

September 2, 2015  
Municipal Building  
121 Evergreen Road  
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Workshop Session of the meeting of the Plumsted Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Trotta.

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

**THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE:**

COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO	COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI	MAYOR TROTTA
COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG	DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK	ATTORNEY KELLY
ADMINISTRATOR DANCER	CLERK HENDRICKSON	DAVID LEUTWYLER, CDC

Mayor Trotta asked for a moment of silence to remember Sue Haskoor and her children.

Mayor Trotta called the Regular Session of the meeting to order with the Flag Salute and introduced the professionals at the dais.

Mayor Trotta reviewed the agenda. There were a few second readings on ordinances and there was a revised Resolution No. 2015-251. He then introduced Dylan Weicberger who was in attendance for his Eagle Scout presentation.

Dylan presented a short powerpoint which is to install a small outdoor classroom and mini amphitheater at Paradise Park. He said this would help NEST (Nurture Environmental Stewardship Today) educate adults and children to the environmental diversity of NJ. This would give local school teachers a chance to be outdoors with their students. He explained the entire process should take about two months to complete with the help of his Scout Troop and NEST. The Committee had several questions, one of which was who would be maintaining it. Mr. Lewis said since NEST was a co-sponsor, that they would be taking care of the maintenance. A question was asked if any construction or electric permits would be required, which there was none. The Township Committee thanked Dylan and gave him their approval for this Eagle Scout Project.

Committeeman Wysong had a question on the bill list regarding switching telephone companies because he saw three invoices from Tri Com, Verizon and Comcast; Mr. Leutwyler explained.

Committeeman Wysong wanted to open discussion on the prayer issue. He started by saying his colleagues were well aware that he supports starting the regular township committee meetings with an opening prayer or invocation following the pledge of allegiance. (Please see Committeeman Wysong's attached remarks).

Committeeman Marinari wanted to ask one question. When Committeeman Lotito took the floor to introduce the subject of opening our meetings with a prayer, how many people were at that meeting? There was nobody. At that meeting, he said he had no problem doing that as it was done in Washington, Trenton and other municipalities throughout the State. He had no issue and he knew conversations went back and forth, resolution or no resolution. This has been going on longer than he thought necessary. He said he knew many in the audience and hope they understand that he respects everyone's opinion in this situation. He had prepared some comments and distributed them to the Committee prior and Committee Wysong answered his questions, which he appreciated.

Committeeman Marinari did not know how this went this far because everyone in the room wants only the best for our town and what has taken place, he feels terrible sitting at the dais. He is a very religious person, he prays twice a day if not more than that for his family, everyone in this community and everyone on this earth and especially for his parents and his wife's parents who have passed. He was not a non-religious person; he felt like he was being looked at as that and he said he only spoke for himself sitting there. It hurt him and honestly did not know how long this was going to take to really understand and respect what was said. He was Board President and this community went through a major change a number of years ago and some who are here were there to support him and another Board member. That portion of the Board that he and Mrs. Amburgey were on really saddened and really ostracized him. He said he understood change and there was a change in the philosophy in our educational system, whether it worked or not was up to everyone to decide but even during that period of time, he has remained friends with Board Members, so he can take some public bashing. He said this was uncomfortable for him and wanted to be honest and let everyone know how he felt. That is why he asked how many people were at that meeting because if you were here, you would have

known that he had no problem with it. He only had two questions, which Committeeman Wysong has answered. His first question was, are we open to have anybody from a different religion open the meetings and he answered that. The other question was what if someone comes with a non-religious attempt to open our meetings; Committeeman Wysong also answered that. If they were answered that night, he would have been satisfied. He appreciated everything that was said but understands where he is. He has agreed and had no problem with this from the very beginning. This was his comment, take it as it is, he appreciated everyone in attendance and his prayers are with them.

