

MINUTES FOR BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP CONFERENCE MEETING

Monday, April 6, 2020

7:00 PM – Mayor’s Conference Room, 1 Municipal Plaza, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building



I. Sunshine Compliance Statement

Mayor Venezia called the meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Notice of the 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 Meeting Act).

1. By posting such notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, and
2. By email notification generated by IQM2 to the offices of the Independent Press, Bloomfield Life, the Star Ledger, Patch, Baristanet and TAPinto Bloomfield

II. Pledge of Allegiance

This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Roll call showed the following:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jenny Mundell	First Ward Councilwoman	Present	
Nicholas Joanow	Second Ward Councilman	Present	
Sarah Cruz	Third Ward Councilwoman	Present	
Wartyna Davis	Councilwoman	Present	
Ted Gamble	Councilman	Present	
Richard Rockwell	Councilman	Present	
Michael J. Venezia	Mayor	Present	

Also Present: Louise Palagano, Municipal Clerk; Michael Parlavecchio, Township Attorney; Jean-guy Lauture, IT Director; Kim Duva, Personnel Director; Catherine Finkler, Deputy Municipal Clerk

IV. Presentation

There were no presentations given at this time.

V. Public Comment

Mayor Venezia then asked for any public comments that may have been submitted. Municipal Clerk Louise Palagano summarized the comments that were emailed and also given to the Mayor and Council.

Zulfia Pathan, Bloomfield, New Jersey, submitted a public comment about rent increase during the pandemic. This question was passed on to various Department leads and was answered.

Subhendu Ghosh, Bloomfield, New Jersey, submitted a public comment about essential businesses having signs to encourage residents to fill out their Census forms.

VI. TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR:

1. Update on COVID-19

Township Administrator Matt Watkins shared an update on the Township’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as its efforts to continue to encourage and stress the importance of social distancing among residents. He also spoke about how the Township is keeping the COVID-19 costs separate from regular costs in order to establish a budget and pass it in June. Mr. Watkins was joined via phone by Rodney Reed of Mercury Public Affairs NJ, a consultant, whom he recommended to the Council to help the Township in receiving federal aid. Mr. Watkins recommended retaining the firm for one year. Lastly, Mr. Watkins updated the Mayor and Council about the operation of Town Hall during this time, including employees continuing to work remotely or on staggering schedules. Mayor Venezia also provided an update from Department of Public Works Director Anthony Nesto about the town street sweeping service and the success of it so far.

2. Update on 2020 Census

Township Administrator Matt Watkins said counters have been delayed but are anticipated to go out starting May 28 until the project is completed on August 14. Mr. Watkins thanked Mayor Venezia and Councilwoman Mundell for their help in the project as well as the Bloomfield Public Library, which has been pushing out a lot of social media regarding the Census to the residents via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Both Mr. Watkins and Councilman Joanow reiterated that it does not take long to fill out the Census form. Mayor Venezia stressed the importance of the count and how he would like Bloomfield to be the top in filling it out.

3. Repeal 1 Hour Time Limit Parking- Austin Place

Township Administrator Matt Watkins stated there was a request from the Bloomfield Police Department about the repeal of a one hour time limit parking space at Austin Place.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/20/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

VII. TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY:

1. Revised 5 year tax exemption Application LP MacArthur

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio requested approval of an application for a Five-Year Tax Exemption with LP MacArthur – the developers of a 25 unit residential project located in the Westinghouse Redevelopment area.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/20/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
SECONDER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

2. Urban Smart Growth (South Junior) Easement.

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio talked about a 2006 Planning Board Resolution which referenced an easement that allowed parking. However, the Township can't find any record of this easement being granted nor could the County. Mr. Parlavecchio recommended that the council formalizes an Ordinance to enter the Township into an easement agreement with the Developer. The Mayor and the Council requested to see visuals of how the easement would look and if anything has changed in this development since this easement was initially thought to have been established.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/20/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

VIII. FINANCE DIRECTOR:

1. Discussion of Special Emergency Temporary Appropriations

Township Administrator Matt Watkins spoke about extending the temporary budget. A resolution had been created as an item for action at this meeting.

2. Results of Debt Sale - March 19th 2020

Township Administrator Matt Watkins shared the results of the debt sale. Mr. Watkins said the Township permanently financed \$17.7 million of short term debt incurred over the years when making capital improvements. He also discussed parking utility notes and the Township's good rating.

