

March 13, 2018 – REGULAR SESSION

President Wollert called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

The Clerk read the Invocation: Almighty God who holds the fate of Man and Nation, we most humbly beseech thee to bless these deliberations, and these thy servants, that they may act with wisdom and understanding for the good of our community and thy greater glory. Amen.

Flag Salute

The Council President read the Open Public Meetings Statement:

The notice requirements provided for in the “Open Public Meetings Act” have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given in a notice which was transmitted to the Times of Trenton and the Trentonian, filed with the Clerk of the Township of Ewing and posted in the Ewing Township Municipal Complex, all on the 3rd day of January 2018.

THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL DURING THE “STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC” SEGMENT OF THE MEETING. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN IN ON SHEET PROVIDED IN THE FRONT OF THE ROOM. ALL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT. WHEN ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL, PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME AND YOUR ADDRESS.

THE COUNCIL INVITES AND ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC IN ITS MEETINGS, HOWEVER A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC MAY UTILIZE FIVE MINUTES OF TIME FOR REMARKS AND QUESTIONS, UNLESS OTHERWISE ENGAGED IN A DIALOGUE WITH A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, ANY FURTHER REMARKS OR QUESTIONS BEYOND THE TIME LIMIT MUST BE AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

ROLL CALL

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| ▪ Mr. Baxter – Present | Bert Steinmann, Mayor |
| ▪ Ms. Keyes-Maloney – Absent | Jim McManimon, Administrator |
| ▪ Mr. Schroth – Present | Maeve Cannon, Attorney |
| ▪ Ms. Steward – Present | Kim Macellaro, Municipal Clerk |
| ▪ President Wollert – Present | |

STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no statements and comments from members of the Public.

BILLS LIST

1. The Clerk read (**Resolution #18R-63**) A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Pay Bills in the Amount of \$1,749,624.52 and to Pay Supplemental Bills per Resolution #18R-15 in the Amount of \$3,628.64

Mr. Schroth moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Baxter. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. The Council President asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

The above referenced Bills List Resolution and the Bills List are available in the Clerk's Office in the 2018 Resolution Book Number One.

All items listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Township Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will not be separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. There will be one motion for all items listed.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Clerk read the Consent Agenda: (Resolution #18R-64/)

1. Approval of Agenda Session Minutes for October 24, 2017; Approval of Regular Session Minutes for October 24, 2017
2. A Resolution Authorizing the New Jersey State Police Memorial Association to Hold its Annual Chase (5KRun)

Mr. Baxter moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Schroth. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. President Wollert asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Schroth	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

The above referenced Minutes are available in the Clerk's Office in the 2017 Agenda Session and Regular Session Minutes Books. The above referenced Consent Agenda Resolution is available in the Clerk's Office in the 2018 Resolution Book Number One.

ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION

1. The Clerk read (Ordinance #18-05) AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2018 TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Ms. Steward moved the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Schroth. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. The Council President called for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
President Wollert	YES

ORDINANCE(S) FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION

(None for this Meeting)

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Clerk read (Resolution #18R-65) A RESOLUTION INTRODUCING AND APPROVING THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING, COUNTY OF MERCER FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2018

Mr. Schroth moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Baxter. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. President Wollert called for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

2. The Clerk read (Resolution #18R-66) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CY2018 RESERVE BUDGET TRANSFERS

Mr. Schroth moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Baxter. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. President Wollert asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

3. The Clerk read (Resolution #18R-67) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES BETWEEN TOWNSHIP OF EWING AND SERV PROPERTIES AND MANAGEMENT INC.

Ms. Steward moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Baxter.

President Wollert said that this was negotiated by the Administration. It will provide some monies for the Township. It is a good will gesture on the part of the non-profit SERV which serve people who have mental health issues.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. Council President Wollert asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
President Steward	YES

4. The Clerk read (Resolution #18R-68) A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PLANNING BOARD TO UNDERTAKE AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER CERTAIN PROPERTY CONSTITUTES AN AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT

Mr. Baxter moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Schroth.

President Wollert said that this should have been done initially; however, it will consolidate the Redevelopment Area on Parkway Avenue. It is little more than an acre.

