

**TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON  
REGULAR MEETING**

**September 19, 2018  
6:00 P.M.**

**FLAG SALUTE**

Council President Trueblood led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, announced that notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, and followed by roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT**

Jason Allen  
Donovan Gardner  
Letha Jackson  
Norma Trueblood

**ABSENT**

Elisabeth McCartney

Also, present: Business Administrator Dennis Gonzalez, Solicitor Jay Colao and Township Clerk, Amy P. Cosnoski.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Trueblood called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

226-2018 Authorizes Council to go into Closed Session – Not Adopted

Council President Trueblood advised that there would be no Closed Session.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Police Chief David Jantas to give Council and update on opioid issues, programs and other efforts being implemented.

Chief Jantas address Council and stated that this is a nationwide problem and Burlington County unfortunately is leading in some of the not so good statistics that come with the opioid problem. Explained he does not have a formal presentation but would like to entertain questions as to where their minds are, what they'd like to know and if there are any suggestions. Councilwoman Jackson asked if there are certain areas or age groups he is seeing with the issues. Chief Jantas stated that we are leading the County in Narcan applications with the Browns Mills area being significantly higher than other towns. Noted that we get the Narcan from the County Prosecutors Office and he continuously has to dip into the forfeiture funds to buy more Narcan. Stated that they hope that the County at some point rethinks the process to make it an easier to obtain. Councilman Allen asked what we are doing to combat the crisis within the Township and are we seeing any spikes in drug related crimes. Chief Jantas advised on what they are doing to get the product off of the streets. Commented on the cycle of the addiction and the types of crimes they are seeing including unlocked car thefts. Advised on the 'Straight to Treatment' program that was started by the County Prosecutors office and it would be coming to our town on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Explained that addicts could come in with whatever product they have and no fear of being criminally charged and that the product would be destroyed. Advised on the Solstice program and they are currently located on Birmingham Road. Explained how the program works and how the people will get to treatment. Noted that there were 81 overdose deaths in Burlington County last year with 22 of them being in Pemberton Township. Councilman Gardner questioned why Pemberton Township had such high numbers. Chief Jantas stated that he could not answer that question but that this crisis was covering all demographics including young people and people into their 70's. Stated that it is in affluent areas and poor areas. Advised on Kings Crusade which is an advocate program for addicts. Commented on the work Police are doing to get the dealers off the streets but noted that they will not arrest their way out of this problem. Councilwoman Jackson questioned having to reorder Narcan supplies. Chief Jantas explained that they get 20 doses of Narcan per quarter and that he routinely has to order 10 doses before they get their next allowance. Advised that in one day they hit the same person 3 times. Councilwoman Jackson asked about education and if they thought about doing something in our town. Chief Jantas stated that he is not a big fan of the D.A.R.E. program but was a fan of the GREAT program however it was unsustainable due to the personnel drop. Stated he is looking into different things and looking to get help from the PBA. Feels the PBA should show their appreciation to this town and his personnel

numbers are back up. Council President Trueblood noted that her heart goes out to parents dealing with this. Councilman Allen asked for a number that people can call. Chief Jantas noted they could call 609-894-3308 and that his assistant, Lisa Eden-Bartholomew, would be the liaison for the 'Straight to Treatment' program. Noted that it will be done on Tuesday's. Councilman Gardner asked if the program could be moved from place to place to make it more accessible. Chief Jantas advised of the logistics of moving the program around and that would be very difficult and costly. Council President Trueblood stated that the community needs to come together and that the problem is everywhere. Chief Jantas agreed that this is bigger than just the cops and the schools. Chief Jantas thanked the Council for their support. Explained how he choose programs and noted that he does not do them just because it is the thing at the time. Stated he will always be frank with Council and that honesty should not even be a question. Noted things that will be happening soon that should have an effect and that he could not get into detail.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council President Trueblood opened the meeting up to general public comments.

**Gaye Burton, Browns Mills – 1.** Responded to the Chief's comments. Noted that she is a volunteer with the TAG program. Advised that they have a town hall meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Country Lakes Firehouse at 6:30 p.m. with Chief Jantas coming to speak. Explained that the meeting was about moving from awareness to action to meet the needs of the community. Invited all to attend and if there were any speakers that may be interested.

**America Phillips, Presidential Lakes – 1.** Commented on the Neighborhood Watch and being in hers since the 90's. Noted that if we are going to work together we need to know who our neighbors are. Commented on the many vacant homes in her area and this is not just in our town it is everywhere. Commented that she feels for the families going through this day in and day out and we as residents need to start working together.

**James Boland, 226 Filbert St. – 1.** Commented that he does think that heroin hands down is our biggest social problem. Stated that Code Enforcement is another problem in our town and he had done an OPRA request on a complaint that he had made and received the information from Code Enforcement. Thanked Council for that as he commented that this did not happen previously. Clarified that he does always receive his OPRA requests from the Clerk's office. Noted that he saw the notice and it gave the person 15 days to correct the issue and in that 15 days a person would have 1 recycling collection and 4 trash collections. Gave the example that someone could put a toilet on their lawn and could leave it there because it could technically get picked up within the 15 days and there would be fine given. Discussion ensued on the trash and when it can be put out. Mr. Boland questioned if there had been any discussion on his suggestion to put the flyer he made into the tax bills to explain to residents how to put out the trash. Councilman Allen advised that this was something that Administration would have to implement. Mr. Boland stated he did get a response from Administration in the form of a ripped-up flyer handed to him by Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez advised that Council is talking about the small insert Mr. Boland had created and he did not rip that up. Mr. Gonzalez explained what he did rip up and gave back to Mr. Boland was a poster board attacking Township government. Mr. Boland stated he us the poster board because he was trying to prove a point and be heard because of his years of frustration from getting no response.

Seeing no other residents wishing to be heard, this portion of the meeting was closed to the public.

**Consent Agenda: All items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine by the Township Council and will be enacted by one motion. Should a Council Member wish to discuss a consent agenda item separately, that item can be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the regular agenda.**

Councilman Allen asked to pull Resolution 228-2018 and Councilman Gardner asked to pull Resolution 229-2018 and 237-2018 from the consent agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Regular Meeting, September 5, 2018

## **\*CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**

- 227-2018 Designates Robert Benick as Petty Cash Fund Custodian.
- 228-2018 *Pulled from the Consent Agenda and considered later in the meeting.*
- 229-2018 *Pulled from the Consent Agenda and considered later in the meeting.*
- 230-2018 Authorizes cancellation of property taxes on property qualifying for Veteran's Property Tax Exemption for Rivera, block 812.02, Lot 18 in the amount of \$3,141.91 and a refund in the amount of \$230.31.
- 231-2018 Authorizes cancellation of property taxes on property qualifying for Veteran's Property Tax Exemption for Campbell, Block 23, Lot 25 in the amount of \$1,644.48 and a refund in the amount of \$523.49.
- 232-2018 Authorizes refund of tax overpayment to Anderson on Block 517, Lot 6 in the amount of \$155.27.
- 233-2018 Authorizes refund of tax overpayment to Morra on Block 479, Lot 55 in the amount of \$168.71.
- 234-2018 Authorizes refund of tax overpayment to Shull on Block 18, Lot 29 in the amount of \$138.18.
- 235-2018 Authorizes refund of tax overpayment to Woloch on Block 808, Lot 27 in the amount of \$109.97.
- 236-2018 Authorizes refund of tax overpayment to Climacosa on Block 635, Lot 13 in the amount of \$151.23.
- 237-2018 *Pulled from the Consent Agenda and considered later in the meeting.*
- 238-2018 Authorizes refund of tax overpayment to Wilkins on block 236, Lot 17 in the amount of \$178.67.
- 239-2018 Rejects all bids received for the construction of Ong's Run Creek Pedestrian Walkway under NJDOT Safe Streets to Transit Program.
- 240-2018 Authorizes cancellation of property taxes on property qualifying for a Veteran's Property Tax Exemption for MacCallum on Block 135, lot 35 in the amount of \$1,285.01 and a refund in the amount of \$260.98.
- 241-2018 Authorizes cancellation of property taxes on property qualifying for a Veteran's Property Tax Exemption for Fahey on Block 808, Lot 25 in the amount of \$1,023.85 and a refund in the amount of \$207.76.
- 242-2018 Authorizes cancellation of property taxes on property qualifying for a Veteran's Property Tax Exemption for Alonso on Block 87, Lot 37 in the amount of \$4,166.41 and a refund in the amount of \$2,118.95.
- 243-2018 Authorizes the purchase of a 'Grinder Pump Package' for installation of a sewer service connection for the new Public Works building from Atlantic Plumbing Supply, Inc. under State contract #89798 in the total amount of \$8,126.68.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- \*1. Purchases over \$2,000
- a. Various Departments - Annual Trackstar License from Wireless Electronics in the amount of \$3,543.75.
  - b. Police Department - 10 Panasonic Toughbooks from Bob Johnson's Computer Stuff in the amount of \$5,669.82.
  - c. Public Works – Remanufactured front axle assembly for John Deere 644H Loader from H&R Construction Parts & Equipment in the amount of \$15,090.00.
  - d. Public Works - Ditch Witch C30X Track Walk Behind Trencher from Jesco, Inc in the amount of \$16,935.78.

