

March 28, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Mayor Chiariello who issued the formal statement in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

Roll call was taken and present were: Mayor Chiariello, Deputy Mayor Clark, Councilwoman Quinn, Councilman Hertzberg, Councilman Blumetti, Interim Township Manager/CFO Grant Rome, Township Attorney Tom Ryan, and Assistant Township Clerk Roxanne Landy.

**Open Public Meetings Act-Executive Session:**

On motion by Councilman Blumetti, seconded by Deputy Mayor Clark and unanimously carried, the following resolution was duly adopted:

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of an action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
  - a. Personnel
  - b. Litigation
  - c. Contract Negotiations
  - d. Miscellaneous Legal Advice

It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when deemed appropriate.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

On motion by Councilman Blumetti, seconded by Deputy Mayor Clark and unanimously carried, Council reconvened into public session at 7:30 p.m.

**Salute to the Flag:**

Mayor Chiariello led the assembly in a salute to the flag.

**Recognition:**

Councilman Hertzberg introduced Paige Weiss as the first Sparta Wrestling State Champion in over forty years. Councilman Hertzberg also presented her with a proclamation for her hard work and numerous accomplishments in the sport of wrestling on behalf of the Township Council and the residents of Sparta Township.

In honor of Women's History Month, Nancy Starnes, Sparta's first female Mayor received an award. Councilwoman Quinn presented the award to Ms. Starnes and spoke about her numerous accomplishments during her tenure in Sparta as Mayor.

In honor of Women's History Month, Police Chief McCarrick presented Officer Sue Parkes, Sparta's first female police officer, with an award for her many accomplishments, dedication and service to the residents of Sparta during her tenure as a police officer in Sparta Township.

Mayor Chiariello read a proclamation proclaiming the month of March as Women's History Month and called upon all Sparta residents to celebrate the contributions that all women have made to the country. He then presented the proclamation to members of the Sparta Women and Jr. Women's Club.

#### **Minutes:**

Councilman Hertzburg made a motion to approve the executive meeting minutes held on October 25, 2022. Councilwoman Quinn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Blumetti – Abstained	Councilwoman Quinn - Yes
Deputy Mayor Clark – Abstained	Mayor Chiariello - No
Councilman Hertzberg – Yes	

On motion by Deputy Mayor Clark, seconded by Councilwoman Quinn and carried, the regular meeting minutes held on January 24, 2023 were approved as presented. Councilman Blumetti and Councilman Hertzberg abstained.

On motion by Deputy Mayor Clark, seconded by Councilman Blumetti and carried, the regular meeting minutes held on February 14, 2023 were approved as presented. Councilman Hertzberg abstained.

#### **Manager's Report:**

**Interim Manager Grant Rome gave updates to various projects and events in Sparta Township, a copy of which is attached hereto:**

#### **REGULAR SESSION / ITEMS:**

##### **Police Department:**

- The Police Department would like to thank the Township Council members, as well as the community and staff, for their attendance at the recent Promotional Ceremony of the following four (4) Officers: Chief Jeffrey McCarrick, Lt. Adam Carbery, Sgt. Richard Smith and Sgt. Brian Hassloch. They also thank the Sparta Schools Superintendent, Matt Beck, and the Sparta Board of Education for the use of their auditorium to commemorate the evening.
- April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. As in past years, the Police Department applied for the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety Grant and was awarded \$7,000. This awarded grant money will be used for supplemental patrols that will focus on distracted driving violations which is the number one cause of motor vehicle crashes in New Jersey.
- Traffic Safety Reminders - With the Spring-like mild temperatures, our patrols have noticed an increase of pedestrians walking and bicyclists taking advantage of the warmer weather. We ask our motorists to be mindful when driving. Additionally, please report any erratic driving behavior by calling 911 immediately.
- Cram the Cruiser - The Department is teaming up with other Police Departments around County in an effort to stock the shelves of the Sussex County Food Pantry. Departments will be at their local grocery stores seeking donations of non-perishable items. Sparta Police Department will be at the Sparta Stop & Shop on April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> 12pm-4pm. Please stop out and support those in need.

##### **Public Works Department:**

- The Department received a new wood chipper which has been needed for the Ash tree infestation along Township road rights-of-way. This new machine was ordered last year but only recently delivered due to supply chain issues and is larger and safer than the existing machine we owned.
- Public Works staff have been working on installing new lamp posts for the Station Park parking lot in front of Freedom Field which should help illuminate the area.
- Please be aware of our Road crews sweeping Township Roads and we ask that motorists use caution while traveling around the sweeper truck.

#### **Parks & Recreation Department:**

- Recreation Summer Day Camp registration started March 1<sup>st</sup> and there are still openings for certain ages and weeks.
- The Spring/Summer brochure will be released in early April with registration for programs opening up to residents on April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The Spring Track and Field program began on March 21<sup>st</sup> with up to 65 youth participating in the program as well as clinics. The Recreation Director would like to thank the volunteer parents as the response has been amazing!
- Lacrosse, baseball & softball teams have been able to take advantage of the turf field in town for an early start to their season, as well as working with Sparta High School using their turf field until the Township grass fields are open (typically on or about April 15<sup>th</sup> weather dependent).
- The Recreation Department continues to accept employment applications for lifeguards and counselors.
- Please visit [www.Spartanj.org](http://www.Spartanj.org) under Parks & Recreation for further information on all the above.

#### **Construction Department:**

- This Department is continuously developing new programs to accommodate recent laws passed through the NJ DCA, including lead safety, E-Permits, etc., working closely with the Engineering and Zoning Departments in this regard. The Technical Assistant to the Construction Official has played a large roll in handling these issues for the Department as well as for the Township.

