireless Communication Facilities Modification Application for New York SMSA D/B/A Verizon Wireless, 169 Robertsville Road, Block 8, Lot 5, Application No. WCFMA-07-21

Mr. Cook read the Consent Agenda resolutions and moved them for adoption, seconded by Mr. Preston.

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Ammiano, Mr. Cook, Mr. Preston, Mr. Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mayor Fasano

ABSTAIN: None

There being no further business, Deputy Mayor Walker asked for any comments or questions from the public.

James McAllister, 106 South Street, said he was the president for Freehold First Aid for 15 years. He decided to retire and wanted to thank the Township Committee for their help and support throughout the years. He also thanked Mr. Valesi for his open door policy and meeting with him and his support of the First Aid squad.

The Township Committee congratulated Mr. McAllister on his retirement.

Mr. Preston congratulated and thanked Mr. McAllister for his service at the First Aid squad.

Luis Esteves, 136 Robertsville Rd, thanked the Township Committee for adopting an ordinance prohibiting the parking on Robertsville Rd. Mr. Esteves asked if there is a plan for fencing and the placement of "no parking" signs?

Mr. Valesi answered there is a concept plan with Freehold Borough for fencing and signage.

Mr. Esteves asked the Township Committee why did the Freehold Borough cut down trees for fire mitigation in front of his house and his neighbor's house, and not in any other area in the park?

Mr. Valesi said he does not know the answer. The Freehold Borough owns and maintains the park and did not consult with Township. Mr. Valesi believes that the Freehold Borough started a project to mitigate some of the edges from unsightly dead wood and some growth of underbrush.

Mr. Esteves believes that this extreme measure to mitigate this area was intentionally done to spite them, and requested that the Township Committee to protect their residents.

Mr. Valesi said the work was done to clean the dead wood, underbrush and falling trees. Cleaning the area was not harmful for the environment and they did a good job cleaning. The cleaning was not performed to despise anyone nor to expand the parking lot.

Mr. Esteves said why they did the cleaning done while the ground was frozen?

Mr. Valesi responded and said that the winter time is the best time to do this mitigation in order not to sink the equipment and damage the roots of the trees. Mr. Valesi suggested that Mr. Esteves should attend the Freehold Borough council meetings since they are the owners of the property.

Mr. Esteves said, I live in Freehold Township and you have to help us since the Lake Topanemus Commission is not doing anything for us. He also stated that he wanted to get notifications regarding any work that will be conducted in front of his house.

Mr. Valesi said this is general maintenance of the park and they are not required to notify the residents. Municipalities follow certain rules for notifying the public concerning capital improvements.

Mr. Esteves said the cleaning that they did it is because of us complaining.

Mr. Cook said that is not true, Lake Topanemus Commission were asking the Freehold Borough for the past two years to do the cleaning from Super storm Sandy.

Mr. Preston said if they were extending the park, you would have received notification but this was just general maintenance.

Mr. Preston said Freehold Borough Council may fix the guardrails to prohibit people from parking in front of your house, place cameras or lights depending, but this depends on Borough's finances.

Mr. Esteves asked, why you do not put grass there to eliminate the parking lot?

Mr. Valesi said the Township does not own the lot.

Mr. Preston said there are many residents who want to keep the parking lot. Mr. Preston read one of the emails he received from a concerned resident with regards to closing the parking lot to the public.

Mr. Esteves said why do not you close the parking lot?

Mr. Valesi and Mr. Cook answered, we asked the Freehold Borough several times and they refuse to do so.

Mr. Valesi informed Mr. Esteves on several occasions to attend the Freehold Borough Council Meetings to exert pressure on the members to close the parking lot.

Mr. Cook said when you attended one of the Freehold Borough Council meeting last year, the Freehold Borough requested the police data to find out if there were any complaints regarding the parking lot in front of your house. Since there were no data to show there were any complaints, the Freehold Borough did not feel the need to close the park. In order to close the parking lot, they need to feel the pressure from the residents.

George Katernakis, 134 Robertsville Rd, thanked the Committee for the signage for “no parking” on Robertsville Rd and also thanked Mr. Valesi for meeting with him. He said in order to expand the park and open it to the public, they have to find alternative parking spaces away from his house. He is asking if Freehold Borough can move the parking lot 150 feet away from his home?

Mr. Preston said he will talk to the Freehold Borough Council and suggest to move the parking lot 150 feet away and place a gate or buffer around the area.

Mr. Walker said this Committee is trying to help you and we do our best to accommodate you, but we are limited in our assistance since the Freehold Township does not own the park.

Mr. Katernakis said we tried to talk to Freehold Borough but they dismissed us as if we do not exist.

Mr. Katernakis and Mr. Esteves thanked the Committee for their support and efforts.

There were no further comments from the public, Deputy Mayor Walker asked for any comments from the dais.

Mr. Ammiano thanked State Senators Vin Gopal and Declan O’Scanlon on passing resolution to take power without legislative oversight from NJ governor.

Deputy Mayor Walker Adjourned the Meeting at 8:55pm

Sanabel Abouzeina, Township Clerk