

**GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
AUGUST WORKSHOP
AUGUST 3, 2009**

Mrs. Evans- late.
Mr. Bianchini - sick.
All other Council members were present.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mr. Kibelstis of Erial asked about the Military Center on Berlin Cross Keys Road. Mr. Mercado stated that the Council has passed a resolution concerning the center. He also spoke about the corruption case in North Jersey concerning public officials and asked if the township had an ordinance in place that would deal with this. Mr. Hutchison and Mr. Mercado stated that the Attorney General's Office as well as the County Prosecutor would be in charge if any cases were brought to light.

Mayor Rau-Hatton stated that she had a meeting with the Army last week. She stated that a representative of Congressman Andrew's office, as well as a representative of Freeholder Greco's office were available as well as Mrs. Lovett, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Lechner, Mr. Cardis and Mr. Carlamere. She stated that it was a productive meeting. Mayor Rau-Hatton said that there will be a public meeting on August 17th in the Municipal Building. This will be the public comment period. She stated that there is now an assessment report in our library. She stated that she asked them to look at alternative sites. Mayor Rau-Hatton stated that she did not want to lose a commercial rateable. She stated that the army will do a presentation and have a public portion. She stated that the township has asked for and received a 30 day extension. Mr. Hutchison asked if an alternative site would have to go through the NEPA process. Mr. Carlamere will check into this. Mayor Rau-Hatton stated that she has asked them to look into the Camden County Vo-Tech property and the Lakeland property. Mr. Hutchison stated that in his opinion, whether the Army picks the Gloucester Township site or the Winslow site, unless we make a legal argument that the plan is defective, the Army will pick one of these two sites. Mr. Kibelstis asked what the advantages would be by having the center in Gloucester Township. Mayor Rau-Hatton stated that Gloucester Township would not get any taxes from this. Joanne Carr asked if there would be a negative effect on either Gloucester Township or Winslow. She stated that she was concerned about traffic congestion in both towns. Sharon Mickle of Timberbirch asked if there was a meeting date of the Solar Sub-Committee. Mr. Mercado instructed Mr. Carlamere to contact the GEMS Trust and to inquire about having solar panels on the landfill. She asked that Gene Lawrence be part of this committee because of his knowledge of the subject. She also asked about putting out RFP's, as she feels that requests and getting responses would tell the township what is available and the township would be able to pick and chose which is best. He deferred the requests to the chair of the sub-committee, Mr. Bianchini. Ray Polidoro of Erial asked if Council has considered asking Dennis Palmer to be on this committee with his expertise.

Arianne Brackey from Sustainable New Jersey stated she is glad to see that the township got the ball rolling.

Mayor Rau-Hatton stated that she just wanted Council to know that Public Works and the Police Department have been out throughout the weekend because of the bad storms. She said that they were working to clear the roads of traffic and debris.

Mr. Mercado echoed Mayor Rau-Hatton's comments. He stated that the Public Works Department and Police Department did a fantastic job during the last storm and he wanted to publicly thank them.

1. **DISCUSSION OF LINDEN COURT** - Mr. Cantwell stated that this problem has affected 3 homes in the back of Katherine Court. He stated that their down spouts go towards Linden Court. He stated that the township can ask these homeowners to change the direction of their down spouts but the residents are not obligated to do so. He stated that Mr. Satz would like the township to at least ask these homeowners if they would be willing to do this. He stated that they could ask the residents to get back to the township within 30 days. He also spoke about Pine Court. He stated that one of the residents does have a depressed area in their back yard. Mr. Cantwell stated that Mr. Satz feels that we should fix this also. He stated that the two projects could not be tied in together. Mr. Cantwell said that a seepage pit would have to be put there. He stated that he would like to provide the township with a design plan based on grading. He stated that it would be a flat grade with a relatively level swale. He stated that they probably will still experience ponding. Mr. Cantwell stated that Right-of-Entry letter would have to go out to the homeowners. He stated that he should be ready to go out for quotes sometime in August. Mr. Cantwell will meet with the residents one more time prior to a council meeting.

2. **DISCUSSION OF BICYCLE PATH - PHASE VIII** - Mr. Cantwell stated that bids were

opened for the Bicycle Path - Phase VIII. He stated that Command Company Inc. had the lowest bid. Mr. Cantwell stated that Public Works would like to be involved. Mr. Cantwell stated that an employee of Remington & Vernick walked the property with Len Moffa.