Committeeman Lotito said he appreciated the thoughts and sentiments of his colleagues. He shared something that George Washington said in his farewell address and in that he raised this question, he said “who that is a sincere friend of it can look with indifference upon attempts to shape the foundation of the fabric.” He asked who do you think he was talking about? He was talking about me, my colleagues, the good people here and this is the context of this question.

“Of all the dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain what that man claimed the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens, the mere politician equally with the pious men ought to respect and cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked where is the security for property for reputation for life if the sense of religious obligation deserts oaths which are the instruments of an investigation in courts of justice and let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule in deed extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Tonight he asks that question, who can look with indifference upon the attempts to shape the foundations of that fabric? Ultimately, the question comes down to whether we, Plumsted Township Committee, have the courage and the political will to exercise the rights that are given to us. Without the political fortitude, there is little to be done and nothing to defend. He said, yes a suit could be brought but that is always the case. We’ve had people sue us about a lot of things. It’s not the question of whether some could bring a lawsuit. The lawsuit could be brought on anything at any time. Now, the question should be whether the Township is properly positioned to prevail in the event a suit is brought. The field of litigation is often used as a mechanism to limit public prayers, but if this body or any legislative body does not have the courage to act then the face of the clear Supreme Court president it chooses to act to fear and intimidation rather than rely upon legal principles. On August 4, 2015, the Reverend Dr. Dancy Cummons uttered this prayer before our Congress. He said to the Lord, the Chief Shepherd and Savior of our souls, our members of Congress, are home in their districts. We pray if each member rest cause them to lie down in green pastures, lead them beside the still waters, restore and refresh their souls. Lead them in the path of righteousness for your name sake and our Nation’s benefit. While other members are abroad who may walk in the valley of the shadow of death, let them fear no evil. Assure them that you are near, that you are rod and your staff bring them comfort, prepare a table for all in the presence of their families, anoint them with the oil of gladness and finally let them return to this chamber to follow justice. Justice alone chose to live and possess the land that our Lord and God has given us. In Jesus Christ name I now pray Amen.”

To reiterate what has been said, we don’t need a resolution to do this. The only reason why a resolution appeared was because of what he just said about us needing protection or a policy that we can put forth so that we can withstand or endure any kind of a legal pursuit or attack against our right to fundamentally do that.

Committeeman Lotito outlined what his intention was into the record: 1) Such prayers are not confined to the meetings of Congress or State Legislatures but also may be recited in a more intimate and familiar setting of local government meetings; 2) The prayer portion of the meeting must be conducted only during a ceremonial part of government bodies session, e.g. the Flag Salute, he noted that tonight we changed our flag salute in the order of it, in prior meetings we had that in the regular meeting at 8PM, he was unsure why that happened. Mr. Mayor or if one of his colleagues could share that with him. When he called on our Assemblyman, our Mayor Emeritus, our Volunteer Business Administrator, someone who served in this Township for 20+ years, asked Mr. Dancer when this Committee conducted the flag salute. Mr. Dancer said to the best of his memory at the opening of the regular session but there is no established protocol. 3) This body may invite anyone in the community to give a prayer and we could have a chaplain.

Committeeman Wysong and other colleagues are leaning toward a chaplain. There are chaplains in other areas of our police or fire and we appoint them the first of the year. The officials on this body may also join in the prayer by the bowing of their heads or showing other signs of religious devotions such as the sign of the cross. 4) The body may not dictate what is in

the prayers or what may not be in the prayers, a prayer may invoke the deity or deities of the given faith and need not embrace the beliefs of multitude for all faiths. 5) In allowing sectarian prayers, the bodies' members may not proselytize promote one faith as the true faith and may not require anybody of a different faith with what their preferences are with no faith to take part in anything or criticize them for doing so or not doing so. 6) The secretary of prayers may not disparage or discriminate against a specific faith or officials need not go into extra lengths to make sure that all faiths do get represented in prayer sessions even if it means one faith winds up being the dominant message. The intent is to keep the prayers and the things that go on in this Township consistent with the fiber and the fabric of our town.

7) Such prayers are permissible where most, if not all of the audience is made up of adults like tonight. If this was a Boy Scout meeting or something along these lines, prayers may be frowned upon only for the sense that it might lend a kind of proselytizing or leading impact on children from a public perspective not for a place for kids to go; 8) A court in hearing a challenge to prayer or prayer practice is confined only to examining the pattern of prayers, it does not have the authority to second guess the content of the individual prayer, prayer utterances and judging such a pattern the prophetess is not whether it take the put forth predominately the beliefs of one faith but whether it has the effect of coercing individuals who do not share that faith. That was the legal standards, legal principles that he believed if we were going to engage in prayer, we need to put somewhere in our policy. Lotito apologized for being the newbie and the freshman as he was only appointed last November. He was very new to the process that goes on here in government. He tried to follow the lead of his colleagues and other people and the way it was done was with a resolution. He said he apologized if a resolution is not the vehicle to put forth that policy, but again he was going to stress that when we do this, we need to make sure it is done in a smart way so we can withstand any kind of a question with a policy in place.

Lotito said there were some concerns raised that if the Township is put under the scrutiny of a lawsuit that the Township doesn't have the means to battle that. He also stated that Attorney Kelly did a lot of work in helping frame the resolution we had and he is faithful in protecting the Township's interest. He said he could attest to the group who offered the pro bono services. That group is the Alliance Defending Freedom. They were responsible for bringing suit against in the V. Galloway, New York that confirmed our rights to do this and they defended that town at no cost and they won the case. He said a few years ago he was in a situation where his freedoms were being violated; this group came in and defended him. They reversed the Township's decision on a permit he had pulled. He said if anyone was interested, he would forward them their contact information.

Committeeman Lotito said the aforementioned were his thoughts and ideas. He hoped he had answered questions or concerns on any issues that were brought up.

Deputy Mayor Sorchik said he understood most of what was pointed out earlier and spelled out in the two cases. His question has always been, what was the purpose of the prayer, was it for them to ask for guidance in helping make decisions, which we already have that right, a divine right that was granted to us. He said no secular courts, administration or policy says that permission is needed to do this or what those prayers should consist of. Currently we can do that. If we haven't been doing that now, fine; but he does and if you choose not to well so be it. He said this is not subject to anyone's interpretation except ours and our creators. But the minute we build a policy, we take that concept of prayer and turn it into a product that can be reviewed, people can challenge. Unfortunately what has been said so far there were attorneys in the wings. He did not know if anyone would challenge it and hopefully it will never happen, but the question is there. He said why do this if we can already offer a prayer without any type of legislative manipulation, which he felt was somewhat ineffective. He knew what his rights were in that regard and he exercises them and people can choose to do that. As far as making a decision, a decision was made two months ago, so the assumption that we didn't make a decision, a decision was made to offer a moment of silence for people to use for whatever they want. A decision was made. He believed that the Committee has every right given to them by our Creator to exercise prayer as we see fit. We do that in our perspective, but once we begin to walk into the more secular world, we subject ourselves to review and challenge interpretation and he does agree regardless of whoever wants to defend us for free if it does occur, nothing is ever free; it will incur costs. He does not support and believes what was being done now is exactly what he think is intended, that we ourselves honor our Creator in a way we see fit. We don't have to codify or write a policy or provide guidance or direction and subject ourselves to outside review.

Mayor Trotta said he was very upset with the direction this conversation has taken and read his comments. (See the attached comments from Mayor Trotta.)

Committeeman Marinari said there were four people on the Committee that are totally honest with Mayor Trotta and believe in what you are saying. Each one has their own avenue of either approving or not approving this issue with a resolution or without a resolution but he was not

the only one there that feels the way he explained to him. All he could say was he was proud of the other four people.

