

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF WANTAGE, HELD VIA VIRTUAL MEETING 7:00 P.M. ON
NOVEMBER 12, 2020**

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and requested that the Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Morris and Committeeman Ronald Bassani. Also, present: Administrator/Clerk Michael Restel, and Mr. Glenn Kienz, Esq. Deputy Mayor William Gaechter Absent

Mayor Morris stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231. It has been properly noticed and certified by the Clerk."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Morris requested a motion to approve Resolution #92-2020 - #96-2020

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Bassani, Morris Nays: None Absent: Gaechter Abstain: None

REPORTS

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel Congratulated Mayor Morris on his Election win.

Mr. Restel stated Wantage held their yearly Rabies Clinic and 123 Rabies Doses were Administered.

Attorneys Report: Mr. Kienz spoke about the new Remote Meeting standard and that there will be a resolution on the December 17th meeting agenda for approval. Discussion ensued.

Committeeman Ron Bassani: Mr. Bassani Congratulated Mayor Morris on his election win.

Mr. Bassani stated he spoke to Michael and Ashley and would like for Phoenix Advisors to review Wantages Finances and give a report.

Mr. Bassani stated that the Mayor, Michael and Myself were on a conference call with Shoprite to review ongoing issues with the site. Mr. Bassani stated he had a major concern on why Wantage has been left off prior meetings. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bassani spoke about the Berry Road Project and how the members of Open Space are creating a book for the November 30 Open Meeting.

Mr. Bassani spoke about the ongoing High Litigation case and its in the New Jersey Court System hands right now.

Mayors Report: Mayor Morris thanked Mr. Bassani for Congratulations on winning the election.

Mayor Morris spoke about the conference call with Shoprite and is excited there will be work being done on the property starting November 16th.

Mayor Morris offered his condolences to Mr. Restel on the passing of his grandmother.

Mayor Morris stated the cases in Sussex County are rising as well are Wantages numbers. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Morris thanked Mr. Restel and Mrs. Wilson for their hard work to get the NJ Cares application in for reimbursement of COVID-19 Related Funds.

Mayor Morris spoke about the Permanent Financing and agreed with Mr. Bassani to start the early stages of the process.

Mayor Morris offered his apologizes pertaining to the Notice Ordinance. Mayor Morris stated the Committee will look to get it on the next agenda. Discussion Ensued

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion is in order to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2020 Mayor and Committee Regular Meeting.

Mr. Bassani made a Motion and was seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Bassani, Morris Nays: None Absent: Gaechter Abstain: NONE

ORDINANCES;

A motion is in order to Introduce Ordinance #10-2020 AN Ordinance to release and Extinguish the Right of the Public on a Portion of Gemmer Road.

Mr. Restel stated the properties driveway is a paper road that connects to the other side of Gemmer road, the owner started the process 4 years ago for the driveway rights. Mr. Restel stated the property owner installed a K-Turn for the DPW plow drivers to turn around which was approved by the Township Engineer.

Mr. Bassani made a Motion and was seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Bassani, Morris Nays: None Absent: Gaechter Abstain: NONE

A Motion Is in order to Introduce Ordinance #11-2020 An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing Title and Possession of a Portion of Certain real Property located in Tax Lot 11 Block 143 as set forth in the Official Tax Map of the Township of Wantage shall be acquired by purchase or gift.

Mr. Restel stated this is all legal paperwork that needs to be done for the driveway rights.

Mr. Bassani made a Motion and was seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Bassani, Morris Nays: None Absent: Gaechter Abstain: NONE

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

John Abate Wantage School Road: Mr. Abate spoke about the Montague Township Animal Control Contract. Discussion ensued.

Donna Pollard Oil City Road: Mrs. Pollard spoke about the trucks that will be delivering the fill to the Shoprite, where the fill was coming from as well as the trucks.

Mayor Morris stated the fill will be coming from Wantage Quarry and will not be on Oil City Road.

Mrs. Pollard spoke about the new bridge to be installed on Oil City Road and read into record a letter she will be sending to NJDEP.

Donna Rockefeller 25 Oil City Road: Mrs. Rockefeller stated Skylands was extremely loud on Sunday and stated a few houses even further said they heard the music as well.

Mr. Rockefeller stated there is no social distancing going on nor is anyone wearing masks at the establishment.

Doug Thompson Owner Skylands Beer Garden: Mr. Thompson stated he has always tried to be a good neighbor and if he wanted to, he could play music till 2am.

Mr. Thompson stated as per the Governor he can not move the Music inside, discussion ensued.

Mr. Thompson stated he has monitored the sounds but where the complaints are coming from and its barely measurable.

Susan Weiss Sherman Ridge Road: Mrs. Weiss thanked the committee for keeping the hybrid meetings going and it should be something in the future we can keep

Kathy Gorman Fernwood: Mrs. Gorman states she spoke to Nathaniel Sadjack pertaining to Lake Neepaulin and the US Fish and Wildlife Stewardship. Mrs. Gorman stated since Lake Neepaulin is not Contiguous with Berry Road and Woodbourne it cannot be on the same Stewardship as the others. Mrs. Gorman stated Nathaniel said there is a possibility of left-over Grant money to us in Spring 2021 to plant some trees and shrubs at Lake Neepaulin Beach.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Morris requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bassani made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll:

Ayes: Bassani, Morris Nays: None Absent: Gaechter Abstain: None

Meeting Adjourned 7:43PM

Respectfully submitted by

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk