

## **CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP REGULAR SESSION MARCH 28, 2024**

The Township Committee met on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 295 Bordentown-Chesterfield Road, Chesterfield, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Matt Litt at 7:00 p.m.

The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read and compliance noted.

### **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Present: Belinda Blazic (virtual), Shreekant Dhopte, Rebecca Hughes, Denise Koetas-Dale and Matt Litt

Also present: Caryn M. Hoyer, Township Clerk; Troy Ulshafer, Public Works Manager; Joseph Hirsh, Township Engineer, Michael Davison, Chief of Police; and Dominic P. DiYanni, Township Attorney

**AGENDA MATTER(S) REQUIRING RECUSAL(S)** – None.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to approve the February 22<sup>nd</sup> special meeting and March 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes. All were in favor.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA**

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Koetas-Dale to open the meeting to public comment for matters on the agenda. All were in favor. Hearing none, Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to close public comment. All were in favor.

### **ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to open the meeting to public comment on Ordinance 2024-6. All were in favor. Hearing none, Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to close public comment. All were in favor. Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Koetas-Dale to adopt Ordinance 2024-6.

Roll Call: Blazic – yes; Dhopte – yes; Hughes – abstain; Koetas-Dale - yes and Litt – yes.

### **ORDINANCE 2024-6**

### **AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2024-3-8. Roll Call: Blazic – yes; Dhopte – yes; Hughes – abstain; Koetas-Dale – yes; Litt – yes.

**BILL LIST**

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to approve the bill list. Voice vote – All in favor.

**REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

- Request for Commemorative Bench - The Clerk advised the Township Committee that Quincin Gonjon did not reply to the request to be at the meeting tonight; however he has supplied all the information needed regarding his request. Mr. Ulshafer was in favor of this and stated there are a lot more benches that need replacing. Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to allow Mr. Gonjon to place the commemorative bench where requested and coordinate same with Mr. Ulshafer. All were in favor.

Mr. Dhopte stated that the benches throughout the development need some work. Mr. Ulshafer stated the SEWA group will be going through and taking care of some of them.

- Special Meeting Date for Historic District Residents – Ms. Blazic stated she spoke with the Mayor and suggested sending a survey to residents regarding their concerns or challenges they face with the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Mayor Litt stated he agreed that resident feedback is needed. He is not in favor of a survey for this purpose and would prefer real-time conversation with the residents. Ms. Blazic stated it should be a separate meeting with an agenda item for an open forum. Mr. Litt asked about the status of the ordinance. Mr. DiYanni stated it is very close to being completed and received responses back from the state. This is a good time for a meeting. Mr. Litt is very interested in Historic Preservation but through his experience, he has learned that if Historic Preservation does not have the support of the residents it does not work. Ms. Koetas-Dale stated this would be a good time to educate the residents and address some misleading information that was on social media last year. Ms. Blazic agreed those concerns regarding the inventory survey and guidelines should be discussed. The Township Committee agreed to have the meeting May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM here at the municipal building for to discuss historic preservation.
- Road Closure for Green Fun Fair April 28<sup>th</sup> – Ms. Koetas-Dale stated a meeting was held by the Green Fun Fair Committee and included Troy, Rachel and Chief Davison. Road closures will be required on Saddle Way between Thorn Lane and Wright Drive. Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Koetas-Dale to approve the road closure. All were in favor.

- Memo from Troy – Engineer Proposal FY 2023 LRIG Fenton Lane Park Paving. Mr. Ulshafer stated the park grant was applied for last year. Mr. Hirsh has submitted an estimate related to the engineer work required to complete the project. Mr. Dhopte asked if there is conduit for electric that runs under the soon to be paved area in the event the Township wants to put additional lighting in the park. Mr. Ulshafer confirmed there is. Mr. Hirsh stated he plans to bid the project in April and hopefully the work will be done in June of this year. Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve the engineering proposal in an amount not to exceed \$\$12,680.00. All were in favor.

Ms. Koetas-Dale asked about the gazebo in Olivia Park. Mr. Hirsh stated he plans on advertising in April. The Township should be able to award a contract in May if a responsive bidder is received. The project should be completed this summer.

### **REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Ulshafer stated that George Senf is present from MTAC. Mr. Ulshafer stated the committee had some questions regarding the memo submitted by Mr. Senf. Mayor Litt asked Mr. Senf to explain his memo to the Township Committee.