Committeeman Wysong wanted to make a couple of comments that were made and one reflects the decision to have a moment of silence. It threw him back a little that the decision was made when he was not present and no one said let's hold off that decision until all five members were present which rubbed against him a little bit.

Mayor Trotta said the reason the moment of silence was put in at that point was to do something, not to exclude him in any way, shape or form. They wanted to do something and that was what they decided to do at that moment rather than go into full measure. Committeeman Wysong said he never objected to that but it was brought up and he wanted to make it parallel. The other statement made by Mayor Trotta about making a political statement at a regular meeting. He said in his comments that the flag salute, was traditionally done at the regular meeting and prayer would follow the flag salute, which he said was done in Congress, NJ Legislature and every other Legislative Body. His question was why was the flag salute moved to the fourth order of business instead of the ninth where it was.

Mayor Trotta said it was moved because the Moment of Silence or prayer which ever this committee decides to go forward with, should be before everything that is discussed and deliberated. Because of that he moved the flag salute so they would both be a 7PM start to the meeting. He believed the discussion now and every other discussion should have that divine guidance that is the only way to have it if we have it 7PM not at 8PM. Wysong did not have an issue with that and hoped they could decide at that time to call upon a passage to open up the meeting now since it was late it is not after the flag salute. This can be done at the regular meeting then go back to after the flag salute if the Committee was in agreement to leave the flag salute in that location and have a prayer.

Committeeman Marinari said if the Township Committee had this discussion then came out and prayed, you can understand all the good that was done here and felt it was good it was done here.

Committeeman Lotito wanted to say that at the regular meeting they take action, so in terms of time hopefully we are prayed up as his fellow colleagues say they are praying in their closet and asking for guidance, which is awesome, that is the prayer covering we get in order to deliberate, but when he is in the batter's box he wants prayer. To respond to the Mayor's assessment of Jesus's words in Matthew, it did not pertain to this meeting in his understanding of it. He felt it pertained to are people who ought to be known by their religious affections. He was not asking to stand up and pray. What he was asking was for him to have someone come in, a minister, an anointed man of God, to come in and lay a blessing upon him so he can be righteous and do the things that George Washington talked about in his farewell address. He did not believe somebody coming in and offering a prayer, a spoken word, to God Almighty on his behalf like the hypocrites of the pharoses' who wear their phylacteries and stand on the corner praying. He begged to differ. So in terms of the timing, he agreed that we need to open our regular meeting with a prayer for the sake that we were going to act and make a decision. All of the workshop discussion is great for preparation and planning, but when we get to say aye or nay, that is permanent.

Committeeman Wysong said in that regard, he asked the Committee about moving the flag salute back to where it traditionally is at the regular session because he agreed with Committeeman Lotito with respect to workshops in that they can be held any time. He also understood what the Mayor was saying. He said he could probably go either way, but tradition has always been the flag salute at the beginning of the regular meeting and he would be in favor of having a spoken prayer following the flag salute.

Mayor Trotta said starting when Dave Leutwyler was Mayor, all of our special meetings were including workshops for budgetary reasons started with a flag salute, so this is the same thing.

Committeeman Lotito asked if this was a matter of agenda building or a matter of policy. Mr. Dancer said it was at the Committee's discretion. You can set the order of the agenda. Mayor Trotta said if the workshop was closed to the public, he would agree it should be at 8PM. He always wondered why it was at 8PM not at 7PM, because the meeting starts at 7PM.

Committeeman Lotito, said as a freshman, it seemed to him that the workshop is a meeting that pulled off anywhere and that it just happens to be consecutively starting with workshop at 7PM, go into Executive Session at 7:30PM and the Regular Session at 8PM.

Deputy Mayor said that since the prayer is for the Committee members, why not invite the Reverend to join us at 7PM in our chambers and he can offer a prayer then. Committeeman

Lotito said because we were a public body and cannot have three or more setting without having a public meeting.

