

June 1, 2023  
121 Evergreen Rd  
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Plumsted Township Committee meeting of June 1, 2023 was called to order by Mayor Bowen.

**STATEMENT:** "This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act." It was presented for publication to the Asbury Park Press and posted on the Bulletin Board.

**THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE  
DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI MAYOR BOWEN CFO SHARON GOWER ATTORNEY CIPRIANI  
CLERK WITHAM

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-192 AUTHORIZING THE CONVENING OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

The committee returned from Executive Session. A second roll call vote was taken. Mayor Bowen asked everyone to rise for the flag salute. The invocation followed, led by Reverend Phyllis Zoon.

Bowen thanked all parade participants, those that enjoyed the parade, restaurants, retail establishments, and staff that graciously worked over the weekend: the Police Department, Anthony Creen, Al Drucker and special thanks to the Legion and Committeeman Grilletto. Bowen reminded everyone of the election and early voting options. Fireworks are the next community event sponsored by Animals and Gardens Unlimited, New Egypt Marketplace and Big Woods Nursery. The event is Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>.

Bowen highlighted the ordinances on the agenda tonight. There's a resolution for approval of submitting to the DOT grant based on the road assessment we did. The mayor spoke about the DOT application, as well as other roads we are getting estimates for such as Hotchkins Dr, North Success, Reiner Road and alternate bid for Teakwood Court. We are working on the list, a lot of the roads are about the same age and starting to fail at the same time but we are trying to each year do as many as the budget will allow us to. Bowen spoke about a couple of other resolutions on the agenda.

Deputy Mayor Marinari thanked the mayor and Al for putting on one of the best Memorial Day Parades we have had. Marinari thanked Anthony Creen. The Maintenance Dept is working on less than a skeleton crew. He is doing a great job holding the community together. He said that the police are in the back of the room and he thanks them from the bottom of his heart for all that they do. He had a customer come to him on Saturday; well-known family that's been here a long time, volunteers, etc. They had an issue that he advised them to come to the meeting and make a comment during public comment. They said that they didn't want to do that because they feared reprisal. When he heard that, it's one of the worst things he's heard. We all have the ability to speak and be respectful. This is not the town he knows. To hear a resident say that, it's not something he wants to hear.

Committeeman Grilletto spoke about the Memorial Day and the Legion putting on a great show with the gun salute. He said kudos to Megan Hillburn who had mulch and plants brought in to

Paradise Park. He then said that he and Bowen met with the prosecutor and judge on ways to prevent vandalism. He said that we are going to have a recommendation by the Lieutenant to hire a part-time security guard and he wants to pass it, one that is not armed, to go around and if they see something, they would report it to the police. He spoke about the MEL – JIF, there has been an increase in liability claims and workers comp claims. We are doing an add-on resolution for Lennar later about some proposals to review. In the next 60 days, have our professionals come and meet with the people of Lennar and see if a plan we can work out and adopt by December to give relief to people at Lennar and reduce taxes to everyone on the municipal level. He substituted for the mayor when he was away at the Mayor's meeting. He spoke about the Master Plan and warehouse planning ideas with legislation, along with a school funding formula revision.

Committeeman Cuzzo said that he had a lot of constituent contact on Memorial Day, it was wonderful. We owe a debt we can never pay back, he is thankful that we live in a town that celebrates the right way. He thanked Al Drucker as well, it was a well-organized event. He thanked the police and those that had floats in the parade. Most of the contact with constituents were complaints. There was a complaint about Millstream traffic when new warehouse goes up and with the Dollar General. There is a problem with the way the gas lines are run on Main Street. He contacted the county engineer about Jacobstown Road for gas lines and sidewalks. They would also like the speed limit lowered. The best thing on the agenda is Resolution 23-209 is about the tax rate not being raised. He thanked Lenny for his hard work on the budget. As far as the ATV ordinance, he sent it to the Chief and Prosecutor's office for them to review.

Committeeman Hammerstone spoke. On a personal note, he thanked everyone for reaching out on behalf of his mother passing. The Memorial Day was a fantastic success. He had a message from Larry Jones about baseball. They had a great season. The building is under rehab right now. He was thankful for the new scoreboard. Baseball wanted to thank everyone that uses their skills and funds to better the recreation community. Anette Potts is raising money for new uniforms so if there's anyone that would like to help, please contact her.

Grilletto also said that on Memorial Day, we received a plaque that was given to us to honor the Sons of the American Revolution. There will be a celebration around Veteran's Day. He then mentioned 31 Main St, he would like to make a move on that in the next month or so.

#### **RESOLUTION NON-CONSENT AGENDA:**

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, RESOLUTION NO. 2023-193 - AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2023-130 AUTHORIZING THE READING OF THE 2023 BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Committeeman Grilletto presented the budget. He referred to the power point presentation on the website – the news announcements page or the Finance Department page and then went through the User-Friendly Budget which is more detailed.

The public hearing on the budget was open. Resident John Lombardo, 6 Gulfstream Rd came forward. His question was about the revenues from the PILOT plan. Grilletto said that this was for taxes. Lombardo asked if it was in there. It is not as this is taxes. Cuzzo said that we currently don't have revenue from the PILOT program, no surplus.

