



**HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 13, 2023
IN-PERSON
EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA at 7:00 PM
Kirby Hall, Blue Mill Road, New Vernon, New Jersey**

MEETING MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Mayor

Mayor Jones called the November 13, 2023 Township Committee meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

ADEQUATE NOTICE of this November 13, 2023, meeting of the Harding Township Committee was sent to the Observer Tribune on January 6, 2023, and published in the Observer Tribune on January 12, 2023.

Mayor Jones announced that adequate notice of this November 13, 2023, meeting of the Township Committee was called in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL – Municipal Clerk

Ms. Chipperson, Dr. Lacz, Mr. Platt, Mr. Yates, Mr. Jones

Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Present:	Ms. Chipperson, Dr. Lacz, Mr. Platt, Mr. Yates, Mr. Jones
Absent:	None
Also Present:	Mr. Falzarano, Township Administrator; Mr. Michael Edwards, Township Attorney, Ms. McKinley Mertz, Township Planner, and Mr. Michael Coskey, Special Counsel

RESOLUTION TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Jones asked for a motion to recess into Executive Session. A motion was made by Township Committee Member Platt and seconded by Township Committee Member Chipperson.

Resolution TC 23-173– Resolution to Recess into Executive Session

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Harding Township Committee that it shall adjourn into executive session to discuss the following subject matter(s) without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 10:4-12b; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the matter(s) discussed will be made known to the public at such time as appropriate action is taken on said matter(s), and when disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests of the Township of Harding provided such disclosures will not violate Federal, State or local statutes and does not fall within the attorney-client privilege. The Township Committee will return to public session after this Executive Session.

Contracts:

- 1. Redevelopment – R. Goldsmith
- 2. Professionals – T. Jones

Personnel:

- 1. 2024 Employee Salaries – R. Falzarano

Attorney Client Privilege:

- 1. Affordable Housing – M. Edwards

Vote on Resolution:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Chipperson	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Lacz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

An update on the Glen Alpin-Hurstmont Redevelopment amendment was discussed. Mr. Edwards provided an update on affordable housing. A discussion ensued regarding Township professionals for 2024 and 2024 employee salaries.

RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION – Mayor

Mayor Jones asked for a motion to reconvene into public session. Upon a motion made by Township Committee Member Lacz, seconded by Township Committee Member Chipperson, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed the meeting reconvened into public session at 7:06 pm.

ROLL CALL – Municipal Clerk

Ms. Chipperson, Dr. Lacz, Mr. Platt, Mr. Yates, Mr. Jones

Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Present: Ms. Chipperson, Dr. Lacz, Mr. Platt, Mr. Yates, Mr. Jones
Absent: None

Also Present: Mr. Falzarano, Township Administrator; Mr. Michael Edwards, Township Attorney
Members of the Public: 7

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor

Mayor Jones led members of the Township Committee and members of the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADEQUATE NOTICE of this meeting of the Harding Township Committee was given as follows: Notice was sent to the *DAILY RECORD* and the *OBSERVER TRIBUNE* on January 6, 2023, and published in the *OBSERVER TRIBUNE* on January 12, 2023; Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Municipal Building on Blue Mill Road in Harding, NJ on January 6, 2023, and Notice was filed with the Municipal Clerk on January 6, 2023.

Mayor Jones announced that adequate notice of this November 13, 2023, meeting of the Township Committee was called in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

RESOLUTIONS – (NON-CONSENT – REQUIRING SEPARATE ACTION):

Resolution TC 23-174 – Resolution to Accept the Meeting Minutes of the Township Committee

Mayor Jones asked Township Committee Member Lacz to proceed with Resolution TC 23-174. Township Committee Member Lacz read Resolution TC 23-174 as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding that the minute(s) from the following meeting(s) are approved as prepared and shall be filed as a permanent record in the Municipal Clerk's office: **October 10, 2023; and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding that the minutes from the following Executive Session meeting(s) are approved as prepared and shall be filed as a permanent record in the Municipal Clerk's office: **October 10, 2023.**

Township Committee Member Lacz asked for a motion to accept the Township Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Township Committee Member Platt.

Mayor Jones asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Resolution:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Chipperson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Lacz	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Best Practices – A. Fiore

Mr. Fiore, CFO, explained that the Best Practices Inventory is an annual questionnaire sent from the State and filed by the CFO. The Township's State Aid is based on this questionnaire and the questions cover various topics; Budget, Ethics, Personnel, Cyber Security, Utilities, Solid Waste, Transportation. There were 67 questions, and a perfect score is 42 and Harding Township received 41. The Best Practices Inventory questionnaire is available on the Harding Township website along with the last five (5) years.

A question asked by Mr. Steve Balog was what the Township got wrong. Mr. Fiore stated that the Township lost a half a point each on electric vehicle charging station and a formal policy to purchase hybrid vehicles. The Township Committee thanked Mr. Fiore for his presentation.

Let the record show that Mr. Fiore left the meeting at 7:20 pm.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT TIME LIMIT

Hearing of citizens during the Public Comment section of the Agenda is an opportunity for any member of the public to be heard about issues which are/are not topics scheduled for Public Hearing tonight.

To help facilitate an orderly meeting, and to permit all to be heard, speakers are asked to limit their comments to a reasonable length of time.

Mayor Jones opened the meeting to members of the public and asked that each member state their name and address.

1. Mary Prendergast, Harding Township, NJ – M. Prendergast commented that she was on the Township Committee from 2000 to 2006 and was on the Planning Board for 14 years. M. Prendergast received a copy of the Township Committee's meeting agenda via distribution and was shocked to see a four-story structure surrounding the Glen Alpin House. This was

suppose to focus on preservation, open space, and saving a unique building. Mrs. Prendergast is concerned with the size of the development in the redevelopment agreement. A discussion ensued pertaining to the redevelopment plan for Glen Alpin-Hurstmont that was on the agenda for an amendment.

Mrs. Prendergast asked if Morris County has reviewed this. Mr. Edwards, Township Attorney informed Mrs. Prendergast that Morris County has signed off on the redevelopment project as they will be reimbursed for the open space monies used. The County will not have a say in the future uses of the Glen Alpin property. Township Committee Member Platt commented that this is what the developer has proposed and they have a right to ask. Mayor Jones reported that in order to make the sale of the property and the mansion and its rehabilitation feasible, the developer has added structures which includes a hotel and restaurant along with other amenities. Township Committee Member Chipperson commented that years have been spent vetting this. Mayor Jones mentioned that this redevelopment plan includes the addition of the McAlpin Gardens.

2. Rabbi Lubin, Madison, NJ – Rabbi Lubin proceeded to inform the Township Committee of an incident that transpired last December 2022 and formally invited the Township Committee to attend the 2023 Menorah festivities on December 7, 2023, being held at Memorial Park starting at 6 pm.

The Township Committee thanked Rabbi Lubin for attending the meeting and extending the invitation to attend the light of the Menorah.

3. Mr. John Crux, 5 Military Hill Drive, Harding Township, NJ – Mr. Crux handed information to all members of the Township Committee. A copy has been appended to these minutes. Mr. Crux commented that his neighbor is planning on building a pickleball court. This is a game that an increasing number of people are playing. Mr. Crux explained that people have the right to quiet enjoyment. Pickleball has a loud high pitch piercing noise which will amount to noise complaints and noise pollution. Mr. Crux stated this game can lead to health issues and stress. There are facilities nearby that have pickleball courts. This is a residential neighborhood and residents have a right to quality of life. Mr. Crux is asking the Township Committee to pass an ordinance that would restrict pickle board courts. A discussion ensued regarding the game of pickleball and the loud noise that comes from it. Mayor Jones explained the process of an ordinance. It takes two meetings to pass an ordinance and that an ordinance cannot be introduced in December and carried over to the following year. The Township Committee thanked Mr. Crux for attending the meeting.
4. Mr. Steve Balog – commented that he will add the date and time of the Menorah lighting in the Thumbnail and send it to all members.

With no further comments, Mayor Jones closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

Mayor Jones asked Township Committee Member Yates to read Ordinance TC 12-2023.

Township Committee Member Yates read Ordinance TC 12-2023 by title as follows:

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDING
ORDINANCE 12-2023
“AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY FIXING THE 2024 SALARY RANGES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING”**

Which said Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a regular Township Committee meeting held on October 10, 2023.

Mayor Jones asked the Municipal Clerk to give a summary of the legal notice.

