

**TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

PUBLIC PORTION/CONFERENCE SESSION

July 21, 2014

The Township Council held a Public Portion/Conference Session in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Thomas Sears with the Clerk leading a salute to the flag. Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Peter Calamari, Steve Cascio, Richard Hrbek, Thomas Sears. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Ken Poller, Attorney; Matthew Cavallo, Administrator.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act this meeting was listed in the Township Council Annual Meeting List which was published in the Ridgewood News, forwarded to the local newspapers, posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Calamari, seconded by Dr. Cascio, to approve the June 30, 2014 Public Session Minutes. (Beckmeyer Abstain).

Ayes: Councilpersons Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Calamari, to approve the July 7, 2014 Public & Conference Session Minutes. (Beckmeyer Abstain).

Ayes: Councilpersons Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to open the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilpersons Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

Rose D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard – Mrs. D'Ambra states with regard to the VFW building, how can apartments are put there if it is not in the Township's Master Plan, how is the Township going to work around this. There was a discussion on whether the Township would have to go to the Zoning or Planning board for approval, and whether or not it would be apartments that would be built there. Mayor Sobkowicz states it may be two standalone houses. Mr. Sears states we are moving rapidly, already have two contractors that are willing to help and also families are calling who would like to be involved. Mrs. D'Ambra would like to know would these cause problems for the Township where in the future builders would come in and see a piece of land and put apartments there. Mr. Hrbek states that he believes the Township does not have to go in front of the Zoning or Planning board for a variance since it is a municipality. Mr. Hrbek further states it does not open up any kind of issue since the Township is a municipal government, it does not open the door for any builder.

Michael Sklar, 305 Fern Street – Mr. Sklar asks with regard to priorities, he believes they are going in a very awkward direction. Mr. Sklar asks if anyone on the board has ever been a fire person, sanitation worker or a police officer. Mr. Sears replies fire person. Mr. Sklar spoke of in the early 90's he donated his station wagon to the firehouse so the fireman could practice the Jaws of Life on the vehicle. Mr. Sklar stated at that time some of the fireman were stating that they needed certain tools to get the job done. Mr. Sklar states that he reads that there are things missing not only in the fire department, but also the sanitation department. Mr. Sklar would like to know why this topic of concern versus other things such as Memorial Field isn't. Mr. Sears's states on tonight's Conference Agenda, Mr. Hrbek is putting a priority list of items so the council can start focusing on those items. Mr. Sears states what Mr. Sklar

states is important, that the community needs to know what projects need to go first before other projects. There was a discussion where in terms of everyday items, they are addressed in the annual budget and what council is discussing now are more infrastructures orientated. Mayor Sobkowicz each department the October before the budget will put in their capital requests in and come to council during the budget process. There are certain larger projects in the capital now that council is going to start prioritizing those projects. Mr. Sklar asks has the Mayor done any interviewing of the personnel at each of these departments to see what the problems and concerns are. Mayor Sobkowicz states they are spoken to all the time, the administrator, herself and department directors talk and meet all the time to asking the department heads to prioritize their requests.

Fred Goetz, 587 Washington Avenue – Mr. Goetz states that it has been 8 months since the new administration has taken over, the budget is done and projects can get started. Mr. Goetz states some of these things were passed years ago, early October of every year. Mr. Goetz went on to state various things that are not complete, roads, potholes, streets are not being swept as often as they should be, storm drains are still clogged up, no police officers, no police chief, no DPW superintendent, no new fire equipment, no new salt shed. With regard to the DPW building, no plans and no one have been hired to do any studies. With regard to the fire house parking lot it has not been paved and Memorial Field has not been done. There is still a skeleton crew at Borough Hall and there have been no improvements at the corner of Washington and Pascack. Mr. Goetz would like to know if it is not for complete mismanagement, why taxes are going up. Mr. Sears states that municipal taxes are going up .67 cents per month, roads are being worked on and the Township does have new police officers. Mr. Sears states with regard to the Police Chief, we will be working on that tonight. Mr. Sears states he cannot speak on what was done or not done in the prior years, but council does have a priority list that they are going over tonight. Mr. Sears states is it moving as quickly as he would like to, no, can it be better yes. We are talking among ourselves, we have a team, new administrator and a new clerk and we are moving ahead. Mr. Sears states can things be better, of course, but as Mr. Goetz knows in his years on the council it takes time to move ahead and get things done. Mr. Goetz thanks Mr. Sears for his answers, but Mr. Goetz is speaking mostly of infrastructure issues. Mr. Goetz states he hopes priority does not mean the Township is looking at another couple of years.

