

**PUBLIC MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**April 11, 2023
DELRAN, NJ**

CALL TO ORDER

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Sunshine Statement: Be advised that proper notice has been given by the Township Council in accordance with the sunshine law in the following manner. Notice advertised in the Burlington County Times and Camden Courier Post on January 6, 2023 and posted on the bulletin board on the same date.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Apeadu, Mr. Smith, Mr. Jeney, Mr. Lyon and Mr. Burrell were present.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Tabakin, Solicitor, Mr. Bellina, Administrator, and Ms. Eggers, Township Clerk

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION

Mr. Jeney presented a proclamation to Lieutenant Junior Grade John F. O’Leary, United States Navy.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Jeney made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the minutes for the December 13, 2022 Public Meeting.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Apeadu, Mr. Smith, Mr. Jeney, and Mr. Burrell voted aye. Mr. Lyon abstained.

Ayes: 4
Nays: None
Abstain: 1

Motion Approved

Mr. Jeney made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Apeadu to approve the minutes for the December 20, 2022 Work Session.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Apeadu, Mr. Smith, Mr. Jeney, Mr. Lyon and Mr. Burrell voted aye.

Ayes: 5
Nays: None

Motion Approved

Mr. Lyon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the minutes for the January 4, 2023 Reorganization Meeting.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Apeadu, Mr. Smith, Mr. Jeney, Mr. Lyon and Mr. Burrell voted aye.

Ayes: 5

Nays: None

Motion Approved

RESOLUTION(S)

Resolution 2023-59 Introduction of CY2023 Municipal Budget

Mr. Bellina read a statement from the mayor: Mayor Catrambone apologizes that he could not be here tonight because he is attending the NJ Mayor's Conference this week. Mr. Catrambone stated that he is very proud of the work that the department heads and staff continue to do in the financial planning for Delran. For the third year in a row, we have no municipal tax increase. Mr. Catrambone also thanked council for their review and adjustments to the budget and their hard work with the operation and oversight of our great town.

Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyon to adopt Resolution 2023-59.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Apeadu, Mr. Smith, Mr. Jeney, Mr. Lyon and Mr. Burrell voted aye.

Ayes: 5

Nays: None

Motion Approved

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Burrell stated that Resolution 2023-64 will be walked on to the consent agenda.

- a. **Resolution 2023-60** Refunding Road Opening Deposit RO-2870
- b. **Resolution 2023-61** Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for Delran Community Park – Phase 6 Parking Lot and Drainage Improvements
- c. **Resolution 2023-62** Authorizing the Cancellation of Taxes of a Totally Disabled Veteran Locate at Block 116.03 Lot 6 Partial Tax Year 2023 and thereafter

- d. **Resolution 2023-63** Refunding Sewer Overpayment
- e. **Resolution 2023-64** Providing for appointment of a Hearing Officer
- f. Accepting the report of the Tax Collector and Township Clerk

Mrs. Apeadu made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jeney to adopt the above Consent Agenda.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Roll Call: Mrs. Apeadu, Mr. Smith, Mr. Jeney, Mr. Lyon and Mr. Burrell voted aye.

Ayes: 5

Nays: None

Motion Approved

REPORTS

Emergency Services – Chuck McSweeney reported that for the month of March the EMS call volume was about 18% less than what was projected. Mr. McSweeney stated that the spring fund drive will be released shortly. The Delran Emergency Squad is waiting to get final approval from the NJ Department of Health regarding the EMT basic training program that will be reinstated in Delran. Mr. McSweeney explained that the Delran Emergency Squad took delivery of the Delanco ambulance and is backing up Delanco after their emergency squad went out of business. Four new people were hired and the squad is fully staffed but there are opportunities available for anyone interested.

Mr. Bellina – Mr. Bellina reported that Haines Mill Road has reached substantial completion and a punch list will be developed and worked on through the summer months. Notre Dame Drive is under construction. There is a slight delay due to some sewer issues. Hopefully there will be a resolution to those issues in the next week or so.

