

Upper Pittsgrove Township

March 11, 2025

A regular meeting of the Upper Pittsgrove Township Committee was held in the Township Hall on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Edward Meschi reading the public announcement stating that adequate notice had been given provided under the “Open Public Meetings Act” with a flag salute and the following present:

Edward Meschi	Committeeman
David Zeck	“
Jack Cimprich	“
Michael J. Seery, Sr.	“
Susan DeFrancesco	CFO
&^ Township Visitors	

Cimprich moved that the minutes of the February 11, 2025 reorganization and regular meetings minutes be approved as received which motion was seconded by Seery adopted unanimously.

The following monies were received from:

Susan DeFrancesco, Tax Collector – Taxes Collected	\$1,729,302.27
Linda Stephens – Zoning Permit	60.00
- Resale/Rental Certificate	50.00
- Convenience Center Stickers	15.00
- Certified Copies	40.00
- Marriage License	28.00
Tim O’Donell – Permit Fees	54.00
Pilesgrove Joint Court - Court Costs	1,219.66
Borough of Elmer – Shared Services	1,315.00
Garden Homes Management – Pad Fees	1,600.00
First National Bank of Elmer - Int. on NOW	313.86
First National Bank of Elmer - Int. on MMA	1,724.41
	<u>1,724.41</u>
TOTAL	\$1,735,722.20

The Treasurer’s report showed the following balance as of February 28, 2025:

Current Fund - Checking Account	\$1,020,459.91
Current Fund - Money Market Account	3,410,956.08
Alt. Landfill Closure Escrow Fund	38,912.62
Capital Improvement Fund	788,188.46
COAH Developer’s Fees Escrow Fund	53,508.80
COAH Twp. Contributions	327,869.86
Farmland Preservation Fund	142,857.69
Municipal Alliance Trust Fund	8,111.95
Veterans Memorial Fund	655.58
American Recovery Act	216,661.86
	<u>216,661.86</u>
Total	\$4,743,841.15

Seery moved that the approved bills listed on the “BILL PAYING LIST” as presented to the Committee be paid which motion was seconded by Zeck and adopted upon a call of the roll.

Bishop - Absent      Cimprich – Yes      Seery – Yes      Zeck – Yes      Meschi – Yes

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing for “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN EXPENDITURE OF MONIES FROM THE 2025 CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF A TRUCK AND EQUIPMENT” known as Ordinance 2025-1 at 7:02PM as advertised. The Mayor read the Ordinance by title, stating that it had been published in *South Jersey Times* issue of February 14, 2025 as required.

After hearing no comments for or against this Ordinance, the Mayor declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:04PM.

Cimprich moved that this ordinance be finally adopted on second reading and that a notice of its adoption be published in the *South Jersey Times* issue of March 14, 2025. This motion was seconded by Bishop and adopted upon a call of the roll.

Bishop - Yes      Cimprich – Yes      Seery - Yes      Zeck – Yes      Meschi – Yes

Seery introduced “ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4045.14)” known as Ordinance 2025-2

Seery moved that this ordinance be approved on first reading and that a copy of this ordinance be published in the *South Jersey Times* issue of March 14, 2025 together with a notice of its introduction and a public hearing to be held at the Township Hall on April 8, 2025 at 7:00PM.

This motion was seconded by Zeck and adopted upon a call of the roll.

Bishop - Absent      Cimprich – Yes      Seery - Yes      Zeck – Yes      Meschi – Yes

The 2025 Budget was presented by Susan DeFrancesco, CFO as per attached copy. After review, discussion, and comments from the Committee members the following Resolution was introduced by Cimprich:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2025 Municipal Budget be published in the *South Jersey Times* issue of March 11, 2025 together with a notice of its introduction and public hearing to be held on April 8, 2025 at 7:00PM, at the Township Hall.

Cimprich moved that this Resolution be adopted, which motion was seconded by Zeck and adopted upon a call of the roll.

Bishop - Absent      Cimprich – Yes      Seery - Yes      Zeck – Yes      Meschi – Yes

The Tax Collector, Susan DeFrancesco, presented the Township Committee with her annual report for their review. Ms. DeFrancesco reported that the collection rate for 2024 was 97%. The Committee thanked Ms. DeFrancesco for her due diligence with tax collection.

Cimprich made a motion to accept the Tax Collector’s Report as submitted. This motion was seconded by Zeck and adopted unanimously.

Zeck introduced “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO THE ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UPPER PITTSBORO” known as Ordinance 2025-3.

Zeck moved that this ordinance be approved on first reading and that a copy of this ordinance be published in the *South Jersey Times* issue of March 14, 2025 together with a notice of its introduction and a public hearing to be held at the Township Hall on April 8, 2024 at 7:00PM.

This motion was seconded by Cimprich and adopted upon a call of the roll.

Bishop - Absent      Cimprich – Yes      Seery - Yes      Zeck – Yes      Meschi – Yes

Seery introduced “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN EXPENDITURE OF MONIES FROM THE 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF A TRACTOR AND EQUIPMENT” known as Ordinance 2025-4.

Seery moved that this ordinance be approved on first reading and that a copy of this ordinance be published in the *South Jersey Times* issue of January 10, 2025 together with a notice of its introduction and a public hearing to be held at the Township Hall on February 11, 2025 at 7:00PM.

This motion was seconded by Zeck and adopted upon a call of the roll.

Bishop - Absent      Cimprich – Yes      Seery - Yes      Zeck – Yes      Meschi – Yes

Seery introduced “RESOLUTION FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR LEAD TESTING” R-16-2025

Seery moved that this Resolution be adopted, which motion was seconded by Zeck and adopted upon a call of the roll.

Bishop - Absent      Cimprich – Yes      Seery - Yes      Zeck – Yes      Meschi -Yes

The Mayor opened the meeting to the public for comment. A one member of the public questioned the Township Committee as to what they might be doing to increase ratables within the Township.

Zeck introduced the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Upper Pittsgrove that the public shall be excluded from the following portion of this meeting during which time the Township Committee will discuss a subject for which the general nature is Contract Attorney-Client Privilege. It is estimated that the time when, and the circumstances under which, the discussion conducted in closed session can be disclosed to the public is at the conclusion of the issue.

Zeck moved that this resolution be adopted which motion was seconded by Seery and adopted upon a call of the roll.

Bishop - Absent      Meschi - Yes      Seery - Yes      Zeck – Yes      Cimprich – Yes

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Upper Pittsgrove at a meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

Linda R. Stephens, Clerk

Cimprich moved that the next portion of the meeting be opened to the public. This motion was seconded by Seery and adopted unanimously.

Zeck made a motion to authorize Township Solicitor, Marla DeMarcantonio to file an injunction in Superior Court if the owner of Block 5 Lot 41 does not comply with a cease-and-desist order sent on March 10, 2025. The Zoning Officer would confirm compliance first. The Township also authorized Ms. DeMarcantonio to send a letter to NJDEP making them aware that the current use on Block 5 Lot 41 was not legal and that a cease-and-desist order had been sent to the property owner.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned to meet at the call of the Mayor.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Stephens, Clerk