3. **DISCUSSION OF HIGH STREET HEADWALL INSPECTION PROPOSAL** - Mr. Cantwell stated that this project was originally from August of 2007. He stated that they will hold the price to do the inspections. It was stated that this could be awarded in September with construction in October.
4. **DISCUSSION OF FEE ORDINANCE** - Mr. Lechner stated that under the present ordinance, the Zoning Board Solicitor is paid out of the escrow fund. He stated that the applicants pay to have the resolution drawn up by the solicitor. This is usually at a cost of \$150.00. Mr. Lechner stated that at the present time they are collecting less than that. He said that if the fees were raised it would be a wash, and could ultimately save the township approximately \$15,000.00. He did say that there should be a fee for Special Meetings to pay the attorney, if the applicants ask for this meeting. It would be a flat fee of \$500.00. Mr. Carlamere will look into this.
5. **DISCUSSION OF HOUSING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CERTIFICATION ORDINANCE** - Mr. Lechner stated that there are three ordinances included. He stated that the first ordinance is just a house cleaning ordinance. He said that the second one is also a house cleaning ordinance. Mr. Hutchison asked Mayor Rau-Hatton if she was in favor of repealing the first ordinance. Mayor Rau-Hatton stated that she was. She stated that it would tie up loose ends. She stated that it would be easier to clean up the ordinance that way instead of just changing certain words. Mr. Hutchison stated that Council will do whatever the administration wants. Mr. Carlamere explained the other ordinances and how they would address residential rentals. Mr. Carlamere stated that they previously looked at Lindenwold's and Paulsboro's ordinance. He stated that this ordinance fits what we are trying to do. Mr. Lechner stated that a new ordinance will be created entitled "Property Maintenance Compliance - Certificate of Housing on rentals and will include such things as windows, lights, exteriors. Mr. Hutchison asked if the township has reached out to Woodbury, Winslow or Pine Hill? He stated that they have an excellent inspector and he feels the township could gain a lot of insight from these towns. There was also a discussion of an ordinance that would govern the amount of people who could live in a rental units. It was stated that this would be a separate ordinance.
6. **DISCUSSION OF COLA ORDINANCE** - Mr. Cardis explained the proposed ordinance. He stated that this ordinance must be adopted annually and deals with the appropriation side of the budget. - Mr. Hutchison asked when the fiscal year begun. Mr. Cardis stated that it began on July 1st. He stated that the date for the introduction of the budget should be August 10th, but when a town is applying for extraordinary aid, they can not introduce their budget until they have that figure. Mr. Hutchison stated that what the Administration is asking Council to do, is assume that the appropriations are not going to exceed 2½ percent. Mr. Cardis stated that the CFO has to prepare the AFS statement and without this statement he could not do the calculations that need to be done. He stated that the statement must be done by August 10, 2009. Mayor Rau-Hatton stated that she tried to inform Council of the monies that are definite not anticipated expenditures, such as the re-valuation payments and the full pension bills. Mr. Hutchison spoke about the tax levy and the amount that was approved. Mr. Hutchison asked if the Administration are going to stay within their numbers. Mr. Cardis stated that these are the costs that they know of at this time. He stated that most of the problems have been on the revenue side. Mr. Hutchison asked how can Council be asked to pass this COLA ordinance when they aren't aware of what the Administration is doing. Mr. Hutchison stated that they will only have seven days to understand the revenue side. Mr. Cardis stated as he has before that the budget is a process. Mr. Mercado asked what the date of the introduction will be. Mayor Rau-Hatton stated that the date will be determined by the AFS statement as well as the township hearing from the State. She stated that the township does not have the numbers from the State and the Township can't control when they get them. Mr. Cardis stated that in prior years the township has asked for an extension. It was stated that the Council could do the COLA ordinance as well as the introduction to the budget on the same evening. Mayor Rau-Hatton suggested to the Council that they pass a resolution to send to the state voicing their frustration to the State who should be complying with their own dates. Mr. Hutchison asked why the AFS has not been completed. Mayor Rau-Hatton stated that the CFO is working on it diligently. Mr. Hutchison stated that he is frustrated because the Council does not have the revenue side of the equation. Mayor Rau-Hatton stated that she has provided the Council with all the information the Administration has. Mrs. Lovett questioned what difference this made. Mr. Hutchison asked why the

administration is not listening to the auditor who stated a higher amount for the estimated tax levy. Mr. Mercado asked what would make him comfortable. Mr. Hutchison stated to have the AFS statement done as soon as possible as it dramatically affects the budget. Mr. Mercado stated that first reading does not have to be done at the next meeting and the Council will hold off until the AFS statement is done.