Sharon McDonough, 642 Jefferson Avenue – Mrs. McDonough states she lives across the street from the VFW. Ms. McDonough states she read the article in the newspaper with regard to the upcoming plans for the VFW and was surprised that rentals were even being considered. Mr. Sears states that those were options that Habitat for Humanity gave the council. Mrs. McDonough spoke of the fact that there are no rentals in the Township and having rentals would not be the way to go. Mayor Sobkowicz states that those were things that were in the original proposal, but we have had a meeting since then with Habitat for Humanity and it is probably going to be two standalone homes.

Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue – Mr. Ullman asks in terms of the capital projects, how is that going to be established, is it quantitative or qualitative. Mr. Sears states that is going to be discussed tonight, procedures and steps council is going to go through. Mr. Hrbek spoke of the list that he made, which is a list of everything in the budget, the price tag, and the need and benefit for the Township. Mr. Ullman spoke of the improvement of Memorial Field, the playground and the fencing. Mr. Ullman some of the projects are being funded with grants, but it is still coming out of taxpayers' pockets. Mr. Ullman states we may be throwing away money without having a strategic plan. Mr. Hrbek states he feels it is important to have the big picture and a long term plan. Mr. Hrbek spoke of the firehouse parking lot and the

flooring of the fire house. Mayor Sobkowicz states this is the time for the Township to go forward with big picture plans, small picture plans since the debt load is roughly 7.5% per tax dollar. Mayor Sobkowicz states that debt load should never go higher than 10% and that is why we are going to plan out for the next few years and stay in a good financial position. Mayor Sobkowicz also spoke of the fencing, which needs to be there no matter what, and the playground. Both of those items received matching grants. Mr. Ullman spoke of the plans that he saw for Memorial Field, in which the playground was in a different spot and also the pavilion was in a different spot. Mr. Ullman states it does not seem like there is a strategic vision if the Township is spending money because it is available. Mr. Ullman spoke of a presentation with regard to Memorial Field that included the buying of the property next door. Mayor Sobkowicz states that council decided not to buy the property next door.

Beatrice Napier, 324 Hudson Avenue – Mrs. Napier is concerned of the health of the DPW workers. The workers are getting sick that area needs to be cleaned up. Mrs. Napier states she does not know what people are dumping there. Mr. Napier also states the workers should not be eating there lunch there and something should be done to make their lives a little better. Mr. Hrbek asks is it a composting smell or a chemical smell. Mrs. Napier states it smells like dead animals, rotten eggs.

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Hrbek to close the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE # 14-07

The Clerk read Ordinance #14-07 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE FIRE PROVISIONS OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Calamari, to introduce and pass Ordinance # 14-07 at second reading by title.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

The following resolution, **Resolution #14-130** was presented and adopted on a motion by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Hrbek.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that Ordinance #14-07 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE FIRE PROVISIONS OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY be read on second reading and the public hearing be held thereon pursuant to law.

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Calamari, to open the Public Hearing.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

Rose D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard – Mrs. D'Ambra asks with regard to page 6, a fire extinguisher shall be required in all 1 or 2 family homes, are there two family homes in the Township. Mayor Sobkowicz states there are two two-family homes in the Township. Mr. Sears states we follow the State's requirement.

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to close the Public Hearing.