Richard Elkin of 169 Churchill came forward. He asked about a handout for the budget. The

committee asked Gower to make copies. Bernard Bahnam spoke. He asked about the school budget and why we are losing teachers this year and what is the committee doing about it. Bowen advised that would be a question for the Board of Education, they have a different budget. There were no other public comments.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

The amendment is just moving rental income from the UCC line to the proper one. ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY MAYOR BOWEN RESOLUTION NO. 2023-213- AMENDING THE 2023 BUDGET WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY MAYOR BOWEN RESOLUTION NO. 2023-194- SELF-EXAMINATION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE RESOLUTION 2023-195 – ADOPTION OF THE 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Bowen read the title to the censure resolution. Marinari makes a motion. Cipriani said that this was discussed at the last meeting and then tabled. This is following an interaction with Committeeman Cuozzo and the police regarding the solicitation ordinance. There was body cam footage of the interaction. There have been numerous OPRA requests so the body cam footage was released. This issue is separate from the validity of the solicitation ordinance. The question is regarding the censure and whether the interaction with Cuozzo and members of the police department is not appropriate. The essential issue is a violation of local government ethics law which states that no local government officer or employee shall use or attempt to use his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for himself or others. The question before the governing body is whether the comments made by Cuozzo to the police officers regarding being the boss and the other comments on the tape rise to that level so as to make a censure appropriate given the manner in which the committeeman interacted with the police.

Grilletto reviewed the video with the Chief and he questioned the officer in charge with the Chief and Lt there. He didn't find that Committeeman Cuozzo was making threatening this man's job at all. In fact, he listened to the officer's videos. He didn't feel there was any threat, he was trying to explain to him that in essence he was a boss and whatever because of the higher ranking. So I didn't feel there was any threat at all, in his opinion. He asked the officer-in-charge and he said no. So, that's his opinion.

Bowen reviewed the video. He believes as a member of the committee, unless it is extraordinary circumstances, we always support our police. He didn't feel that this was an extraordinary circumstance. This was an organization out promoting it and inviting to participate. He thinks it was clear from the video that the committeeman was using his position to have the police leave and have the organization continue their activities and to him, you cannot do that. You cannot send your police out and ask them to put on their uniform, go out and do their duty and say as a committee we will have your back, probably. They have to know that you have their back or you don't. Obviously there are extraordinary circumstances we see on the news from time to time, rare cases that it would be appropriate. This wasn't even close. He concurs with outside counsel's evaluation and concurs with their recommendation that it is a violation of the local government ethics law. This was done in public so it is appropriate that the response be done in public which is why we brought it forward as a public censure. He supports it and it is simply indefensible and the police department has to go day in and day out and to allow this to

happen. We have younger officers and you are putting them on the spot. He kept worrying someone may be hit by a car as it was unfolding. Obviously there has been a misunderstanding and they will resolve it on Monday. Bowen asked for any other comments.

Marinari said that he would ask that the other two committeemen make a comment on it. It is vitally important that we know how each one of us stands on this important issue. If they do not want to make a comment, he understands.

Committeeman Hammerstone said that he watched the video in its entirety. It is hard to hear, the microphone seems to cut out from time to time. This is a tough one. The officers that he supports and they know that, they were called out on an ordinance that is outdated. Pastor Cuozzo, Committeeman Cuozzo, went out there thinking he took care of this with the Chief by getting a permit and thought his people were safe to invite people to their church. Unfortunately, whatever occurred, occurred and he believes it was the officers doing their job. Committeeman Pastor Cuozzo was doing his job protecting his people that were out there canvassing the area. Now, from what he understands, they didn't knock on a door, a neighbor called and that's where the problem started. He thinks that maybe emotions got the best of the people when they were on scene and it snowballed into something it didn't have to. It should have been something that was easily resolved but unfortunately it wasn't and here we are. If you watch the entire video, there are two body cams and one was off at some point and the other one cut out here and there. He doesn't think what Pastor Cuozzo, Committeeman Cuozzo was saying is made to try and use his position to get out of anything because they sat there and discussed it for another 10 minutes afterwards. He thinks that emotions got in the way and that's where we are now. So he thinks maybe just an opinion that what was said was taken out of context, said out of context, said out of emotion with no real ill feeling towards it. He knows for a fact that Pastor Cuozzo supports the police and so he doesn't see him being malicious to them. It's a tough situation to be put in for all parties involved. Wish it never happened. Wish the ordinance was updated then it would have never happened at all but it wasn't and here we are. He doesn't feel there was malicious intent to use his position to get anything for free or over on the police or a violation. If there was, he is wrong. He didn't see that from the videos he was able to see. That's all he has.

Bowen's only response is that we ask the police to enforce the law as it is, not to know current Supreme Court cases or interpret the law. They stated the ordinance as it was and that's what we ask them to do. So he agrees it was out of date and we have an introduction tonight but he doesn't think it's appropriate to say to discuss Supreme Court cases or interpret the law. We ask them to enforce the law as we give it to them. Again, he is disappointed in the public comment last meeting saying that anyone was detained when that clearly was not the case. The idea that the community residents are the boss of the police is not the case. He watched the video and it speaks for itself, it should have never happened.

Cuozzo wanted to make some comments. He has some written comments he would like to read and maybe some others as well. He has had the privilege of service as the pastor at Bible Baptist Church of New Egypt since 2010 and as a committed faith leader in our township, it's been his privilege to knock on every door in this town approximately six times in the last decade. They do that because they care about people's souls. If they are not interested, they don't push it. And he advised them to not visit homes with a No Knock sticker. In the almost 14 years he's done it. BBC has been in existence since 1966. For over 55 years, they have been doing it. He disagrees with his fellow committeeman that the ordinance is outdated. It's not true, it's vague. The right of a person to speak to their neighbors about anything, including and especially their beliefs



religiously and their political beliefs cannot be infringed according to the First Amendment of the Constitution. He agrees and he's sickened that disparage the gentleman that stuck up for his son last time and spoke about the fact that it has been legal precedence for over 80 years. He has had no problem ever but in a politically motivated attempt to discredit me both the mayor and the person that called to complain politically motivated called to complain when no one knocked on his door. Proceeded to curse and slander 15 year old young men in a public place. Cursing him and wishing death upon him. He tried to explain that they weren't soliciting. He understands that the demands on law enforcement can be incredibly demanding but clear lines of communication where you talk to one another and respect one another and talk should be what we do. He asked for order in the back. It was a misunderstanding of what the First Amendment says. He attempted to explain but literally had officers run away from him when he wanted to talk to them. They said they weren't detained. They didn't time travel, they were there for 40 minutes. They were not allowed to continue. That's detainment. That's the very definition of detainment.