Mrs. Sharp read a legal notice was sent for publication on October 11, 2023, to the Observer Tribune indicating that Ordinance #12-2023 was introduced and passed on first reading at the October 10, 2023, meeting and indicated that the second reading and public hearing were to be held on November 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm on or at any time thereafter for consideration of final adoption. Copies of this Ordinance were made available to the general public, posted on the Township website, and posted in accordance with the law.

Mayor Jones opened the meeting for public hearing at 7:41 pm on the Ordinance and mentioned any member of the public may be heard.

With no member of the public wishing to be heard, Mayor Jones closed the public hearing at 7:41 pm.

Township Committee Member Yates offered Ordinance #12-2023 and moved its adoption, seconded by Township Committee Member Platt.

Mayor Jones asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Adoption:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Chipperson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Lacz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	2 nd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	1 st	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mrs. Sharp, Municipal Clerk explained TC Ordinance #12-2023 was voted down.

ADD-ON RESOLUTIONS: NONE

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are considered to be routine by the Harding Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Township Committee Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

RESOLUTIONS TC 23-175 THROUGH RESOLUTION TC 23-181 HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA VOTE:

Mayor Jones asked Township Committee Member Chipperson to proceed with the Resolutions listed on the Consent agenda. Resolutions TC 23-175 through TC 23-181.

Township Committee Member Chipperson made a motion to approve the resolutions placed on this evening’s Consent Agenda by consent of the Township Committee, seconded by Township Committee Member Lacz.

Mayor Jones asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Resolution:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Chipperson	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Lacz	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

APPOINTMENTS: NONE

CONTRACTS: NONE

FINANCE:

Resolution TC 23-175 – Bill List

WHEREAS, vouchers for payment have been submitted to the Township Committee by various municipal departments.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding that all vouchers approved by the Finance Chairman be paid subject to the certification of the availability of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution TC 23-176 – Resolution to Authorize an Increase to the Professional Services Contract for Greenbaum Rowe Smith & Davis LLP

WHEREAS, at the January 5, 2023 Township Committee meeting, the Township Committee authorized \$25,000.00 for the services of Greenbaum Rowe Smith & Davis LLP, under their professional services contract; and

WHEREAS, at the July 10, 2023 Township Committee meeting, the Township Committee authorized an additional \$55,000.00 for the services of Greenbaum Rowe Smith & Davis LLP, under their professional services contract; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to increase the authorization for the services of Greenbaum Rowe Smith & Davis LLP, under their professional services contract to perform redevelopment, disposal, diversion and special council services; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer for the Township of Harding has certified that additional monies are available in the amount of \$103,000.00 from account number #01-2023-1110-0100-2-00105, #05-999-1155-155-2-00000, 25-9999-1110-0170-2-00037, and #01-2023-1155-0155-2-00099; and

WHEREAS, the total amount shall not exceed \$183,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Township employees are hereby authorized and directed to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

Redevelopment, disposal, diversion, and special council	1/1/23 to 12/31/23
	Not to exceed \$183,000.00

Resolution TC 23-177 – Resolution Approving the Purchase of Gas Pumps and Controls for the Department of Public Works

WHEREAS, there is a need to purchase gas pumps and controls for the Township of Harding, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30 -5.5(b), the Township Chief Financial Officer has provided a certification of funds for Account #04-2023-202308-4090-4-04092 and #04-2023-202308-4090-4- 04093 in the amount of \$50,037.88; and

WHEREAS, on public bids are not required when the purchase is made under a state contract or co-op in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A11-12; and

WHEREAS, Whitmarsh Corporation, 80 Baekeland Avenue, Middlesex, NJ is an approved vendor under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program #42262 for above ground storage tanks, installation, removal, repair and related equipment.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Harding Township Committee of the Township of Harding in the County of Morris that the Municipal Clerk and the Township Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to approve and forward the required purchase order for the following:

Vendor	State Contract/ Morris County Cooperative #	Department	Quantity	Item	Price
Whitmarsh Corporation	#42262	DPW	Labor & Materials	Gas Pumps & Controls	50,037.88
TOTAL:					\$50,037.88

Resolution TC 23-178 - Transfer of Funds

WHEREAS, there appears to be insufficient funds in certain accounts listed below to meet the demands thereon for the balance of the Current Year; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a surplus in certain accounts listed below over and above the demand deemed to be necessary for the balance of the Current Year.

