

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING – November 12, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

Mayor York calls the workshop meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asks the Clerk to call the roll:

Township Committee	Present/ Absent	Professionals	Present/ Absent
Jason A. Jones	<u>Present</u>	Gina LaPlaca, Business Administrator	<u>Present via Zoom</u>
Robert Lane, Jr.	<u>Present</u>	Gabriella Siboni, Township Clerk	<u>Present</u>
Kevin McMillan	<u>Present</u>	Gene Anthony, Township Attorney	<u>Present</u>
Derel Stroud	<u>Present</u>		
Tassie D. York	<u>Present</u>		

Mayor York announces that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster and the Asbury Park Press on January 5, 2024, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda is posted on the Township web site (www.neptunetownship.org).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN OPEN SESSION

1. RFP Listings

Ms. Siboni summarized the list of RFPs that we have advertised or are planning to advertise. Ms. Siboni sought input from committee to confirm the list is representative of what the Township Committee is seeking.

Mr. Anthony stated the Township Committee could utilize a “Special Counsel” for positions like Rent Leveling Attorney, Tax Appeal Attorney, Attorney for Code and Zoning, etc. Mr. Anthony stated this is under the RFPs as the “Assistant Township Attorney”

Mr. Stroud asked for a clarification for a difference between a CFO and financial advisor.

Mr. Jones asked if there was a comprehensive list of the positions that are filled in the Township. Ms. Siboni stated the list was comprehensive and the details in the proposal packet which is publicly available notes the specifics.

2. Animal House Ordinance

Mr. Anthony summarized the amendments previously made to Animal House Ordinance. Mr. Anthony stated that through his research, the legislation on the matter shows that bonding cannot occur without a conviction. A change to the ordinance would not be possible without a legal challenge.

3. Ocean Grove Parking Permit Parking Pilot Program

Mr. Anthony read the previous proposals for parking and there was a subcommittee that submitted a proposal for 2 parking zones; 1 seasonal and 1 annual zone. Mr. Anthony stated the Township Committee can review the proposals and make a recommendation. Mr. Anthony stated the Township Committee did not agree to the proposal to draft and ordinance so if the Township Committee wishes to draft an ordinance it will need to be drafted and submitted to the assignment judge.

Mr. Jones asked for clarification for the process to move forward. Mr. Anthony stated he would need a consensus from the Township Committee on the draft ordinance to submit the ordinance to the assignment judge of Monmouth County before the Township Committee can consider. Mr. Jones asked for confirmation of the timeline on the process for the ordinance. Mr. Anthony summarized his experience and that the timeline is not a set guarantee. Mr. Anthony did encourage the Township Committee to consider it quickly in order to effectuate in time.

Mr. Stroud stated there have been multiple proposals to review for consideration. Mr. Stroud made the following notations:

- Mr. Stroud is against the ability to print passes at home and believes that residents will need to come to Town Hall to receive.
- Mr. Stroud stated he does not agree with the license plate information should not be included on the permit. The permit should only include a permit number or unique identifier instead.

- Mr. Stroud suggested that visitor passes should not be included and that homeowners can use the 2 issued passes

Mr. Jones asked about the process for time limit parking on Main Ave. Mr. Anthony stated this did occur. Mr. Jones asked if the police department would be enforcing the parking permit proposal or would residents be calling on each other. Mr. Anthony stated he believed that the residents would report. Mr. Stroud stated there is an issue with Ocean Grove feeling like a gated community and surrounding towns do not feel welcome or open to partnership.

Mr. Stroud stated there is discourse on Social Media is that there has always been an issue with parking in Ocean Grove, but Mr. Stroud stated that in the History of Ocean Grove, Asbury Park was not always developed the same way. Mr. Stroud wanted to know that the processes that would be used are actually enforceable, applicable and useful. Mr. Stroud asked if there would be a parking authority to take on the concern. Mr. Stroud stated he is not sure that the use of the Police Department to enforce parking permits is for the best use.

