

**GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 29, 2021 AT 7:30 P.M.  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CHEWS LANDING NEW JERSEY**

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

Statement: Mr. Mercado read a statement setting forth the time, date and place of this meeting, that it was properly advertised, posted and filed in the Office of the Township Clerk pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call:	Ms. Grace-abs.	Mr. Carlamere, Solicitor
	Mr. Hutchison-abs.	Mr. Cardis, Business Administrator
	Mr. Mignone	Mrs. Power, Township Clerk, RMC
	Mrs. Stubbs	Mr. Lechner, Community Development
	Mrs. Winters	Chief Harkins, Police
	Mrs. Trotto	Mr. Chadwell, Engineer
	Mr. Mercado	

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

Mr. Mercado opened the public portion.

Ray Polidoro of Erial asked council to read EGov items during the first public portion, if they pertain to items in the agenda. Mr. Mercado stated council will take that under consideration, but rules are established at Reorganization annually that determine the order of business.

There being no further comment, the public portion was closed.

**ORDINANCE(S) SECOND READING – PUBLIC HEARING**

**O-21-15 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER ENTITLED, “ADMINISTRATIVE CODE” OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER**

Mr. Mercado opened the public hearing.

There being no comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Mignone made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Winters. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.

**O-21-16 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER ENTITLED, “PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURES” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER**

Mr. Mercado opened the public hearing.

There being no comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mrs. Winters made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Mignone. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**R-21:12-341**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE** Township Council of the Township of Gloucester, in the County of Camden, that the following bills are approved by the Township Council in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance 0-82-16 and certified by the Chief Financial Officer that the claims are proper obligation of the township, that adequate funds are available to honor these claims in the account indicated and the claim should be paid:

**CURRENT ACCOUNT**

Per attached computer readout of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 500,902.40

**CAPITAL ACCOUNT**

Per attached computer read out of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 127,063.85

**ANIMAL TRUST**

Per attached computer read out of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 1,102.80

**TRUST**

Per attached computer readout of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 92,644.50

**OPEN SPACE TRUST**

Per attached computer readout of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 1,207.71

**DEVELOPERS ESCROW**

Per attached computer readout of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 38,672.75

**MANUAL CHECKS**

Per attached computer readout of the claims presented in the amount of \$ 198,542.84

Adopted: December 29, 2021

ATTEST:

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President of Council  
Orlando Mercado

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Township Clerk,  
Nancy Power, RMC

Mrs. Trotto made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Mignone. Roll call vote: All in favor.  
Motion carried. 5-0.

**R-21:12-342**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE TAX COLLECTOR TO CHARGE-BACK TAXES  
DUE TO SALE OF EXEMPTED PROPERTY**

**WHEREAS**, the following property was previously exempted by the Township of Gloucester, and

**WHEREAS**, the previous resident had made proper application for Total and Permanent Service-Connected Disability tax exempt status on their property designated with the block and lots listed below and,

**WHEREAS**, the exempted property was sold same year as application by the Total and Permanently Disabled Veteran to an non-exempt party.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester that the Tax Collector is authorized to recollect taxes for 2021 and 2022.

<b>Block Lot</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Amount to be Collected</b>
12101 32	20 Edinburgh Road	Sold same year as exempted	2021- \$1,869.58 2022- \$3,736.36

Adopted : December 29, 2021

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President of Council  
Orlando Mercado

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Township Clerk  
Nancy Power, RMC

Mrs. Trotto made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Mignone. Roll call vote: All in favor.  
Motion carried. 5-0.

**R-21:12-343**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL SMALL  
BALANCES AND SMALL CREDITS ON PROPERTY TAXES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF  
GLOUCESTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector of Gloucester Township has certified to the Mayor and Township Council that certain persons have small credits or small balances on real estate taxes by an amount less than \$10.00, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector of the Township of Gloucester has certified to the Mayor and Township Council that such small balances may be cancelled by resolution, and;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by Mayor and Council of the Township of Gloucester, County of Camden, State of New Jersey that the Tax Collector of the municipality is hereby authorized to cancel small credits and small balances on real estate taxes as set forth in Exhibit "A" annexed hereto, and that the files of said Tax Collector be adjusted to reflect the cancellation.

Adopted: December 29, 2021

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President of Council  
Orlando Mercado

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Township Clerk  
Nancy Power, RMC

Mrs. Trotto made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Mignone. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.

**R-21:12-344**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
GLOUCESTER AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2021  
COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE**

**WHEREAS**, all jurisdictions within Camden County have exposure to hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment, and the County and local economy; and

**WHEREAS**; pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

**WHEREAS**, The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) established new requirements for pre and post disaster hazard mitigation programs; and

**WHEREAS**; a coalition of Camden County municipalities with like planning objectives has been formed to pool resources and create consistent mitigation strategies within Camden County; and

**WHEREAS**, the coalition has completed a planning process that engages the public, assesses the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, develops a mitigation strategy consistent with a set of uniform goals and objectives, and creates a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester authorize the following:

- 1) Adopts in its entirety, the 2021 Camden County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (the "Plan") as the jurisdiction's Hazard Mitigation Plan and resolves to execute the actions identified in the Plan that pertain to this jurisdiction.
- 2) Will use the adopted and approved portions of the Plan to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of the hazards identified.
- 3) Will coordinate the strategies identified in the Plan with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority.
- 4) Will continue its support of the Mitigation Planning Committee as described within the Plan.

