

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF WANTAGE, HELD VIA VIRTUAL MEETING 7:00 P.M. ON
JANUARY 28, 2021**

Mayor Gaechter 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 William Gaechter, Deputy Mayor Ron Bassani and Committeeman Jonathan Morris. Also, present: Administrator/Clerk Michael Restel, and Mr. Glenn Kienz, Esq.

Mayor Gaechter 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 Gaechter requested a motion to approve Resolution #23-2021 to #27-2021

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

REPORTS

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel gave his condolences to the Space family for their loss.

Mr. Restel thanked all the first responders that took part in the Structure fire during the snow storm.

Mr. Restel stated he was on a call with CFO, Town Auditor, Bond Counsel and Financial Advisors pertaining to long term financing, Wantage's Moody rating improved to AA3 which is third highest a Municipality can receive. Discussion ensued.

Mayors Report: Mayor Gaechter offered his sympathy to the Space Family and read into record Mr. Fred Spaces Obituary.

Mayor Gaechter stated himself and Mr. Restel on various days swore in the Fire Department and First Aid. Mayor Gaechter stated due to COVID the first responders could not attend the Reorganizational Meeting.

Mayor Gaechter stated Reorganizational Meeting is his favorite meeting to see all the First responders take their oath of office.

Mayor Gaechter spoke about the meeting with Mr. Restel and Sussex Borough pertaining to expanding their Shared Services.

Mayor Gaechter stated Deputy Commissioner Anthony Fasano is Wantage Township municipal liaison and is required to attend at least 1 Committee Meeting a year.

Mayor Gaechter read into record all the First responders and Agencies who helped with the Structure Fire.

Mayor Gaechter spoke about the Recreation and their tentative dates for their events and congratulated Mr. Warren Wisse as President and Mr. Daryl Wuhrl as Vice President.

Mayor Gaechter spoke about the Proposed Tennessee Pipeline project that the Committee has received letters about. Mayor Gaechter read into record the Statue that pertains to allowance to move froward.

Attorneys Report: Mr. Kienz spoke about the Tennessee Pipeline extension and that he has spoken to their counsel, Mr. Kienz stated laws has changed which would've allowed the Pipeline Construction to come in front of the Land Use for approval. Discussion Ensued.

Mr. Kienz stated for the residents who oppose the Expansion to reach out to their State Representatives for help.

Deputy Mayor Ron Bassani: Mr. Bassani spoke about the ongoing Litigation with High Point.

Mr. Bassani stated he attended the Frankford Committee Meeting which changed its vote in favor of moving the School Election. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bassani spoke about Sussex Borough wanting to expand the Shared Services with Wantage.

Mr. Bassani stated he attended the Open Space Committee meeting and discussed looking into certain properties to be purchased.

Mr. Bassani wished Mayor Gaechter a Happy Birthday.

Mr. Bassani offered his condolences to the Space Family.

Committeeman Jonathan Morris: Mr. Morris offered his Condolences to the Space Family and spoke about his good memories with Mr. Fred Space.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion is in order to approve the minutes of the January 7 Reorganization Meeting and Mayor and Committee Regular Meeting.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

ORDINANCE

A motion is in order to Introduce Ordinance #01-2021 to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriations Limit and to Establish a Cap Bank for Calendar Year 2021.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Donna Pollard: Mrs. Pollard spoke about Mr. Fred Space and his fur and mink sales.

Mark Wallace 3 Oil City Road: Mr. Wallace spoke about the Nuisance Ordinance that was first introduced to the Committee in August 2020.

Mr. Wallace stated that the music shall not be amplified.

Kathy Gorman Fernwood: Mrs. Gorman spoke about the High Point Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Gorman stated board members spoke about the Townships spending and accountability.

Mrs. Gorman stated Wantages Municipal taxes have been level for the past 7 years. Discussion ensued.

Greg Gorman 13 Jennings Road: Mr. Gorman read into record a prepared statement against the Tennessee Pipeline Compressor Station Expansion.

Jeff Tittle Ringwood NJ: Mr. Tittle spoke about the Tennessee Pipeline expansion and when done will be the biggest Compressor Station in New Jersey.

Mr. Tittle spoke about the safety concerns pertaining to the blow off of gas and storm water regulations.

Mr. Tittle stated his condolence to the Space Family.

Christine Dunbar 101 Wagon Wheel Road Sparta: Mrs. Dunbar stated his various concerns pertaining to the Tennessee Pipeline Compressor Staten expansion.

Mrs. Dunbar offered her condolences to the Space Family.

Brian Scanlan Wyckoff NJ: Mr. Scanlan spoke against the Compressor Station Expansion. Discussion Ensued.

Allison Orsi 41 Lowe Road: Mrs. Orsi stated she is against the Compressor Station Expansion project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Gaechter requested a motion to approve Resolution #28-2021 for the Township Committee to go into Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation and Shared Services

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor Gaechter requested a motion to return from executive session at 7:50pm.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Upon Roll:

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:52 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk