

**GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
 APRIL 6, 2009  
 MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CHEWS LANDING NEW JERSEY**

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

Statement: Mr. Bianchini read a statement setting forth the time, date and place of this meeting, that it was properly advertised, posted and filed in the Office of the Township Clerk pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Mrs. Lovett Mr. Carlamere, Solicitor  
 Mrs. Evans  
 Mr. Garbowski Mr. Cardis, Business Administrator  
 Mr. Hutchison Mrs. DiJosie, Township Clerk, RMC  
 Mr. Mercado  
 Mr. Schmidt  
 Mr. Bianchini

Public Portion: Mr. Bianchini opened the public portion. There being no comment, the public portion was closed.

**R-09:04-109**

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2009 FISCAL YEAR  
 LOCAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, the local municipal 2009 fiscal year budget of the Township of Gloucester was approved on the 22th day of September 2008, and

**WHEREAS**, the public hearing on said budget has been held as advertised, and

**WHEREAS**, it is desired to amend said approved budget,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester, County of Camden, that the following amendments to the approved 2009 fiscal year budget be made:

<u>GENERAL REVENUES:</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
1. Surplus Anticipated	708,396.00	204,483.00
Total Surplus Anticipated	1,188,108.00	684,195.00
3. Miscellaneous Revenues:		
Section A: Local Revenues		
Sale of Twp. Property	265,000.00	145,000.00
Cable Television Fees	217,071.00	203,494.00
TOTAL Section A: Local Revenues	4,506,881.00	4,373,304.00
3. Miscellaneous Revenues:		
Section F: Special Items of General Revenue		
Anticipated with Prior Written Consent		
of Director of Local Government Service		
Public and Private Revenues Offset with		
Appropriations:		
Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund	-0-	29,471.00
Clean Communities Program	55,876.00	74,715.00
Alcohol Education & Rehab Fund	-0-	11,726.00
Safe & Secure Communities Pro	90,000.00	82,997.00
Camden Co Open Space-Vet Park	-0-	25,000.00
Defense Civil Preparedness	-0-	5,000.00

Records Mgmt. PARIS Grant	-0-	19,305.00
Domestic Violence	-0-	376.00
NJDOT Grant - Davistown Rd	-0-	190,907.00
Enhanced 911 State Grant	-0-	60,960.00
Body Armor Grant	-0-	7,500.00
Bullet Proof Vest Program(Fed)	-0-	3,770.00
Data Collection Grant(State)	-0-	29,405.00
Exercise Improvement Award	-0-	5,000.00
School Trans. Safety Initiative Grant	-0-	14,000.00
Emergency Mgmt. Grant	-0-	5,000.00
TOTAL Section F: Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of Director of Local Government Services - Public and Private Revenues	186,434.00	605,690.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	11,825,814.00	12,111,493.00
5. Subtotal General Revenues(Items 1,2,3,&4)	13,196,807.00	12,978,573.00
6. Amount to be raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget:		
(a)Local Tax for Municipal Purposes including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	32,157,343.00	31,484,549.00
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES FOR SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL BUDGET	32,157,343.00	31,484,549.00
7. TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES	45,354,150.00	44,463,122.00
8. <u>GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS</u>		
(A) Operations Within "CAPS"		
General Government Functions		
Office of Township Council:		
Salaries & Wages	57,057.00	55,935.00
Office of Tax Collector		
Other Expenses	67,900.00	84,400.00
Office of Township Engineer:		
Other Expenses	6,000.00	44,000.00
Land Use Administration:		
Office of Zoning:		
Other Expenses	-0-	1,500.00
Public Safety:		
Police Communications:		
Salaries & Wages	658,952.00	705,452.00
Public Works:		
Office of Director		
Other Expenses	86,551.00	102,551.00
Streets and Road Maintenance:		
Other Expenses	357,425.00	276,425.00
Public Buildings and Grounds:		
Other Expenses	125,735.00	145,735.00
Parks and Recreation:		
Office of Community Activities:		
Other Expenses	20,000.00	13,100.00
Landfill Disposal/Costs	2,360,458.00	2,285,458.00
Municipal Court:		
Other Expenses	45,640.00	55,640.00
Total Operations (Item8(A) within "CAPS"	33,689,443.00	33,673,921.00
B. Contingent		
Total Operations Including Contingent		