Committeeman Marinari felt it should be at the beginning. He said it didn't make sense to him to negate God or whoever that deity is until the beginning of this and what he said was from his heart. He appreciated Vince's point, but personally this was his.

Committeeman Wysong felt the majority of the Committee liked the flag salute at the beginning of the workshop and that spoken prayer be delivered after the flag salute. He then asked if there could be spoken prayer before the meeting with Pastor Dominick Cuzzo.

The Committee took a short recess.

Mayor Trotta called the regular meeting of the Township Committee to order and asked Pastor Cuzzo to say prayer.

#### **MINUTES:**

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, THE MINUTES OF WORKSHOP/REGULAR/EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING OF THE JUNE 3, 2015, WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2015 WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED. ROLL CALL VOTES: ALL AYES WITH COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO ABSTAINING.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, THE WORKSHOP/REGULAR/EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING OF JULY 1, 2015 WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES WITH COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG AND DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK ABSTAINING.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Trotta asked Librarian Rachel Dohn to come forward to the dais to accept a proclamation for the month of September as Library Card Sign-up Month. Ms. Dohn was leaving and going to Toms River where she would taking a position in Administration. She introduced Shazia Zaman who would be taking her place as Librarian. Deputy Mayor Sorchik read and presented the Proclamation.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, THE PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER AS LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

#### **ORDINANCE: Second Reading and Public Hearing**

Mayor Trotta presented the second reading on Ordinance No. 2015-06 to allow the Township which would provide for various capital improvements and other related expenses in and for the Township of Plumsted and providing for the issuance of \$1,500,000 in Bonds or Notes to Finance the same. Mayor Trotta asked for any public comment. There was none.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2015-06, AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER RELATED EXPENSES IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED AND APPROPRIATING \$1,500,000 THEREFOR, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,500,000 IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED TO FINANCE THE SAME WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, ORDINANCE NO. 2015-06 WAS ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

Mayor Trotta presented the second reading on Ordinance No. 2015-08 which creates and establishes Chapter 52AAA entitled "Scrap Metal". He asked for any public comment, there was none.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2015-08, AN ORDINANCE OF THE

TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY CREATING AND ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 52AAA OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED ENTITLED "SCRAP METAL", WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, ORDINANCE NO. 2015-08 WAS ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

Mayor Trotta presented Ordinance No. 2015-09 for second reading Authorizing Amendment #3 to the New Egypt Redevelopment Plan. He asked for any public comment, there was none.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2015-09, AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AUTHORIZE AMENDMENT #3 TO THE NEW EGYPT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN WAS CLOSED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, ORDINANCE NO. 2015-09 WAS ADOPTED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

**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. 2015-229 – TO EFFECTUATE THE RENEWAL OF A CONTRACT WITH PENN CREDIT TO PROVIDE THE COLLECTION OF OUTSTANDING MUNICIPAL COURT FINES AND FEES NOVEMBER 1, 2015 TO OCTOBER 31, 2016

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-236 – AUTHORIZING PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP TO PARTICIPATE IN A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH AND BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED AND THE TOWNSHIP OF WILLINGBORO FOR A CERTIFIED RECYCLING PROFESSIONAL (CRP) TO REVIEW AND SIGN THE ANNUAL RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-239 – RATIFYING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE 2015 STATE BODY ARMOR REPLACEMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-240 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2015-08 AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO THE FIRM OF CITTA, HOLZAPFEL AND ZABARSKY AS TOWNSHIP PROSECUTORS

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-241 – APPROVING THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS AT THE NEW EGYPT SPEEDWAY FOR VARIOUS DATES

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-242 – AMENDING THE SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICES BETWEEN ALLENTOWN BOROUGH AND THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED SECTION 4 – "COURT SECURITY"