The Attorney added that there are two odd-ball lots that for whatever reason were left out of the Redevelopment Area.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. The Council President asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Schroth	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

5. The Clerk read (**Resolution #18R-69**) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EWING TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MERCER COUNTY FOR EMS DISPATCH SERVICES

Mr. Schroth moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Baxter. There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. President Wollert asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

6. The Clerk read (**Resolution #18R-70**) A RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT TO HALECON, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$638,635.00 FOR THE BASE BID AND ALTERNATE 1A FOR THE MOODY PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Mr. Baxter moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Schroth.

At the request of Councilwoman Steward, the scope of the contract was briefly discussed.

The Administrator responded to Councilman Schroth regarding the timetable for the project.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. There were no questions or comments from the Public. President Wollert called for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Schroth	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Wollert	YES

7. The Clerk read (**Resolution #18R-71**) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE RELEASE FOR HOMEFRONT, 361 SCOTCH ROAD (101 CELIA WAY) (BLOCK 372.01/LOT 9) – EWING ENGINEERS REMINGTON, VERNICK & ARANGO RV&A #1102-I-057

Mr. Baxter moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Schroth.

Councilwoman Steward stated that, as a Homefront employee, she will be abstaining.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. There were no questions or comments from the Public. President Wollert asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Schroth	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Steward	ABSTAIN
President Wollert	YES

The above referenced New Business Resolutions are available in the Clerk’s Office in the 2018 Resolution Book Number One.

CLOSED SESSION

(None for this Meeting)

The Mayor presented the 2018 Budget to Council.

The Mayor said that the ratable value of the Township has increased for the seventh year in a row. This year it increased by twenty-four million dollars. The general operating budget is \$45,594,637 which is an increase of less than one half of one percent or .03 percent. State aid remained flat at \$9,766,000. There are no new revenues in 2018. Seventy-five percent of this Budget is statutory. Health care contributions have gone up by over \$100,000. Police and fire contributions have increased by \$400,000. This is under the Governor's review and it is hoped that it will be adjusted. The Township is \$800,000 under the allowable appropriations cap and \$413,000 under the levy cap. The amount that the Town is looking to raise by municipal tax is an increase of .26 percent or 1.7 cents. The average homeowner is assessed a value of \$125,000; the average assessment is \$21.50. The Mayor stated that the Administration went over this Budget with a fine-tooth comb and cut about seventy-five percent of the Department Heads' wish list. Overall, departmental budgets remained flat; a couple decreased. Some of the surplus was used to get down to the 1.7 cents. The Administration did not want to use any more surplus. If too much surplus is used, it not only puts the Town behind in future years, but also affects the bond rating if the surplus falls below a certain amount. The Township still has an AA bond rating. The surplus is around \$4,000,000. The sewer budget is \$8,957,000 and the sewer rate will remain flat at \$4.05 per one hundred cubic feet. Next year, an increase in revenue is anticipated. The Mayor added that this Budget does include the new employees hired within EMS and the Fire Department and the eleven new Police Officers. The Mayor thought that this Budget is rather frugal.

The Mayor and the Administrator responded to Councilman Baxter's question concerning the Police Department's request for eight new vehicles. The Mayor mentioned that the Health Department also requested a vehicle. That Department already has two; there are always vehicles available for use, if needed.

Council President Wollert and the Administration discussed cameras at the various municipal buildings and parks.

Councilman Baxter asked how many Police Officers retired last year.

The Mayor replied - one lieutenant and two patrol officers.

A discussion followed concerning the number of possible retirements in 2018. The Mayor said that the difficulty with planning for retirements is that Officers put in their papers and then pull them at the last minute. The Mayor added that what is concerning is not so much the size of the force (with the potential of seven retirements in 2018) but the rank of the Officers.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council for the Mayor.

The Administrator reminded the Council President to schedule her and Vice President Baxter's department head budget meetings with the CFO next week. Council President Wollert also discussed the scheduling of the public meetings.

The Mayor invited Council to the Monday evening swearing-in of all the newly hired firefighters.

There were no additional announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business President Wollert called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schroth so moved seconded by Mr. Baxter. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Kathleen Wollert, President

Kim J. Macellaro, Municipal Clerk