BE IT RESOLVED, (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provision of N.J.S.A 40A:4-58, part of the surplus in the accounts listed below be and the same are hereby transferred to the accounts listed below to meet the current demands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer be is hereby authorized and directed to make the following transfers:

Current Fund Budget

FROM:

Snow Removal – Other Expenses \$27,022.35
Legal Services – Other Expenses \$50,000.00

TO:

PFRS – Other Expenses \$24,522.35
General Admin – Redevelopment - OE \$50,000.00
General Admin – Salary & Wages \$2,500.00

Current Fund Budget

FROM:

Snow Removal – Other Expenses \$27,022.35
Legal Services – Other Expenses \$50,000.00

TO:

PFRS – Other Expenses \$24,522.35
General Admin – Redevelopment - OE \$50,000.00

General Admin – Salary & Wages \$2,500.00

TOTAL: \$77,022.35 **TOTAL:** \$77,022.35

MISCELLANEOUS:

Resolution TC 23-179 – Approval of Best Practice Inventory 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey that the Township Committee, having reviewed the contents in a public meeting, hereby approves of the completed CY 2023 Best Practice Inventory as prepared and certified by the Municipal Clerk, Lisa A. Sharp and the Chief Financial Officer, Andrew Fiore.

Resolution TC 23-180 – Resolution to Appoint Members to the Glen Alpin Sub-Committee

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:63-7(d) authorizes Township Committees to create “Advisory Councils to the Committee”; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee authorizes the appointments of Members to the Glen Alpin Sub-Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding in the County of Morris, and State of New Jersey that the members assigned to the Glen Alpin Sub-Committee are as follows:

Glen Alpin Sub-Committee

Timothy Jones, Mayor
Rita Chipperson, Deputy Mayor
Robert Falzarano, Township Administrator
Vince DeNave, Assistant Administrator
McKinley Mertz, Township Planner
Robert Goldsmith, Counsel

Resolution TC 23-181 – Resolution to Appoint Members to the Hurstmont Sub-Committee

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:63-7(d) authorizes Township Committees to create “Advisory Councils to the Committee”; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee authorizes the appointments of Members to the Hurstmont Sub-Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Harding in the County of Morris, and State of New Jersey that the members assigned to the Hurstmont Sub-Committee are as follows:

Hurstmont Sub-Committee

Timothy Jones, Mayor

Christopher Yates, Township Committee Member

Robert Falzarano, Township Administrator

Vince DeNave, Assistant Administrator

Robert Goldsmith, Counsel

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

Mayor Jones asked Township Committee Member Yates to introduce Ordinance #13-2023.

Township Committee Member Yates introduced Ordinance TC #13-2023 by title as follows:

TOWNSHIP OF HARDING

ORDINANCE 13-2023

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITIONS IN, BY, AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP AND APPROPRIATE THEREFORE THE SUM OF \$85,890.00”

Township Committee Member Yates explained the purpose of the Ordinance which is for various capital improvements and moved for introduction on first reading. Township Committee Member Yates read the following:

WHEREAS, the above ordinance was introduced and read by title at this Township Committee meeting held on November 13, 2023.

BE IT RESOLVED, that at the Township Committee meeting to be held on December 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time, at the Kirby Municipal Building, the Township Committee will further consider this ordinance for a second reading, public hearing, and final passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is hereby requested to publish the proper notice thereof, including this ordinance, post the ordinance, and make copies available to members of the general public.

Township Committee Member Yates offered Ordinance #13-2023 and moved its introduction. Township Committee Member Chipperson seconded the motion.

Mayor Jones asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Introduction:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Chipperson	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Lacz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

Mayor Jones asked Township Committee Member Lacz to introduce Ordinance #14-2023.

Township Committee Member Lacz introduced Ordinance TC #14-2023 by title as follows:

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDING
ORDINANCE 14-2023**

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY REVISING CHAPTER 90, SECTION 3, SEIZURE OF DOGS AND TO BE RENAMED SEIZURE OF DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS”

Township Committee Member Lacz explained that the Department of Health sent updates to the Health Department regarding five statutes for Chapter 90. The Township ordinance was missing one of the statutes which is being amended. Township Committee Member Lacz moved TC Ordinance 14-2023 for introduction on first reading.

