

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF WANTAGE, HELD VIA VIRTUAL MEETING 7:00 P.M. ON
JUNE 11, 2020**

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and requested that the Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Morris, Deputy Mayor William Gaechter and Committeeman Ronald Bassani. Also, present: Administrator/Clerk Michael Restel, and Mr. Glenn Kienz, Esq.

Mayor Morris stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231. It has been properly noticed and certified by the Clerk."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Morris requested a motion to approve Resolution #48-2020-#55-2020

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Bassani, Gaechter, Morris Nays: None Absent: Abstain: None

Mayor Morris requested a motion to approve PO# 17053 Bassani Power in the amount \$196.08

A motion was made by Mr. Gaechter and seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris Nays: None Absent: Abstain: Bassani

REPORTS:

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel spoke about the Deckertown Tower and that there has been progress towards switching it over for Emergency Service Radio Communications.

Mr. Restel stated July 1st is the Tax Appeal Deadline and the process should be completed by September 30th.

Mr. Restel stated restaurants are allowed for outdoor dining and liquor license premise extension are to be submitted to NJ ABC and the town is requiring a sketch.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Morris stated Wantage has been updating the website daily with all the updates pertaining to COVID-19

Mayor Morris stated with deep regret the Moving Vietnam Wall has been postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19

Mayor Morris spoke about the proper steps Wantage will be taking to open the townhall safely.

Mayor Morris stated the Engineer has contacted Denville Line Striping to paint a walkway from Woodbourne to Berry Road Property so walkers can enjoy the property.

Mayor Morris stated Mr. Restel and I have been working on a Noise Ordinance.

Deputy Mayor: Mr. Gaechter offered no report

Committeeman Bassani: Mr. Bassani spoke about an email he received from Walmart pertaining to its new program to help fight for greater racial equity inside and outside Walmart. Mr. Bassani stated Walmart and Walmart foundation are committing \$100 million over 5 years to address the situation. Mr. Bassani spoke about his response back to Walmart.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion is in order to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2020 Mayor and Committee Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Bassani, Gaechter, Morris Nays: None Absent: NONE Abstain: None

ORDINANCE:

Adoption of Ordinance #05-2020 Ordinance to Amend the Salaries of Officers and Employees of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey for 2020

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mr. Gaechter

Mayor Morris opened the meeting to the public to comment on the Ordinance. No one from the Public spoke.

Mayor Morris closed the Open Comments to the Public.

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Bassani, Gaechter, Morris Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Introduction of Ordinance #06-2020 Appropriating the Sum of \$12,000 for repairs on Fire Truck 622 and 624.

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mr. Gaechter

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Bassani, Gaechter, Morris Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Kathy Gorman Fernwood: Mrs. Gorman spoke about the High Point Budget and if Wantage will be questioning Sussex Wantage's Budget. Discussion ensued.

Deputy Mayor William Gaechter spoke about a request he received pertaining to Vacant Property Fee reduction. Mr. Gaechter stated Wantage Township has never done this but there is a buyer for this property which has been vacant for many years. Mr. Gaechter stated the sale price is \$42,500 and the fee is \$14,166 and would recommend the fee be 10% of the final sale price.

Mr. Glen Cella attorney representing the sellers spoke about the property and it would be appreciated to lower the fees. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bassani asked questions pertaining to who the buyer was and if the buyer would be interested in splitting the fee. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gaechter stated he agrees the fine is excessive on a home selling for \$42,500 and would like to make a motion to lower the fine to 10% of final sale price.

Attorney Glenn Kienz stated under these unique circumstances this was the best choice and Wantage Township is not setting a precedent.

Motion was made by Mr. Bassani motioned the reduction and Mr. Gaechter second.

Mayor Morris asked to clerk to call the roll

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Bassani, Gaechter, Morris Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Morris requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gaechter made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Bassani.

Upon Roll:

Ayes: Bassani, Gaechter, Morris Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Meeting Adjourned 7:30PM

Respectfully submitted by

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk