

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 11, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Office on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 7:00p.m. Mayor Michael L. Rothman, presided. Deputy Mayor Edward Bart was absent. Committeeman Robert Campbell, Steve Byrne and Larry Jordan were in attendance. Municipal Solicitor Rebecca Bertram was also present.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / STATEMENT
REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Rothman called the meeting to order; led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman

Absent – Bart

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2022	Executive Session Meeting
March 14, 2022	Regular Meeting & Executive Session

On a motion by Campbell and seconded by Byrne the minutes of the previously mentioned meetings were approved as presented.

Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman
Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Rothman read the Tax Collector, Zoning Office and Chief Finance Officer Reports. The Township Committee acknowledged the receipt of the following report:

- Chief Finance Officer March 2022
- Tax Collector March 2022
- Zoning Office March & February 2022

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2022-3 Calendar Year 2022 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and Establish a CAP Bank

Motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to introduce Ordinance 2022-3.

Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman
Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Bertram stated a report was prepared for the committee. The report references topics that should only be discussed in Executive Session. Mrs. Bertram asked if the committee had any questions about the report. There were no questions from the committee.

RESOLUTIONS

R-53-2022	<i>Authorizing the Payment of Bills</i>
R-54-2022	<i>2022 Annual Budget Introduction</i>

- R-55-2022 *Resolution Opposing NJDEP's Proposed Coastal Regulations*
- R-56-2022 *Resolution Authorizing Shared Service Agreement to Provide Services of Certified Recycling Coordinator as Review and Certification Agent Regarding Annual Recycling Tonnage Report*
- R-57-2022 *Resolution Urging the Swift Passage of S-330 / A3804, Which Shall Restore the Energy Tax Receipts to Municipalities*
- R-58-2022 *Resolution Awarding Proposal to Mott MacDonald for Gandy Beach Bulkhead Damage, North Cove Road*
- R-59-2022 *Resolution Authorizing Executive Session*

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-53-2022 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$195,601.06.

Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman
 Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-54-2022.

Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman
 Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-55-2022.

Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman
 Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-56-2022.

Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman
 Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-57-2022.

Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman
 Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-58-2022.

Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman
 Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. R-59-2022.

Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman
 Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

PUBLIC COMMENT

On a motion by Campbell and seconded by Jordan, the meeting was opened to the public for comment.

Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman
 Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

Mayor Rothman stated the contractor for the SJ Gas installation has been made aware of the issues on Fortescue Road and has promised they will be returning to fix any roadway issues.

Meghan Wren of Fortescue stated a Green Team meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13th for the upcoming Horseshoe Crab Festival scheduled for May 14th. Mandatory training for all volunteers will be held Wednesday, May 11th at the Fortescue Firehall. Individual residents can be boosters this year. We need more vendors. Info available on the Green Team Facebook page.

Liz Cowley stated the Green Team will be doing a big cleanup prior to the festival. The Green Team will be meeting on April 30th for a cleanup project on Fortescue Road and Downe Avenue. From April 30th until the festival, we would like the support of the Township and the County for getting some roads cleaned up in Fortescue. Mayor Rothman mentioned the County came down with their street sweeper to assist last year. Mr. Campbell asked if there will be any food vendors. Mrs. Wren answered 2 confirmed and 2 almost confirmed.

Meghan Wren commented here is a certification process that must happen annually. We did our first certification in 2019 and it is due again. Last year we received a bronze certification. We are hoping to at least get the bronze certification, but we are shooting for the silver certification. We will be bringing items in front of the committee for your support of the certification process. We will also receive credit for our community gardens, the marine debris exhibit and the work with the school we have done. The deadline for the certification process is May 22, 2022. Before the next meeting I will have some resolutions and ordinances for the committee to consider. Mr. Campbell mentioned he was on the call regarding the CRS program, but he had some phone service issues. He asked Mrs. Wren how the meeting went. Mrs. Wren answered there were some technical issues during the meeting and another meeting has been scheduled for the 2nd Thursday in Tuckerton. She mentioned the program coordinator is very interested in Downe Township being included in the CRS program and is willing to help us. Meghan mentioned she is a certified floodplain manager and will be glad to help the township.