within "CAPS"	33,689,443.00	33,673,921.00
Detail:		
Salaries and Wages	17,877,204.00	17,922,582.00
Other Expenses (Including Contingent)	15,812,239.00	15,751,339.00
(E) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures Municipal Within "CAPS"		
(2) Statutory Expenditures		
Police & Fireman's Retirement System	2,036,109.00	1,058,263.00
 Total Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures - Municipal within "CAPS"	3,449,422.00	2,471,576.00
(H-1) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes within "CAPS"	37,138,865.00	36,145,497.00
(A) Operations- Excluded from "CAPS"		
Public Employee's Retirement System	519,298.00	288,356.00
Sanitation:		
Recycling Tax Appropriations	-0- 75,000.00	
Total Other Operations-Excluded from "CAPS"	556,613.00	400,671.00
Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues:		
Enhanced 911 (State Grant)	-0-	60,960.00
Defense Civil Preparedness Fund	-0-	5,000.00
Drunk Driving Enforcement Grant	-0-	29,471.00
Clean Communities Program	55,876.00	74,715.00
Data Collections(State)	-0-	29,405.00
Alcohol Education Rehab. Fund	-0-	11,726.00
Federal Bullet Proof Vest Program	-0-	3,770.00
Domestic Violence	-0-	376.00
Exercise Improvement Award Grant	-0-	5,000.00
Special Purpose Grant DCA - Youth Program	-0-	14,000.00
Safe & Secure Community Projects:		
Police - Salaries & Wages	90,000.00	82,997.00
NJ PARIS - Archives/Records Mgmt. Grant	-0-	19,305.00
NJ Body Armor Replacement Grant	-0-	7,500.00
Emergency Mgmt. Grant	-0-	5,000.00
TOTAL Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues	213,798.00	417,147.00
TOTAL Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"	770,411.00	817,818.00
Detail:		
Salaries and Wages	171,376.00	224,200.00
Other Expenses	599,035.00	593,618.00
(C) Capital Improvements - Excluded from "CAPS"		
Capital Improvement Fund	200,000.00	-0-
Camden County Open Space-Veteran's Park	-0-	25,000.00
NJDOT Grant - Davistown Road	-0-	190,907.00
TOTAL Capital Improvements Excluded from "CAPS"	200,000.00	215,907.00
(D) Municipal Debt Service - Excluded from "CAPS"		
Green Trust Loan Program:		
Loan Repayment for Principal & Interest		
Principal	96,797.00	117,236.00
Interest	25,662.00	45,187.00

Total Municipal Debt Services - Excluded from "CAPS"	6,521,787.00	6,561,751.00
(H-2)TOTAL General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Excluded from "CAPS"	8,042,198.00	8,145,476.00
(O)Total General Appropriations - Excluded From "CAPS"	8,042,198.00	8,145,476.00
(L) Subtotal General Appropriations (Items (H-1) and (O))	45,181,063.00	44,290,973.00
(M) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	173,087.00	172,149.00
9 TOTAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS	45,354,150.00	44,463,122.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that three certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the Director of Local Government Services for Certification of the 2009 Local Municipal Fiscal Year Budget so amended

Adopted: April 6, 2009

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President of Council

ATTEST:

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Township Clerk, RMC

The clerk read the above resolution in full.

Mrs. Lovett asked the following questions to Mr. Cardis. She asked what would happen if we don't pass the budget? Mr. Cardis explained that the township would not be able to get the bills out on time and there would be a cash flow problem. He stated that we would not be able to pay the other entities such as the schools, the county and the fire districts. He also stated that if the budget is not adopted, the State will intercede and take over. Mrs. Lovett asked if this has happened anywhere else in the State. Mr. Cardis stated that it happened in Hoboken. It was stated that the straw poll taken at an earlier Special meeting allowed Mr. Cardis and Mayor Rau-Hatton to move forward with the amendments, to have it advertised in the paper, and to go up to Trenton to get the "Cap Waiver". Mrs. Lovett made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Evans. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

**R-09:04-110 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ADOPTING THE 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, Township Council of the Township of Gloucester has previously introduced and approved the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget; and

**WHEREAS**, Township Council of the Township of Gloucester has followed the laws of the State of New Jersey regarding the introduction, first reading, properly advertising for and the scheduling of a public hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, Township Council of the Township of Gloucester has received approval from the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, State of New Jersey for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** and approved that the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget be and is hereby adopted as submitted and approved.

Adopted: April 6, 2009

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ATTEST:

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Township Clerk, RMC

Mrs. Lovett made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Evans

Roll call vote:

Mrs. Lovett read the following statement into the record:

While certain council members continue to lay blame on Mayor Hatton for our proposed tax increase, I believe that Governor Corzine and his followers are responsible for putting Gloucester Township and many other towns in the position we are in tonight. We are currently 9½ months into our current budget and tonight we can finally vote on a budget that is more than ¾ spent. It has taken the Governor until now to answer us on our extraordinary aid application, and the answer we received was a resounding zero, nada, nothing. And, this is after we followed his rules and threats regarding pension deferral. If we didn't pass his plan it meant we didn't need tax relief. And if we did, the deferral was our tax relief. Blackmail, pure and simple.

If we don't pass this budget we will need to cut millions of dollars. If we refuse to make the cuts, the state could take over our township, don't believe me? Just ask the city of Hoboken. This council knew last year even before the Mayor presented her budget that the state was making drastic cuts in our aid. We knew that our Compra Aid would be cut as well as our discretionary aid, and the Nike base deal was not looking good. Yet this council still voted for a zero tax increase against the advice of our business administrator. And they did so without a plan, knowing the dire circumstances the state put us in and demonstrated this over the past nine months. This council never set a preliminary tax rate of zero until Mayor Hatton was elected. Every time I bring it up, the response is "A zero tax increase is something we should work toward". Obviously under the previous Mayor, Sandy Love, council didn't do their work because they never proposed a zero tax increase.

Mayor Hatton and our department heads provided us with an extremely lean budget. This is evidenced by the lack of surplus being generated, except for money left over from snow removal. In fact, this council has not met since mid-November to discuss the budget. I've asked the Mayor if she received any comments or recommendations from council and she has said no. I've also heard her ask council in public if council has met and what I hear is "we'll meet when the time comes". So unless you have been meeting without me, the time is now.

During the times council has met to go over the budget and meet with department heads, they have cut almost nothing. Again, I ask, Where is your plan? If you have cuts to make, why haven't you proposed them? Do you not care about the taxpayers? Are you saving them until after the next election, shame on you. More likely, you just don't have any. And let's not forget the Nike base. Even against the advice of Mr. Carlamere, you included projected revenue into our last budget. We never discussed it as an entire council; Mr. Bianchini and Mr. Hutchison simply announced its inclusion to Mr. Cardis, the Mayor and myself. Perhaps it had already been agreed upon with the other council members at a meeting that I was not privy to. And now its failure is a significant part of our budget problem. But, I forgot, according to Mr. Bianchini, the state said we could include it, so here we have another bad decision by the state.

Once again this year, the Mayor and I both proposed the use of the GTMUA's unrestricted surplus. All we got were excuses and a resounding "No" although it had been done in other towns. And council was quick to freeze township employees salaries, but wouldn't even second my motion to cut council salaries. How cowardly. You talk the talk but won't walk the walk. As I stated when I voted to pass the Governor's pension deferral plan, I will not vote for the potential of the state assuming control of Gloucester Township. I would hope that every council person feels the same way. As I stated before, Trenton can't run its own house, why would I want them to run mine?

A no vote on this budget would mean that council doesn't care about the township, but only its political futures. If the budget isn't passed, the state could take over, but maybe that's exactly what some of you would like. Nine and a half months into a budget that is three quarter spent could cause major layoffs. I will not jeopardize the town's employees, Police Department, safety and welfare to play politics. I love this town too much to do that and to vote no is to be a coward. For all these reason, I will vote yes.