As you are aware, the County's Bridge on Main Street over the Wallkill River is being replaced. Phase 1 of the construction project predicts a road closure until April 30<sup>th</sup>. As the County updates this information, we will be sure to update the website as well as other advertising platforms.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the female employees that work at Sparta Township for all the work they do in serving the residents every day. We thank all the women out there who have changed history.

#### **Approval of Manager's Report:**

On motion by Councilman Blumetti, seconded by Deputy Mayor Clark and unanimously carried, the Manager's Report was approved as presented.

**Open to the Public:**

No one wished to be heard and this portion of the meeting was closed.

**Expenditures:**

In response to a question by Councilman Blumetti concerning a late payment, Mr. Rome stated that sometimes vendors are late sending in their invoices and nothing can be processed until a purchase order is signed.

In response to a question by Councilman Blumetti concerning a bond payment, Mr. Rome stated that the payment was for bonds that had been put up by the developer at the time for roadways in the development, and once the roads had been deemed to be up to the Township's standards, the bond is reimbursed to the developer.

In response to a question by Councilman Blumetti concerning a payment for a court security camera, Mr. Rome stated that it was probably the upgrades for the court system.

In response to a question by Deputy Mayor Clark concerning a payment to Harold Pellow and Associates, Mr. Rome stated that he would have to look at the purchase order before answering his question.

On motion by Deputy Mayor Clark, seconded by Councilman Blumetti and unanimously carried, expenditures dated March 14, 2023 in the amount of \$2,406,827.65 were approved as presented.

On motion by Deputy Mayor Clark, seconded by Councilman Blumetti and unanimously carried, expenditures dated March 28, 2023 in the amount of \$9,348,811.01 were approved as presented.

**Introduction of Ordinance:****23-03 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA RESPECTING THE DISPLAY OF FLAGS ON TOWNSHIP FLAGPOLES**

Councilman Blumetti offered an amendment on page 2, section 2, letter b, he wanted to clarify what constituted a sister city.

Attorney Ryan stated that generally a sister city is a city that has been formally acknowledged by Sparta Township and generally there would be a resolution to establish that relationship.

Councilman Blumetti offered an amendment to section 3, letter b "city government" should be changed to "Sparta Township".

Councilman Blumetti offered an amendment to section 4, flag policy, A Purpose, No 5, that the commemorative flag must be smaller than the American flag and at the State flag location where the commemorative flag will be flown.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that she was under the impression that the commemorative flags would be flown only where there are two flag poles so that the American and POW flags would not be disturbed. She stated that the only place where there are two flag poles is at Town Hall.

Councilman Blumetti offered an amendment to page 3, number 4 under Purpose B Procedure he wanted to add that a request be made in writing or via email.

Councilman Blumetti offered an amendment to section 4A, No. 2 that a written request would come in, the Township Manager would collect the request and distribute to Council members and at a subsequent meeting the Council members could then by majority authorize a resolution to be placed on a future Agenda.

Deputy Mayor Clark stated that the process would be that a majority of Council allows a request to appear on an Agenda and would only appear on an Agenda provided it received such a vote from the Council.

Attorney Ryan stated that if Council did not want to proceed with the ordinance this evening, they could get all of the feedback tonight and revisions could be made and the ordinance could be introduced at the next meeting. He stated that Council might want to consider tabling the ordinance in order to allow all Council members to provide him with their edits.

Mayor Chiariello stated that he felt that Council should vote now to approve amendments that Council members propose and once that was done, then it could be summarized and the ordinance reintroduced at the next meeting.

Councilman Blumetti made a motion to revise the ordinance with the following changes: Section 3, letter b, the word “City” be changed to “Sparta Township”; Section 4, letter A, No. 5 be changed from “at the Municipal Building” to “at the location where the commemorative flag will be flown”; Section 4, Letter B, Procedure, No. 1, first sentence “should make the request to the Township Manager” add “in writing or via email” after “Township Manager”. Deputy Mayor Clark seconded the motion and it carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Blumetti – Yes	Councilwoman Quinn - No
Deputy Mayor Clark – Yes	Mayor Chiariello - Yes
Councilman Hertzberg - No	

Councilwoman Quinn stated that there should be something written in the ordinance that says that there will only be the American flag and POW flag on one flagpole and they would never be brought down. Councilwoman Quinn stated that the commemorative flag should be smaller in size than the American and POW flag and should be added to the ordinance. She stated that it doesn’t state in the ordinance that a requester needed to be a Sparta resident.

Mayor Chiariello stated that change number one would be that the commemorative flag be smaller than the American flag, POW flag and NJ flag. He stated that change number two would be that the commemorative flag cannot replace an American flag or POW flag on a single flagpole. He stated that change no. 3 would be under Section 4 B 1 the individual making a request must be a Sparta resident.

Councilwoman Quinn made a motion to add the amendments, Councilman Blumetti seconded and the motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Blumetti – Yes	Councilwoman Quinn - Yes
Deputy Mayor Clark – Yes	Mayor Chiariello - Yes
Councilman Hertzberg - Yes	

On motion by Deputy Mayor Clark, seconded by Councilman Blumetti the following resolution was duly adopted by roll call vote:

Deputy Mayor Clark – Yes	Councilwoman Quinn – No
Councilman Blumetti – Yes	Mayor Chiariello - Yes
Councilman Hertzberg - No	

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the following ordinance entitled: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA RESPECTING THE DISPLAY OF FLAGS ON TOWNSHIP FLAGPOLES** is hereby approved as amended and will be reintroduced at a meeting of the Township Council to be held on April 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street.

