

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Monday, March 25, 2024
7:00 pm Regular Session

Mayor Santillo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone participated in the flag salute.

Notice of this meeting was published in the Burlington County Times and the Courier Post on January 7, 2024. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and on the Township website.

Present were: Mayor Dominic F. Santillo, Deputy Mayor Ricardo J. Rodriguez, Council Member Robert Apgar, Council Member Jay Springer and Council Member Anthony Zeno. Also present were: Township Attorney Al Marmero, Chief Financial Officer John E. Barrett, Municipal Clerk/Township Manager Kim-Marie White and Deputy Municipal Clerk Christina Lucas.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ORDINANCE- INTRODUCTION:

Ordinance 2024-4 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) for the Calendar Year 2024

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by RODRIGUEZ that Ordinance 2024-4 be approved on introduction.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Rodriguez, Springer, Zeno, Santillo
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Ordinance 2024-4 was approved.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution R2024-51 Authorize Engineering Design and Construction Observation Services for 2024 Road Improvements Program

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by ZENO that Resolution R2024-51 be TABLED.

Mayor Santillo stated this had been tabled from the previous meeting pending resolution on some other matters before moving forward, as well as some budgetary concerns.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Rodriguez, Springer, Zeno, Santillo
Nays - None

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There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2024-51 was TABLED.

Resolution R2024-59

Introduction of the 2024 Municipal Budget

It was MOVED by RODRIGUEZ and seconded by ZENO that Resolution R2024-59 be approved.

Chief Financial Officer Barrett provided that a body armor grant had been added and the budget revised; there was no tax increase and \$850,000 of tax surplus would be used; the Township Auditor, Township Manager and CFO were pleased with the budget, and it would be up for Public Hearing on April 22, 2024.

Mayor Santillo questioned if the amount of surplus was \$870,000 including the body armor grant, and CFO Barrett responded that was correct.

Mr. Apgar questioned if a three-year budget projection had been done, to which Township Manager White responded it had not.

CFP Barrett expressed that with fluctuations in the cost of goods, pension, debt, inflation and cost of living adjustments it would be difficult to project.

Mr. Apgar stated there should not be reliance on Pilot funds or surplus, and the plan was to have a smooth transition from one revenue source to another.

CFO Barrett replied the Township would replenish that surplus amount plus additional funds.

Mr. Apgar asked where the surplus funds would be generated from and CFO Barrett responded that the funds would be generated from excess revenues and added assessments.

Mr. Rodriguez questioned current surplus with Lennar construction coming to an end and how replenishment would look over the next 3-5 years with Pilot funds ending.

Mr. Zeno stated the construction was coming to an end but the Township was getting the tax revenue.

CFO Barrett responded that this sound fiscal budget had a historic high fund balance of \$4.2 million dollars and would transition off the pilot funds to the ratable base.

Mr. Apgar stated with the Pilot agreements ending factors would be at play over the next couple years and we would need to act proactively going forward.

Mr. Springer noted we would need to do our due diligence to plan.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Rodriguez, Springer, Zeno, Santillo
Nays - None

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There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2024-59 was approved.

Resolution R2024-60 Authorizing Self-Examination for 2024 Municipal Budget

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by RODRIGUEZ that Resolution R2024-60 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Rodriguez, Springer, Zeno, Santillo
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2024-60 was approved.

Resolution R2024-61 Transfer of Appropriation Excess to Insufficient Appropriations

It was MOVED by RODRIGUEZ and seconded by SPRINGER that Resolution R2024-61 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Rodriguez, Springer, Zeno, Santillo
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2024-61 was approved.

Resolution R2024-62 Authorizing Payment in Lieu of Taxes to the Eastampton Community School Board of Education

It was MOVED by APGAR and seconded by ZENO that Resolution R2024-62 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Rodriguez, Springer, Zeno, Santillo
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2024-62 was approved.

Resolution R2024-63 Authorizing Percentage Payment in Lieu of Taxes to Burlington County

It was MOVED by ZENO and seconded by APGAR that Resolution R2024-63 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Rodriguez, Springer, Zeno, Santillo
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2024-63 was approved.

Resolution R2024-64 Appointment of Special Class I Officer to Eastampton Township Police Department

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It was MOVED by APGAR and seconded by ZENO that Resolution R2024-64 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Rodriguez, Springer, Zeno, Santillo
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2024-64 was approved.

MINUTES:

- March 11, 2024

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by RODRIGUEZ that minutes be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Rodriguez, Springer, Zeno, Santillo
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, minutes were approved.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

- Construction
- Engineer

It was MOVED by RODRIGUEZ and seconded by APGAR that reports be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Rodriguez, Springer, Zeno, Santillo
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, reports were approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

It was MOVED by ZENO and seconded by RODRIGUEZ that bills be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Rodriguez, Springer, Zeno, Santillo
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, bills were approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT: None

COMMITTEE REPORT:

LUPB: Mr. Apgar noted the meeting on March 20th had memorializing resolutions and one continued variance application.

ECS BOE School Board: Mr. Apgar stated the school was appreciative of the Pilot funds that would be received by the school from the Township later in the year.

Fire Commission: Mr. Springer noted the board meeting would take place on March 28th.

Veteran's Committee: Mr. Rodriguez stated the Memorial Day Ceremony was in the planning stages, with the program to be similar to previous years. The Chaplain and ECS choir had been confirmed, with a guest speaker and the ROTC in need of securing.

Recreation Advisory Committee: Mayor Santillo stated that as the remaining members of the Veteran's committee also served on the RAC a discussion had taken place about merging the two committees to help with all 5 Township events. Robert Heins was to be deployed, and Kim Johnson would be Chairperson of the RAC.

Mr. Rodriguez stated with only two members on the Veteran's committee the help would be welcome as everyone worked together to plan the Memorial Day Ceremony.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Redevelopment Ordinance for Block 200, Lot 7

Township Manager White spoke on the redevelopment plan that would be turned into an ordinance for the affordable housing settlement, with set aside portion for 100% affordable housing. There would be a specified amount per unit for repair or updates to the community room, HVAC, AC, the roof, etc. This would be done along with restructuring of the zoning ordinance, Ch. 540.

Township Attorney Al Marmero discussed the new bill signed by Governor Murphy regarding Affordable Housing that abolishes COAH. The Resolution must be adopted by the Township by January 31, 2025. The Township must provide projected growth, vacant land, etc. The report can be challenged through a dispute program administered through the Division of Consumer Affairs.

Township Manager White stated it helps to preserve land, and is a good thing for the Township.

Mr. Apgar suggested establishment of a subcommittee to look into it relatively soon.

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Township Manager White commended the Public Works Department on doing a great job with making a plan, selecting plants, and leveling out the mulch beds at the Manor House.

Mr. Springer spoke on the energy planning grant, which had been extended to the end of May.

Township Manager White responded she would check on it.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Monday, April 22, 2024

It was MOVED by APGAR and seconded by SPRINGER to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Rodriguez, Springer, Zeno, Santillo

Nays - None

All were in favor.



Kim-Marie White
Municipal Clerk



Dominic F. Santillo
Mayor

Approved: April 22, 2024