Ayes: Councilperson Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

A motion was made Mr. Calamari, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer, to pass Ordinance #14-07 on a second and final reading, submit the same to the Mayor for her approval and thereafter be published according to law.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

ORDINANCE # 14-08

The Clerk read Ordinance #14-08 entitled: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE PARKING ON RIDGEWOOD ROAD AND RIDGEWOOD BOULEVARD NORTH

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Cascio, to introduce and pass Ordinance # 14-08 at second reading by title.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

The following resolution, **Resolution #14-131** was presented and adopted on a motion by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Calamari.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that Ordinance #14-08 entitled: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE PARKING ON RIDGEWOOD ROAD AND RIDGEWOOD BOULEVARD NORTH be read on second reading and the public hearing be held thereon pursuant to law.

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Hrbek, to open the Public Hearing.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

Rose D'Ambra, 323 Colonial Boulevard – Mrs. D'Ambra would like to know what will be done with the old signs when the new signs go up, since these signs are very expensive, will the old signs be kept. Mr. Sears replies yes, the Township will keep the old signs.

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to close the Public Hearing.

Ayes: Councilperson Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

A motion was made Mr. Calamari, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer, to pass Ordinance #14-08 on a second and final reading, submit the same to the Mayor for her approval and thereafter be published according to law.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

ORDINANCE #14-09

The Clerk read Ordinance # 14-09 entitled: AN ORDINANCE UNDER CHAPTER 55 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON SETTING FORTH THE RATE OF COMPENSATION AND MANNER OF PAYMENT OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN SAID MUNICIPALITY FOR THE YEAR 2014.

A motion was made by Mr. Calamari, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer, to introduce and pass Ordinance # 14-09 at first reading by title.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

The following resolution, **Resolution #14-132**, was presented and adopted on a motion was Mr. Calamari, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

WHEREAS, Ordinance # 14-09 entitled: AN ORDINANCE UNDER CHAPTER 55 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON SETTING

FOR THE RATE OF COMPENSATION AND MANNER OF PAYMENT OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN SAID MUNICIPALITY FOR THE YEAR 2014, was introduced and passed at first reading at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Washington on the 30th day of June, 2014;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that further consideration for final passage and public hearing of said ordinance shall be held on the 4st day of August, 2014 at 7:30 o'clock in the evening, prevailing time, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road, Township of Washington at which time and place all persons who may be interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk is authorized to advertise in The Bergen Record, a newspaper circulated in this Township, the introduction and notice of further consideration for final passage and public hearing of this ordinance as required by law.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following resolutions were part of the Consent Agenda and were made available to the Governing Body and the Public prior to the meeting.

There was a discussion on whether the Summer Recreation Program has a refund policy.

The Consent Agenda was presented and adopted on a motion by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Dr. Cascio.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

Resolution # 14-133

Bergen County Y Escrow

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Y posted escrow money for the June 22, 2014 Circus being held on their grounds for Police Outside Billing; and

WHEREAS, all parties have been paid and they are requesting a refund on the balance,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOVLED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the balance of the escrow money in the amount of \$1348.78 to the above.

Resolution # 14-134

Summer Recreation Refunds

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Township Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following recreation fees:

Roslyn Mehr
16 Hampton Court
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Refund for Summer Recreation Trip (Ice Skating July 14, 2014)
Refund Amount: \$10.00

Jeannette McCullough Losquardo
158 Hickory Street
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Refund for Summer Recreation Trip (Swim Club/July 15, 2014)
Refund Amount: \$8.00

Jennifer Blagec
298 Calvin Street
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Refund for Summer Recreation Trips (Movie July 11, 2014 & Ice Skating July 14, 2014).
Refund Amount: \$23.50

Resolution # 14-135

2014 Clean Communities Grant

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington will receive \$ \$15,812.84 from 2014 Clean Communities Grant and wishes to amend the 2014 Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Washington hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget for the year 2014 in the sum of \$15,812.84 which is now available as a revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues

Special item of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written
Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Additional Revenues offset by appropriations.

