**GREENWICH TOWNSHIP**

**MINUTES OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DECEMBER 19, 2023**

**7:00 p.m.**

Deputy Mayor Orr called the meeting to order stating “adequate notice of this meeting was provided in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act notifying the South Jersey Times on January 4, 2023.”

**Roll Call**: Mayor Reinhart and Deputy Mayor Orr were present. Also present were Thomas Seeley, Esq., Township Solicitor; Kim Fleetwood, Treasurer; Ed Fleetwood, Code Enforcement Officer; and Lisa Garrison, Township Clerk.

**Flag Salute**: Mayor Reinhart

**Approval of Minutes:** On motion of Deputy Mayor Orr, seconded by Mayor Reinhart to approve the minutes of November 21, 2023, unanimously carried.

**Adoption Ordinance No. 69-2023.** Ms. Garrison indicated she had spoken with Mr. Fleetwood and a minor change to add “located within the side yard”, which is in response to the concern expressed at the public hearing. Mr. Fleewood also indicated that he has utilized this ordinance in the past and was also successful defending the ordinance in court. On motion of Committeeman Werley, seconded by Mayor Reinhart to adopt the following ordinance, unanimously carried upon roll call vote. Ayes: Orr, Werley, Reinhart Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

**ORDINANCE NO. 69-2023**

**GRASS, BRUSH, WEEDS AND DEBRIS**

 **WHEREAS,** it shall be unlawful for an owner of tenant of lands lying within the limits of the Township of Greenwich to allow, suffer or permit on such lands any accumulation of brush, weeds or obnoxious growth in excess of 10 inches in height; and

**WHEREAS,** it shall be unlawful for an owner of tenant of lands lying within the Township of Greenwich to allow, suffer or permit an accumulation of garbage, trash, trees, stumps, roots, fallen or dead trees located within the yard areas in such a manner as to constitute a fire hazard or so as to constitute a hazard to health and public safety;

**WHEREAS,** in any such case, the owner of the owner and tenant shall cause such brush, weeds, fallen, dead or dying trees, stumps, roots or other obnoxious growth to be removed and destroyed; and

**WHEREAS,** no owner, owners, tenant or tenants of any building, dwelling or lands lying in the Township of Greenwich shall cause or allow any grass, brush, weeds, dead or dying trees, stumps, roots, obnoxious growth, filth garbage, trash or debris to be removed from the property of said owner, owners, tenant or tenants and be deposited upon any Township, County of State right-of-way or easement or upon neighboring property; and

**WHEREAS,** all such grass, brush, weed, etc., shall be collected and either removed form the premises or containerized in proper containers for removal and any person, firm or entity who shall vi9olate this section shall be fined; and

**WHEREAS,** whenever brush, weeds, including ragweed, fallen, dead or dying trees, stumps, roots, obnoxious growth, filth, garbage, trash and debris shall be been allowed, suffered or permitted to accumulate on lands lying within the limits of the Township of Greenwich contrary to the provisions of this chapter, the Township Committee or other Township official designated for this purpose by the Township Committee shall cause 10 days’ written notice to remove or destroy the same to be given to the owner of tenant of any such lands; and

**WHEREAS,** written notice as aforesaid shall be given both to the owner and tenant of the land, if known and may be served personally or left with a member of the house over the age of 14 years or may be sent by certified mail to the last known post office address of such owner or tenant; and

**WHEREAS,** in the event that the name and post office address of the owner are not known, then such written notice as aforesaid shall be sent by certified mail addressed to the person or persons whose names appear as owner on the last tax duplicate with the mailing address shown thereon; and

**WHEREAS,** in the event that any owner of tenant shall refuse or neglect to remove or destroy said accumulation within the time limited by such notice, then the Township Committee may authorize and direct that the same be removed or destroyed by or under the direction of the Township Official designated by the Township Committee for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS,** in the event that such owner of tenant shall refuse or neglect to remove or destroy any such accumulations as hereinbefore set forth and it shall be necessary for the Township Committee to cause the same to be removed or destroyed, the officer responsible therefore shall certify the cost thereof to the Township Committee; and

**WHEREAS,** upon such certification to the Township Committee of the cost of removal or destruction as hereinbefore set forth, the Township Committee shall examine such certification and, if found correct, the cost as shown thereon shall, by resolution of the Township Committee, be charged against said lands; and

**WHEREAS,** upon passage of said resolution by the Township Committee, a certified copy thereof shall be filed with the Collector of Taxes, and the amount so charged shall forthwith become a lien upon such lands and shall be added to and become and form a part of the taxes next to be assessed and levied upon such lands, the same to bear interest at the same rate as taxes, and shall be collected and enforced by the same officers and in the same manner as taxes; and

**WHERAS,** any person violating any of the provisions hereof shall, upon conviction, be subject to a penalty, either by imprisonment for not more than 90 days or by a fine not exceeding $500, or both, in the discretion of the court and each and every day any violation continues after notice to remove or destroy any accumulation as provided herein shall be considered a separate offence, punishable by a like fine or penalty.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Greenwich, County of Cumberland, State of New Jesey that this ordinance take effect upon adoption.