Township Committee Member Lacz read the following:

WHEREAS, the above ordinance was introduced and read by title at this Township Committee meeting held on November 13, 2023.

BE IT RESOLVED, that at the Township Committee meeting to be held on December 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time, at the Kirby Municipal Building, the Township Committee will further consider this ordinance for a second reading, public hearing, and final passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is hereby requested to publish the proper notice thereof, including this ordinance, post the ordinance, and make copies available to members of the general public.

Township Committee Member Lacz offered Ordinance #14-2023 and moved its introduction. Township Committee Member Yates seconded the motion.

Mayor Jones asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Introduction:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Chipperson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Lacz	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

Mayor Jones asked Township Committee Member Lacz to introduce Ordinance #15-2023.

Township Committee Member Lacz made a motion to table Ordinance TC #15-2023 for further information to be provided.

TOWNSHIP OF HARDING ORDINANCE 15-2023

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY REVISING CHAPTER 189, SECTION 1-3, RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT”

Township Committee Member Lacz made a motion to table Ordinance TC 15-2023, seconded by Township Committee Member Yates.

Mayor Jones asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Introduction:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Chipperson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Lacz	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

Mayor Jones asked Township Committee Member Chipperson to introduce Ordinance #16-2023.

Township Committee Member Chipperson introduced Ordinance TC #16-2023 by title as follows:

TOWNSHIP OF HARDING ORDINANCE 16-2023

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE GLEN ALPIN/HURSMONT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN”

Township Committee Member Chipperson explained this amendment of the plan includes the McAlpin Gardens. This amendment allows the Township Committee to work with a redeveloper. The amendment allows for the mansion and gardens to be restored with event space, restaurant, and a hotel. Township Committee Member Chipperson moved the introduction on first reading.

Township Committee Member Chipperson read the following:

WHEREAS, the above ordinance was introduced and read by title at this Township Committee meeting held on November 13, 2023.

BE IT RESOLVED, that at the Township Committee meeting to be held on December 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time, at the Kirby Municipal Building, the Township Committee will further consider this ordinance for a second reading, public hearing, and final passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is hereby requested to publish the proper notice thereof, including this ordinance, post the ordinance, and make copies available to members of the general public.

Township Committee Member Chipperson offered TC Ordinance #16-2023 and moved its introduction. Township Committee Member Yates seconded the motion.

Mayor Jones asks the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Introduction:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Chipperson	1st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Lacz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

Mayor Jones asked Township Committee Member Yates to introduce Ordinance #17-2023.

Township Committee Member Yates introduced Ordinance TC #17-2023 by title as follows:

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDING
ORDINANCE 17-2023
“AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY FIXING THE 2024 SALARY RANGES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING”**

Township Committee Member Yates explained this Ordinance replaces TC Ordinance 12-2023 which was voted down. This establishes the salary ranges for the Township employees. Township Committee Member Yated moved the introduction on first reading. Township Committee Member Yates read the following:

WHEREAS, the above ordinance was introduced and read by title at this Township Committee meeting held on November 13, 2023.

BE IT RESOLVED, that at the Township Committee meeting to be held on December 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time, at the Kirby Municipal Building, the Township Committee will further consider this ordinance for a second reading, public hearing, and final passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is hereby requested to publish the proper notice thereof, including this ordinance, post the ordinance, and make copies available to members of the general public.

Township Committee Member Yates offered TC Ordinance #17-2023 and moved its introduction. Township Committee Member Lacz seconded the motion.

Mayor Jones asked the Municipal Clerk for a Roll Call: Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Vote on Introduction:

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Chipperson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Lacz	2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Platt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Yates	1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Jones

Township Committee Member Yates commented that he wanted it to be clear that there has been months of work that has been dedicated to this redevelopment plan. The Glen Alpin Sub-Committee has spent a lot of time reviewing this plan and working with the developer to ensure a development on this site is economically feasible. The house alone is not economically feasible for any purpose. A brief discussion ensued.

Chief Gromek provided information to the Township Committee pertaining to stolen vehicles which Township Committee Member Platt had asked for at the October Township Committee meeting. Chief Gromek stated in 2022, year-to-date (statewide) the number was 13,905 and in 2023 the number is 14,141, which is a 2 percent increase from 2022. This amounts to 45 vehicles per day statewide. In Harding Township, the number of vehicles stolen in 2022 was zero and in 2023 is one (1). Chief Gromek provided information pertaining to Chatham Township where three males broke into a resident's home at 4:45 am and proceeded to steal items. The residents woke up to items missing. A brief discussion ensued.