### **23-05 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA CODE SECTIONS 19-14.s AND 20-3.6 REGARDING WATER AND SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL CONNECTION FEES**

In response to a question by Councilman Blumetti regarding the EDU fee, Mr. Rome stated that the rates had been set by the Township Auditor in the fall of last year. Mr. Rome stated that the auditor had given the water and sewer rate studies as to suggested changes to increase the revenues on both utilities. Mr. Rome indicated that the sewer utility had very few users so

unfortunately the cost of sending sewage to SCMUA outweighs the amount of money that the Township is collecting in fees from the users. He stated that the fee was to offset the cost of certain fees for both of those utilities in order to make them more solvent. He stated further that at some point the Township should look into requiring mandatory hookups in the sewer service area.

In response to a question by Councilman Blumetti concerning the number of potential additional hookups, Mr. Rome stated that it could be up to two to three hundred. Mr. Rome stated that because the Township didn't require mandatory hookups initially, the sewer system has run into a deficit situation.

On motion by Councilman Blumetti, seconded by Deputy Mayor Clark the following resolution was duly adopted by roll call vote:

Deputy Mayor Clark – Yes  
Councilman Blumetti – Yes  
Councilman Hertzberg - Yes

Councilwoman Quinn – Yes  
Mayor Chiariello - Yes

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the following ordinance entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA CODE SECTIONS 19-14.s AND 20-3.6 REGARDING WATER AND SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL CONNECTION FEES** is hereby adopted on first reading and the same shall be considered for final passage at a meeting of the Township Council to be held on April 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street and the Township Clerk is authorized to publish notice of the introduction and final hearing according to law.

**23-06 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 “ADMINISTRATION” ARTICLE XI, “TAXATION AND REVENUE” OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA, ADDING A NEW SECTION 2-62, 100% DISABLED VETERAN TAX REFUNDS”**

On motion by Councilman Hertzberg, seconded by Councilman Blumetti the following resolution was duly adopted by roll call vote:

Deputy Mayor Clark – Yes  
Councilman Blumetti – Yes  
Councilman Hertzberg - Yes

Councilwoman Quinn – Yes  
Mayor Chiariello - Yes

Attorney Ryan stated that he was asking for a motion to amend the ordinance at the fifth WHEREAS clause to state that “ it shall not extend beyond the taxes paid for the current year and immediate prior year and not to exceed twenty-four months from the date that the Township Tax Assessor received the fully completed application.”

On motion by Councilman Blumetti, seconded by Deputy Mayor Clark the following resolution was duly adopted by roll call vote:

Deputy Mayor Clark – Yes  
Councilman Blumetti – Yes  
Councilman Hertzberg - Yes

Councilwoman Quinn - Yes  
Mayor Chiariello - Yes

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the following ordinance entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 “ADMINISTRATION” ARTICLE XI, “TAXATION AND REVENUE” OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA, ADDING A NEW SECTION 2-62, 100% DISABLED VETERAN TAX REFUNDS”** is hereby adopted as amended on first reading and the same shall be considered for final passage at a meeting of the Township Council to be held on April 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street and the

Township Clerk is authorized to publish notice of the introduction and final hearing according to law.

Attorney Ryan indicated that the amendment to the ordinance was not substantive in nature and Council could proceed to a hearing at the next meeting.

**23-07 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A PERMANENT, NON-EXCLUSIVE BRIDGE EASEMENT OVER A PORTION OF BLOCK 27004, LOT 2 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA TO THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX**

Councilman Blumetti stated that this was a permanent easement being given to the County that right along the Wallkill River. He stated that he would like to know if some language could be included in the ordinance highlighting the sensitivity of the property.

Mr. Rome stated that the easements were already in place for JCP&L, the sewer and water lines, County bridge and for the Township's bridge. He stated this ordinance was just granting the County permission to replace the bridge, Newton's water main, Sparta's sewer and water line, and the foot bridge would become part of the actual main bridge structure. He stated that this was a project that had been going on for about seven to eight years.

Councilman Blumetti stated that the Wallkill River was classified as a C1 stream and a well head protection area for the public drinking supply and threatened and endangered species. He wanted to know if there was a way to put in language to make the other party aware and make sure that they follow the proper requirements.

Mr. Rome stated that the project is already happening and the bridge is in disrepair to the point that it's a safety hazard.

Councilman Hertzberg stated that the County is well aware of the situation.

Attorney Ryan stated that the County was going to be subject to all environmental regulations and statutes. He stated that the Township could send a letter in addition to the granting of this easement and emphasize that the Township expects their full compliance and put them on notice regarding the examples that Councilman Blumetti had identified.

Deputy Mayor Clark stated that his understanding was that whoever was given the easements would be required to abide by all environmental, state regulations, etc.

On motion by Deputy Mayor Clark, seconded by Councilman Blumetti the following resolution was duly adopted by roll call vote:

Deputy Mayor Clark – Yes  
Councilman Blumetti – Yes  
Councilman Hertzberg - Yes

Councilwoman Quinn – Yes  
Mayor Chiariello - Yes

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the following ordinance entitled **AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A PERMANENT, NON-EXCLUSIVE BRIDGE EASEMENT OVER A PORTION OF BLOCK 27004, LOT 2 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA TO THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX** is hereby adopted as amended on first reading and the same shall be considered for final passage at a meeting of the Township Council to be held on April 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street and the Township Clerk is authorized to publish notice of the introduction and final hearing according to law.

**23-08 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A PERMANENT, NON-EXCLUSIVE WATERMAIN EASEMENT OVER A PORTION OF BLOCK 27004, LOT 2 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA TO THE TOWN OF NEWTON**

On motion by Deputy Mayor Clark, seconded by Councilman Blumetti the following resolution was duly adopted by roll call vote:

Deputy Mayor Clark – Yes  
Councilman Blumetti – Yes  
Councilman Hertzberg - Yes

Councilwoman Quinn – Yes  
Mayor Chiariello - Yes

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the following ordinance entitled **AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A PERMANENT, NON-EXCLUSIVE WATERMAIN EASEMENT OVER A PORTION OF BLOCK 27004, LOT 2 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA TO THE TOWN OF NEWTON** is hereby adopted as amended on first reading and the same shall be considered for final passage at a meeting of the Township Council to be held on April 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street and the Township Clerk is authorized to publish notice of the introduction and final hearing according to law.

**23-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE VI, DEPARTMENTS CREATED, SECTION 2-18.4-h CLASSIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS AND ORDER OF APPOINTMENT THEREOF, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA**

In response to a question by Councilman Blumetti as to what the benefits were to the Township in allowing hires of individuals without them taking the entry law enforcement exam. Deputy Mayor Clark stated that there was a senate bill that had been passed a few years ago and the purpose of it was to encourage more diversity on the police force. He stated further that this was in order to get more applicants because the Civil Service exam was acting as a barrier and this would be a way to get a larger applicant pool, and that it is a codified New Jersey law and was not a special exception for Sparta.

Police Chief McCarrick stated that it was just updating the statute from the Civil Service Commission.

On motion by Councilwoman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Hertzberg the following resolution was duly adopted by roll call vote:

Deputy Mayor Clark – Yes  
Councilman Blumetti – Yes  
Councilman Hertzberg - Yes

Councilwoman Quinn – Yes  
Mayor Chiariello - Yes

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the following ordinance entitled **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE VI, DEPARTMENTS CREATED, SECTION 2-18.4-h CLASSIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS AND ORDER OF APPOINTMENT THEREOF, OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA** is hereby adopted as amended on first reading and the same shall be considered for final passage at a meeting of the Township Council to be held on April 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 65 Main Street and the Township Clerk is authorized to publish notice of the introduction and final hearing according to law.

At this time Mayor Chiariello asked Police Chief McCarrick to speak about plans in the event of a train derailment within the Township.

Chief McCarrick stated that the Township emergency personnel was trained to respond to any type of emergency or disaster as police, fire and EMS. He stated that the Township has an



emergency operation plan and was made up by professionals in the police department, as well as partners in other municipalities, County, State and Federal agencies. He stated that the plan was updated regularly and provided to the County OEM Coordinator from within the Sussex County Sheriff's office, as well as the State of NJ. He stated that if a train derailment were to happen, there were many things that would be evaluated. He stated that treating injuries would be first and foremost. Chief McCarrick listed other contingencies that would need to take place. He stated that he and other first responders had attended a meeting with railroad personnel to discuss logistics and other issues. He stated that questions had been asked as to what was being transported in the rail cars and he was told that no toxic, poisonous, inhalation, hazardous materials and no crude oil being transported through Sparta.

Chief McCarrick went through the protocol that the rail company would use in the event of a derailment. He stated that the rail company would be responsible for cleaning up any hazmat or non-hazmat and would provide all equipment for the cleanup and remediation. He stated that the Transportation Safety Board, Federal Rail Administration, the FBI and the rail company would do their own independent investigation. He stated that the DEP and other federal partners and rail company would be responsible for testing environmental concerns.

Chief McCarrick stated that there are security measures for train cars that are left on the tracks at night, or for a long period of time. He stated that the cars are inspected prior to every single move and inspected upon arrival and again after they are emptied.

Chief McCarrick stated that federal regulations do not allow for municipalities to prevent rail companies from transporting specific cargo. He stated there was not a reporting mechanism for materials that are coming through the town on a regular basis.

Chief McCarrick stated that they continue to update training and provide each other with information on a regular basis.

In response to a question by Deputy Mayor Clark, Chief McCarrick stated that they were looking at some further equipment that would be suitable in dealing with noxious chemicals. He said that the department has direct contacts with the rail company. He stated that he has four officers who have signed up for special training specifically dealing with preparedness with rail cars.

In response to a question by Mayor Chiariello as to whether surrounding towns have the same state of readiness, Chief McCarrick stated that he is in constant contact with other municipalities and at the County level.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that she wanted to make sure that the officers had all the equipment they would need and the Township should be looking at grants to see what it would qualify for.

### **Hearing of Ordinance:**

**23-04** The second and final hearing of the ordinance entitled **BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SALT SHED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,200,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,090,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION** was given and held open for public discussion.

No one from the public wished to be heard and this portion of the meeting was closed.

Mayor Chiariello asked for comments from Council.

Councilman Blumetti stated that public safety was Council's top priority and agreed that the existing salt shed needed to be replaced, but in his opinion the size and the cost of the salt shed being proposed is unnecessary and not a good use of Township funds. He stated that the salt that's used on the roads winds up in the waterways and soils and unsafe levels of salt have already been found in wells in the region and are seeing increased levels of chloride in the streams and these things need to be protected. He stated that by using increased technology and new equipment some reduction could be accomplished in the future. Councilman Blumetti listed

some examples of new technologies and best practices that included prewetting the salt at the time of application, applying liquid salt directly to road surfaces in advance of a storm, automated application rate technology, camera technology to view real time salt application, pavement surface temperature sensors, plow blades with spring loaded carbide cutting edges, truck based sensors, and tracking systems and software.