**Resolutions:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-35-2023**

**APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS AND BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

 **BE IT RESOLVED** the following appointments of the Township Officials, Boards and Committees are hereby approved by the Township Committee of the Township of Greenwich, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey:

PLANNING/ZONING BOARD TERM EXPIRATION

Alternate II – Veronica Flanagan 12/31/24

Alternate III – Shawn Burke 12/31/23

On motion of Mayor Reinhart, seconded by Committeeman Werley to approve the foregoing resolution, unanimously carried.

 On motion of Mayor Reinhart, seconded by Deputy Mayor Orr to approve the following resolution, unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-36-2023**

**AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF BILLS BY THE TOWNSHIP TREASURER**

 **WHEREAS,** the Township Committee routinely authorizes the payment of bills; and

 **WHEREAS**, the schedule of Township meetings whereby bills can be approved for payment may exceed the time requirement to avoid late payment penalty.

 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Greenwich that the Township Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to pay bills as necessary for the Township of Greenwich between December 21, 2023 and the Township Reorganization meeting without Township Committee approval; and

 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all bills paid between December 21, 2023 and the Township Reorganization meeting shall be scheduled on the bill list for Township Committee approval at the Reorganization meeting.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-37-2023**

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF**

**2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS**

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to spend for certain purposes specified in the 2023 budget, amounts in excess of the respective sums appropriated therefore; and

WHEREAS, there is an excess in one or more appropriations over and above the amount deemed

necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriations; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A; 4-58 provides for the transfer of such excess amount in

 appropriations which are insufficient

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of Greenwich, County of

Cumberland, New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of the full membership thereof affirmatively concurring) that the following transfers are hereby authorized to be made by and between the budgeted appropriations:

Budget Line Item Amount

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_To\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Buildings & Grounds O/E $7875

Election Expenses O/E $1000

Streets & Roads O/E $4000

Animal Control O/E $375

Construction Code-Other $2500

 On motion of Mayor Reinhart, seconded by Deputy Mayor Orr to approve the foregoing resolution, unanimously carried.

**Unfinished Business:**

 Tennis Court – additional grants and possible Green Acres funding will be pursued next year.

 Old Stone School House – the Committee will review the grants presented by Triad Associates next year.

 Lead Inspections - Ms. Garrison indicated that this is a mandatory requirement of the State and will need to be addressed early next year. She will have a company give a presentation to the governing body. She indicated this particular company would handle all of the aspect of the inspections. Ms. Fleetwood indicated the Township may receive a grant for the expenses through the Best Practices questionnaire.

 Ordinances – Certificate of Occupancy Fees; Unregistered Vehicles. Ms. Garrison will work with Mr. Fleetwood to develop the ordinances for the Committee’s consideration.

 92 Pier Road Tax Lien Assignment Offer - Ms. Garrison indicated at the last meeting the Committee had received and offer from BAM Contracting which they had denied and countered with $30,000. Ms. Garrison further indicated BAM Contracting has counteroffered in the amount of $10,000. After review and discussion, on motion of Committeeman Werley, seconded by Deputy Mayor Orr to accept the offer of $10,000, unanimously carried. Ms. Garrison advised Mr. Meyer that a resolution will be prepared for the reorganization meeting finalizing the assignment.

**New Business:**

 Removal of Trees - Mayor Reinhart indicated that an applicant had appeared and was approved for solar at a Planning/Zoning Board meeting. The applicant had wanted to remove trees in a particular area that upon review was determined to be Township property. Mr. Seeley was directed to send a letter to the applicant to advise that the trees are on Township property and the Committee does not approve the removal of the trees.

 Mowing/Snow Plow RFP/RFQ - The Committee reviewed last year’s forms and directed the Clerk to post on the website.

 Craft Faire - Committeeman Werley indicated the Cumberland County Historical Society cancelled the 2023 Craft Faire and does not intend to continue with the fair. He stated that there are residents requesting what can be done to continue the fair.

 County Shared Service Agreements - Ms. Garrison indicated the County is and will be offering various shared service agreement with the municipalities. Ms. Garrison indicated she had spoken with John Carr, Esq., County Counsel, and was advised that the Street Sweeping agreement was in response to the new Tier A Stormwater transition requirements that the municipalities are now facing and she requested that the Committee consider this particular shared service as there would be no cost incurred unless utilized. The Committee concurred it could be placed on the Reorganization agenda.