Motion by Allen and Gardner to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Allen, yes; Gardner, yes; Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes. Motion carried.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

- 228-2018 Authorizes a contract with EMR Power Systems, LLC, for maintenance and testing of emergency standby generators for the Division of Water under State Contract #A81474 in the total amount of \$2,210.00. *Pulled from the Consent Agenda.*

Councilman Allen questioned how many generators the Township had and how many would be tested. Mr. Gonzalez advised that these were for the water production wells and that there were 7 which are tested annually as per NJDEP. Advised this was to be sure they would automatically go on in the event there was a loss of power to continue water production.

Motion by Allen and Jackson to approve Resolution 228-2018. Allen, yes; Jackson, yes; Gardner, yes; Trueblood, yes. Motion carried.

229-2018 Authorizes cancellation of property taxes on property qualifying for Veteran's Property Tax Exemption for Brunson, Block 1111, Lot 8 in the amount of \$1,824.89 and a refund in the amount of \$666.17. *Pulled from the Consent Agenda.*

Councilman Gardner noted these were personal friends of his and he would need to abstain.

Motion by Allen and Jackson to approve Resolution 229-2018. Allen, yes; Jackson, yes; Gardner, abstain; Trueblood, yes. Motion carried.

237-2018 Authorizes refund of tax overpayment to Pinto on Block 839.02, Lot 44.01 in the amount of \$170.70. *Pulled from the Consent Agenda.*

Councilman Gardner noted these were personal friends of his and he would need to abstain.

Motion by Allen and Jackson to approve Resolution 237-2018. Allen, yes; Jackson, yes; Gardner, abstain; Trueblood, yes. Motion carried.

## **ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND/OR FINAL ADOPTION**

### **ORDINANCE 20-2018**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON REPEALING ORDINANCES 11-2017, 12-2017 AND 13-2017 WHICH AUTHORIZED THE SALE OF THREE (3) PROPERTIES TO EDITH CLAYTON.

This portion of the meeting was opened for Public comments. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, this portion of the meeting was closed to the public.

Motion by Allen and Gardner to adopt Ordinance 20-2018. Allen, yes; Gardner, yes; Jackson, yes; Trueblood, yes. Motion carried.

## **ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION**

### **ORDINANCE 21-2018** *Tabled at the 9/5/2018 Meeting*

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON AMENDING CHAPTER 94 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON, ENTITLED 'DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS'

Council President Trueblood advised that this was being removed from the agenda at this time until further information was provided.

### **ORDINANCE 22-2018**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PEMBERTON AUTHORIZING SALE OF BLOCK 221, LOT 63 BY WAY OF QUITCLAIM DEED TO ANNETTE C. DICKEY.