Councilman Blumetti stated that the Township should embrace these new technologies and possibly incorporate them into how much salt would be needed in the future. He stated that he didn't see a financial case for building a shed that is almost seven times larger than the current salt shed. He stated that the money saved by building a smaller shed could be used to purchase some of the new technology that is available.

Councilman Blumetti stated that he proposed approving a 7,000 ton shed and not add a lean-to.

Councilman Hertzberg stated that Mr. Zepp needed the larger salt shed in order to sell salt to other towns and by doing so, would save Sparta taxpayers money.

Councilman Blumetti stated that there should be facts and a model presented before that decision is made.

Mr. Rome stated that he recommended getting the ordinance in place and then Council could decide what size salt shed they want to build and Mr. Zepp could be brought in for further questions.

Councilman Hertzberg stated that he was going to rely on Mr. Zepp's recommendation.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that Mr. Zepp has appeared before Council to go over this and there had also been additional meetings and he had justified what he was looking for and the lean-to was a critical component for the equipment. She stated that the Township was also storing salt for the Lake Mohawk Country Club.

Deputy Mayor Clark stated that he commended Councilman Blumetti for raising the issue and people should be concerned about the Township's salt use and the degradation to the environment. He stated that there was nothing in the ordinance that required a certain size or description so that decision as to how big it will be will be made at a later date. He stated that they don't yet have a connection between the best practices that Councilman Blumetti mentioned and safety or the reduction of salt use. He stated that this was just a motion to approve a bond ordinance, not for building a certain specific salt shed.

Mayor Chiariello stated that this had been studied for a long time and there were many questions asked and answered and he believes that the shed would be an asset for the town and would serve it well.

Councilman Blumetti stated that it was Council's role to be involved in these kinds of decisions and be supportive of other options. He stated that he still thought that 7,000 tons was something that should be considered for 1.7 million.

Attorney Ryan stated that the Township would need to go back to Bond Counsel for an analysis if the Council was seeking a different number in the bond ordinance. Attorney Ryan did not recommend amending the bond ordinance.

Councilwoman Quinn made a motion to adopt. Councilman Hertzberg seconded the motion and the ordinance was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Blumetti – No  
Councilman Hertzberg – Yes  
Deputy Mayor Clark - Yes

Councilwoman Quinn - Yes  
Mayor Chiariello - Yes

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the following ordinance entitled: **BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SALT SHED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX,**

**NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,200,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,090,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION** is hereby adopted on second and final reading and the Township Clerk is authorized to publish said notice and the ordinance will take effect in accordance with the law.

**Open to the Public – Resolutions:**

Pete Litchfield, 120 Conestoga Trail addressed Council and thanked Council for seeing that the U.S. flag and POW flag would not be touched. He stated that he did not recall any of the Council members running to be banner czars for the town and he feared that the flag ordinance would open the township up to law suits.

Kathy Ebbinkhuysen, Scudders Road addressed Council concerning Resolution 9-8, Authorizing the Live Broadcasting of Audio and Video of Township Council Meetings. She stated that the language of the resolution seemed to be very general and wanted to understand which meetings were being considered for live broadcast.

Mayor Chiariello stated that the resolution was by nature broad and it allows the Council to have the equipment in place.

Mr. Ryan stated that the resolution was specifically geared toward the Township Council meetings. He stated that he would have to look into whether or not the Township Council had the authority to direct the Planning and Zoning Boards to broadcast their meetings as well.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that during Covid the chairperson of each statutory board got to determine whether or not they wanted to go virtual.

Mayor Chiariello stated that the Council meeting would be one directional coverage meaning that people who are not in the room would not be allowed to participate, only to observe.

In response to a question by Ms. Ebbinkhuysen asked who would run the equipment, Mayor Chiariello stated that there were some controls that the Clerk has access to and there were some features that could be taken advantage of and that they may or may not do right away.

In response to a question by Ms. Ebbinkhuysen regarding a report from the Interim Manager, Councilwoman Quinn stated that she had received updates and everything was completed.

In response to a question by Ms Ebbinkhuysen regarding a streaming service, Mr. Rome stated that he would have to check with the IT Director. He stated that the Township has received the equipment and as soon as the resolution is adopted, he can get the information from the IT Director as to who the company is that will be providing the service.

Ms. Ebbinkhuysen asked if it would only be live streamed, or if it would be available to be viewed after the meeting was over. Mr. Rome stated that he would have to check with the IT Director.

Kate Salera addressed Council and asked if there would be a discussion among Council members regarding the resolution.

Mayor Chiariello stated that Council members would be able to have discussion if they chose to do so.

Ms. Salerna asked if the Council had been in discussion with Sparta High School who has been providing live streaming for their Board of Education meetings.

Mayor Chiariello stated that they have been in communication with the high school, but not specifically about live streaming.

Ms. Salerna suggested that they should contact someone there that could perhaps provide valuable information.

Joe Wade, 44 Sagamore Trail, addressed Council and stated that the meetings could be stored as a pod cast.

No one else wished to be heard and this portion of the meeting was closed.

### **Resolutions:**

Councilwoman Quinn stated that she would like to table Resolution 9-17, Ratifying and Executing an Acknowledgement and Release Agreement.

On motion by Councilwoman Quinn, seconded by Councilman Hertzberg and unanimously carried Resolution 9-17, Ratifying and Executing an Acknowledgement and Release Agreement was tabled.

Councilman Blumetti had a question concerning one of the checks in Resolution 9-4, Canceling Outstanding Check Balances. Mr. Rome stated that it was probably for a conference that had not been attended and the check was never cashed. He stated that all of the checks in the resolution were stale dated because they are over 90 days old.