Mr. McMillan would like to come to a consensus on the process to progress the consideration. Mr. McMillan asked about the return of the parking permits when residents moved.

Mr. Anthony stated that due to the calendar of the Township Committee Meetings, a new ordinance would not be ready to consider this year.

Mr. Lane stated he agreed with Mr. Stroud that the permits should not be able to be printed at home and they should be annually renewed. Mr. Lane stated that there needs to be a limit to the number issued. Mr. Lane stated that he believes the permits should be provided without cost.

Mr. Stroud had some questions about the requirements to establish the criteria as a resident. Mr. Stroud stated there are parking permits for fire and emergency personnel or Township employee. Mr. Stroud wants to ensure those who are working for the town are not accidentally ticketed. Mr. Anthony stated there were some concerns about the proof of residency that needs to be more strict otherwise it may be taken advantage of.

Mr. Jones asked about signage and if approval from the assignment judge. Mr. Anthony will draft an ordinance based on the proposal from the parking subcommittee.

4. **Liaison for Community Engagement, community outreach**

Mr. Jones wants to encourage sections and organizations in town to attend Township Committee meetings and to bring small presentations. Mr. Jones would like to assist with engagement within the community. Mayor York stated she believes Mr. Jones would like to be appointed as this liaison. Mayor York thinks this would be a positive initiative. Mr. McMillan stated he was for this position, but had believed it would be a paid position. Mr. McMillan stated that as elected officials, they all are liaisons for community engagement and outreach. Mr. Lane believed it was a good idea and would be happy to help Mr. Jones.

5. **Ordinance to prohibit the manufacture, sale, advertisement or concealment of any illicit THC product**

Mr. Stroud stated there are only limited numbers of licensed establishments who are able to sell any product with THC. Mr. Stroud would like to consider an ordinance that prohibits the sale of THC products. Mr. Lane agreed with Mr. Stroud that this ordinance is necessary in Neptune Township. Mayor York stated the Chief of Police is aware and has been working on this issue, but the sales continue to pop up very quickly.

6. **Committee Calendars**

Jones	Mr. Jones attended the Veterans Park Memorial Event on Sunday to recognize our local Veterans.
Stroud	No report
McMillan	No report
Lane	No report

York

No report

Res #24 - 423 Authorize An Executive Session As Authorized By The Open Public Meetings Act.

Offered by: Stroud Seconded by: McMillan
Vote: Jones Yes Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – November 12, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

Mayor York calls the meeting to order and asks the Clerk to call the roll:

Township Committee	Present/ Absent	Professionals	Present/ Absent
Jason A. Jones	<u>Present</u>	Gina LaPlaca, Business Administrator	<u>Present via Zoom</u>
Robert Lane, Jr.	<u>Present</u>	Gabriella Siboni, Township Clerk	<u>Present</u>
Kevin McMillan	<u>Present</u>	Gene Anthony, Township Attorney	<u>Present</u>
Derel Stroud	<u>Present</u>		
Tassie D. York	<u>Present</u>		

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND FLAG SALUTE

The Clerk states, "Fire exits are located in the rear of the room and to my right. In the event of a fire, you will be notified by fire alarm and/or public address system, then proceed to the nearest smoke-free exit."

Mayor York announces that the notice requirements of R.S. 10:4-18 have been satisfied by the publication of the required advertisement in The Coaster and the Asbury Park Press on January 5, 2024, posting the notice on the Board in the Municipal Complex, and filing a copy of said notice with the Municipal Clerk. In addition, the meeting agenda is posted on the Township web site (www.neptunetownship.org).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion offered by Committeeperson Stroud, seconded by, Committeeperson Lane, to approve the minutes of meetings of October 15, 2024. All in favor with the exception of Committeeman Jones who abstained.

Motion offered by Committeeperson Lane, seconded by, Committeeperson Jones, to approve the minutes of meetings of October 28, 2024.