Councilman Gardner advised he would need to abstain from this as well. Allen asked if this was residential property and if there is anything on the property. Mr. Gonzalez advised that it is vacant land in a residential area that is buildable.

Motion by Jackson and Allen to introduce Ordinance 22-2018 with a public hearing to be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jackson, yes; Allen, yes; Gardner, abstain; Trueblood, yes. Motion carried

## **REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Engineer's Report – 9/13/2018

Council had no discussion.

### **BILL LIST**

Approval by Council required for payment of vouchers on bill list dated 9/13/2018.

Motion by Jackson and Gardner to approve the Bill List as amended. Jackson, yes; Gardner, yes; Allen, yes with the exception of any and all grants and bills pertaining to the NJ State Police or the Attorney General's office; Trueblood, yes. Motion carried.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

**Mr. Bayer reported:** Nothing to report.

### **MAYOR'S AND/OR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**Business Administrator reported:** Stated he would like to address a few of the things Mr. Boland brought up. Advised that like anyone who has complaints they are evaluated and at times he has legitimate complaints and concerns about the cleanliness of the properties in his neighborhood. Stated that he makes allegations that we do not do anything and that is just not correct. Advised that Mr. Boland has come in and dominated the time of the employees keeping them from doing their work. Stated that on occasion he has had to have Mr. Boland removed from the premises not only because the employees were concerned for their safety but also because of his behavior. Noted that Mr. Boland was asked to email his requests and complaints to Code Enforcement or to Administration. Added that all of his OPRA requests were complied with. Noted that some of his frustration is understandable but it is that he does not understand the difference between the ordinances. Mr. Gonzalez explained some of the differences in the ordinances. Stated they are required to provide the property owners or the property renters with an opportunity to abate the violations as a matter of our ordinance and as a matter of law, noting that we have to give people an opportunity to comply and that there is such a thing as due process. Stated he does not know what else to tell him except that when he files a complaint we send someone out to evaluate and take the action that is necessary. Noted that ultimately a Judge gets to decide what the action is. Mr. Gonzalez noted that he has a hard time listening to Mr. Boland when he does not accurately describe the things that have happened, casting dispersions on the employees. Stated that the employees may not like it when he asks them to do something but he will certainly protect them from unfair criticism. Councilwoman Jackson noted that part of Mr. Boland's frustration was in how he has perceived Mr. Gonzalez has treated him and that although we may not agree with what Mr. Boland said she thinks exchange tonight may have taken him over the edge and it bothered her that he left because she knows he was upset and may have felt a little embarrassed. Mr. Gonzalez noted that Mr. Boland always acts this way and has been removed by the Police on two occasions. Mr. Gonzalez explained that he is a very straightforward kind of person if he thinks something is wrong he will say so.

### **COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Councilwoman Jackson** – Explained she did not think it was appropriate tonight though. Councilman Allen stated he did not feel it was necessary to discuss this now and he was not comfortable talking about a resident at a Council meeting. Mr. Gonzalez stated he is talking about how the resident characterized our employees and he will never apologize for saying exactly what it is on his mind as he has done with everyone. Stated that what Mr. Boland was saying was deceptive in his characterization of the torn-up letter. Councilwoman Jackson noted that if you are not familiar with them the ordinances can sometimes be hard to understand.

**Councilman Gardner** – Stated that the 100 Man first day of school was great and the Freshmen thought it was great. Commented on the kids' great faces in the pictures. Suggested that they do men and women next year. Thanked everyone for coming.

**Councilman Allen** – Thanked everyone for coming out.

**Council President Trueblood** – Thanked all for coming out. Thanked Chief Jantas for coming out and communicating the situation to them. Encouraged all to attend the TAG Town Hall meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilman Gardner** – Suggested that people not wait to get involved when it happens to them. If you want to get involved do it.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Amy P. Cosnoski*

Amy P. Cosnoski, RMC, Township Clerk