

OXFORD TOWNSHIP MEETING
May 18, 2022

The meeting of the Township Committee of Oxford Township was held on May 18, 2022 in the Oxford Township Municipal Building, 11 Green Street, Oxford, NJ.

Notice of time, date, location and agenda of this meeting, to the extent then known was provided at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of this meeting in the following manner pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the law of 1975 “the Open Public Meetings Act”:

- Emailing to the Express Times / Warren County NJ Zoned Edition
- Posting on the Township web-site and Facebook page

In attendance was Gerald Norton, Georgette Miller and Linda Koufodontes, Township Committee, Matthew Hall, Township Administrator, Richard Wenner, Township Attorney, Michael Finelli, Township Engineer, and Susan Turner, Deputy Municipal Clerk.

Mayor Norton opened the meeting at 7:02 PM

Public Comment on Agenda items: - No comments

Ordinances: 1st Reading/ Public Hearing –

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-08

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO VACATE A 20 FOOT WIDE UNNAMED ALLEY RUNNING FROM BLOCK 5, LOT 1 TO BLOCK 5, LOT 8 NOT NEEDED FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS there is a “paper street” which runs from Block 5, Lot 1 to Block 5, Lot 8 off of Kent Street within the Township which the Township has decided to vacate; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Engineer of the Township of Oxford has reviewed the proposed vacation and finds that same is consistent with the public interest, and that it is in the best interest of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the interests of the public will be served by this vacation, since the vacation will lead to the improvement of the property in the surrounding areas without any detriment to the interests of the public.

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

Section 1:

The following described lands are hereby vacated and all the public rights, interests and title arising from the dedication or shown on any map filed or otherwise or any reference to same in any deed or instrument, recorded or otherwise, are hereby vacated, relinquished and extinguished. Those lands constituting of the following are hereby vacated and described as follows:
See Exhibit A, attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance be sent to the County

Clerk and recorded upon passage and final adoption.

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 ordinance 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.

Georgette Miller moved to approve Ordinance 2022-08. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed by unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Ordinances: 2nd Reading/ Public Hearing – No Ordinances for 2nd Reading

Resolutions: No Resolutions

New Business:

Township Planner - Mayor Norton received a letter of resignation from the Township Planner Jim Kyle. Georgette Miller moved to accept the resignation. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes and passed by unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Mayor Norton moved to appoint Elena Gable with the firm Heyer, Gruel & Associates as Township Planner. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed by unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Appointment Land Use Board Alternate #1 – Mayor Norton moved to appoint Susan Taranto to the unexpired position of Alternate #1 on the Land Use Board. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed by unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Tree Removal – Mayor Norton stated that around 20 dead ash trees at the lake need to be removed. Two estimates were received: Total Tree Services \$3800.00 and Suyker Tree Care \$5600.00. Total Tree Services must submit additional paperwork before any work can be done. Mayor Norton moved to authorize Total Tree to remove the trees at the cost of \$3,800.00 subject to receipt of additional insurance paperwork and NJ Business Registration within 5 days. If the required paperwork is not received, Suyker Tree Care is authorized to remove the trees. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed by unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Old Business:

Trailer Park Fees – Matt Hall stated he is supposed to meet with the CFO tomorrow to discuss.

Emergency Squad garbage collection fee – Mayor Norton stated Peggy Hissim, Oxford EMS, is compiling proof of past payments. Matt spoke with Lisa Trupa, tax collector, but does not have information from her yet.

Township Committee Reports and Correspondence

-Linda Koufodontes attended the Board of Education meeting. The Archery team went to the Nationals in Kentucky. Mayor Norton suggested issuing proclamations to the two highest achievers on the team. A new law is in process that would replace regular school buses with electric ones. A letter was sent to parents regarding subscription bussing fees of \$40 one way and \$80 round trip.

-Mayor Norton said the DPW has been working at Oxford Lake. Parking restriction signs on Wall Street have been removed. A “Slow” sign has been installed in the middle of the road and another will be installed in the “S” turn area. Mayor Norton has not heard from Lieutenant Smith regarding the radar sign data.

-Georgette Miller said the first water test at the Lake passed. The second test will be next week. Some of the inflatables have been received. Matt Hall is working on waivers for the inflatables’ use. The walking paths are being worked on. A car wash fundraiser for the campsite Eagle Scout Leadership Project is planned for June 12th at the Firehouse.

Township Administrator: Matt Hall stated the letter to Spring Meadows residents is ready to send. Mayor Norton wants to notify PRMUA when it is sent.

Georgette Miller asked about progress on the Furnace Brook/Route 31 footbridge repair. Matt received an email from NJDOT but it did not address the specifics he asked for. He will reach out to NJDOT again.

Township Engineer Report: Michael Finelli stated the line of site study was conducted out of Allen Avenue and distributed a sketch of the results. The site distance from two spots coming out of Allen Avenue is less than half the required distance.

Spring Meadows final drainage work is supposed to start next week.

The Kent Street 2022 NJDOT grant is being worked on.

Mike stated he looked at the permit for gas main work being done on Pequest Road that Mayor Norton requested. Mayor Norton wants the entire road repaved as per the ordinance, not patched. Mike stated the permit calls for patching using an infrared heater. Mike suggested sending a letter advising that the Township is rescinding the original permit and requires repaving the entire road.

Mike stated the NJDOT 2023 grant applications are due by July 1, 2022 and two projects, Wall Street/Port Colden Road and Mt. Pisgah Avenue, are being considered. Mike does not recommend doing parts of Mt. Pisgah Ave.

Township Attorney’s Report: Richard Wenner stated he has reached out to Mr. Popenko’s attorney but has not heard back from him. He is aware that the County requires the one piece of property to authorize the transfer.

Rich stated documents for Cambridge West are being worked on and should be before the Committee by June 1st. The foreclosures should be finalized in about 2 ½ weeks.

Motion To Pay Bills:

Georgette Miller moved to pay all bills presented to and approved by the Committee. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

Public Comment: Margaret Bray, Wall Street, Oxford, NJ had questions regarding the inflatables for the lake. Georgette Miller and Mayor Norton answered that the Township’s insurance will cover any incidents, a limited number of people can use them at one time while under the watch of a lifeguard, the

area will be sectioned off, lifejackets are required and the only additional cost is that of one lifeguard. Based on revenue from other areas with inflatables, the Township anticipates a high amount of revenue. Ann Jackson, Wall Street, Oxford, NJ asked Mike Finelli for clarification of the line of sight study done out of Allen Avenue. Mike provided a copy of the results and explained them in detail. Margaret Bray suggested moving the speed limit sign on the south side of Wall Street closer to the “S” turn.

Meeting Recap: Matt Hall will discuss the trailer park fees with Natasha. He will get the Emergency Squad garbage information from the tax office. He will send the letter to Spring Meadows residents.

Executive Session:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist. The public shall be excluded from the discussion of any action upon the hereinafter-specific subject matter.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is Township owned property.

Georgette Miller moved to enter Executive Session at 7:58 PM. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

Georgette Miller moved to return to Public Session at 8:06 PM. Seconded by Mayor Norton. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

No action was taken during Executive Session.

Georgette Miller moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. Seconded by Linda Koufodontes. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

Susan Turner, Deputy Clerk