

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING-BUDGET

May 24, 2021
8:00 P.M.

**PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A VIRTUAL MEETING
WITH REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT**

CALL TO ORDER Council President Feeney

STATEMENT

Welcome to the Special Public Meeting of May 24, 2021 of the Township of Washington Township Council. Adequate notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by the Township Clerk to at least two (2) newspapers on May 18, 2021, and this notice has been posted on the Township Bulletin Board and on the Township Web Site.

SALUTE TO FLAG Council President Feeney

ROLL CALL Via Virtual Platform

Councilmen Cascio, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Sears, Council President Feeney. Let the record reflect also participating Peter Calamari, Mayor; Robert Tovo, Administrator; Ken Poller, Attorney; Susan Witkowski, Township Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

Please note that at the end of the public comment portion of the meeting, Council will adjourn to enter into Closed Session for approximately 30-45 minutes, reconvene the public portion, then proceed with the meeting for 2021 Budget discussions

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Limit to five (5) minutes)

****TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF THE MEETING, PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO JOIN THE WEBINAR, *9 TO RAISE HAND, *6 TO UNMUTE. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD, AND WE ASK THAT ONLY ONE PERSON SPEAK AT A TIME, THERE IS A FIVE-MINUTE LIMIT PER CALLER.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS PUBLIC COMMENT AND COMMENTS BY THE COUNCIL, MAYOR OR ADMINISTRATOR WILL BE AT THE END OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION. AT THE END, NO MORE CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

A motion was made by Councilman DeSena, seconded by Councilman Sears, to open the Public Comment.

Ayes: Councilmen Cascio, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Sears, Council President Feeney.

Nays: None.

No calls or comments were received.

A motion was made by Councilman Sears, seconded by Councilwoman Morgan, to close the Public Comment.

Ayes: Councilmen Cascio, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Sears, Council President Feeney.

Nays: None.

RESOLUTIONS: None.

FOLLOW UP COMMENTS: None.

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS: None.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Council President Feeney, seconded by Councilwoman Morgan, on Resolution No. 219.

Ayes: Councilmen Cascio, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Sears, Council President Feeney.

Nays: None.

Resolution No. 21-219

Personnel, DPW Super, Township Clerk, Code Enforcement, Zoning Officer

WHEREAS, the public is invited to attend all Meetings (whether denoted public or conference sessions) of the Township Council in accordance with its general practice and the Open Public Meetings Act; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of New Jersey declared that the public has a right to attend all meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon in any way except as set forth in

the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), which provides for the exclusion of the public from the portion of a meeting at which certain enumerated matters are to be discussed; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined that, because of the nature of the subject matter to be discussed, the public should not be present at that portion of the meeting of the Township Council at which certain specific matters encompassed by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 are to be discussed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that, pursuant to the express provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, the public be excluded from the meeting or portion of the meeting (denoted as an “executive” or “closed” session) in which the following matters are to be discussed:

1. Any matter which, by express provision of federal law or State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from the provision of subsection a. of this section.

2. Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the Government of the United States.

3. Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendation, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance, and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual’s personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.

4. Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of the terms and conditions thereof with employees or representatives of employees of the public body.

5. Any matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds, where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.

6. Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law.

7. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than in subsection b. (4) of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, herein in which the public body is, or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege,

to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer.

8. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. **DPW Super, Township Clerk, Code Enforcement, Zoning Officer**

9. Any deliberations of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act or omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is not possible as yet to fix the time when or the circumstances under which the discussion conducted in Closed Session can be disclosed to the public. It is anticipated that the subject matter under discussion will be made public when finalized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice is hereby given that the Township Council may find it necessary to take action at the conclusion of the executive/closed session; that such action if taken, will occur in open session; that you are invited to stay in the Municipal Building during the executive/closed session; that the doors to the Council chambers will be opened and an announcement will be made if the Township Council will be going into open session; and you may be present during such open session.

XX The Township Council anticipates that an open session will be necessary.

 The Township Council anticipates that an open session will not be necessary.

Time noted: 8:13 p.m.

RECONVENE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING

Time noted: 9:56 p.m.

A motion was made by Council President Feeney, seconded by Councilwoman Morgan, to reconvene Public Portion of the meeting.

Ayes: Councilmen Cascio, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Sears, Council President Feeney.

Nays: None.

DISCUSSION:

2021 BUDGET

Page 6

Township Clerk
1-01-20-120-110

A motion was made by Council President Feeney, seconded by Councilwoman Morgan, Township Clerk.

Ayes: Councilman DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Sears,
Council President Feeney.

Nays: Councilman Cascio.

Township Clerk
1-01-20-120-110

REC \$83,915	INCREASE \$5,585	BUDGET \$89,500
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Page 40
DMF Superintendent
1-01-26-290-190

A motion was made by Councilman DeSena, seconded by Council President Feeney, DMF Superintendent.

Ayes: Councilman DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Sears,
Council President Feeney.

Nays: Councilman Cascio.

DMF Superintendent
1-01-26-290-190

REC \$88,000	NO CHANGE	BUDGET \$88,000
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**Note: Promotion to Super/No OT allowable*

Page 22

Zoning Officer
1-01-21-185-120

A motion was made by Councilman Sears, seconded by Council President Feeney, Zoning Officer.

Ayes: Councilman Cascio, Councilman Sears, Council President Feeney.
Nays: Councilman DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan.

Zoning Officer
1-01-21-185-120

REC \$25,375	NO CHANGE	BUDGET \$25,375
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*Stays the same.

Zoning Officer – Code Enforcement Official
1-01-21-185-130

A motion was made by Council President Feeney, seconded by Councilman DeSena, Zoning Officer, Code Enforcement Official.