IX. TOWNSHIP ENGINEER:

1. Award of Contract - Installation of Pavement Striping - Washington Street

Township Administrator Matt Watkins recommended an award of contract for pavement striping on Washington Street part of the traffic calming, presented at the last meeting.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/20/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

2. Award Of Professional Service - Watermain Looping - Phase 3

Township Administrator Matt Watkins recommended a contract to continue the water looping project.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/20/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

3. Award Of Professional Service - Poe Avenue Sewer Rehabilitation

Township Administrator Matt Watkins recommended an award of professional service contract for rehabilitation of a sewer line (about 300 feet) on Poe Avenue.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/20/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
SECONDER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

4. Award Of Professional Service Contract - Lead Service Lines - T & M Associates

Township Administrator Matt Watkins recommended an award of professional service contract to continue to the lead service line replacement project. Over 120 have been replaced so far.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/20/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

5. Authorizing Resolution - NJDEP Treatment Works Approval - Statement Of Consent

Township Administrator Matt Watkins recommended the authorization of a resolution to approve a statement of consent for water treatment by NJDEP.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/20/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

X. TOWNSHIP CLERK

There were no items for discussion from the Township Clerk.

XI. TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

1. Appointment for Open Space Trust Fund (Joanow)

Councilman Nick Joanow discussed a vacancy on the Open Space Trust Fund and recommended Victoria Larson to fill that position.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 4/20/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
SECONDER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

2. Liaison Reports

Councilwoman Davis shared an update from the Bloomfield Center Alliance and how they plan to address the needs of businesses within the township during this time. Councilwoman Davis talked about their plans to help raise money for those in need as well as their continuing strategic planning efforts.

Councilwoman Mundell also provided an update from the Library and their efforts to reach out to residents during this time including hosting a guest story time featuring various community members reading to the children.

Councilman Gamble talked about the Art Challenge and urged residents to participate.

Councilwoman Mundell and Councilman Gamble shared updates from the Bloomfield Parks, Rec and Cultural Affairs Commission to help keep residents entertained and exercising

Mayor Venezia asked for motion to go into Closed Session which was moved by Councilman Joanow, seconded by Councilman Rockewell, and agreed to by all of the Councilmembers present. The Council moved into Closed Session at 7:38 PM.

XII. CLOSED SESSION:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Township of Bloomfield has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Governing Body will reconvene;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Bloomfield will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public;

Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

Any matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body;

Any matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer;

Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting;

Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility;

Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, disciplinary action unless individual in writing requests a public meeting;

Any deliberations of the public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of specific civil penalty.

Mayor Venezia asked for motion to go into Open Session which was moved by Councilman Joanow, seconded by Councilwoman Sarah Cruz, and agreed to by all of the Councilmembers present. The Council moved into Open Session at 8:16 P.M.

XIII. Items for Action

Upon returning from Closed Session Mayor Venezia, the following Items for Action were approved and adopted.

1. **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CALLING ON ALL RESIDENTS TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF THEIR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

Councilman Joanow stressed the importance of properly disposing of gloves and masks during the pandemic and how it impacts the safety and health of residents.

Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman
SECONDER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia

2. **RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE 2020 AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC ADVOCACY SERVICES WITH MERCURY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, NJ**

Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia

3. **EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION**

Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia

4. **RESOLUTION: TEMPORARY WAIVER OF THE RATE OF INTEREST FOR DELINQUENT PAYMENT OF WATER CHARGES**

Vote showed the following:

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman
SECONDER: Ted Gamble, Councilman
AYES: Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia

5. RESOLUTION: TEMPORARY WAIVER OF INTEREST ON DELINQUENT TAXES OR ASSESSMENTS

Vote showed the following:

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ted Gamble, Councilman
SECONDER: Richard Rockwell, Councilman
AYES: Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia

6. TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD APPROVAL BILL LIST FOR APRIL 6, 2020

Vote showed the following:

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Richard Rockwell, Councilman
SECONDER: Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman
AYES: Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia

XIV. Adjournment

Mayor Venezia asked for motion for adjournment which was moved by Councilman Ted Gamble, seconded by Councilwoman Wartyna Davis, and agreed to by all of the Councilmembers present. The Council moved into Open Session at 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

 Louise M. Palagano, Municipal Clerk