With no further comments, Mayor Jones wished all in attendance a very Happy Thanksgiving and asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Township Committee Member Yates and seconded by Township Committee Member Platt and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Sharp
Municipal Clerk

**MINUTES – HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2023 – Resolution TC 23-173**

Mayor Jones called the executive session meeting of the Harding Township Committee to order at 5:03 pm and announced that adequate notice for this meeting had been given as required by law.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Sharp called the roll as follows:

Present: Mrs. Chipperson; Dr. Lacz (arrived at 5:04 pm); Mr. Platt, Mr. Yates; and Mr. Jones

Absent: None

Also Present: Mr. Falzarano, Township Administrator; Mrs. Sharp, Municipal Clerk; Mr. Edwards, Township Attorney; Ms. Mertz, Township Planner, and Mr. Coskey, Special Counsel

CONTRACTS:

Amendment to Redevelopment Plan for Glen Alpin-Hurstmont

Mr. Coskey reported that there is an ordinance on the meeting agenda this evening for the introduction of an amendment to the Glen Alpin-Hurstmon Redevelopment Plan. The purpose of the amendment is to bring the McAlpin Gardens (formerly known as Bin Jean property) into the plan. In addition, it provides additional regulations for the redevelopment of Glen Alpin. By bringing the McAlpin Gardens in, under the local redevelopment and housing law the Township will be able to move forward to engage with a redeveloper of that property. Mayor Jones commented that it also sets the standards of uses and some of the bulk standards but they are no way cemented. M. Mertz commented that is correct. M. Mertz reported that there are two minor edits to the plan for this evening. They are:

- Typographical error - the correct Planning Board Members will be added.
- Page 38, Additional Standards for the new McAlpin Gardens District. The third bullet under general – remove the sentence that says “the casitas may be stand alone for a total of 10 buildings.”

Township Committee Member Chipperson commented for consistency, all titles and individuals should be updated. M. Mertz commented she will ensure all titles and individuals are updated. A discussion regarding underground parking ensued. Township Committee Member Chipperson asked if the Gardens will be open to the public. M. Mertz commented yes, they can still conduct private wedding events, but the majority of the time the gardens will need to be open. A discussion ensued pertaining to tree conservation, dogs, leasable space, package plant. Mayor Jones commented that each change that is made to the plan would need to go back to the Planning Board for consistency review. M. Mertz commented that is correct.

Let the record show that M. Mertz left the meeting at 5:29 pm.

Hurstmont

A lengthy discussion ensued on the Redevelopment Agreement and Financial Agreement. M. Coskey commented that the Township needs additional information on the actual development before negotiating the financial agreement. Mr. Coskey will contact the State to see where the letter is with regard to the ABC license. It was recommended that a meeting with all professionals is required. Mr. Coskey will set-up this meeting.

Let the record show that Mr. Coskey left the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Professionals

**MINUTES – HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2023 – Resolution TC 23-173**

ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE:

Affordable Housing

Mr. Edwards, Township Attorney reported that he spoke with KRE's attorney and their motivation and sentiment with regard to the property is good. He reported that the Great Swamp came in droves to their meeting with the DEP and the DEP has to respond to each question individually. KRE provided the responses. KRE is full speed ahead.

Property Acquisition

Mr. Edwards explained that this is a tough site. The appraisal came in at \$200,000 less than the buyer is asking. The buyer is asking \$700,000. A discussion ensued. It was recommended to wait on this property. It was recommended that a meeting with the Affordable Housing Sub-Committee be made to discuss this property further.