He doesn't want to have a problem with the police. He would like to back them. He's proud of the record we have. But this is ridiculous. He would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matter further. If appropriate, he believes open dialogue would help rectify any misunderstandings to have a stronger relationship with law enforcement and the community he has been serving. He will make every effort to prevent future misunderstandings. The officers know full well that he was trying to explain that they were not soliciting. He must have said it 50 times. And that's the only thing he said. He even explained every comment he made. This is a political hit job. He is terribly sad that we have to talk about it. He has a question. You are leading an organization. You have 15 year old boys that are getting hassled by police. Would you not go and try to explain that they had broken no law and they should be allowed to continue? He did so calmly and he disagrees with Hammerstone. He didn't lose his cool at all. He was cordial the entire time. He doesn't know why he believes emotions were high. They were not. Hammerstone said he didn't say anyone lost their cool, emotions were high. Cuozzo disagrees. It seemed common sense to say that the ordinance doesn't apply to what they are doing. If that's official misconduct to stand up for First Amendment rights, it's very clear cut. This shouldn't be infringed.

Marinari asked if he could hear from the Chief. Cipriani said it's the privilege of the chair to allow the Chief to speak, as an employee or if he would rather wait to speak during public comment. Marinari said that he was asking for one reason. Cuozzo came to him before the meeting started and he gave Marinari info he needs to hear from both of them.

Chief Meroney came forward. Meroney said that no one was detained. The first seven minutes of the video, his officers were about to leave. There was nothing more to do and then a phone call happened. Someone made a phone call and that's when it spiraled out of control. When he told Committeeman Cuozzo after the fact when he reviewed this, he said that he has been in town since 2010. Meroney has been an office in town for 22 years as of May 12<sup>th</sup>. He went to numerous solicitors and not one time did he have anyone give him a hard time or harass them, not even a church. Not once did anyone give him an issue with the ordinance. His officers were following the ordinance that this committee put in place. They were upholding it along with criminal laws. It is not for Supreme Court cases. Since Cuozzo has been on the committee, it should have been changed three years ago or however long it's been you were elected. If Cuozzo knew it was a violation then, why wasn't the ordinance changed so his guys wouldn't be put on the spot. Cuozzo said there is no violation of the ordinance. Cipriani asked him to wait until he can speak again after the Chief. Meroney said that there is nothing in the ordinance that was

changed. Not until there was a phone call, it got out of control. Meroney spoke to Grilletto. The part that is in question is not the ordinance, it is the video which is clear as day when Committeeman Cuzzo comes up and says "actually I am your boss. And you are going to step aside and we are going to continue." The officers said that from 12-2 is when you can solicit. All that had to be done is the gentlemen to leave. What was 10 minutes turned into 40 minutes. We are here today for the simple fact that the officers were there to enforce the ordinance. Why is Cuzzo giving them a hard time. It is not political, these officers don't know what is going on politically. They were doing what the ordinance says and he is going to stick up for them 100 percent. When they asked him not to continue after 2:00, it should have been done. The young men were about to leave. There was no reason for him to come on scene. When the Lieutenant from the other township came up, he should have been asked to leave. He had no right to be there. But his officers didn't do that. They put them in a bad spot. All the training since 2020 has been de-escalation. If someone is confrontational, you are going to step back. Officer Picinic said that the Chief was on the way and he was going to step back until he got there. He is glad that he did that. When Cuzzo came on scene, the ordinance was explained, even if outdated, it would have been enforced. The fact that his guys were doing what they were doing and were about to leave, then the phone call happened. His guys know who he is.

Deputy Mayor Marinari spoke. He feels that this is clear, he agrees with the Chief. It is their responsibility to uphold the law, he thanks them. Has there been a discussion between the two of you to resolve the issue to some point. Has there been a discussion between Cuzzo and Meroney. Chief said having a conversation will not change the issue at hand. Cuzzo said that the issue at hand is that he is being accused of using his authority as a Committeeman when all he was trying to do was explain what they were doing. Giving an explanation and here's the proof. The officers can attest to this. He said they were going to continue going forward and if you believe that we have broken the law, then you are going to cite us. He said it several times. That's not trying to get out of a citation, it's inviting it. He said that if they believe he's broken the law, this goes back to whether or not he was trying to overstep his authority. If they broke the law, then they need to cite them. What he didn't do was that he didn't say you're not going to cite them.