Appropriations:

Clean Communities Grant FY 2014

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sum of \$15,812.84 be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations

(a) Operations excluded from 5% CAPS

Public & Private Programs offset by Revenues

Clean Communities Grant FY 2014

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of Local Government Services for approval.

Elaine Erlewein, Acting Township Clerk

Thomas Sears, Council President

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

CONFERENCE PORTION/PUBLIC SESSION - July 21, 2014

Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Peter Calamari, Steve Cascio, Richard Hrbek, Thomas Sears. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Ken Poller, Attorney; Matthew Cavallo, Administrator.

PRIORITY

Ecology Permits – Mr. Sears spoke of the ecology permit stickers that are required for using the Township dump, which are green stickers for cars and red stickers for vans and trucks. Commercial vehicles are not allowed to dump. Mr. Sears's states he spent some time at the dump on Saturday and 19 vehicles showed up and only one had a green sticker, five trucks had red stickers. Mr. Sears states he encountered a couple who came from Paramus to dump in our dump since Paramus is much stricter and it is easier to dump in the Township. There was a discussion with regard to how much the Township dumping fees are and that all depends on what is being dumped, leaves, vegetative waste or organic material. Administrator Cavallo indicated if the Township is going to start mixing garbage, then we are going to start paying by the ton. Administrator Cavallo states the last time the ordinance was modified was 1986 or 1987, and times have changed. Mr. Sears states he would like council to sit down with Administrator Cavallo. Mr. Hrbek states he will work with Administrator Cavallo on this. Mr. Sears thanked Mr. Hrbek. There was a discussion of the current ordinance, its conditions and the price of the sticker.

Commuter Parking/Decals – Mr. Sears spoke of the Commuter Parking, this year 56 stickers were issued and the Township has 36 parking spots. Mr. Sears spoke of the system that we currently have now, in which the sticker is moved from vehicle to vehicle. Mr. Sears would like to have the stickers permanently mounted on the left side rear window, and a different color issued year after year. Mr. Sears also would like the fee increased by \$25.00 and have one car registered per sticker and the vehicle must be registered in the Township, along with the driver's license. Mr. Sears would like to work in this ordinance and would like council to support this. Dr. Cascio states that this was talked about before. Dr. Cascio also states residents do have multiple vehicles and it may be a better idea to get a plaque to hang so it can be moved from vehicle to vehicle. It was agreed that this needs to be further looked into, and can be modified. The fees dedicated for commuter parking are part of general funds.

Discussion on "Priority" for Capital Projects – Mr. Sears thanked Mr. Hrbek for taking the time to put together this priority list. Mr. Hrbek states that he included in the list things that were brought up, read off in the capital budget or discussed at meetings. Mr. Hrbek states he inserted numbers that he saw were substantiated somewhere and the list is in no particular order. Mr. Beckmeyer thanked Mr. Hrbek for making the list. Mr. Beckmeyer would like to include in additional information, such as if the project would be paid out at one time or bonded over a period of time. Mr. Beckmeyer spoke at length with regard to projects that may be bonded and pay debt load and how this would affect the Township. Administrator Cavallo spoke with regard to the Corrective Action Plan, open bond ordinances dating back to 1996 that have amounts in them that can be cancelled out and added to the Township surplus for use towards other projects. Mayor Sobkowicz states that Administrator Cavallo is going through the ordinances to see what can be cancelled out and get a better picture. There was a discussion with regard to the priority list, how it is going to be modified. Administrator Cavallo states that he will provide council with an update at the next meeting with regard to the firehouse parking lot, stairs,

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DMF builds. Administrator Cavallo a state Councilman Beckmeyer has been nice enough to assist in putting together the plans for the engineer with regard to the projects. Mr. Beckmeyer states he will stop by during the week to meet with Administrator Cavallo.