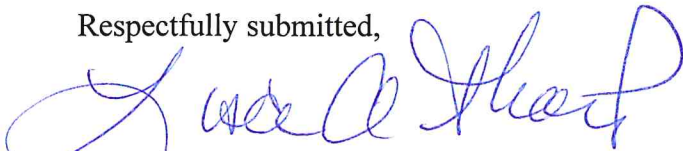
PERSONNEL MATTER:

2024 Employee Salaries

Mr. Falzarano explained that there is a revised salary ordinance on the agenda for introduction due several changes. Mr. Falzarano reported that on the top salaries there is an increase of 3 percent. The DPW salaries were amended to add 1,500.00 to each of the steps plus 3 percent which is different from the original ordinance. Mr. Falzarano explained that Chief Gromek receives a 4,500 stipend for his Master's Degree and has asked that the stipend be eliminated but 4,000 be added to his base salary. Mr. Falzarano explained that Mrs. Sharp receives overtime for the Board of Health and to eliminate overtime, her salary would need to be commensurate with this change. Mr. Falzarano explained that he has spoken to Dr. Cervone and the recommendation was to provide Mrs. Sharp with a 5 percent increase on the Health Department side and there would be a 6 percent increase on the Administration side. The Township Committee was in consensus with the changes proposed by Mr. Falzarano.

With no further comments, Mayor Jones asked for a motion to reconvene into public session. Upon a motion made by Township Committee Member Lacz and seconded by Township Committee Member Chipperson, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the meeting reconvened into public session at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Sharp
Municipal Clerk

Shattered Nerves, Sleepless Nights: Pickleball Noise Is Driving Everyone Nuts

The incessant pop-pop-pop of the fast-growing sport has brought on a nationwide scourge of unneighborly clashes, petitions, calls to the police and lawsuits, with no solution in sight.

By Andrew Keh Audio produced by Alyssa Schukar
Reporting from Arlington, Va.

June 30, 2023

It sounded like popcorn 'varming in a microwave: sporadic bursts that quickened, gradually, to an arrhythmic clatter.

"There it is," Mary McKee said, staring out the front door of her home in Arlington, Va., on a recent afternoon.

McKee, 43, a conference planner, moved to the neighborhood in 2005 and for the next decade and a half enjoyed a mostly tranquil existence. Then came the pickleball players.

She gestured across the street to the Walter Reed Community Center, less than 100 feet from her yard, where a group of players, the first of the day, had started rallying on a repurposed tennis court. More arrived in short order, spreading out until there were six games going at once. Together they produced an hourslong ticktock cacophony that has become the unwanted soundtrack of the lives of McKee and her neighbors.

"I thought maybe I could live with it, maybe it would fade into the background," she said of the clamor, which began around the height of the coronavirus pandemic and now reverberates through her home, even when her windows are closed. "But it never did."



Pickleball at the Walter Reed Community Center is played on repurposed tennis courts. Jason Andrew for The New York Times

John Cruise
5 Military Hill Dr.

Mary McKee, who lives across the street from the Walter Reed Community Center, has been fighting the noise pollution. Jason Andrew for The New York Times

Armand Ciccarelli, 51, another resident who has complained about the noise. Jason Andrew for The New York Times

Sports can produce all kinds of unpleasant noises: referees' whistles, rancorous boos, vuvuzelas. But the most grating and disruptive sound in the entire athletic ecosystem right now may be the staccato *pop-pop-pop* emanating from America's rapidly multiplying pickleball courts.

The sound has brought on a nationwide scourge of frayed nerves and unneighborly clashes — and those, in turn, have elicited petitions and calls to the police and last-ditch lawsuits aimed at the local parks, private clubs and homeowners associations that rushed to open courts during the sport's recent boom.

The hubbub has given new meaning to the phrase racket sport, testing the sanity of anyone within earshot of a game.

"It's like having a pistol range in your backyard," said John Mancini, 82, whose Wellesley, Mass., home abuts a cluster of public courts.

"It's a torture technique," said Clint Ellis, 37, who lives across the street from a private club in York, Maine.

"Living here is hell," said Debbie Nagle, 67, whose gated community in Scottsdale, Ariz., installed courts a few years ago.

Modern society is inherently inharmonious — think of children shouting, dogs barking, lawn mowers roaring. So what makes the sound of pickleball, specifically, so hard to tolerate?

For answers, many have turned to Bob Unetich, 77, a retired engineer and avid pickleball player, who became one of the foremost authorities on muffling the game after starting a consulting firm called Pickleball Sound Mitigation. Unetich said that pickleball whacks from 100 feet away could reach 70 dBA (a measure of decibels), similar to some vacuum cleaners, while everyday background noise outside typically tops off at a "somewhat annoying 55."

But decibel readings alone are insufficient for conveying the true magnitude of any annoyance. Two factors — the high pitch of a hard paddle slamming a plastic ball and the erratic, often frantic rhythm of the smacks — also contribute to its uncanny ability to drive bystanders crazy.