Meroney said that on the body cam, he said they were going to continue and his supervisor said no, and he said that Sergeant Schaal needs to back off and actually I am your boss. That's what was on the body cam. Bowen quoted the resolution. Meroney said that he said they were going to continue for three houses. He should have called the Chief and said there is a problem with the ordinance, can we discuss it tomorrow. Meroney would have said absolutely. He doesn't know how the lieutenant from another town got a call and showed up. Cuzzo said that he was visiting with him because he knows his First Amendment rights, just like Meroney does. Moving forward, Chief will stick with the body cam footage and not say what he does was right. He is going to back his guys 100 percent, 24/7/365. Vote how you want. Cuzzo and Meroney did have a conversation this afternoon about moving forward and communicating. He gave him the proper phone numbers. But from the two minute conversation from this afternoon is going to make this all better. It doesn't erase what happened. He is going to support his department because all of the political talk, these guys have no idea. They get a call for service and were put in the spot. To answer Marinari, they did have a conversation and he would love to make progress in the future but he isn't going to change his mind on the issue at hand. Marinari appreciates that. An example of what happened to him today. As some of you know, they supply the New Egypt Marketplace with flowers. He appreciates the Nevers family. He pulled in to the lot and there are two police cars with a car pulled over. He then learns that a young lady that just started working for him said that it was her out there. Her registration is expired. Lives

with her parents and they didn't renew the registration. She had a PA license. She said that she works for Big Woods. She got a ticket, regardless of that. Bowen asked for any other comment.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY MAYOR BOWEN RESOLUTION NO. 2023-190 - CENSURING COMMITTEE MEMBER DOMINICK CUOZZO WAS NOT APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO AND COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE VOTING NO AND DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI AND MAYOR BOWEN VOTING YES.

Marinari said there isn't one person that made a mistake so he would ask that the communication and ordinance were an issue. He's sure that there isn't anyone that doesn't respect the police department.

**MINUTES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL:**

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE EXECUTIVE/WORKSHOP/REGULAR SESSION MINUTES OF THE 4/6/23 MEETING WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

**ORDINANCE: Second Reading/Public Hearing**

Bowen opened up the public hearing for Ordinance No. 2023-05. There was no comment.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY MAYOR BOWEN, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2023-05 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 6 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, ENTITLED "BUILDING AND HOUSING," ARTICLE I, ENTITLED "UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE, SECTION 6-4, ENTITLED "BASIS OF FEES" WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY MAYOR BOWEN, ORDINANCE NO. 2023-05 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 6 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, ENTITLED "BUILDING AND HOUSING," ARTICLE I, ENTITLED "UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE, SECTION 6-4, ENTITLED "BASIS OF FEES" WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Bowen opened up the public hearing for Ordinance No. 2023-07. There was no comment.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2023-07 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 12 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, ENTITLED "CLAIMS, PAYMENT OF" WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY MAYOR BOWEN, ORDINANCE NO. 2023-07 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 12 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, ENTITLED "CLAIMS, PAYMENT OF" WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

**ORDINANCE: Introduction**

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE, ORDINANCE NO. 2023-06 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 15 OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, ENTITLED "ZONING" SO AS TO CREATE A NEW SECTION 15-16, ENTITLED "BUILDING STANDARDS, COMMERCIAL" WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Grilletto would like to discuss. He spoke with the Construction Official and counsel. He is not satisfied with the wording. If there is a substantial change, it would convert the second reading



into a first reading. If it's not substantial, it can be adopted on second reading and the ordinance can always be changed in the future. The second reading will be July 6<sup>th</sup>.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, ORDINANCE NO. 2023-08 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 15, ARTICLE OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, PREVIOUSLY ENTITLED "IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTE." WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, ORDINANCE NO. 2023-09 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 45, ARTICLE OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, ENTITLED "CANVASSING AND 'NO KNOCK' REGISTRY." WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY MAYOR BOWEN, ORDINANCE NO. 2023-10 - AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 39 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED ENTITLED "NUISANCES" SO AS TO CREATE ARTICLE III ENTITLED, "NOISE" WAS INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY MAYOR BOWEN, ORDINANCE NO. 2023-11 - AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 62 OF THE CODE BOOK ENTITLED "VEHICLES, UNLICENSED" TO ALLOW FOR THE FORFEITURE OF AN ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE OR DIRT BIKE IN VIOLATION OF N.J.S.A. 39:3C-17, DECLARING THE OPERATION OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND DIRT BIKES IN VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 62 OF THE CODE BOOK AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY HEALTH AND WELFARE AND DESIGNATING SUCH VEHICLES AS CONTRABAND SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE WAS NOT INTRODUCED. ROLL CALL VOTE: COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO AND COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE VOTING NO AND DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI AND MAYOR BOWEN VOTING YES.

Grilletto said that we should have fines first, before forfeiture. Cipriani explained that this isn't the entire ordinance, it's just an addition to the current ordinance. The ordinance did not pass.

#### **RESOLUTION CONSENT AGENDA**

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ON A CONSENT AGENDA ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE AND SHALL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. SHOULD ANY MEMBER OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SEEK SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF ANY ITEM, THAT ITEM SHALL BE REMOVED AND DISCUSSED SEPARATELY. THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WILL BE VOTED ON IN ONE VOTE.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-196** - GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-197** – APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL HUMANE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED FOR THE YEAR 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-198** – AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR THE INSURANCE OPT-OUT PROGRAM FOR 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-199** – ACCEPTING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE SURETY/PERFORMANCE BOND POSTED BY LENNAR PLUMSTED URBAN RENEWAL, LLC, FOR VENUE AT CROSSWICKS CREEK PHASE 7 BLOCK 40, LOTS 1, 10 AND 18

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-200** – ACCEPTING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE SURETY/PERFORMANCE BOND POSTED BY LENNAR PLUMSTED URBAN RENEWAL, LLC, FOR VENUE AT CROSSWICKS CREEK PHASE 9, BLOCK 40, LOTS 1, 10 AND 18

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-201** – ACCEPTING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE SURETY/PERFORMANCE BOND POSTED BY LENNAR PLUMSTED URBAN RENEWAL, LLC, FOR VENUE AT CROSSWICKS CREEK PHASE 8, BLOCK 40, LOTS 1, 10 AND 18