**Committee Comments:**

Committeeman Werley, at this time, requested the Committee seriously consider the Township hold the Craft Faire as he feels it is a very important part of the Township. Mayor Reinhart indicated he had attended the end of year Court meeting and stated the funding looks food for next year.

**Payment of Bills**

 After review and discussion on motion of Deputy Mayor Orr, seconded by Mayor Reinhart to approve the bill list in the amount of $152,657.11, unanimously carried.

**Public Comment**:

 On motion of Mayor Reinhart, seconded by Deputy Mayor Orr to open the public comment, unanimously carried. Penny Watson, 1082 Ye Greate Street, was present to encourage the Township to continue the Craft Faire. Annie Newton, Ye Great Street, indicated the Craft Faire is an important part of the community as there are not many events left. Kathy Goodwin expressed her support of the Craft Faire along with the quality of the vendors in attendance. Michael Henry, 9 Park Drive, wanted to remind the Committee it was at the Craft Faire that the Sustainable Jersey had a booth that enabled the residents to list their concerns. It was through this that the municipality was able to address the problems with the telephones. Bob Flanagan, Greate Street, shared that he had been drawn to Greenwich through the Craft Faire. It is a draw for people to come to the community. Maureen Sapnar, Greate Street, was also drawn to Greenwich through the Craft Faire. She expressed her desire to assist. Shawn Burke, 949 Greate Street, also stated that is was through the house tours that he found Greenwich. He indicated the Township needs to look for ways to bring people to the township. He feels the events are going south as the Christmas House Tour was not well organized. Bonnie Flanagan, 989 Greate Street, indicated the Craft Faire should be a community event. She stated the more people in the community involved the better for the community. Ms. VanVliet, requested an update on Wible Drive. Deputy Mayor Orr indicated the short term rock overflow plan is moving forward. He also indicated that he needs to proceed with the plans in order for bids to be solicited. Ms. VanVliet stated she would be forwarding pictures of the current condition. Although the contractor has made repairs the repairs have been washed out and the problem has not been solved. She issued her concern as the problem is creeping toward her retaining wall. She questioned if the contractor would have to repair it again. Deputy Mayor Orr indicated there is a bond in place and the contractor is not off the hook. There being no further public comment, on

motion of Deputy Mayor Orr, seconded by Mayor Reinhart to close the public comment, unanimously approved.

It was at this time Committeeman Werley requested an answer from the Committee regarding the Craft Faire. After review and discussion it was determined a Recreation Committee would be created to address the Craft Faire. The Recreation Committee will consist of ten (10) members. The members must be residents of the Township. The Committee indicated, at this time, the Craft Faire would not be funded through the Township budget but via any donations and vendor fees. A Dedication by Rider will be created for the receipt of said funds and all expenditures must be approved by the Township Committee. On motion of Committeeman Werley, seconded by Deputy Mayor Orr to approve the following resolution, unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-38-2023**

**CREATING GREENWICH TOWNSHIP RECREATION COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE THE ANNUEL ARTISANS CRAFT FAIRE**

**WHEREAS,** the Township of Greenwich, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey has a deep history in its historical village and show casing same in an annual Artisans Craft Faire and located at 960 Ye Greate St.; and

**WHEREAS,** Cumberland County Historical Society has been the sponsor of said event for over 50 years at the Grounds of the Gibbon House at 960 Ye Greate Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cumberland County Historical Society has decided to discontinue its support for said craft faire; and

**WHEREAS,** The representatives of a proposed committee to continue said Craft Faire has requested to take over same; and

**WHEREAS,** the Cumberland Court Historical Society has agreed to allow the proposed recreation committee created herein to continue the annual Craft Faire; and

**WHEREAS,** said recreation committee has approached the Township of Greenwich to sponsor said Craft Faire; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee, Township of Greenwich, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey hereby creates a recreation committee to operate and continue the Greenwich Craft Faire; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** Mark Worley shall be the liason Township Committee member to the newly created Greenwhich Township recreation Committee to run same; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the committee shall be made up of ten members six of the ten are as follows:

1. Annie Newton
2. Penny Watson
3. Kathy Goodwin
4. Maureen Sapnar
5. Bonnie Flanigan
6. Trudy Hanson

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Greenwich County of Cumberland will not be responsible to fund said committee; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESLOVED**, the committee shall fund itself through a Greenwich Township Recreation Fund which will be created by this resolution.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Township Committee, on motion of Deputy Mayor Orr, seconded by Mayor Reinhart to adjourn, unanimously carried

 Respectfully submitted.

 Lisa Garrison

 Borough Clerk