

WORKSHOP MEETING
April 1, 2020

The workshop meeting of the Township Committee of Oxford Township was held on April 1, 2020 via Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/543036412> or by calling the toll-free number: (877) 853-5247 and entering the meeting ID: 543 036 412.

Adequate Notice of this meeting was properly re-advertised in The Star Gazette and Express Times and on the Township website (www.oxfordtwpnj.org) and Township Facebook page in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975.

In attendance were Robert Nyland, Gerald Norton, Georgette Miller, Township Committee, Richard Wenner, Attorney and Sheila L. Oberly, Municipal Clerk.

Matt Hall also attended.

The flag salute was recited.

Mayor Nyland called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Ordinances:

ORDINANCE 2020-01

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD, COUNTY OF
WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CREATING CHAPTER 118,
ARTICLE III, TITLED ANIMALS, CREATING CAT LICENSING
AND REGULATION PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Oxford has received complaints regarding feral cats; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee believes it is in the best interests of the taxpayers of Oxford Township to enact an Ordinance establishing policies regarding licensing and regulation of cats, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 118 of Animals, Article III, Cat Licensing and Regulations shall be created to provide for the regulations and procedures outlined herein.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Township Committee of the Township of Oxford, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1:

Article III. Cat Licensing and Regulation.

§ 118-27. License Required.

It shall be unlawful to own, harbor or maintain a cat of more than six months of age unless the owner thereof or the person harboring or maintaining the same shall obtain and have a valid and subsisting license for such cat. No license shall be required for a cat which is inside at all times.

§ 118-28. License Fee; Term; Delinquent Fee.

A. The person applying for the license and registration tag shall pay a fee as set forth below:

(1) All un-spayed and unneutered cats: \$11.

(2) All spayed and neutered cats: \$8.

B. Persons over 65 years of age shall be entitled to a reduction of \$1 in the applicable fees.

C. Anyone failing to secure a license after February 1 shall be required to pay an additional delinquent fee of \$2 per month, plus the regular license fee as required by this article. Cats acquired after February 1 are not subject to this provision; however, the owner must present sufficient proof to establish that said cat was acquired after February 1.

§ 118-29. Registration Tag.

The Township Clerk, at the time of issuing such license, shall register such cat as required by law. At the same time, he shall furnish to the person procuring such license a certificate thereof and also a metal tag with the number of the license stamped thereon, which metal tag must be attached to a collar about the neck of the cat at all times when the latter is at large.

§ 118-30. Running At Large Restricted.

No person owning, keeping or harboring any cat, either licensed or unlicensed, shall suffer, permit or allow it to run at large off the premises of the owner.

§ 118-31. Enforcement Officers.

The Township Committee shall appoint an Animal Control Officer and the duties shall be to enforce the provisions of this article.

§ 118-31. Duties of Animal Control Officer; Impounding and Disposition of Cats.

A. The Animal Control Officer shall take into custody and impound or cause to be taken into custody and impounded, and thereafter destroyed or offered for adoption as provided in this section:

- (1) Any cat off the premises of the owner or of the person keeping or harboring said cat which said official or his agent or agents have reason to believe is a stray cat;
- (2) Any cat off the premises of the owner or of the person keeping or harboring said cat without a current registration tag on his collar;
- (3) Any female cat in season off the premises of the owner or of the person keeping or harboring said cat;
- (4) Any cat or other animal which is suspected to be rabid;
- (5) Any cat or other animal off the premises of the owner reported to, or observed by, a certified animal control officer to be ill, injured or creating a threat to public health, safety or welfare, or otherwise interfering with the enjoyment of property.

B. If any animal so seized wears a collar or harness having inscribed thereon or attached thereto the name and address of any person or a registration tag, or the owner or the person keeping or harboring said animal is known, any person authorized by the governing body shall forthwith serve on the person whose address is given on the collar, or on the owner or the person keeping or harboring said animal, if known, a notice in writing stating that the animal has been seized and will be liable to be offered for adoption or destroyed if not claimed within seven days after the service of the notice.

C. A notice under this section may be served either by delivering it to the person on whom it is to be served, or by leaving it at the person's usual or last known place of abode, or at the address given on the collar, or by forwarding it by mail in a prepaid letter addressed to that person at his usual or last known place of abode, or to the address given on the collar.

D. The Animal Control Officer may cause an animal to be destroyed in a manner causing as little pain as possible and consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 4:22-19 or to be offered for adoption seven days after seizure; provided that:

- (1) Notice is given as set forth above and the animal remains unclaimed; or
- (2) The owner or person keeping or harboring the animal has not claimed the animal and paid all expenses incurred by reason of its detention, including maintenance costs not exceeding \$25 per day; or
- (3) The owner or person keeping or harboring a cat which was unlicensed at the time of seizure does not produce a license and registration tag for the cat.

E. At the time of adoption, the right of ownership in the animal shall transfer to the new owner. No cat or other animal so caught and detained or procured, obtained, sent or brought to a pound or shelter shall be sold or otherwise made available for the purpose of experimentation. Any person who sells or otherwise makes available any such cat or other animal for the purpose of experimentation shall be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.

F. After observation, any animal seized under this section suspected of being rabid shall be immediately reported to the Animal Control Officer of the Township and to the Department of Health and Senior Services.

§ 118-32. Disposition of Moneys.

All moneys which shall be received by the Township Clerk pursuant to the provisions of this article forthwith shall be paid to the Treasurer in the same manner as now is required to remit other moneys.

§ 118-33. Interference with Enforcement.

Any person who hinders, molests or interferes with the Animal Control Officer in the discharge of his duties under the provisions of this article shall, upon conviction therefore, be punishable by the penalty provided by § 118-38.