**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-202** – ACCEPTING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE SURETY/PERFORMANCE BOND POSTED BY LENNAR PLUMSTED URBAN RENEWAL, LLC, FOR VENUE AT CROSSWICKS CREEK PHASE 7, BLOCK 40, LOTS 1, 10 AND 18

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-203** – ACCEPTING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE SURETY/PERFORMANCE BOND POSTED BY LENNAR PLUMSTED URBAN RENEWAL, LLC, FOR VENUE AT CROSSWICKS CREEK PHASE 8, BLOCK 40, LOTS 1, 10 AND 18

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-204** – ACCEPTING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE SURETY/PERFORMANCE BOND POSTED BY LENNAR PLUMSTED URBAN RENEWAL, LLC, FOR VENUE AT CROSSWICKS CREEK PHASE 9, BLOCK 40, LOTS 1, 10 AND 18

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-205** – AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER #3 TO THE CONTRACT WITH EARLE ASPHALT COMPANY FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY2020 MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWER ROAD PROJECT

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-206** – REQUESTING APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY2024 JANSEN COURT AND MARIA DRIVE PROJECTS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-207** – AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF SEWER LOANS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-208** - SUPPORTING OCEAN COUNTY REPRESENTATION ON THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES (NJBPV)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-209** – APPROVING ESTIMATED TAX RATE AND TAX LEVY LIST

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-210** – SUPPORTING THE NEW JERSEY FOREST FIRE SERVICE AND FUELS MITIGATION PROJECTS USING PRESCRIBED FIRE AND OTHER TREATMENTS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-211** – AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF UNUSED ESCROWS TO MVG GROUP USA, INC.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-212** – AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY INCREASE IN HOURS FOR BRANDI ROBBINS AS PART-TIME CLERK TYPIST

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-214** – AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF CERTAIN CLUB LICENSES, PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSES, PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSES AND POCKET LICENSES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-215** – AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH DILWORTH PAXSON LLP, AS BOND COUNSEL FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-216** – AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF UNUSED LEAVE TIME FOR TARA OLIVER

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-217** – AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER #1 TO THE CONTRACT WITH C. STEVENSON & SON FOR THE SANITARY SEWER CONNECTIONS PROJECT

Committeeman Cuozzo asked that 2023-214 be pulled and voted upon separately.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTIONS NO. 2023-196 THROUGH 2023-217, EXCLUDING RESOLUTION NO. 2023-214 BEING PULLED FROM THE AGENDA, WERE APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION NO. 2023-214 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO ABSTAINING.

There were three add-on resolutions.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION

23-218 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATES WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, RESOLUTION 23-219 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DAVID TELOFSKI CURRENT OWNER OF SAID VEHICLE TO OBTAIN A DUPLICATE TITLE TO A 2013 CHEVROLET TAHOE HAVING VIN #1GNSK2E09DR356219 THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY OWNED BY PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN CUOZZO, RESOLUTION 23-220 TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC MEETING WITH PROFESSIONALS AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS PILOT RELIEF OPTIONS AND TO ADOPT A PLAN FOR SUCH RELIEF NO LATER THAN 12/31/23 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH MAYOR BOWEN ABSTAINING.

MOTION TO CONSIDER: Permit for Use of Public Grounds/Parks

- Plumsted Township Republican Club; 6/3/23 at 10 am; Oakford Lake Gazebo
- Brownie Girl Scouts Troop 50135; 6/22/23; Recreation Field Pavilion
- Michael Davila Wedding Ceremony; 6/25/23; Oakford Lake Gazebo

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN HAMMERSTONE, THREE PERMITS FOR USE OF PUBLIC GROUNDS/PARKS WAS APPROVED, ALL AYES.

The engineer's report of June 1, 2023 was submitted for review. Cuozzo, Grilletto and Marinari all indicated that they would like to see our professionals attend the meeting. They were referring to the township engineer who was scheduled to be here but had a personal emergency and could not attend.

Bowen asked for any comments on the bill list. There were none.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN GRILLETTO, THE BILL LIST OF JUNE 1, 2023 WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

The engineer's report of June 1, 2023 was submitted for review; there were no comments.

Bowen asked for any old or new business. Cuozzo brought up the issue with missed trash pickups. Witham stated she has been speaking with the chairman of the MUA since the April meeting. Leutwyler had been working on it and Susan DelSontro said that she has been speaking with a number of representatives as well. Witham spoke to Kubiel about putting additional notices on the website. Kubiel will be addressing it as a board. There was further discussions about the WM contract. Grilletto asked if we could come up with another solution for a road like Allen Terrace, maybe having someone get the garbage for all homes and bring it to Brindletown Road for pickup. This is something the MUA can discuss.

Bowen asked for public comment.

Kelly Morgan of 2 Hyacinth Ct came forward. In light of what was brought up about E Millstream traffic, she has a young daughter that has to cross the street to get on the bus every morning. Prior to Dollar General being erected, it was already a speedway to the point where they have to wait because cars are picking up speed around the creek and all of a sudden, they have to stop and at times, they pass the bus on both sides. She is requesting either speed humps or bumps but she would like someone look into putting them there to significantly slow traffic at least around the corner. Cipriani asked if it was a county road; it is. There may be other things to look into, the County of Ocean doesn't put speed bumps on their roadways. Bowen said that we can contact Ocean County about her concerns as well as talk to the police. Perhaps a traffic

study could be requested. Morgan said there are no sidewalks so they are in the street on someone's property. If she has to contact someone in Ocean County, she is happy to reach out. The bus driver will have lights on and lay on the horn and people will pass on both sides. She said that to be honest, some are not trying to do it. It's the speed they are gaining off of 537 and come around the corner not realizing the bus is stopped. They can slow down but not stop. Grilletto asked if they could go down further the street. She said across the street is a dilapidated house and the people that live there are not necessarily where she would want to be standing. Grilletto asked if there was another house. Her pickup is between 8:20 and 8:30. Grilletto asked about a bus stop with a cover to keep families out of harm's way. Chief said that he will see about putting a patrol car out there. Marinari suggested contacting the school board or superintendent of schools and asking for a site relocation. Let them know it's a major safety issue and if they would consider relocating the bus site. Morgan said that if you go across the street, you are in someone's driveway or on a hill. Marinari said they would be working on bus stops for next school year so it would be a good idea to contact them now to see if it could be moved.