COMMENTS FROM THE DAIS

Comments from the Dais regarding business on this agenda or any reports on recent events in their respective departments.

- Jones Mr. Jones stated he will be attending a cannabis committee this week and has met with the recreation department
- Stroud Mr. Stroud and the Mayor met with the redevelopment committee to receive some updates on projects in Neptune Township including the project on Route 66. Mr. Stroud stated the redevelopment attorney has reached out to the property owners to make sure the property is secured and maintained. Mr. Stroud announced the little librarian of the week. Assistant Children’s Librarian will be a position that is opening in 2025 due to the retirement of Ms. Cheryl after more than 30 years of service. The library anticipates replacing 53 year old shelving in the children’s center and replacing computers who are now out of life cycle. Book Mobile will be having some repairs and the Library Director is seeking suggestions for books.
- McMillan Mr. McMillan thanked residents for voting Mr. Stroud and Mr. McMillan back onto the Township Committee.
- Lane Mr. Lane stated there was a great turn out for the Veterans Memorial Event at the Veterans Memorial Park in Neptune Township. The Veterans Memorial Park Committee hosted a luncheon to raise funds to maintain the Veterans Park and ensure it stays pristine.
- York Mayor York stated she attended the Veterans Ceremony at Post 133 and it was a wonderful ceremony. Mayor York congratulated Mr. Stroud and Mr. McMillan on their re-election.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The Business Administrator will report on capital projects and matters of general interest.
Homeless Encampment: The Monmouth County Sheriff’s Department was out at the encampment on the morning of Wednesday November 6th, informing the remaining residents that they must vacate the property by November 20th, and that Sheriff’s Officers would be coming back on that date to ensure that the property has been vacated. Our nonprofit partners continue to work with the remaining residents alternative placement options such as motels or other emergency housing, and have advised them to leave the camp. I have also asked our Special Counsel to set up a meeting through legal counsel for the property owner so we can discuss next steps with respect to clean up and securing of the property.
· Zoning and Land Use Boards Moving to Town Hall: Please be advised that, as of this Friday November 14th, anyone having business with the Zoning Officer or any of our Land Use Boards (Zoning, Planning HPC) may come to Town Hall, as these functions and the employees who perform them are relocating from the OEM/DPW building on Heck Avenue to

25 Neptune Boulevard.

· Eagle Scout Proposal and Presentation: The Committee will receive a presentation from Robert Delaney regarding a proposed Eagle Project that he would like to undertake, with the Township’s support, at Shark River Memorial Park. Mr. Delaney made a presentation to the Township Committee about his proposed Eagle Scout Project which includes re-mulching and planting azaleas, repainting benches. Mr. Delaney is hopeful the Township Committee may donate a tree. Mayor York asked when the project would begin. Mr. Delaney stated he hopes to start in March 2025.

Mr. Jones asked if the Township has a budget for the maintenance of Parks. Mr. Lane stated that the budget is for maintenance. Mr. Lane stated he believes it is a great project and is looking forward to see the project. Mr. McMillan asked if the Township Committee can make personal donations and would be amendable to the Township to consider donating a tree to his project.

Mayor York thanked Mr. Delaney for having an eye to want to beautify the park and the Township Committee is proud to support Mr. Delaney in his progress to an Eagle Scout and on his project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS

The Clerk will announce additional information regarding Separated Resolutions if necessary.

Resolution 24-438

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Matthew Parker	Public Works	Sanitation Supervisor	\$95,297.66	November 18, 2024
Albert Fritz	Public Works	Roads Supervisor	\$95,297.66	November 18, 2024
Ijhire Dortch	Public Works	Class A CDL Driver	\$35,000.00	November 19, 2024
Daevon Ramos	Public Works	Class A CDL Driver	\$35,000.00	November 19, 2024
Jose Hernandez Barrera	Public Works	Class A CDL Driver	\$35,000.00	November 19, 2024
Maria Ferrell	Senior Center	Customer Service Representative	\$30,139.38	November 19, 2024

TOWNSHIP OF NEPTUNE

RESOLUTION 24-439

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEPTUNE TO TERMINATE EMPLOYEE IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Based on a recommendation from the Business Administrator of the Township of Neptune pursuant to Section 2-10.9 “Disciplinary Actions”,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Neptune that Thomas Blewitt, Sergeant of the Police Department, be and is hereby terminated effective November 13, 2024, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Business Administrator, Chief of Police, Chief Financial Officer, Assistant C.F.O., and Human Resources Director.