"It creates vibrations in a range that can be extremely annoying to humans," Unetich said.

Hayden Sealand, 26, reaches for a ball while playing. Jason Andrew for The New York Times

These bad vibrations have created an unforeseen growing pain for pickleball, which emerged from relative obscurity in recent years to become the fastest-growing sport in the country.

The sounds were even dissected last month at Noise-Con 2023, the annual conference of North American noise control professionals, which featured an opening-night session called “Pickleball Noise.”

“Pickleball is the topic of the year,” said Jeanette Hesedahl, vice chair for the conference.

The same story, the same jarring sound, has echoed across American communities like rolling thunder.

Sue-Ellen Welfonder, 66, a best-selling romance novelist from Longboat Key, Fla., once enjoyed listening to the singing birds and the gentle swish of trees during her daily walks — her “soul balm time” — through a local park. The *thump-thump* of a tennis match never bothered her, either. But the arrival of pickleball this spring, she said, shattered her idyll.

“Pickleball has replaced leaf blowers as my No. 1 noise nuisance,” said Welfonder, who has been sketching the outlines of a new novel, set in the present day, with a couple of pickleball-loving characters: “I’m making them really nasty people.”

The complaints were equally dramatic at a Feb. 6 city council meeting in West Linn, Ore., where residents have been vexed by the constant click-clacking from Tanner Creek Park.

“One of our neighbors who lived directly across from the courts and was dying from cancer noted the pickleball noise was worse than his cancer,” Dan Lavery, a West Linn resident, said at the meeting. “Sadly, he recently passed.”

Scores of similarly suffering Americans are finding their way to a rapidly growing Facebook group, also started by Unetich, where upward of 1,000 frazzled users exchange technical advice, let off steam and engage in a sort of group therapy.

“We try to keep it civil,” Unetich said, “because it gets pretty emotional.”

A few lessons have crystallized within the group. Soundproof barriers — a go-to solution for many at first — can be expensive and are often improperly deployed. New paddles and balls designed to dampen noise have had marginal uptake among players. Moving pickleball far away from human life may be the only surefire solution — but many are slow to reach that conclusion, which presents its own hurdles.

The tennis courts at the Walter Reed Community Center are now primarily used for pickleball, allowing six games to happen simultaneously. Jason Andrew for The New York Times

Alyssa Schukar for The New York Times

Jason Andrew for The New York Times

Irritated homeowners, as a result, often resort to fighting pickleball courts in the courts of law.

Last year, Rob Mastroianni, 58, and his neighbors in Falmouth, Mass., filed a lawsuit against their town claiming that the courts near their homes violated local sound ordinances. They won a temporary injunction, which has closed the facility for now. By then Mastroianni had already sold his house and moved to a different part of town to escape the noise.

“I was Google Mapping the new house, making sure there were no courts nearby,” Mastroianni said.

In Arlington, McKee and her neighbors around the community center are waiting to see what happens next. They shared their pain with the county, which for now appears to be moving forward with plans to spend close to \$2 million to make the pickleball courts permanent.

The players there sympathized with the residents’ plight — but only to an extent.

“If I had that home, I’d be mad, because it is annoying — it’s obnoxious,” Jordan Sawyer, 25, a dietitian from Arlington and an avid player, said between games this month. “But I don’t feel bad because I want to play, and this is the best place to play. Honestly, I just feel like it’s unfortunate. It’s unlucky for these people.”

Sawyer described herself as a “rule follower.” But McKee and the others recounted being woken up at 3 a.m. by middle-of-the-night pickleball matches. Another time they listened to a player banging a tambourine on the court, apparently to taunt those who had complained.

Armand Ciccarelli, 51, who often walks his dog, Winona, around the community center, said that anybody downplaying pickleball noise should try hearing it for 12 hours a day.

“I know this seems like a small thing in the grand scheme of the world, where we’re dealing with big things, like climate change,” Ciccarelli said. “But, as you can see, it’s a nationwide problem.”

Kitty Bennett contributed research.

Andrew Keh is a sports reporter in New York. He was previously an international correspondent based in Berlin and has reported from more than 25 countries. More about Andrew Keh

A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 1 of the New York edition with the headline: A Sport Played With Paddles Can Generate Quite a Racket