In response to a question by Councilwoman Quinn, Mr. Rome stated that the checks would have to be reissued if anyone asks for them.

Deputy Mayor Clark stated that once the Township is aware of who the streaming service is going to be for the live meetings, the public should be notified. He stated that he would like for people to have access to the video later.

Kate Salera expressed her views about why live streaming meetings was so important to her.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that she didn't think anyone was disagreeing with her and her preference would be to follow the procedure of the Board of Education.

Councilman Blumetti stated that the Planning Board and the Environmental Commission would be very interested in pursuing it as well.

Attorney Ryan stated that if other Boards wanted to live stream they certainly could.

Mayor Chiariello stated that with regard to Resolution 9-10, Resolution to Appoint Municipal Clerk, he wanted to welcome the new Township Clerk and recognize the outgoing retiring Clerk.

In response to a question by Mayor Chiariello concerning Resolution 9-16 NJ State Plan Endorsement and Extension of the Town Center Designation, Attorney Ryan stated that the resolution would continue the Township's work with the NJ State Plan Endorsement Committee in Trenton and continue efforts to improve the Township's town center and continue the designation of the Town Center through the NJ State Planning Commission. He stated that the resolution was a request that the NJ State Planning Commission continue to allow the Township to work toward its goals in that respect.

Councilwoman Quinn welcomed Roxanne Landy as the new Township Clerk and Municipal Registrar and Tyann Acevedo as the new Deputy Registrar. She also thanked Mike Dempsey, Mr. Rome and former Chief Spidaletto for their work on getting the streaming of the meetings going.

On motion by Deputy Mayor Clark, seconded by Councilman Blumetti and unanimously carried Resolutions 9-1 through 9-16 were duly adopted:

### **9-1 Resolution for Tax Overpayments due to NJ Court Stipulation**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE** Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the Tax Collector refunds the following tax over payment due to NJ State Court Stipulation

BLOCK	LOT	ADDRESS	AMOUNT	YEAR
10001	23	15 Fox Run	\$5,868.40	2020
10001	23	15 Fox Run	\$5,778.65	2021
10001	23	15 Fox Run	\$5,871.85	2022

**9-2 Resolution Authorizing Cancellation of Tax for Disabled Veteran**

**WHEREAS**, the property owner of Block 4002, Lot 179, is a 100% permanently disabled veteran in accordance with N.J.S.A 54:4-30.30;

**WHEREAS**, the Assessor approved the exemption on February 7, 2023 and the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs assigned the effective date as of August 24, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs has assigned an updated effective date as of April 3, 2019.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the Tax Collector refund additional taxes in the amount of \$9,306.85 for the remainder of 2023.

**9-3 Resolution Authorizing Refund for Tax Overpayment**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE** Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the Tax Collector refunds the following tax over payment

BLOCK	LOT	AMOUNT
36002	2	\$4,027.97

**9-4 Resolution by the Township of Sparta to Cancel Outstanding Check Balances**

**WHEREAS**, certain accounts within the Township of Sparta, with outstanding check balances from checks not returned or unclaimed; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the unexpected balances may be returned to each respective account balance or credited to surplus;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Sparta, that the following outstanding check balances within the following checking accounts be canceled:

Check #	Date	Name	Amount
124562	9/28/2022	Griffin Training Services, LLC	\$ 600.00
124340	8/24/2022	Lakeland Auto Parts	\$ 259.80
124300	8/24/2022	Christopher Schanstra	\$1,265.19
124186	8/10/2022	Garden State Laboratories, Inc.	\$ 300.00
124159	8/10/2022	Chris Amelar	\$ 210.00
124048	7/27/2022	Brittany Goldberg	\$ 42.99
123902	6/28/2022	Treasurer, State of NJ	\$ 100.00
123815	6/28/2022	DGMB Casino, LLC	\$ 119.00
123496	5/11/2022	Thomas Herd	\$ 18.64
123094	4/13/2022	Reilly Radio Communications	\$1,500.00
123065	4/13/2022	Meaghan Darling	\$ 170.00
122659	2/22/2022	Blue Ridge Lumber	\$ 99.64
122553	2/09/2022	Full Circle Pilates	\$ 50.00
122417	1/25/2022	Christopher Schanstra	\$1,211.76
122342	1/11/2022	Maria Sutter	\$ 20.00
122327	1/11/2022	Jonathan Poon	\$ 530.00
121767	10/28/2021	Ronald Lefferts & N. Kastova	\$ 191.00

#### **9-5 One-Day ABC Social Affairs Permit – Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that permission be granted to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 246 Woodport Road, Sparta, NJ for a social affairs permit to be held on March 26, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 246 Woodport Road, Sparta, NJ.

#### **9-6 Resolution Authorizing Contract Payment No. 3 for White Lake Fields with Tomco Construction, Inc.**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Sparta approved a contract with Tomco Construction, Inc. to construct the White Lake Fields project (the "Contract"; and

**WHEREAS**, Tomco Construction, Inc. has submitted a request for Payment No. 3 in the amount of \$12,596.16 and the Township Engineer has reviewed and approved the payment.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Payment No. 3 be made in the amount of \$12,596.16 to Tomco Construction, Inc., 22 Howard Blvd., Ste. 204, Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856 upon the Chief Financial Officer certifying that sufficient funds are available.

A copy of this Resolution shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase in this resolution is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this resolution.