UPDATES

Municipal Building/Outside Stairs – Administrator Cavallo spoke of Mr. Statile's estimate for each set of stairs was approximately \$100,000 per staircase. There was a lengthy discussion of what council would like to do. Dr. Cascio spoke with regard of the possibility of doing a sidewalk, which would have to be four feet wide, the condition of the area, which at times is steeper and wider. There was also a discussion of the possibility of doing the sidewalk a different color, but still wide enough for a fire truck. Administrator Cavallo states this really depends on what council is going to do with the DMF building. There was a discussion on the DMF building, its current location and working with an engineer. There was also a discussion that currently there is no vehicle traffic, and funding the removal of the stairs, or keep the area closed. Administrator Cavallo states that he will get an estimate on the demolish of the stairs.

Roads – Mayor Sobkowicz did sent council, via the Acting Township Clerk, an email with updates for Phase 1 of the road program. There was lengthy discussion with regard to roads that are on the list. Mayor Sobkowicz states Ridgewood Boulevard North, Hoover Avenue would stop at Lincoln due to the fact that United Water has a large project in the Spring and they will pave when they are complete. Administrator Cavallo states with regard to Grace Court, the drainage issue needs to be addressed. There was a discussion with regard to the road next to the library, Wood field Road that area the cement has washed away over the years. That area will be camera'

d on Wednesday. Mr. Beckmeyer spoke of the mix that is being used, which is supposed to wear less in high traffic area, but in this situation you are paying extra for something you can't really take advantage of. There was also a discussion with regard to Cross and Willow, which are United Water projects. Administrator Cavallo states that those projects were negotiated prior to him being the Administrator, but he will look into them.

VFW Building – Mr. Sears stated that they will be meeting with Ms. Jacey Raimondo of Habitat for Humanity to gather more information next week and also to give some information. Mr. Sears states that he received calls from contractors and families that would like to help out. Mr. Hrbek states that this was the first time that he heard of the option of having two homes built. Mr. Sears states that Ms. Raimondo did give new information that would be to the benefit of the Township. Administrator Cavallo states the main issue right now is the land and deed restrictions. Administrator Cavallo will look into what the present land and deed restrictions are on that property.

Firehouse Parking Lot – There was a lengthy discussion with regard to the water retention on the firehouse parking lot property, which varies from county to county. Mr. Beckmeyer spoke of the current situation of the water running into the street. Mr. Hrbek states with the current building code with additions, it is required by the residents to retain water on their property, and this is something we should do by example, retaining the water on the Township parking lot. Mr. Beckmeyer spoke at length with regard to putting an HD pipe in the ground, backfill it with a foot of stone and attaching it to each catch basin in the area. Mr. Beckmeyer also spoke of the process of the water drainage. Mr. Beckmeyer also spoke of putting curbs and sidewalks in the area, since at this time there is no delineation of where people should walk. Mr. Beckmeyer states that this would stop 10, 12 feet from the firehouse so

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anything that is done with the firehouse will not impact this area. There was a discussion if by putting the sidewalk there parking spaces would be lost. Mr. Beckmeyer states he would have to look at what the engineer lays out, but probably not. At this time there are people parking outside of the property line that are not supposed to be parking there. Administrator Cavallo states the quote from Mr. Statile is \$12, 500 for the site and at this time we are over the Pay to Play threshold, so we would need a resolution authorizing him to do the work. Administrator Cavallo would like to put the resolution on for the next meeting. Administrator Cavallo states that Mr. Statile's paperwork has been received. There was a discussion with regard to paving the area and the impact if something is then done with the firehouse. Mr. Beckmeyer states that construction material can be laid out on the west side. There was a discussion if parking will be allowed or will have to be stopped during the time the firehouse commuter parking lot is being paved and also a time line was discussed. Mr. Beckmeyer states you can still use most of the commuter parking lot, you can section it off and shift it. Dr. Cascio requests that a schematic is done so it can be visualized better. Administrator Cavallo states he will move ahead with the resolution for the next meeting, since Mr. Statile cannot start working on this project until he gets authorization.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to go into Closed Session.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

Elaine Erlewein, Acting Township Clerk

Thomas Sears, Council President