George Senf – 113 Racehorse Lane, Columbus – He stated that presently the 2002 ambulance is outdated and failing quickly. He met with Tom over a year ago and was advised there was money available for a remount. That should be coming in soon. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ambulance, 2692, is a 2010 which was purchased from Springfield Township in 2016 has 80,000 miles. Prior to Chesterfield purchasing it had two accidents one of which was major. Due to those reasons, it will not have the typical longevity and if money is available he recommends purchasing a new one now. The suspension is not a smooth ride for those in the back of the ambulance, there are no air bags, and it does not have a power load system which cuts down on workers comp claims. It has about 150,000 to 160,000 miles. Mr. Litt asked about surrounding towns. Mr. Senf stated Mansfield has 4 ambulances. The 2008 GMC ambulance is in the budget this year for a remount. The others are 2012, 2017 and 2023. Most don't last as long as the 2002 ambulance which its life was extended because there was a low call volume when the calls were made by the volunteer squad. Mr. Senf explained a remount is where they remove the box and put it on a new chassis. The box is updated upon remount as well. Mr. Senf stated there are no seat belts for the staff when they are working on a patient. Most accident injuries in roll over are had by the staff falling under the cabinets. When an air bag deploys, there may still be injuries just less likely to be fatal. Ms. Koetas-Dale thinks it is a good idea to move forward with the purchase of a new ambulance. She remembers the CFO stating there are funds available in the American Rescue Funds grant. Ms. Hughes asked if it makes sense to have two new ones now or wait to space them out. Mr. Senf stated it takes about 18 months between the time ordered and received. If ordered today should have by the end of 2025. He was advised the money needs to be spent by the end of 2025. They currently use one ambulance one month then switch off to the other for a month. Mr. Ulshafer stated he has spoken with the manufacturer and they indicated a new ambulance should be here by the end of December

2025. The purchase would be under state contract. The manufacturer will begin the build process as soon as they receive the purchase order.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to open the meeting to public comment. All were in favor.

Suzy Mahon – 16 Chesterfield-Crosswicks Rd – She thanked the Committee for scheduling a meeting to the Historic District resident to have input on the HPC ordinance. She asks that there be an item on that agenda to address how the Township Historic Preservation Ordinance sets the historic district area and the criteria used for same.

Herb Ames – 10 Old York Road – He suggested that since Mansfield has a new 2023 ambulance in their fleet, they could bring by the municipal building and the committee could see what he is talking about. Mr. Litt agreed that would be helpful. Mr. Senf agreed.

Steve Hazen – 447 Main Street – Thanked the Committee for scheduling the meeting to hear from the residents on the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Hearing no further public comment, Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Koetas-Dale to close public comment. All were in favor.

Mr. Hirsh reported that there was a bid opening today for the emergency sewer generators. The amount of the bid was \$349,100 and he believe that is within the budget. Mr. DiYanni confirmed that he has reviewed the bid and it was a responsive bidder and good to move forward. Mr. Hirsh stated that upon Ms. Wulstein issuing a certificate of availability of funds, he will recommend the bid be awarded.

Ms. Koetas-Dale stated the Green Fun Fair updated their sign to indicate it has been moved to Village Square Park. They rely on the parking at the Firehouse and they are having their Chicken Dinner that day so it will not be available for parking. She stated they have 35-40 vendors. She stated they have a good committee this year. She thanked Rachel for her help in organizing. Ms. Hughes agreed. Ms. Hughes followed up on the waste removal issue. She doesn't want it to fall off the radar. Mr. Dhopte explained that he would like the Township Committee to negotiate with the private waste removal providers on behalf of the residents to get a better price. Mr. DiYanni will look into as he has not had experience with that and not sure it is permissible.

Mr. Litt suggesting having the special meeting regarding the historic preservation ordinance in Crosswicks. After some discussion, it was decided to have here at the municipal building and the virtual aspect will be available for those unable to attend in person.

Ms. Koetas-Dale made a motion seconded by Mr. Dhopte to approve Resolution 2024-3-9 for executive session regarding contract negotiation. There will be no formal action. All were in favor.

On a motion by Mr. Dhopte and second by Ms. Koetas-Dale, the Township Committee returned to regular session at 8:28 PM. All were in favor.

Mr. Dhopte made a motion seconded by Ms. Hughes to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryn M. Hoyer, RMC  
Township Clerk