

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 9, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Office on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Michael L. Rothman, presided. Deputy Mayor Edward Bart, Committeeman Robert Campbell, and Steve Byrne were in attendance. Committeeman Jordan was absent. 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 – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, and Rothman

Absent – Jordan

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2022 Regular Meeting & Executive Session Meeting

September 13, 2021 Executive Session Meeting

July 12, 2021 Executive Session Meeting

March 8, 2021 Executive Session Meeting

January 11, 2021 Executive Session Meeting

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

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, and Rothman

Absent – Jordan Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

SOLICITORS 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.

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 April 2022
- Tax Collector April 2022
- Zoning Office April 2022

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

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 open the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2022-3.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, and Rothman

Absent – Jordan Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Bart to close the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2022-3.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, and Rothman
Absent – Jordan Nay – 0
Vote: All in favor

ORDINANCE FINAL ADOPTION

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 adopt Ordinance 2022-3.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, and Rothman
Absent – Jordan Nay – 0
Vote: All in favor

PUBLIC HEARING – 2022 ANNUAL BUDGET

Motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to open the Public Hearing for the 2022 Annual Budget.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, and Rothman
Absent – Jordan Nay – 0
Vote: All in favor

There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Bart to close the Public Hearing for the 2022 Annual Budget.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, and Rothman
Absent – Jordan Nay – 0
Vote: All in favor

FINAL ADOPTION – 2022 ANNUAL BUDGET

Motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt the 2022 Annual Budget.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, and Rothman
Absent – Jordan Nay – 0
Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTIONS

R-60-2022 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*

R-61-2022 *Authorizing Executive Session*

R-62-2022 *Authorizing the Redemption of Municipal Tax Sale Certificate 17-00003 in Installments*

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. R-60-2022 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$647,755.95.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, and Rothman
Absent – Jordan Nay – 0
Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Byrne and seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. R-61-2022.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, and Rothman
Absent – Jordan Nay – 0
Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. R-62-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

Mayor Rothman stated the Township is in possession of 100 Covid test kits that are free to our residents. We are still working on clearing out the occupants of the Union Street property. The contractors are waiting for things to settle a little as they continue to fix the roadway into Fortescue. We are still looking into the request for an ordinance to eliminate balloons. The Horseshoe Crab Festival is this weekend. There will be some road closures in Fortescue you need to be aware of. There have been some questions about turtle activity. Please be care and conscious of the turtles that are crossing the road.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

Vote: All in favor

Liz Cowley of Fortescue stated the Green Team will be doing some signage and one of the things they have come up with is on the south end of Fortescue where the turtles can not get back on the beach easily, we will have signage at the bridge designating a return spot for any turtles that people pick up.

Joseph Pignatelli of Fortescue asked for the status of the solar project. Mayor Rothman answered the solar is still moving forward. We are waiting for the BPU announcement. We feel confident the project will be authorized. As more information comes available, we will be sure to let everyone know. Mr. Pignatelli asked if the dredging project is complete for this year. If they come back to dredge, will the sand be placed in front of our property. Mayor Rothman answered the dredging that was being done on the channel was stopped by the DEP about 5 days short because of the horseshoe crabs. They will not be back. Mayor Rothman continued there is an Army Corp project that is suppose to take place where some materials from that project will be placed on the Fortescue Beach. Conversations continued about the conditions of Money Island that is now owned by the DEP. This area owned by the DEP/Blue Acres is not being maintained.

Meghan Wren of Fortescue asked everyone to be sure to come out to the Horseshoe Crab Festival this weekend. There is training scheduled for all volunteers being held on Wednesday at the Fortescue Firehall. After the festival the focus will be on preparing some resolutions needed to support our bronze status with the Sustainable Jersey application that is due by May 22nd. She gave a brief explanation of the points we should receive to be certified as bronze or possibly silver.

Pete Wagner of Fortescue asked if we received the sapling from the Salem Oak Tree. Ms. Lockley answered yes and the sapling has been planted until we decide where to place it. Mayor Rothman stated one of the suggestions for the tree location is where the big oak tree was taken down a few years ago. We have made a call to Lawrence Township and to the County regarding this location. Talks are taking place to possibly put a veteran's memorial at that location. Discussion will continue until the right location has been decided.

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

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

Vote: All in favor

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Rothman had no other comments.

Mr. Bart reported for Amnesty Month we collected 4½ tons of used oil, 185 tires were collected and we had 6 residents registered with bulk pickups.

Mr. Campbell reported we received the NJPES permit for the sewer last week. We are getting to the finish line.

Mr. Byrne reported there will be lots of music at the Horseshoe Crab Festival. Come out for music from 12noon to 4pm.

Mrs. Bertram stated tonight's executive session will consist of discussion on a matter related to litigation/municipal court, and possible litigation associated with campgrounds.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 7pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Campbell and seconded by Byrne, 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 – Bart, Byrne, Rothman, and Campbell
Absent – Jordan Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

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

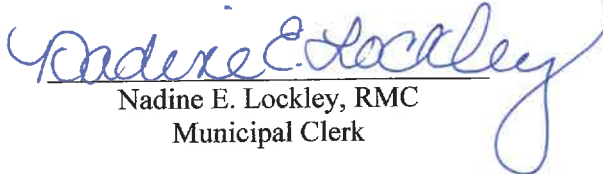
Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Rothman, and Campbell
Absent – Jordan Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: All in favor


Nadine E. Lockley, RMC
Municipal Clerk