Chief Meroney came forward. He couldn't not say anything. He knows the vote is over and it is what it is but the fact that the situation still didn't go away. The way he sees it is that you can't say you support something, when it's clear as day on the video, the comments is why this is being brought to the committee. He brought it to the committee. He couldn't not say anything. You can't put his guys in a spot and think that tempers or emotions got high. After watching the video and seeing the call would have been done in 10 minutes, he will keep repeating this. It was 45 minutes and the fact that emotions got high. Emotions didn't get high until the phone call. He wants that on public record. He wants to let his guys know that he will stand up and support them and he couldn't sit back there for comments that were made. "Oh I watched it and you know emotions got high". It blows his mind. You can sit there and say you support us but yet, emotions were high. If roles were reversed and his guys did that, that's the reason body cams came into effect to make sure they are doing what they are supposed to be doing and then they were doing it. It's over and they will move forward. They will continue to strive to be one of the best police departments in Ocean County.

Cuozzo said that he thinks we make a mistake when we support our police officers over our civil liberties and he will fight and die on that. Some day when your civil liberties are on the line, you'll be happy you have a committeeman that stands up for them. When your civil liberties are on the line, you will be happy you have a committeeman that stands up for them.

Bernard Bahnam, 370 E Millstream Rd asked about the 2023-09 ordinance. What does that clarify the whole religion, political thing? His question is just because a lot of people put up a No Knock. Would a No Trespassing sign stop the religion or politicians from coming on his property? His stance is that he doesn't want anybody on his property. If you don't have an invite, he doesn't want you there. So he is curious. Would No Trespassing stop people if the No Knock doesn't? Cipriani said that there is new language that encourages all groups to respect the No Knock although we cannot legally require religious and political groups to abide but there is language in it. As far as the No Trespassing, she would have to take a look at it. It's a good point. Bahnam says he has rights for his property respected. He asked if that might be able to included. Cipriani said this would not be in the ordinance, it would be private.

Bahnam said that this is where the whole politics thing is snakey. Don't look at him like. This is where it's snakey. There are little holes and he started it off with a lot of people don't know and they put up a No Knock sticker and think they are stopping everyone from coming on their



property. It is the little snakes, I'm sorry, he isn't referring to them, but there are the people who know the little holes and situations like this arise. Cuozzo doesn't believe the First Amendment to the Constitution is an exception that should be considered a little snakehole. That is the greatest protection we have as Americans and it is our civil liberty so he disagrees. Bahnam, if you asked a lot of people about the No Knock sticker, he can guarantee that a majority of the people will say that, not knowing there is an exemption. It is a little snake thing. You know there is a way around that and try to blame it on the First Amendment. This has nothing to do with it. He doesn't want to argue the First Amendment. And Deputy Mayor, he likes the way he does things. It started off with you can say what you want if it's nice. That's false. The hypocrisy is in front of me. You are saying freedom of speech and religion and someone here. This is politics and it's filthy. Cuozzo said you have the right to say whatever you want and the First Amendment protects your right to say things that are mean. Bahnam said obviously you are sitting in front of me. As republicans, your freedom of voice, let's move on.

He continued, he understands the ATV ordinance was a no vote but maybe for the future it could be looked at more because the State of NJ, when you buy an ATV, you pay taxes on it. The state makes revenue of buying these machines that can't be used on roads. The state makes revenue on something that can only be used on private property. It's crazy. They don't have a place to ride. Maybe we could do something for children. He's rather his kids be out riding in the woods, rather than getting drunk or doped up. That's his personal opinion. No vote is a good start but he encourages this body to really do something because it's a big issue in a lot of NJ. It's illegal to take these things on the road but the state makes money. He'd pump his chest if he could find a way.

Richard Elkin, 169 Churchill Blvd came forward. He asked when WM contract up for renewal. Witham wasn't sure but she will look into it with the MUA. Another question was asking about what was in the Noise Ordinance. Cipriani explained how this is different from the current ordinance. Elkin then asked what were the amendments to the surety bonds for Lennar? Bowen explained these are bonds they have to post for phases 7, 8 and 9. There are bonds for roads and sewers each. This is to protect us that the work will get done. Elkin then asked about the old municipal building. He asked about its uses which were a welcome center, church services, emergency management etc. He asked if rent was charged and when it became totally vacant. OEM used it until about 2020. Elkin asked why it wasn't already sold. Marinari said that COVID delayed a lot of work.

Rogers Ramirez of the New Egypt Press from Main Street came forward. He had a personal question but believes there is a lot of interest in the town. He directed it to the mayor, clerk and attorney. He became aware that while recording this that the Chief had access to the body cam footage and was able to bring it directly to the committee. So it's a quick timing there. What is the expedited procedure for every other resident to have access to body cam footage in that same timely manner? How do they go about doing so? Cipriani answered that the way for someone to get the body cam footage would be an OPRA request and subject to the timelines like any other request and it has to go through the redaction procedure. The showing of the footage to governing body members falls into a different category than that for the public. Ramirez asked about the two timelines that's one for the police chief and committee and one for residents. Cipriani again stated the first is the rights of the public through OPRA. The right of governing body members to view footage falls into the same category than any other township record. There are township records that the governing body has access to that the public does not.