Mrs. Evans stated that last week the township finally received the input from the State informing us that we would not be receiving any extraordinary aid from Trenton. Gloucester Township got absolutely nothing from Trenton. Tonight, she stated we are supposed to take action regardless of our budget because Gloucester Township is on a fiscal budget running from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. She stated that we are almost 80% through the fiscal year due to the States delays, so to call this a budget, its really ridiculous. Since last year, Gloucester Township met every deadline for the

submittal of our budget information to the State. However, Mrs. Evans stated that thanks to the lack of timely notification and support back from the state, we are voting basically for the money that has already been spent. She stated that if we vote yes, we will be accused of raising taxes, if we vote no, then we will risk the state taking over and running our township. Again, she repeated, if we vote no, we risk our township being taken over by the State. She stated that Trenton can't take care of their own. Mrs. Evans said that we certainly don't want their hands to be running our township. Look at what happened to Camden, New Jersey. The State took Camden, New Jersey over. She said last year Governor Corzine gave us a grand total of \$500,000.00. So Gloucester Township is not only the only municipality this year to be disappointed by Governor Corzine. She said that this year, the only township in Southern New Jersey to receive money was Lawnside and that all of the other towns were in North Jersey where she is sure Governor Corzine will expect to receive the majority of support for his re-election bid. She stated that what she doesn't understand is why we haven't met since October to review the budget that was presented to us by the Business Administrator, Department Heads and Mayor. She said that Council appointed these department heads and we are saying that we agree with their requests, if not, then we have waited to October to approve this budget without making any substantial cuts and I'm very upset by the support that the State has given Gloucester Township and the failure to show a sense of urgency regarding this budget process that has caused much of the problems to our township activities. However, I have no more option, as I must say that we have to vote on this budget, therefore, I have to unfortunately vote yes because I do not want to see our State being taken over like it was for Camden and Hoboken, New Jersey.

Mr. Garbowski voted yes, Mr. Hutchison voted no,

Mr. Mercado stated that he did not have a prepared statement like some of his other colleagues, nor was he going to engage in posturing in front of the audience that we have here today. He stated that he would like to remind some of the Council members that they're also part of Council as well and they have an equal voice and they can always contact the Council President if they would like to have something placed on the agenda. He stated that the pension deferral that we voted on at the last Council meeting was a difficult pill to swallow, and if anyone recalls that the Whitman Administration in the early 90's had allowed townships to defer their pensions. He said that we had an economic boom in our country and we ended up paying those pension deferrals over a five year period, and we paid our last deferral two years ago and that we are now in that same situation again unfortunately. As everyone had stated beforehand, we are in month 10 of a 12 month budget and bills have to be paid, services have to be provided. He stated that we live in a town where we pay premium taxes and expect premium services in return. Mr. Mercado stated that he expects when he calls 911, that police are going to show up at my door and I expect if trash is on the curb, trash is going to get picked up and if I contact our offices, Monday through Thursday, someone is going to answer the phone, Monday through Thursday. That being said, he voted yes to approve the budget, and stated that once again it is a difficult pill to swallow. He said our last three budgets had a 9 cent increase, a 7 cent increase, and a 5 cent increase and now we are looking at a 21 cent increase. He stated that the proposed budget was at 23 cents. He therefore voted yes.

Mr. Schmidt voted yes.

Mr. Bianchini stated that as Councilman Mercado stated we can get into the pointing of the fingers, we can have statements that aren't all true, we can do all that, but the bottom line is it is a tough situation for each and everyone of us. He stated that he still supports the fact that we proposed a zero cent increase and he will continue to do that no matter who sits in that seat of the Mayor, so with that he voted yes. Motion carried 6-1.

#### **R-09:04-111**

### **RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE PUBLIC FROM DISCUSSION OF EXEMPTED SUBJECT MATTER AT A SPECIAL SESSION OF TOWNSHIP COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION 8 OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester, pursuant to Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, that the public be and is hereby excluded from this meeting of the Township Council to be held on April 6, 2009 which may involve discussion by Township Council of the following exempted subject matter:

1. Confidential Matter under Federal or State Statutes or Court Rule.
2. Matter which would jeopardize the receipt of federal funds.
3. Matter constituting unwarranted invasion of individual privacy.
4. Matter involving Collective Bargaining.
5. Matter involving purchase, lease or investment using public funds, or involving setting of banking rates.
6. Matters involving investigation of violations or possible violations of law.

7. Matters involving Attorney-Client privilege.
8. Matters involving personnel.
9. Matters involving proceedings which could result in Civil Penalty, suspension or loss of license.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that disclosure to the public of the discussion conducted in closed session shall not be made until such matters have been resolved.

Adopted: April 6, 2009

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Mercado made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Roll call vote: All in favor.  
Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Mercado made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hutchison. Roll call vote: All in favor.  
Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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President of Council

Rosemary DiJosie  
Township Clerk, RMC

