

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Monday, April 22, 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, Township Planner Mark A. Remsa, Municipal Clerk/Township Manager Kim-Marie White and Deputy Municipal Clerk Christina Lucas.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Santillo and Township Council presented a Proclamation to Patrolman Kelsey Knudsen for 2023 Officer of the Year.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ORDINANCE- PUBLIC HEARING

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

The Mayor opened the floor for public comment.

Don Graham questioned why the Township was exceeding the appropriation limits.

Chief Financial Officer John Barrett provided that the ordinance allowed the municipality to increase the annual budget up to 3 ½ percent for Cost-of-Living adjustments (COLA).

Mr. Graham asked if lost revenue from disabled veterans could be scheduled into the next years' budget.

CFO Barrett responded that there were no provisions in New Jersey for lost or negative revenue, and the Township would levy disbursement over all other tax ratables to accommodate for the losses.

CFO Barrett also asserted that with the controlled spending and initiative driven efforts by Township Council had kept taxes flat with a zero increase.

Township Manager White stated we cannot speak on the County taxes.

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Mr. Graham inquired on when the Police Department contract was up for renewal.

Ms. White responded the contract was up for renewal in 2025.

Mr. Apgar asked for a specific inquiry to the County for the walking path from Eastampton to Smithville Park, as there was no safe way to access the park from our Township.

Planner Remsa stated a formal letter could be sent to the County Commissioner in charge of the parks and copy Mary Pat Robbie.

Township Manager White provided that in meetings with the County they wanted to do additional items at the same time as the walking path.

Mr. Apgar responded the Township did not want to wait several years for it to be packaged when it is unsafe to walk Smithville Road.

Mayor Santillo stated he would draft a letter to Burlington County.

Hearing no further comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

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

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

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

ORDINANCE- INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2024-5

An Ordinance by the Township Council Amending the Township of Eastampton Code of Ordinances to Repeal Chapter 275 Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to Adopt a New Chapter 275 Flood Damage Ordinance; to Adopt Flood Hazard Maps; to Designate a Floodplain Administrator; and Providing for Severability and an Effective Date

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by ZENO that Ordinance 2024-5 be approved on introduction.

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

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

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution R2024-51

Authorize Engineering Design and Construction
Observation Services for 2024 Road Improvements
Program

It was MOVED by ZENO and seconded by RODRIGUEZ 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

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

Resolution R2024-65

Authorize Reading Budget by Title Only

It was MOVED by APGAR and seconded by RODRIGUEZ that Resolution R2024-65 be
approved.

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2024-65 was approved.

Public Hearing on Municipal Budget

The Mayor opened the floor for public comment, there being no comments the Mayor closed the
public hearing.

Resolution R2024-59

Adoption of 2024 Municipal Budget

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

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

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

Resolution R2024-66

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal
Grant Cycle July 2020-June 2025 Municipal Alliance Grant
Application

It was MOVED by SPRINGER and seconded by RODRIGUEZ that Resolution R2024-66 be approved.

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2024-66 was approved.

Resolution R2024-67

Authorizing Percentage Payment in Lieu of Taxes to the
Eastampton Board of Fire Commissioners

It was MOVED by RODRIGUEZ and seconded by SPRINGER that Resolution R2024-67 be approved.

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2024-67 was approved.

Resolution R2024-68

Declare Block 700.13, Lot 52 as Tax Exempt and to Cancel
Taxes Due from March 6, 2024 (Disabled Vet)

It was MOVED by APGAR and seconded by ZENO that Resolution R2024-68 be approved.

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2024-68 was approved.

MINUTES:

- March 25, 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
- Court
- Engineer
- Fire Marshal
- Police
- Public Works
- Tax Assessor

It was MOVED by ZENO and seconded by RODRIGUEZ 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 SPRINGER and seconded by APGAR 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:

Fire Commission: Mr. Springer noted there had been success recruiting Junior firefighters.

Veteran's Committee: Mr. Rodriguez stated the first joint meeting of the Veteran's and Recreation Advisory Committees had gone well, as the members were happy to work together, and the discussion had been on Memorial Day as they worked to find a guest speaker.

LUPB: Mr. Apgar stated two variance applications had been approved.

Recreation Advisory Committee: Mayor Santillo stated the dates for Community Day would remain September 14th with a rain date of September 21st, and the committee had received resignations from two members.

It was MOVED by SANTILLO and seconded by RODRIGUEZ to accept the Recreation Advisory Committee resignations of Rebecca Tomalty and Robert Heins.

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

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

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Chief Financial Officer John Barrett wished everyone Happy Budget Adoption Day.

Township Planner Mark Remsa noted it was nice to have a full membership on the Land Use Planning Board, and the administrative draft of the Zoning Ordinance for non-town center residential had been completed.

Mayor Santillo asked if a Zoom meeting should be set for the Zoning sub-committee.

Planner Remsa responded that was an excellent idea, as the work was moving faster than the original goal of the end of the year.

Mr. Springer offered congratulations to Officer of the Year Kelsey Knudsen.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Eddie Besko asked if the bridge at Kensington Road and Monmouth Road would be repaired and accessible soon.

Township Manager Kim-Marie White responded she was in the process of obtaining quotes for the repairs.

**CLOSED SESSION:
Resolution R2024-69**

(Contract Negotiation Discussion - Discussion of Potential
Redevelopment Agreement; Attorney Client Privileged
Discussion - Discussion of Affordable Housing Provisions)

It was MOVED by RODRIGUEZ and seconded by ZENO to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm and proceed into closed session.

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

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, Resolution R2024-69 was approved.

Council exited closed session at 8:41pm, and no further action was taken.

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ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED by ZENO and seconded by SPRINGER to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm.

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

All were in favor.



Kim-Marie White
Municipal Clerk



Dominic F. Santillo
Mayor

Approved: May 13, 2024