

TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
EMERGENCY MEETING
March 16, 2020

The Emergency Meeting of the Moorestown Township Council was called to order by Mayor Gillespie, Town Hall, Council Chamber, 111 West Second Street, Moorestown, New Jersey at 3:00 p.m. Attendance was as follows:

Nicole Gillespie, Mayor *
Brian Donnelly, Deputy Mayor *
Lisa Petriello, Councilmember
Michael Locatell, Councilmember
Victoria Napolitano, Councilmember *
*via teleconference

Thomas J. Merchel, Township Manager/CFO
Patricia L. Hunt, Township Clerk
Kevin E. Aberant, Township Solicitor

Also Present: Anthony Zappasodi, Director, Community Development
Pete Clifford, Zoning Officer
John Polkiewicz, IT
Lee Lieber, Police Chief
Maryann Knell, Human Resources/Payroll
Doug Nims, Public Works Director

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: At 3:00 p.m., Mayor Gillespie read the Open Public Meetings Act statement in full, as printed on the agenda.

“While 48-hour advance notice of this meeting was not provided, this meeting is being held to deal with the Township’s response to the COVID-19 outbreak within the Township, and a delay in holding the meeting for purposes of compliance with the 48-hour advance notice requirement could result in further spread of the outbreak, which could cause substantial harm to the public. Notice is being provided as soon as possible following the calling of such meeting. Notice has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act” N.J.S.A. 10:4-9b. by:”

- a. Posting a copy of the amended meeting notice and agenda on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex.
- b. Filing a copy of the amended meeting notice and agenda in the office of the Township Clerk at the Municipal Complex.
- c. Forwarding a copy of the amended meeting notice and agenda to the Burlington County Times and Courier Post.
- d. Forwarding written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule.

All of the above posting, filing and mailing have taken place on the 16th day of March 2020.

Mayor Gillespie asked the Chief of Police to update all on current issues/updates on the COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Chief Lieber advised that the State, County and Local Office of Emergency Management (OEM) have been in communication all day. He advised that all schools, public and private, have been ordered to close. He advised that he is posting updates for the public on Nixle. He reviewed protocol for emergency management if and when they come in direct contact with the

virus and common sense cleanliness. He advised that the County is performing an investigation into the positive case reported on in Moorestown. Mayor Gillespie asked what enforcement powers the police have with regard to the Governor-mandated closing of all non-essential business, curfew, etc. Chief Lieber was not certain as the mandate had just come down. Mr. Donnelly wondered if the Chief, in his capacity as OEM, had a deputy. Chief Lieber advised of three deputies. Discussion was held on the types of businesses ordered to close. Mayor Gillespie advised that there is no news on the COVID-19 case in town.

Mayor Gillespie advised that she has been trying to figure out ways to continue public meetings (Council, Planning and Zoning Boards) which would have to include public participation. Various options were discussed. Mr. Polkiewicz recommended CivicPlus. The ability and legality of electronic meetings for the Planning and Zoning Boards was discussed. It was agreed not to purchase a system at this time. Mr. Donnelly asked if cancelling meetings for a couple of weeks should be considered. Mr. Merchel suggested limiting agendas to necessary action items only. Discussion was held on time critical issues for Council and timing deadlines under the Municipal Land Use Law for the boards. Ms. Petriello advised that the Appearance Committee has two demolition applications to be heard next week. In closing, all agreed that the boards should seek extensions on applications that are scheduled and that Mr. Zappasodi would draft correspondence urging the State to provide guidance in this regard. Mr. Merchel advised that he will try to determine which towns have closed.

Ms. Knell noted that this building, unlike other towns, is very spread out. Staff has been advised that if they are ill or do not feel comfortable coming to work, they may use their time. Mr. Merchel advised that She suggested towing the line for a while. Mr. Locatell stated the Township provides services (that can't just stop) to the residents. Mr. Merchel advised that the rules have been relaxed and recommended taking things as they come. Ms. Napolitano agreed. Mr. Merchel advised that the next step would be closing the building to the public. He advised that he and the Mayor have been preparing and posting statements on the website in order to keep the public apprised of what Moorestown is doing. Mr. Merchel advised of President Trump's fifteen directives.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was no public present.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: All members of Council thanked staff. Mr. Donnelly recommended that there be clear lines of communication in order to alleviate information being misconstrued.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:28 p.m., there being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn.

MOTIONED BY: Ms. Petriello
SECONDED BY: Mr. Locatell
VOTE: All in favor

PATRICIA L. HUNT, RMC
Township Clerk