Mr. Campbell announced that Kerry Pflugh is now the Director of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors.

Liz Cowley of Fortescue asked if there is an ordinance in the township that prevents motorized vehicles on beach. We need to enforce this ordinance. There was an incident at Raybins Beach and now the latest one was on Delaware Avenue next to the Grill Restaurant. Liz asked if some signage could be posted at Raybins Beach, Money Island and on Delaware Avenue in Fortescue.

Ms. Cowley asked when interacting with peers in the government agencies that the committee would support the Green Team's position that we do not want to see harvesting of horseshoe crabs for bait come to be. Mayor Rothman stated the harvesting of horseshoe crabs is being done right now in the State of New Jersey with limitations. Mayor Rothman explained his understanding of the science behind the horseshoe crab harvesting situation. Liz mentioned the State of New Jersey adopted a resolution that they are not in support of reopening of harvesting horseshoe crabs.

Mayor Rothman stated in response to a request received to adopt an ordinance banning balloons, the committee would like to have an opportunity to discuss the request in more detail. Ms. Cowley reported that tons of balloons are ending up in our waterways, especially during the summer month. Mrs. Wren stated she has collected a very large amount during her walks on the beach.

There being no further comments, the public comment portion was closed on a motion by Jordan and seconded by Byrne.

Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman
Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Rothman reported meetings are being held with the County and all municipalities regarding the costs associated with the SPCA. This topic will be updated whenever possible. It has been brought to our attention trash has been dumped throughout the township. Information within the trash was reported to the State Police to investigate further. There has been some progress in cleaning up properties in the township. There have been some reports of people wandering around town and the State Police have been made aware. We are in possession of a sampling from the famous Salem Oak Tree. We are looking for a location to plant the tree. Any ideas and suggestions, please contact the office.

Mr. Jordan stated we are working on a few foreclosures. We were notified that three foreclosures we have been working on for the last three years may finally be completed by the middle of May. We are working on a list of 6-8 properties to auction this year. We will be holding the 1st Downe Historic Commission meeting at the OEM building on April 25th at 6pm. Anyone interested in being a part of the commission, please come out to the meeting.

Mr. Byrne reported Union Hall is hosting really good music for the year. We have the Austin Brothers for Saturday, April 16th at 7pm. We have designated a Sunday each month for a Jam Session from 1pm – 4pm. The first gathering will be April 24th. Come on out to Union Hall.

Mr. Campbell reported we are still wrapping up little details with the DEP and the financing for the sewer project. We are waiting on the signature of the DEP Commissioner which is the last item before going out to bid. We have contacted numerous people to help put pressure on the Commissioner to sign. We hope to hear something soon.

Mrs. Bertram stated tonight's executive session will consist of discussion on a matter related to litigation/municipal court and contracts.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Mon., May 9, 2022 at 7pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Jordan and seconded by Campbell, the meeting was closed to the public and the Executive Session was opened with no action to be taken after Executive Session.

Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Jordan, Rothman, and Campbell
Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

On a motion by Campbell and seconded by Jordan, the Executive Session portion was closed.

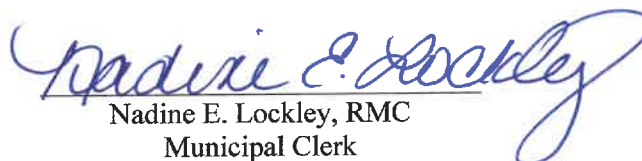
Roll Call: Aye – Byrne, Jordan, Rothman, and Campbell
Absent – Bart Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Campbell and seconded by Byrne.

Vote: All in favor


Nadine E. Lockley, RMC
Municipal Clerk