Ms. Eggers – No report

Mr. Catrambone – Report given above by Mr. Bellina

Mr. Tabakin – No report

Mrs. Apeadu – Mrs. Apeadu congratulated tonight's honoree. She also thanked Joe Bellina and Delran Township staff who made sure residents were safe and taken care of after the recent tornado. Mrs. Apeadu also reported that she attended an event with the mayor and gathered some helpful information for the township.

Mr. Smith – Mr. Smith congratulated Mr. O'Leary on his service and also mentioned that Mr. O'Leary is a dedicated teacher in the Delran school system. Mr. Smith thanked the Delran police

and fire departments as well as the emergency squad, public works, and all of the utility companies and services that came together to get everything back up and running after the recent tornado. Mr. Smith also stated that it was very heartwarming to see the residents of Delran coming together to help each other during that time.

Mr. Jeney – Mr. Jeney congratulated John O’Leary for his service to our country and community. Mr. Jeney thanked Delran Public Works for putting in long hours, cleaning up after the tornado. Mr. Jeney explained that he and Deb Hammond from the Delran Green Team participated in an EV webinar run by the federal government. He reported that there are big plans for public vehicles fueled by electricity as well as EV charging stations.

Mr. Lyon – Mr. Lyon congratulated and thanked Mr. O’Leary. He also thanked everyone involved in helping with the aftermath of the recent storm including public works and the first responders. He urged residents in need of assistance to contact the township.

Mr. Burrell – Mr. Burrell congratulated and thanked Mr. O’Leary who was a teacher at Delran Middle School when Mr. Burrell was in attendance. He thanked everyone involved in taking care of the issues that arose due to the tornado including the police, fire department, emergency squad, public works, PSE&G, Joe Bellina and the residents who came together to help each other. Mr. Burrell also stated that everyone is proud of the budget which results in no tax increase for the residents. He thanked everyone involved in the process that made this possible despite many challenges along the way.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Jeney made a motion, seconded by Mr. Smith to open the meeting to the public All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Christine Etsell, 8 River Drive – Ms. Etsell asked for an update on the potential agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers and the township. Mr. Bellina explained that The Army Corps submitted a final project management plan which the township engineer and solicitor are reviewing now. It will then go back to the Army Corps of Engineers who will finalize the plan in 30-60 days. At that point it will be the execution of the cost sharing agreement which will take another 30 days. The township’s portion of the cost has already been appropriated. A design study will follow over the next 12-18 months which will highlight recommendations, cost estimates, etc. We will then move into the design stage where plans and specifications will be prepared to hire a contractor. This will take an additional 12-18 months. The Army Corps will pay 65%, up to ten million dollars. Mr. Bellina stated that hopefully, an agreement will be executed within two months. Ms. Etsell asked if the Army Corps will speak to the residents in the flood area. Mr. Bellina replied that the township will urge them to do that.

Bill Pfeffer, 43 Chester Avenue – Mr. Pfeffer asked why the township opted out of the NJ Health Benefits Program. Mr. Burrell explained that the cost went up considerably so moving to the South Jersey plan saved a large sum of money, resulting in no tax increases for residents. Mr. Pfeffer reported that, as a retiree, the new plan would have cost him a lot more. Mr. Bellina stated that it is difficult to keep track of former employees who are ten years past their retirement dates. When

the particulars of the new plan were reviewed, they used the best information available. Mr. Pfeffer cited Chapter 330 of the state health benefits code that allows for retired police officers to stay in the state health benefits program. He commented that he should have received a letter explaining this so he didn't have to get the information through the state of New Jersey.

Mr. Pfeffer asked what percentage of health care costs the township contributes to active employees. Mr. Tabakin explained that it is tiered, the more money someone makes, the more the employee must pay towards their health care.

Mr. Pfeffer asked about the drainage problems at Delran Community Park, stating that \$249, 501 was spent to fix the issues last year. He commented that any time there is severe rain in that low-lying area, there will be problems and the park should not have been built there. Mr. Burrell advised all retirees to contact the administrator or council for assistance. He apologized for any confusion regarding health benefits.

Mr. Jeney made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Apeadu to close the meeting to the public All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Mr. Lyon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Smith All were in favor; the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted,

Jamey Eggers
Municipal Clerk