Public comments regarding resolutions presented on this agenda only. The public will be permitted one visit to the microphone with a limit of five minutes.

Name and Address	Comment
Barbara Burns Ocean Ave.	Ms. Burns had a question regarding Resolution 24-435. Ms. Burns wanted to confirm that even though the boardwalk is privately owned, it is a public thoroughfare. Ms. Burns asked why Camp Meeting Association is responsible to pay for the SLEO on the boardwalk when it seems like a service that should be included to taxpayers. Mr. Anthony stated it is because it is a hybrid

Acquisition

- Res#24- 432** Resolution Authorizing The Township Of Neptune To Accept A Subgrant Award Of The Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Of Emergency Management Performance Grant And Emergency Management Agency Assistance
- Res#24- 433** Authorize Execution Of A Utility Permit Application For Hardland, Llc (A.K.A. Pink Balloon, Llc) Sewer Connection At 3536 Route 66
- Res#24- 434** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Supporting Intersection Improvements At The Corner Of West Bangs And Green Grove Rd To Be Completed By The Monmouth County
- Res#24- 435** Resolution Authorizing An Amendment To The Assignment Agreement Between The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association And Neptune Township For Use Of Township Special Law Enforcement Officers For Purposes Of The Association’s Property, And In Particular, Patrolling The Beachfront Area Of The Association’s Property For Enforcement Of Applicable New Jersey State Statutes And Municipal Ordinances During The Summer Months
- Res#24- 436** Resolution Authorizing Purchase Of Transim 8 Simulator And Programs Dpw Training Simulator From Safeware Inc Under Sourcewell National Cooperative Contract 080922-Saf, In The Amount Not To Exceed \$197,272.73
- Res#24- 437** Resolution Authorizing Agreement For Up-Fit Of Four Police Vehicles From East Coast Emergency Lighting Under New Jersey State Contract #23-Fleet-68813 In An Amount Not To Exceed \$73,000.00

CONSENT AGENDA

Offered by: McMillan Seconded by: Stroud
Vote: Jones Yes Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

- Res#24- 431** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Enabling A Project Agreement With State Of New Jersey Department Of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program Related To The Division Street Acquisition

Mr. Stroud stated this takes a property through eminent domain and turn it into a park. Mr. Stroud would like to offer to deny the resolution

Offered by: Lane Seconded by: McMillan
Vote: Jones No Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud No York No

- Res#24- 434** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Supporting Intersection Improvements At The Corner Of West Bangs And Green Grove Rd To Be Completed By The Monmouth County

Offered by: Stroud Seconded by: Stroud
Vote: Jones Yes Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

Mr. Jones, Mr. Stroud and Mr. McMillan expressed concerns about Wayside rd. And the presence of skid marks by the church and there are skid marks leading to the church.

SEPARATED RESOLUTIONS

- Res#24- 438** A Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune Authorizing Certain Personnel Actions

Offered by: Stroud Seconded by: McMillan
Vote: Jones Yes Lane Yes McMillan Yes Stroud Yes York Yes

- Res#24- 439** Resolution Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Neptune To Terminate Employee In The Police Department

Offered by:	Jones				Seconded by:		Stroud			
<i>Note:</i>	Jones	<u>No</u>	Lane	<u>No</u>	McMillan	<u>Yes</u>	Stroud	<u>Yes</u>	York	<u>Yes</u>

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address any concern relating to the Township. The public will be permitted one visit to the microphone with a limit of five minutes.