#### **9-7 Resolution Authorizing the Township Council to Continue to Use the Sourcewell Cooperative**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Sparta is a member of Sourcewell Cooperative under Member ID#28192 and desires to continue its membership for the year 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Sparta has been approved as a member of Sourcewell Cooperative and has been issued Member ID#28192; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that the Township shall continue to participate in the Sourcewell Cooperative and the Mayor is authorized to execute the cooperative purchasing through Sourcewell Cooperative, upon the review and approval of such documents to the Township Mayor and Township Attorney.

#### **9-8 Resolution of the Township of Sparta Authorizing the Live Broadcasting of Audio and Video of Township Council Meetings**

**WHEREAS**, the Sparta Township Council has received interest from the public in having the Township Council meeting broadcast live; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sparta Township desires to provide greater public access to its meetings, including the use of audio and video technology to broadcast and/or stream the public portions of its meetings; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, effective upon adoption of this Resolution, the Township shall provide one-directional live audio and/or video broadcasting of the public portions of their meetings using the Township's video streaming equipment.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A copy of this Resolution shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase in this resolution is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this resolution.

#### **9-9 Resolution for Participant's LEAP Implementation Grant**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey has appropriated \$10 million for Shared Services and School District Consolidation Study and Implementation Grants to assist local units with the study, development, and implementation of new shared and regional services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is tasked with administering these grant funds through the Local Efficiency Achievement Program (LEAP); and

**WHEREAS**, LEAP Implementation Grants exist to support costs associated with shared service implementation to ensure that meaningful, efficiency generating initiatives are not hindered by short term transitional expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Hopatcong, Borough of Stanhope, Borough of Netcong, Borough of Mount Arlington, Borough of Wharton, Township of Byram, Township of Sparta, and Township of Andover propose to enter into a shared services agreement, but face certain expenses associated with implementation that present a burden to the local units; and



**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this shared services agreement is to implement shared services for Animal Control and Shelter, which will benefit the residents of all participating local units; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Hopatcong has agreed to be the lead agency in this program and will submit the application to DLGS on behalf of all participating units; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Sparta, that the Township of Sparta does hereby join with Borough of Hopatcong in applying for a LEAP Implementation Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 to support implementation of this shared service.

#### **9-10 Resolution to Appoint Sparta Township Municipal Clerk**

**WHEREAS**, there is currently a vacancy due to retirement in the Office of the Township Clerk; and

**WHEREAS**, Roxanne Landy has served as the Deputy Clerk of Sparta Township and is qualified to serve as Township Clerk; and

**WHEREAS**, Roxanne Landy is a Registered Municipal Clerk and is licensed by the Department of Community Affairs in the State of New Jersey.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta, in accordance with the recommendation and action of the Township that they hereby appoint Roxanne Landy to the position of Sparta Township Municipal Clerk for a three-year term, effective April 1, 2023, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133.

#### **9-11 Resolution to Appoint Municipal Registrar**

**WHEREAS**, Roxanne Landy is a Certified Municipal Registrar and is qualified for the position of Municipal Registrar, having received her certification from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta, in accordance with the recommendation and action of the Township that they hereby

appoint Roxanne Landy to the position of Sparta Township Municipal Registrar for a three-year term, effective April 1, 2023.

**9-12 Resolution to Appoint Deputy Registrar**

**WHEREAS**, Tyann Acevedo is a Certified Municipal Registrar and is qualified for the position of Deputy Registrar, having received her certification from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that Tyann Acevedo is hereby appointed as the Deputy Registrar for the Township of Sparta for a three-year term, effective April 1, 2023.

**9-13 Resolution to Appoint Alternate Deputy Registrar**

**WHEREAS**, Beatrice Pippa is a Certified Municipal Registrar and is qualified for the position of Deputy Registrar, having received her certification from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that Beatrice Pippa is hereby appointed as the Alternate Deputy Registrar for the Township of Sparta for a three-year term, effective April 1, 2023.

**9-14 Resolution to Appoint Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner and Alternate (JIF)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that Interim Township Manager, Grant Rome, is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Township of Sparta.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, Michele Landtau is designated as the Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Township of Sparta.

**9-15 Resolution to Appoint Health Insurance Fund Commissioner and Alternate (HIF)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta that Interim Township Manager, Grant Rome, is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Township of Sparta.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, Michele Landtau is designated as the Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Township of Sparta.

**9-16 Resolution Authorizing Continuation of The Township's Efforts to Obtain New Jersey State Plan Endorsement and Extension of The Township's Town Center Designation**

**WHEREAS**, the Sparta Township Council previously adopted Resolution 21-122 Authorizing the Creation of the Plan Endorsement Citizens Advisory Committee (the "Committee") in order for the Township to obtain Plan Endorsement from the New Jersey State Planning Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee in conjunction with the Township's Planning Board have worked diligently to take the many steps necessary for the Township to obtain Plan Endorsement, and to obtain re-approval of the Sparta Town Center Designation as part of the Plan Endorsement Process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Board recommended that the Township Council send a letter to the Executive Director of the New Jersey Business Action Center at the Office of Planning Advocacy, informing the State of the Township's desire to continue its work to obtain Plan Endorsement, and for the State to grant all appropriate extensions of the Sparta Township Center designation.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Sparta, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, effective upon adoption of this Resolution, the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the attached letter to the Executive Director of the New Jersey Business Action Center at the Office of Planning Advocacy expressing the Township's continued commitment to obtaining Plan Endorsement status, and granting extension(s) of the Sparta Township Center designation.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A copy of this Resolution shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase in this Resolution is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Resolution.

On motion by Councilman Blumetti, seconded by Deputy Mayor Clark and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned for five minutes at 10:10 p.m.