Ayes: Councilmen DeSena, Cascio, Councilwoman Morgan, Council President Feeney.
Nays: None.
Abstain: Councilman Sears.

Zoning Officer – Code Enforcement Official
1-01-21-185-130

REC \$25,375	DECREASE \$15,375	BUDGET \$10,000
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Page 1

Administrative Secretary
1-01-20-100-120

A motion was made by Council President Feeney, seconded by Councilman Sears, Administrative Secretary, \$48,000.

Ayes: Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Sears, Council President Feeney.
Nays: Councilmen Cascio, DeSena

Administrative Secretary

1-01-20-100-120

REC \$43,260	NO CHANGE	BUDGET \$43,260
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Page 27

Police – Salaries Other than Chief

1-01-25-240-110

Council President Feeney stated she would like to make a motion to reduce the line item by \$50,000. Councilman DeSena stated we voted on that already, he motioned for \$2,671,000. Council President Feeney stated that is not in her notes, she would like to make a motion to bring it down to \$2,671,000. Councilwoman Morgan stated she seconds. Councilman DeSena stated \$2,721,000 was approved, it was not changed, it stayed, it was a tie, so it stays. Council President Feeney stated more information was requested, the Chief stated he would like to agree to reduce it by \$50,000. Councilman Cascio asked how does this work, do we have to go line by line again. Attorney Poller stated you can take the vote again. Councilwoman Morgan asked are we getting opposition to saving \$50,000? (inaudible) Council President Feeney stated this was recommended by the Department Head, based on her notes, the Department Head had asked for it, she thought it is a positive thing to do to save the taxpayers \$50,000. Councilman Cascio stated but it has already been voted on and passed, we wanted to lower it, he thinks this is disingenuous of Council President Feeney. Councilwoman Morgan asked for a vote. Council President Feeney stated Councilman Cascio should go back and look at the meeting, not assume that is what happened. Councilman DeSena stated he made the motion for \$2,671,000, the vote resulted in a tie, 2-2. Council President Feeney stated if Council doesn't want to save \$50,000 so be it. Councilwoman Morgan stated we were told by the Department Head that he did not need all of this money, so we are reducing it by \$50,000. Council President Feeney stated this was recommended by the Department's Head conversation, it has nothing to do with anything other than Chief Skinner stating he would like to reduce this line item by \$50,000. Councilman DeSena stated we voted on this line item, he has no objection to saving the taxpayers \$50,000, a motion was made it was tied 2-2, Council President Feeney stated it stayed at \$2,721,000. Councilwoman Morgan stated she doesn't think the taxpayers cares who introduced it, just that we are saving \$50,000, let us keep it moving. Councilman DeSena stated we already asked for this. (inaudible) Councilman Cascio stated this can be lowered even more. Councilwoman Morgan stated it wasn't from us recommending it, it is from Chief Skinner. Councilman Cascio stated he feels it could be cut more than the \$50,000. Councilwoman Morgan stated it should be Chief Skinner that takes

the credit, not Council. Councilman Cascio stated no one cares, he wants to get this budget down as low as possible, not double tax the residents, we can probably bring this down even more. Council President Feeney stated this is based on the recommendation of the Department Head, not anyone from the Council.

A motion was made by Council President Feeney, seconded by Councilwoman Morgan, Police – Salaries other than Chief.

Ayes: Councilmen Cascio, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Sears, Council President Feeney.

Nays: None.

Police – Salaries Other than Chief

1-01-25-240-110

REC \$2,721,000	DECREASE \$50,000	BUDGET \$2,671,000
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*Decrease recommended by Chief Skinner.

A conversation followed on Director Salaries, which are by Code, Council agreed.

Page 20

Meeting Fee Schedules

Planning Dept. – Secretary Meeting Fees

1-01-21-180-120

Councilman DeSena asked does the Board Secretary take time off during the day when she has a nighttime meeting, or does that person work a whole day and then charge \$125 meeting fee? Administrator Tovo stated depending on the day, there are days when they work straight through, days when they have to come back for that meeting, those are additional hours. Councilman DeSena stated he is asking if there is a meeting that night, does that person leave early that day to compensate themselves for the meeting or do they work a full seven-hour day, then come back for \$125 per meeting? Administrator Tovo replied they do not leave early to accommodate the hours for the meeting. Councilman DeSena thanked Administrator Tovo.

Planning Dept. – Secretary Meeting Fees

1-01-21-180-120

REC \$3,000	NO CHANGE	BUDGET \$3,000
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*\$125 per meeting

*Council agrees.

Page 22

Zoning Board – Secretary Meeting Fees

1-01-21-185-140

REC \$1,500	NO CHANGE	BUDGET \$1,500
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*\$125 per meeting

*Council agrees.

Township Clerk Witkowski stated Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, has a budget document ready except for discussions tonight. After a discussion, the Council agreed the budget will be introduced via a Special Meeting on Thursday, May 27th, 7:00 p.m., adoption of the budget will be via a Special Meeting on Thursday, June 24th at 7:00 pm., twenty-eight (28) days by law are needed between introduction and adoption of the budget. Mayor Calamari stated that June 24th is the high school graduation, which he was invited to attend, so he will not be able to attend the meeting.

Councilman DeSena asked if we would be back in building now that the Governor has opened all public buildings? Mayor Calamari replied he has not decided yet, he would like meet with Administrator Tovo and the staff later this week. Council President Feeney will meet in Town Hall with the company that provides the partition for pricing, she will let the mayor know what day works.

A motion was made by Councilman DeSena, seconded by Councilman Sears, to adjourn.

Ayes: Councilmen Cascio, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Sears, Council President Feeney.

Nays: None.

Time noted: 10:15 p.m.

/s/ Susan Witkowski
Township Clerk

/s/ Stacey Feeney
Council President

Approved: July 12, 2021