7. **DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE MODIFICATION OF 81-17 "PARKING OF CERTAIN TRUCKS, VEHICLES AND TRAILER PROHIBITED"** - Mr. Mercado read the part of the ordinance that pertains to overnight parking of trucks. Mr. & Mrs. Pfefer of Blackwood stated that the problems they are having in their neighborhood are mostly on weekends. He stated that the tractor owners are apparently aware of the law as they pull their cabs into their driveways at 9:00 pm. Mr. Mercado stated that he has spoken with Chief Smith and these particular residents have been cited. Mr. Carlamere also cited the Zoning Ordinance and stated that this would also have to be changed. The residents stated that they would like to see "No Truck Parking on street unless conducting active business:". It was recommended that Mr. Carlamere and Chief Smith contact neighboring municipalities to see what they do concerning this problem and if it has a negative effect on the communities. This will be on the next meeting.
8. **DISCUSSION OF FILLING VACANCY ON THE BLACKWOOD LAKE ADVISORY COMMITTEE** - It was stated that they have received a letter of interest from Stephanie Crisafulli-Roberts for this vacancy. Mr. Mercado asked that a formal resume be sent to council for consideration.
9. **DISCUSSION OF REQUEST TO CHANGE ORDINANCE 0-99-48 MEMBERSHIP - BLACKWOOD LAKE ADVISORY COMMITTEE** - Mr. Mercado stated that Walter Ellis, Chairman of the BLAC has asked that the membership of the Blackwood Lake Advisory Committee be expanded to include one more member from the Environmental Commission. Mr. Hutchison suggested that the Council take a look at all the committees and commissions to see what can be done to improve the coordination between the groups to better serve the township. It was stated that any person that is interested in this committee could just show up at their meeting. This will be on the next meeting.
10. **DISCUSSION OF WEBSITE** - Mr. Mercado stated that three weeks ago, he and Council Woman Crystal Evans sat down and spoke with Eric Davis for 45 minutes. Mr. Davis handles our website at the present time. Mr. Mercado stated that he could see the benefit of changes in the website. He asked if the website was put into the 2010 budget. Mr. Hutchison asked Mrs. Evans what her impression of Mr. Davis was. She stated that she did not feel he looked or was professional and did not have the qualifications she wanted. She stated that she would like to interview more than one person. Mrs. Evans stated that she did not like the township's present site. Mr. Mercado stated that he respectfully disagrees with Mrs. Evans and stated that he provides technical support to Joan Eller whenever needed. He stated that if the money was included in the budget, then the township would have to go out for quotes. Mr. Hutchison stated that the Council needs to review the paperwork presented to the sub-committee and he stated he would like to see some type of report, from both Mr. Mercado and Mrs. Evans. Mr. Mercado stated that he wanted an idea of Mr. Davis's qualifications. Mr. Hutchison stated he would not like to have the entire site revamped, but just those parts of it that can be improved to make it more user friendly. Mayor Rau-Hatton stated that making it user friendly is not the only problem. She stated that putting information on the website by the various offices is one of the biggest problems. Mr. Mercado stated that he will give Council information on Mr. Davis.

ITEMS REVISITED

Community Garden, Fence Guardrail on Larkspur Drive and trees alongside on Larkspur and the Playground. This will be on the September meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Garbowski stated that they will be having a canoe trip on Blackwood Lake on August the 7th at 6:00 pm.

Mrs. Evans stated that they have a large amount of people interested in the Community Garden. She stated that the Environmental Committee is working with Sustainable energy.

Mr. Mercado stated that on August 5, 2009, there will be a meeting with Southwinds. He stated

that Mr. Carlamere, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Bianchini, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Mercado and Mayor Rauhatten will be in attendance. He stated that this meeting is a change of ideas and thoughts. He stated that he will give Council an update. He stated that the Vo-Tech is putting in an auditorium and the former CYO site may soon become a cemetery.

Mr. Schmidt reminded everyone that the Township will be showing Peter Pan on August 20, 2009.