On motion by Councilman Blumetti, seconded by Deputy Mayor Clark and unanimously carried, the meeting reconvened at 10:16 p.m.

### **Council Liaison Updates:**

Councilwoman Quinn stated that she had a request from the Lake Mohawk Country Club to bring the hometown hero banners on the 12 or 15 poles that are located in the plaza. She stated that she thought that it would be a great partnership and way to come together and make the plaza look good. She stated that the committee would be ordering 47 more banners.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that the Health Committee had met and some announcements would be made concerning the Rave system.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that the Municipal Alliance Committee had met and would be adding additional programming and would be receiving an additional \$4,000 grant. She stated that they would also be working on a budget for 2023-2024 that must be submitted to the County by the end of May.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that the Recreation Department had met and discussed the Bunny Breakfast on April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Trout Derby on May 6<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup> is when the Recreation programming opens. She stated also that the committee would be hosting its first ever Open Mic night at the end of June, as well as looking at art in the park initiatives with members of the school. Councilwoman Quinn stated that movie nights would be on Friday nights this year instead of Saturday, along with entertainment beforehand. Councilwoman Quinn stated that defibrillators have been ordered by the Recreation Director and would be signed out to the sports programs who will only be given as many defibrillators as the fields they use. She discussed many other programs that the Recreation Committee was considering. Councilman Hertzberg also brought up the issue of storage for different pieces of equipment that the sports teams have access to.

Deputy Mayor Clark stated that he had attended his first Recreation Committee meeting as a co-liaison and shared the commitment to provide recreational activities for children and felt that the wide array of recreational opportunities in the Township was outstanding. He stated also that he was happy that the track and field program was taking off.

Councilman Blumetti stated that his was a proponent of having defibrillators available for the sports teams. In response to a question by Councilman Blumetti, Councilwoman Quinn stated that the sport organization would be responsible to make sure that people are trained in the use of the defibrillators, and that the batteries are charged and properly stored. She stated that each field should have access to one of the defibrillators and at the end of the season they will be given back. Councilwoman Quinn stated that 13 have been ordered and should be delivered before the sports season begins.

Councilman Blumetti stated that the Environmental Commission had met to review a Zoning Board application, the Commission had hosted a public education event with Great Waters NJ who focused on the water systems and streams of Northwest New Jersey and Sparta. He stated that the Environmental Commission was pursuing a small grant through NJAC for open space stewardship and the focus would likely be on the Sparta Glen. He stated that the Earth Day community event would be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in front of the Municipal Building.

Mayor Chiariello stated that the Cultural Affairs Committee lineup for the summer concert series was set.

Mayor Chiariello stated that the Library Board had met and the Library was in good financial standing. He stated that they had also discussed some programs with neighboring libraries.

Mayor Chiariello stated that there was a Health Committee meeting and they had given an overview of some of the services that the County offers. He stated that he was also going to try to visit the Sparta food pantry.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Mayor Chiariello recommended tabling the unfinished business portion due to the late hour and there was Council consensus.

#### **New Business:**

Councilman Hertzberg asked if there were any updates on the subpoenas for the drug rehabilitation houses that are in neighborhoods. Mr. Rome stated that he had nothing to report and he would check with the Zoning officer. Mr. Rome stated that he would follow up.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that Patriots Path Council is doing their lunch again this year and would be giving a life time award this year to Julia Quinlan. She stated that other women who are going to be honored were Pat Convey, Patty Green, Beth Hosking, Kerry Morano and Diana Morrison.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that the League of Women Voters had reached out to see if the Township had open storage facility space where they could put some of their archives. She asked Mr. Rome if he could follow up with them.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that she wanted word out to the employees that the Township would now support technical school classes.

Mayor Chiariello stated that this meeting was fun and it was nice to have people in to recognize for their achievements. He stated that upcoming meetings would have special events as well.

#### **Open to the Public:**

Kate Salera addressed Council regarding the flag ordinance and stated that she was disappointed by Councilwoman Quinn's comments concerning it. She stated that Councilwoman Quinn did not want to fly a pride flag at the municipal building.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that the ordinance does not say anything about a pride flag and she never said that. She stated that the problem with the ordinance was the term "government speech" and who decides what government speech is.

Ms. Salera stated that she was formally requesting that the pride flag be flown at the Municipal Building for Pride Week in June.

Mayor Chiariello stated that according to the proposed ordinance the request had to be made in writing either by email or letter and sent to the Township Clerk.

Councilwoman Quinn stated that she wanted to be clear that anyone who reads the ordinance would know that it has nothing to do with flying a gay pride flag, but opens the door to a lot of other things that could be very hurtful.

Joe Wade, 44 Sagamore Trail addressed Council and accused Councilwoman Quinn of bullying people who speak at the meetings and wasting money on an artificial turf field that causes cancer.

Deputy Mayor Clark stated that he took issue with characterizing the flag ordinance as being poorly drafted and stated that it was patterned after a particular ordinance that was cited by the Supreme Court in its opinion in the Boston opinion and some of the slippery slope arguments have already been dealt with by the Court. He stated that Councilwoman Quinn was correct when she said that the ordinance does not specify a particular flag and will provide an opportunity to celebrate some of the sports programs and other functions Sparta has to offer.

Mayor Chiariello stated that when the columns at the Municipal Building are lit up that it is government speech and when Women's History Month is recognized it is also government speech. He stated that putting a flag on a flagpole is just another form of government speech.

**Adjournment:**

No one else wished to be heard and no further business was brought up, motion was made by Councilman Blumetti, seconded by Deputy Mayor Clark and unanimously carried to adjourn at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Roxanne Landy, RMC  
Assistant Municipal Clerk