

MINUTES
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
September 21, 2023

Start Time: 6:35 p.m.

The **Sunshine Statement** was read into the record by Mayor Ritter.

The **Flag Salute** was led by Mayor Ritter.

- **Roll Call:** Mayor Paul Ritter, Vice Mayor Robin Freitag, Tom Tedesco and David Miller present. Kelsey Bayzick absent.

Also Present: John Hitchner, Admin; Jeannette Pace, Acting Clerk; Township Solicitor Ted Ritter, Esquire

- **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the August 17, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Discussion: Freitag pointed out a typographical error then made a Motion to approve with the correction; Seconded by Miller. Voice Vote: All in favor.

- **Approval of Department Reports**

Discussion: Hitchner added to his report that he and several others had a zoom meeting with Comcast regarding to speed of progress. After no further discussion, a Motion was made by Tedesco and seconded by Freitag to approve the reports. Voice Vote: All in favor.

- **Treasurer's Report and Approval of Bills**

Motino to approve by Freitag; Seconded by Tedesco. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Approval of bill to Buggy Construction for Home Rehab Program. Motion to approve by Miller; Seconded by Tedesco. Voice Vote: All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Motion to Open to Public by Freitag; Seconded by Miller. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Gary Van Meter appeared and advised that Eleanor Street has no stop sign and asked that Public Works correct this.

Herbert Hymer of 20 Hillside appeared and voiced his concerns about the ATVs and dirt bikes riding recklessly throughout the township. He mentioned incidents where there were at least 20 of them stopped at the gas station to get fuel. He called the State Police but by the time they

got there, the bikes were gone. The police advised that they cannot chase them. He also mentioned a property on West Park Drive where they hang out and are doing repairs out of the house. Mayor Ritter suggested writing a letter to the State representatives and expressing his concerns. Hitchner will have our Code Enforcement Officer look into the work at the property in question.

Seeing no one further, a Motion to close the public portion was made by Freitag and Seconded by Tedesco. Voice Vote: All in favor.

ORDINANCES for Adoption on second reading:

#2023-08: Street Opening Fee Ordinance

Motion to Open to Public by Tedesco; Seconded by Freitag. Voice Vote: All in favor.
 Seeing no one, Motion to Close by Tedesco; Seconded by Miller. Voice Vote: All in favor.

Roll Call Vote:

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kelsey Bayzick						X
Robin Freitag			X			
David Miller		X	X			
Tom Tedesco	X		X			
Paul J. Ritter, III			X			

#2023-09: Temporary Housing Ordinance

Motion to Open to Public by Miller; Seconded by Freitag. Voice Vote: All in favor.
 Seeing no one, Motion to Close by Tedesco; Seconded by Miller. Voice Vote: All in favor.
 Discussion: Hitchner advised that the Land Use Board reviewed the ordinance at their meeting the prior evening and accepted it as prepared with the exception of Section E. They recommended striking Section E from the ordinance as they felt it was geared toward one specific property and not all properties in the HC Zone. The consensus of the Committee was to strike Section E from the proposed ordinance and with that revision a Motion to adopt was made by Tedesco and seconded by Miller.

Roll Call Vote:

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kelsey Bayzick						X
Robin Freitag			X			
David Miller		X	X			
Tom Tedesco	X		X			
Paul J. Ritter, III			X			

ORDINANCES for Introduction:

The following Ordinances were read by title only by Hitchner and presented for Introduction:

#2023-10: 2023 Stormwater Control Ordinance

#2023-11: Ordinance Establishing a Containerized Yard Waste Collection Program

#2023-12: Ordinance Establishing a Litter Control Program

#2023-13: Ordinance Establishing a Pet Waste Disposal Program

#2023-14: Ordinance Establishing Retrofitting of Existing Storm Drain Inlets

#2023-15: Ordinance Prohibiting the Feeding of Unconfined Wildlife

#2023-16: Ordinance Illiciting Connections to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

#2023-17: Ordinance Prohibiting the Improper Disposal of Waste

#2023-18: Ordinance Prohibiting the Privately Owned Storage of Salt and Other Solid De-Icing Materials from Being Exposed to Stormwater

#2023-19: Ordinance Establishing Requirements of Tree Removal and Replacement

Discussion:

There was discussion regarding the fines imposed in each ordinance. Hitchner indicated that the ordinances were form ordinances and the fines could be revised by the municipality. Mayor Ritter suggested a \$200.00 fine and the Committee agreed by general consensus. Mayor Ritter questioned Solicitor Ritter as to whether or not it would be better for Code Enforcement to first issue a warning and then a fine and Solicitor Ritter agreed with this and indicated the fines could also be stacked.

Having no further discussion, a Motion to Approve was made by Tedesco and Seconded by Freitag.

Roll Call Vote:

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kelsey Bayzick						X
Robin Freitag		X	X			
David Miller			X			
Tom Tedesco	X		X			
Paul J. Ritter, III			X			

RESOLUTIONS:

#2023-95: Resolution Authorizing Change Order #1 – Holly and Elwell Terrace NJ DOT Resurfacing Project

Motion to Approve by Tedesco; Seconded by Miller. Voice Vote: All in favor.

#2023-96: Resolution Authorizing Purchasing Agent to sign Standard Commercial Security Agreement with DNS Solutions, LLC

Motion to Approve by Miller; Seconded by Freitag. Voice Vote: All in favor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Date for Trick or Treat: October 31st from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pace will post on the website and Facebook.
- 9-1-1 Flyer – House Numbers: Pace prepared a flyer which was distributed in all the bags at Hopewell Day. She will also hang in the building as well as post on the website and Facebook.
- Personnel Policy: Hitchner will present the final draft to the Committee for approval at the October meeting. Solicitor Ritter suggested having a labor law attorney review it.
- Hopewell Day: Pace gave an update on a successful Hopewell Day event and will follow up at a later meeting with the breakdown of donations received and costs incurred.
- Animal Shelter: Mayor Ritter advised that he attended the recent CDC meeting and the numbers do not work out to build a new shelter. The municipalities will continue using the South Jersey Regional Shelter.
- Infrastructure Funds/Grant from the State: Mayor Ritter mentioned the Orchard Crest neighborhood which consists of properties which are 25+ years old, are in direct proximity of pump stations and have an easement through the business park. Since Hopewell Township has the highest per capital income in Cumberland County, it was disqualified from receiving aid from this Grant.
- Sight Triangle: Mayor Ritter mentioned the sight triangle issue at Barretts Run Road and Route 49 and the tree that is in the sight of traffic.
- Family Thrift: Mayor Ritter indicated that he spoke to the owner of Family Thrift and they are doing very well in their new location.
- Animal Control: Tedesco voiced concerns over the current situation with our Animal Control Officer. The ACO has already indicated that he will not be renewing his contract next year so Tedesco questioned whether or not an RFP would need to go out. Hitchner will research who other municipalities are using.
- Rental Registrations / Lead Based Paint: Miller asked for an update on these issues.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Ritter mentioned the letter from Nancy Sungenis thanking the Committee for its Proclamation.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Nothing to add that wasn't already discussed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion by Miller; Seconded by Freitag. Voice Vote: All in favor.

End Time: 8:00 p.m. **Next Meeting Date:** November 9th (2nd Thursday) at 6:30 p.m.

Jeannette Pace, Acting Clerk
cc: Township Administrator, Committee and Counsel