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-243 – AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF UNEXPENDED BALANCES, GRANT RECEIVABLES AND APPROPRIATED GRANT RESERVE BALANCES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-244 – AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND GRANT FY2016 MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-245 – AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 911 MEMORIAL COMMITTEE AND APPOINTING MEMBERS Mayor Trotta explained that the Township received a piece of steel from the World Trade Center and since next year was the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 911 Attacks, he felt the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary would be an appropriate time to display it.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-246 – APPROVING THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS AT LAURITA WINERY (SEPTEMBER 19, 2015)

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-247 – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2015-187 REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.40A:4-87 (OCEAN COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – TOURISM GRANT)

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-248 – AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO PLACE A LIEN ON PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 20, LOT 4 (11 JACOBSTOWN ROAD)

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-249 – DESIGNATING STAN SLACHETKA, AICP, P.P., LEED-GA OF T&M ASSOCIATES AS CONFLICT PROFESSIONAL PLANNER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED FOR THE RE-EXAMINATION OF THE MASTER PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-250 – TO EFFECTUATE THE COMMENCEMENT DATE FOR THE WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY LEASE AGREEMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-251 - DETERMINING THE FORM AND OTHER DETAILS OF ITS “NOTE RELATING TO THE PLANNING AND DESIGN FINANCING TRUST LOAN PROGRAM OF THE NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST”, TO BE ISSUED IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$1,250,000, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF SUCH NOTE TO THE NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF SUCH NOTE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED IN FAVOR OF THE NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST, ALL PURSUANT TO THE NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST PLANNING AND DESIGN FINANCING TRUST LOAN PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-252 – AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED (WILCOVE HOLDINGS, LLC)

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTIONS READ BY TITLE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA WERE ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

**MOTION TO CONSIDER:**

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, THE FOLLOWING RAFFLES LICENSE WAS APPROVED: RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2015-31 – Off Premise Raffle for the Give Back Foundation; RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2015-32 – On Premise Gift Auction for The Give Back Foundation; RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2015-33 – On Premise Merchandise for New Egypt Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary; and RAFFLES LICENSE NO. 2015-34 – On Premise 50/50 for New Egypt Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS AND PROFESSIONALS:**

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 LIST WAS APPROVED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES, WITH COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO ABSTAINING

**REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW:** CONSTRUCTION REPORT – JULY, 2015; TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT – JULY, 2015; and FINANCIAL REPORTS – Revenue Summary –July, 2015; and Abbreviated Summary Budget Account Status – July, 2015

Mayor Trotta asked for old or new business from the Committee.

Committeeman Marinari noted that the High School Principal had resigned and Mike Mendez was selected at the last Board Meeting. He said this individual is a teacher who he had the pleasure of hiring. He is an excellent educator. He said someone strong is really needed in the high school. He also noted that the Board of Education has until July 1<sup>st</sup> to select a new superintendent.

Committeeman Lotito first said the tragedy last week regarding the woman and her children was really stressful and that we grieve for that family and it is hard to understand why these things happen. Committeeman Marinari also stated that he thanked the School Board for their assistance during that tragedy and with the children who were at school when this happened. Committeeman Wysong also wanted to thank the Plumsted Police Department for their rapid response to that incident and all of the other first responders, First Aid, Fire, EMTs, State Police and County Sheriff’s Department who were there in containing that situation.

Mayor Trotta said he has spoken to the Chief of Police several times about the tragic incident and made sure that he and his officers were OK because this was not an everyday occurrence. He wanted to make sure if needed help in dealing with it, they would get it.

Trotta also wanted to note that the Police Department has a new interview system so they can now do videos and taped interviews. It was noted that this system worked well. Also regarding issues with the sound system in the Court Room, he contacted Gramco who did the system in the Police Department to check on upgrading the system in the Court Room.

Committeeman Wysong said regarding the Pipeline issue, the Mayor is actively involved in this issue and moving quickly and doing a great job in keeping on top of things. He thanked the Mayor for keeping the Committee and Township informed on the pipeline discussions. He also wanted to thank Assemblyman Dancer for initiating a meeting with the new Joint Base Commander to look at possibilities to take that pipeline through the Joint Base.