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Comment</u>
JP Thompson Embury Ave.	Ms. Thompson stated the Parking Permit Program must be tied to the address and if the property is sold or rented, the parking permits should be transferred. Ms. Thompson questioned why a stormwater management ordinance is required if there is a state statute
Joan Venezia Mt. Hermon Way	Ms. Venezia stated she is having a number of issues getting information on Ocean Grove North End Development. Ms. Venezia stated the Planning Board and attorneys are not responding to questions about Ocean Grove North End Development. Ms. Venezia has been told that people will get back to her, but she has not received an update. Ms. Venezia is asking who should be the point of contact for Ocean Grove North End Development. Ms. Venezia asked for an update on the charging stations in Ocean Grove. Mr. Anthony stated Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association will be submitting a lawsuit to the Arts Center to determine Title of the Property. Ms. Venezia confirmed 63 Cookman is going to be in court this Thursday; Mr. Anthony confirmed. Ms. Venezia stated she would like to see the Township adopt a permit parking program in Ocean Grove. Ms. Venezia asked if there will be modifications to make the Animal House regulations easier to enforce. Ms. Venezia asked if the Police Department has been advised to call a property manager. Mr. Stroud stated that it is not required, the police department has discretion about whether someone is required to respond.
Barbara Burns Ocean Ave.	Ms. Burns asked a question on the ordinance 24-43. Ms. Burns asked if the ordinance is retroactive. Mr. Anthony stated it is
Paul Kaplan Mt. Zion Way	Mr. Kaplan thanked the Township Committee for bringing the parking permit program back for consideration. Mr. Kaplan stated that the parking permits are a necessary program to offset the issues posed by the parking surges in Asbury Park.
Amy Heller Mt. Tabor Way	Ms. Heller expressed concern that a parking permit will be tied to a car rather than to a property. Ms. Heller asked for clarification on the proposal that is being considered. Mr. Stroud summarized what the Township Committee is considering for the parking proposal.
Gary Brown Cardinal Road	Mr. Brown thanked the Committee for their action to not take a property under eminent domain to build a new park. Mr. Brown stated there are grace periods and a moving target line to have people removed from the homeless encampment. Mr. Brown asked if he could be told the dates of the upcoming court dates and if the target line may change after November 20 if those in the encampment do not leave by then. Mr. Brown stated there was an open flame fire pit in the homeless encampment and Mr. Brown sent a video of it to the Township Committee. Mr. Brown expressed severe concern because of the current fire hazard.
Justin Domlish Asbury Ave.	Mr. Domlish stated he is not in favor of the Parking Permit Program. Mr. Domlish stated his property taxes have been raised over \$5,000. Under the proposal, his property is included in the parking permit program. Mr. Domlish stated this is an issue for him as he cares for elderly family and the program causes issues for his quality of life. Mr. Domlish also stated this is turning Ocean Grove back into a gated community. Mr. Domlish wishes to see the proposal that the Township Committee is considering because it was not available publicly.
Joyce Klein	Ms. Klein thanked the Township Committee for considering the Permit Pilot Program

Mt. Hermon Way

in Ocean Grove again. Ms. Klein stated the proposal is not new, there are a few minor administrative changes since the proposal was discussed in 2023.

Ms. Klein spoke about the unhomed in Neptune Township. Ms. Klein stated there are a lot of unhomed in Ocean Grove who are sleeping in their cars or on the beach. Ms. Klein believes this is true throughout Neptune Township. Ms. Klein is disturbed by this as a homeowner, but also as a humanitarian issue.

Mr. Stroud stated he has met with 2 organizations that assist those who are unhomed.

Mr. Stroud stated those organizations reached out to those at the encampment, but unfortunately, much of the help was refused by those in the camps.

ADJOURNMENT

Offered by Lane Seconded by: Stroud Time Adjourned 9:01PM

Respectfully Submitted,


Gabriella Siboni
Township Clerk