Ramirez continued with a follow up question. Since the committee and other members of the



governing body, including the police chief, are not required to follow the same timelines as residents for OPRA requests as in time tables or waiting, do you mean the committee has access to all body cam footage for every interaction with the police and wouldn't have an OPRA timeline as a civilian would? Cipriani stated if the governing body has reason to review footage, it would fall into the category they would have access. Ramirez then said the procedure for residents of this town to receive their body cam footage, how do they go about doing it? Cipriani said that an OPRA request would be made to the clerk's office. The general period is a response within 7 days but there are certain records that have to be made available immediately but most records its 7 days. But certain circumstances require an extension. The clerk's office does their best to get records out in a timely fashion. Body cam footage is tricky because the procedure for review and redaction.

Ramirez' final question is if the clerk's office becomes backed up with OPRA requests, how is the 7-day timeline met if it gets backed up? Because this is federal mandated, is it not? Cipriani said no, it's state law. Ramirez stated the township has to comply. Cipriani confirmed although the OPRA law does allow for certain extensions. In terms of being backed up, that isn't in itself a long-term reason. If they are inundated, then its incumbent upon the municipality to take steps to ensure there is more staff. If there is limited staff and a lot of requests. Witham stated they just hired a records clerk a month ago in her office.

Alfred Mancuso of 40 Churchill Blvd had a question on the censure resolution. When the vote was taken, how was it not a conflict of interest for the person being censured allowed? Cipriani said that the reason is that within the censure resolution, the person being named is given the opportunity to speak and state their reasons. Mancuso understands but he voted on it. That is Cipriani's interpretation of the law. Another question, now that the sewers are in and he had a meeting almost two years ago with committeemen, what can happen on Main Street but hasn't heard a thing since. In fact, he finds it odd that a store opened up on Main Street because of sewers, there's a laundromat there now, he hasn't seen a word about it unless he missed it, promoting it. Marinari said that when he looks at the sewers, it may take 5 years for improvements to the town. Mancuso understands but maybe a 5-year plan would be good. There are committeemen here that are doing that. Grilletto is looking at some sort of incentive for businesses.

Dominic Griffo, 18 Emerald, he thanked the committee for recognizing the need to pass a resolution regarding the PILOT. Hopefully they can work closely to get it resolved and behind us. He believes its important there is representation on this committee or in these meetings by Lennar members. If history repeats itself, they will be missing out on important elements or variables that will have future impact on whatever decision is made and just as a point of reference and comparison, Committeeman Grilletto said the average household tax is about 8k throughout the committee. Single family homes in the Lennar community would be 10-20% higher as a result of the PILOT. He shared spreadsheets with the committee so he believes it is very important to have a seat at the table to make sure what gets decided is fair and represents what is lost. On average, members of the community would be paying \$5200 per year in year 6-30 of the PILOT program, then they would under a normal property tax program in NJ. That equates to about 135k over the course of 25 years so that's a lot of money and that is based on reflecting a 1% annual increase in the tax rate. That's the low end of the scale. Again, appreciate what you are doing but they need to have a seat at the table. Bowen confirmed the numbers with Griffo.

Nicole Cuzzo, 98 Lakewood Rd, wife of Dominick Cuzzo. She thought it was about time. She

stood and sat in these meetings and read the comments online about her husband and thought it was about time that she spoke a little bit herself. Since there are many who believe that they know her husband, family and even her church family, well enough to stand in these monthly meetings and comment on social media, she thought it was about time for her, his wife, to speak to some of these things. They have been married for 18 years, happily married, they've raised two kids in this town. They've lived here for almost 14 years and they've loved and been thankful to raise two children here. They've ministered to the people of this town and active military members for all of those 13 ½ years, they've developed strong relationships with their neighbors, church family and others in this town. They have been actively involved for over 13 years in township events as well as helping the community whenever there are times of need. These relationships have created such a bond that they are stopped and contacted on a continual basis by people in the community who are asking how they are doing since her husband took office and apologizing for some of the things that have been happening to them. She has been honored and blessed to be Dominick's wife and partner for over 18 years. There is a short list of people who would say that he's not been a blessing and friend to them and that list has been developed over the last 17 months mostly. Unfortunately, the many false comments and allegations against her husband cannot be undone. It's a shame he has been demonized in order for others to feel better about themselves. Her husband got involved in the Republican Club many years ago in town and served without asking for anything and any recognition. He loves politics and loves this town and he does it for nothing other than to do what's right. He was subsequently voted into this position because of his love for politics, the people and the town we call home. He has sought no gain for himself, only what's best for the town. The very fact that he was voted in by a large majority has caused this vitriol against him, her family and their church family. With that, their church family does not deserve this level of hate directed towards them. The people of the church are a loving group of independent thinkers who volunteer their time to meet together to learn to do what the bible teaches. Thankfully, many in the community have seen the good. They have spoken as a family the four of us, her two children and husband about some of the things that have been happening. And they've talked about and taught their children to continue to be respectful and honest in all of their dealings with people in town. To note, all the while, her husband remains respectful and prayerful so that people can deal with their own deep seated issues and find happiness and internal peace. They have served and worshipped multiple first responders and have the utmost respect for them and taught their children to do the same. When people take the time to actually know her husband, his heart for this town and our country, the Lord and our Constitution, there should be no doubt of what a principled and worldly man he is. She is deeply proud to stand by him as his wife and she would ask that you all take a look at yourselves before spreading such lies and hate in our community. We have a lot more to worry about than one man who sits on this committee. She also asks that there not be any negative things said about what she's read tonight because she as her own volition wrote all of this without her husband knowing it. Thank you.