§ 118-34. Applicability.

None of the provisions of this article shall be applicable to cats owned by nonresidents passing through the Township nor to cats brought to the Township and entered for exhibition at any cat show.

§ 118-35. Quarantines.

No person whose household has been quarantined because a case of infectious or contagious disease exists therein shall permit any cat owned or harbored by such person to run at large during the period of such quarantine.

§ 118-36. Diseased Cats.

No person or persons harboring a cat suffering from an infectious or contagious disease shall permit such cat to run at large but shall have the cat forthwith treated by a veterinarian.

§ 118-37. Removal of Tag Prohibited.

Any person who shall unlawfully remove a license tag from the collar of any licensed cat without the consent of the owner or legal custodian thereof shall be guilty of a violation of this section.

§ 118-38.

Any person who violates or refuses to comply with any provision of this Article **III** shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$55 for each first offense and not exceeding \$1,000 for each subsequent offense, to be recorded by and in the name of the Township.

Section 2:

Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3:

Repealer. Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to their inconsistencies only.

Section 4:

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

Tabled February 19, 2020

Tabled March 18, 2020

On motion by Mayor Nyland, seconded by Mrs. Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote to table **Ordinance 2020-01 Creating Chapter 118, Article III, Titled Animals, Creating Cat Licensing and Regulation Procedures** until the April 15th Township Meeting.

Mayor Nyland stated that he is waiting for more information from Robert Lagonera, Animal Control Officer.

Ordinance 2020-04 To Amend Chapter 340 Entitled “ZONING” Article VI “General Regulations” to Create New Section 340-27.1 was read by title on second reading and opened for public comments.

As there was no public comment, the public comment period was closed

On motion by Mayor Nyland, seconded by Mrs. Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adopt on second reading, public hearing **Ordinance 2020-04 To Amend Chapter 340 Entitled “ZONING” Article VI “General Regulations” to Create New Section 340-27.1**

Ordinance 2020-05 Adopting the Redevelopment Plan for Cambridge West was read by title on second reading and opened for public comments.

As there was no public comment, the public comment period was closed

On motion by Mayor Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adopt on second reading, public hearing **Ordinance 2020-05 Adopting the Redevelopment Plan for Cambridge West.**

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 2020-33

Refund of Overpayment

WHEREAS, overpayment of taxes was made by the property owner on Block 3 Lot 22 for the fourth quarter of 2019, and

WHEREAS, this has caused an overpayment on Block 3 Lot 22, and

WHEREAS, the property owner has requested a refund check be issued,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Committee authorize the Certified Finance Officer to refund the sum of \$4208.56 to CoreLogic to be mailed 3415 Vision Drive Columbus OH 43219 for further credit to Deskowitz residing at 67 Academy Street, Oxford NJ 07863.

On motion by Mayor Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adopt **Resolution 2020-33 Refund of Overpayment.**

Discussion of Township Business Properly Brought Before the Township Committee:

Mayor Nyland shared the Warren County COVID-19 Statistics for April 1, 2020:

Mean Age	53
Median Age	55
Min Age	5
Max Age	91
Case Count	107
Male	47%
Female	53%
ICU	12%
Hospitalized	42%

Total Known COVID-19 Cases-107

Known Recoveries: 6

Mayor Nyland thanked everyone for following the guidelines on the Coronavirus and stated that Oxford Township as of today, has no coronavirus cases.

The Committee discussed rebidding the Solar Project for the following:

- Block-26, Lot 83, Route 31
- Block 1.01, Lot 3.03, Jonestown Road
- Block 2, Lot 19, Furnace Street

Mr. Norton stated that a couple of adjustments need to be made to the bid proposal. Matt Hall said he will set up a meeting with Katrina Campbell, Attorney to discuss the bid for the Solar Project.

On motion by Mayor Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adopt and advertise the Solar Project starting April 1, 2020, and proposals will be due and opened via Zoom on April 28, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

Mr. Norton stated that the Committee received a letter from Dr. Tolentino asking to waive the garbage fee for a house that he purchased at 201, Route 31.

The Committee discussed his request and tabled it until the April 15th meeting. Mr. Lavery will research the Township ordinances and after attorney review of the ordinance, a letter will be sent to Dr. Tolentino stating the Committee's decision.

Motion to Pay Bills:

There were no bills presented to the Committee for approval.

Township Engineer:

Mr. Finelli did not attend the meeting, no report given.

Township Attorney:

No report given.

Public Comment:

A resident had concerns about a number of people letting dogs run loose in the Spring Meadows neighborhood. She stated that a neighbor was bitten but did not need medical care.

On another occasion, a dog jumped out of a moving car and went towards a seeing-eye dog and owner, walking. She also stated that she called the Animal Control Officer and he did not come

out to the residence. Robert Lagonera, Animal Control Officer, (ACO) stated that a person must be bitten and its up to the doctor to issue a complaint.

Mayor Nyland stated that he was not happy that the ACO did not go out to the residence.

Mayor Nyland reminded everyone that the Township's Ordinance states, no dogs are allowed to run at large, must be on a leash at all times when off of the owner's property.

Matt Hall asked when did this incident happen with the dog running loose and the resident being bitten.

The resident stated that the dog bite happened a couple weeks ago.

Also, she said that on multiple occasions, residents are out walking their dog and this dog crosses the street and goes after the dog and owner. This keeps happening over and over again.

Mr. Norton stated that Robert Lagonera, ACO will contact her and follow through with her complaints.

End of Public Comment.

On motion by Mayor Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Sheila L. Oberly, RMC