Mayor Trotta opened the meeting for public comment.

Sherri Lotito of Lauren Lane, wanted to thank the Committee for agreeing to have the prayer as it had been a hassle over the past several months. She asked if this had to be voted on in order to have it. Attorney Kelly said it did not need to be voted on that the Committee had the right and would go ahead with the invocation and put it on the agenda. She said she was reminded of a song by Matthew West who said as you look at the world and it is all bad, he looked at the children getting killed, he looked at the people that the travesty that this country is going through, and said God why haven't you sent somebody to take care of this and he said I did, you and the song says if not me then who and that was what they were here for.

Lenny Grilletto of Highbridge Road wanted to clarify for himself will the flag salute be at the 7PM or 8PM, which Mayor Trotta said 7PM. He asked about the prayer. Mayor Trotta said the invocation would be a 7PM as well. He then asked if this would be the standard procedure for the year for the Committee. Mayor Trotta said it would be on every agenda.

Sandy Heller of 150 Evergreen Road wanted to bring up two things. The first was about the tragic incident. She called the Municipal Building to find out what to do because even though it wasn't the day the flea market was open, they have vendors who come in and out to their buildings. She had been told that the perpetrator was loose. She said they have a lot of buildings and a lot of woods and their property goes back behind the tree farm down along the creek. She did not know what to do so her daughter who was a 911 operator for Burlington County gave her a number to call. She did talk to someone who said they would get back to her but never did. Clerk Hendrickson told her she was very sorry but the building was closed per the Police. Heller hoped that nothing like this happens again, but her question was when on Holmes Mill Road a few years ago and the Market was open that day and one of our police officers came that day to evacuate and leave everything because guns were involved. She also explained her concern because the Church who has the Food Pantry has an auction which happened to be on that day where people were coming and going. She asked if there was any number they could call if anything happened like this in the future. Deputy Mayor Sorchik said this was one of the things they were cognizant of that we have no emergency alerting system per se that would work in our municipality. They are investigating a process by which we can use alerting phone calls like tweets, text messages and phone calls. She explained year ago they used a chain when there was no school due to snow or something else.

Her other issue was Evergreen Light corner. She said she and her husband were in the car and the light turned green and she was going to make a left turn. There was a dump truck coming sitting on the horn and blew through the light. Her concern has always been if there was a school bus going to make that turn. She wished there could be a camera there to see how they are flying down the road. Mayor Trotta asked Mr. Leutwyler to reach out to the County to see if they can check that corner and see what can be done.

Dominic Cuzzo of 98 Lakewood Road said they have a prayer meeting every Wednesday night and they prayed for the Committee. He wanted to thank publicly Mayor Trotta for his leadership during that time last week. He said the flags were flown half-staff in solidarity for this tragedy. Mayor Trotta attended the viewing which was a great comfort and showed a great deal of honor and respect to the family. He said once the police were called things immediately were made safe. He suggested that in the future if there was some way to forward calls to another location, it would be an easy fix. He also thanked the Committee for taking the step not just doing what was right but also to make it part of an official agenda. He appreciated their willingness to be open about how they felt about their dependence upon God. That was really what invocation was about and thanked them for leaning toward God to make decisions.

Mayor Trotta said there was not a lot of decision making on his part last week during the tragedy, it was the Chief of Police in his role as Chief and Public Safety Director.



John Neyenhouse of Lakeview Drive wanted to say that he had some strong opinions against the prayer before the public Township Meetings which he said partly stems from a couple of months ago when he attended the Township Committee Meeting. It was brought up by Deputy Mayor Sorchik about how we allowed a Moment of Silence. The answer from the people in the crowd was that was not offensive enough and that doesn't put a strong enough message out. He said he did not know what religions were preached in this town, he knew there were a lot of churches. He goes to church every Sunday and the religion he had been brought up in is that Christianity shouldn't be used as a tool to offend people, the Word of God shouldn't be offensive, it shouldn't be something used as a tool to make people upset or get people to turn against what the Lord would like us to do in the goodness of helping people, being friendly to your neighbors. He believed what this was being used for is a stronger agenda, and as Mr. Lotito said two months ago, is that there is a stronger movement and that the permit for church are roots out there that will help us in legal battles if this comes to a legal battle.