Michael Silvestro, 1032 Myrtle Ave Monroe, spoke about ordinances, etc. He didn't know if we were aware there was a recent Supreme Court ruling about property tax if the county or township seizes a property for foreclosure, anything that is taken in excess from the amount due has to be returned to the property owner. It's important to know new rulings because it's hard to keep track. He then asked if there was any update to invocation. Cipriani said there is an update but nothing on the agenda. The memorandum and research have been done. There was review of the existing resolution and a proposal for revised resolution. The governing body has received it but has yet to make a determination yet. Cuzzo said that he requested specifically that they had extra time in executive before the meeting because there is a lot to discuss and promised to the public. He is sorry that it has been put off, his request was denied. The main organization

that fought for legislative prayer, the ADF Alliance Defending Freedom. Cuzzo got an email from ADF which Silvestro read. He asked about the resolution and what recourse is there for those that for the township does not follow their rules. It was passed by four out of five committeeman. This is kind of tyranny, dictatorship, whatever. What is the process for recourse for not following your own rules? Cipriani said in this case is there is no recourse but it is a live issue that is being discussed. Silvestro said that if we looked at Chicago, Boston, Alaska, Florida, etc were all sued for invocation. All of them ruled in favor of religious equality and liberty and he doesn't want to see a township that is cutting edge of their budgets get hit with a lawsuit that will cost a lot of money because of a violation of Constitutional right.

John Belasco, he thanked for lifting the time restrictions of the No Knock ordinances. He is a landscaper who often works sun up to sun down but knowing that it has been pushed back past 2 pm, there is no reason he can't get out of work at 5 pm and get out here around 7 or 8. Thank you. Cipriani said that's the exception for political and religious groups, not landscaping. Belasco said for satanic stuff. He loves talking about Satan. Thank you again. Cuzzo said John, there are still ordinances to not being a nuisance. Belasco understands but if people get to accost strangers claiming they are friends, there is no reason he shouldn't be able to have common conversation. Thank you again and hail Satan.

Ellen Taylor, 29 Story Street. She still has a question, she is a resident and pays taxes and her question is people from other towns to come here to use this building and electric, she doesn't really like it and would like them to take it into consideration when deciding about whatever they are deciding. That's it. She would like them to take that into consideration. If she wants this room to do whatever she wants, she lives in New Egypt, she would never go to Jackson. As far as a lawsuit, people from Jackson can sue New Egypt, this is getting ridiculous. She is a taxpayer and she can just about afford. She's a widow. She doesn't need any extras.

Carol Reed, 63 Brindletown Rd. She has a question, are we requiring permits to use the gazebo at the park? When did this happen? It is per the ordinance. The Historical Society was responsible to put that gazebo up there and they did a lot of hard work and fundraising and it was put up there for the enjoyment of the whole community. She didn't know that permits were required. Cipriani said it's for certain events. Reed said you shouldn't need a permit to do anything in that park or gazebo. A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into that and it is for the community to use. There is no fee, more a reservation.

One more thing, she doesn't believe in church and state, she never did. And because there is church and state here, we have this problem with the No Knock and this whole debacle. The other thing is this. In resolution 23-214 is for liquor licenses. Committeeman Cuzzo abstained because your religion you don't believe in drinking. And you do the same thing with raffles, you abstain. She hopes that we don't get all church members of the same faith in here because nobody would get anything. And tonight, she has noticed a division in our township committee and Committeeman Cuzzo, you are disrespectful to our mayor.

Stacy Reed, 791 Monmouth Road, asked for clarification on 23-05 and 23-06. Have permit fees already been increased or will the ordinance cause this to happen. This ordinance is because we were not charging for certain items so we added a fee to cover the expenses of these items. That is fine, but she doesn't like saying this but our Construction office hasn't always been a warm and fuzzy place to go. There is still civil servants in this town. They are supposed to be people to help and guide us for those that need assistance. There is not always...she is for the township making money, to cover costs, then she is fine with it. With 23-06, the building standards. She

knows Grilletto doesn't agree with it. Owning a business downtown and being a landlord and owning a building, she thinks that everyone should consider this. We have new sewers, we have the opportunity to bring business, no one is going to move into an abandoned building, a building where there are rats running across the sidewalk because she sees that a lot downtown. She doesn't always necessarily agree as Grilletto does with the government being in our business but we need to have a set standard in this town. This is the perfect opportunity. Getting over this sewer hump, we have the opportunity. We have a new laundromat. We could bring restaurants and new business to the town. But if it looks like crap, nobody is going to come to the downtown. Not that her opinion means anything, but she definitely thinks the building standards in this town, we definitely need. She just had a board of health inspection and was told her grass is too high. She doesn't appreciate that but if it's what we need to do in order to get where we need to be. What's good for the goose is good for the gander. Grilletto had an issue with the language. You can get to a point where you are dictated. He wants the language clarified; he is a landlord himself. Marinari said your opinion is value.

There were no other public comments. The committee was going into another executive session; all ayes. No official action will be taken upon return.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR MARINARI, SECONDED BY MAYOR BOWEN, THE JUNE 1, 2023 MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Witham, RMC, CMR  
Municipal Clerk

***\*Please be advised that these minutes are adopted pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-14. They are not intended to be a verbatim record of the meeting. There is a verbatim recording of the meeting a copy of which may be requested through the Plumsted Township Clerk's Office.***