Neyenhouse didn't feel that our Township should be at the forefront to start a legal battle and try to fight a front on bigger national stage. There are bigger issues at stake in this town, there are issues that are happening like last week. There are other issues in the town that need to be addressed. He did not know if we should be going out and trying to fight something on a national stage or put our town in front of a whole national audience just for something to just prove a point or just to have something that is going to insight something to possibly rile up sentiments and prove some point that doesn't necessarily have anything to do with New Egypt. He understood the majority of the town is Christian and obviously with the number of churches, but there are people who pay taxes in this town that may not believe in God, they may be offended coming to the meetings. Are we going to tell these people that sorry you're not welcome in our township committee meetings? He knew that there could not be someone from every possible religion speak before every meeting and don't feel that we should take the word of one religion and push it out to the entire town. He knew this is not the popular opinion but it is something that needed to be considered. He said there were members of the community and people in this town that were intentionally offended in this matter. With a moment of silence, everybody can have their own beliefs and think about what they would like to think in that meeting. It shouldn't be driven by the Township Committee.

Committeeman Wysong suggested to Mr. Neyenhouse see the Municipal Clerk and listen to the tape of what was said before he arrived. Deputy Mayor Sorchik said personally didn't feel the need for it but he acquiesced because of the statement Committeeman Wysong brought up was very clear in what the rule would be on our procedure in this process and that was to insure that no one was offended or took offense and that we would allow any representation take place, in fact, if people did and were offended that we would cease the process. With this, he felt comfortable if there was a situation with the public or individuals feel that it was not part of government process or take exception to that then we would consider stopping the process. Committeeman Lotito said he was not sure who was offensive so he asked to discuss that with him after the meeting. He said in terms of Plumsted being the point, Plumsted was not the point on that, the Town of Greece, New York was the point on that.

Gwen Schwarzwald of 54 Loveman Road wanted to thank the Committee that their intent was just for blessing on this town. During the past week, a lot of prayer is needed and it is great to focus it on the decisions for our town. She wanted to apologize to anyone who was insulted or offended because for her the intent was not to offend anyone or make anyone feel like a coward. She loved the town and just want the help of God and she understood a lot of people have different beliefs and the bible says to be patient and kind in love. She said she wouldn't be offended if someone thinks she would come after them. She thanked the Committee for bringing up the discussion at this meeting.

Barbara of 12 Terrace Avenue thanked the Committee for discussing and deciding to have invocation before the meetings. She appreciated that and respect everyone's opinion about it. She also said that for 23 years she heard Mayor Dancer Emeritus say that our Constitution and the Founding Fathers said God is to be in Government but Government isn't to be in religion. That is why the Puritans came, the Pilgrims came to this Country. She said they were not discriminating against anyone, they were just saying that the Founding Fathers found this Country and our Constitution was written on the God that is Creator of Heaven and Earth. She said years ago our Country was better than it is now because God was taken out of our Country, like taking prayer out of the schools. She said she wanted to thank the Committee for standing up for this and felt there would be no trouble. She also appreciated the Committee's loyalty to our Country.

Mayor Trotta said the Committee would be going into Executive Session

Attorney Kelly read Resolution No. 2015-238 for Executive Session.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO, RESOLUTION NO. 2015-238, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CONVENING OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT WAS ADOPTED AS AMENDED, ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES

The Committee returned from Executive Session.

Mayor Trotta said there was no further business.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy J. Hendrickson, RMC  
Municipal Clerk