- 5) Will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all participants in this Plan.
- 6) Will incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations.
- 7) Will provide an update of the Plan in conjunction with the County no less than every five years.

Adopted: December 29, 2021

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President of Council  
Orlando Mercado

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Township Clerk  
Nancy Power, RMC

Mrs. Trotto made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Mignone. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.

**R-21:12-345**

**RESOLUTION REJECTING PROPOSALS FOR TAX APPEAL CONSULTANT FOR THE YEAR 2022 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester has authorized and received proposals for Tax Appeal Consultant for Professional Services for the year 2022, and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester, that the proposals be and are hereby rejected.

Adopted: December 29, 2021

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President of Council  
Orlando Mercado

ATTEST:

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Township Clerk  
Nancy Power, RMC

Mrs. Trotto made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Mignone. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.

**R-21:12-346**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE READVERTISING OF QUALIFICATIONS/PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES VIA THE GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP WEBSITE FOR THE POSITION OF TAX APPEAL CONSULTANT FOR THE YEAR 2022**

**WHEREAS**, the laws of the State of New Jersey pursuant to Public Contracts and Pay-to-Play legislation authorizes request for qualifications for various professional services; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Soliciting of RFQ'S via the Gloucester Township Website for the readvertising of the professional services for the position of Tax Appeal Consultant is hereby authorized, in accordance with the respective specifications provided through the office of the Business Administrator for the following position(s):

Tax Appeal Consultant

Adopted: December 29, 2021

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President of Council  
Orlando Mercado

ATTEST:

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Township Clerk

Nancy Power, RMC

Mrs. Trotto made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Mignone. Roll call vote: All in favor.  
Motion carried. 5-0.

**R-21:12-347**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY CONFIRMING COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF FIRE DISTRICT NO.'S 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 AND 6 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GLOUCESTER**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:14-88, provides that each member of the Board of Fire Commissioners of a Fire District shall receive as compensation such amounts as the Board shall fix, subject to review by the Governing Body wherein the Fire District is located; and

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Fire Commissioners for the six Fire Districts located in the Township of Gloucester did establish by Resolution of their Board of Fire Commissioners an annual compensation for their Fire District Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, A copy of each of the six Fire District approving Resolutions were submitted to the Township of Gloucester for review and approval by the Township Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it Resolved by the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester that the attached list of Board of Fire Commissioner compensation for each of the six Fire Districts be and is hereby approved.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the respective Fire District.

Adopted: December 29, 2021

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President of Council  
Orlando Mercado

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Township Clerk

Nancy Power, RMC

Mrs. Trotto made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Mignone. Roll call vote: All in favor.  
Motion carried. 5-0.

R-21:12-348

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
GLOUCESTER, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY CONFIRMING  
THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF  
GLOUCESTER AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester has determined that it is in the best interest of the Township of Gloucester to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service in an effort to protect certain properties located at the Little Mill Green Acres property in Erial in the Township of Gloucester; and

**WHEREAS**, the signing of this agreement shall serve in an effort to complete the habitat improvement project and will continue for a period of ten (10) years; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Gloucester hereby authorizes execution of agreement with the United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service.

Adopted: December 29, 2021

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President of Council  
Orlando Merdo

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Township Clerk  
Nancy Power, RMC

Mrs. Trotto made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Mignone. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

R-21:12-349

**RESOLUTION TO MAKE BUDGET TRANSFERS BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS IN  
THE CY 2021 GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, certain CY 2021 Budget Appropriation balances are expected to be insufficient for the remainder of the year;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Gloucester, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58, the Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to make transfers between appropriations in the CY 2021 Budget of the Township of Gloucester, as follows:

<u>ACCOUNT #</u>	<u>ACCOUNT TITLE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
1-01-20-145-000-200	Tax Collector OE	\$30,000.00	
1-01-20-155-000-200	Engineering OE	45,000.00	
1-01-22-195-000-100	Construction Code SW		\$200.00
1-01-23-220-000-336	Group Insurance Flex OE		10,000.00
1-01-25-240-000-100	Police SW		240,000.00

1-01-25-240-005-100	Police Special Officers SW		500.00
1-01-26-305-000-200	Sanitation OE	220,700.00	
1-01-28-375-000-200	Parks and Playground OE	20,000.00	
1-01-31-430-000-200	Electricity OE	25,000.00	
1-01-31-435-000-200	Street Lighting OE		40,000.00
1-01-31-460-000-200	Gasoline OE	30,000.00	
1-01-36-472-000-200	Social Security		80,000.00
		<hr/>	
		\$370,700.00	\$370,700.00
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Adopted: December 29, 2021

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 President of Council  
 Orlando Mercado

ATTEST:

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 Township Clerk  
 Nancy Power, RMC

Mrs. Trotto made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Winters. Roll call vote: Mr. Mignone stepped out. All in favor. Motion carried. 4-0.

**GT E-GOV ACCESS:**

Peter Heinbaugh of Morningstar Court asked council the following questions:  
*On December 14, I sent an email to the leadership of the Gloucester Township Housing Authority, and to Councilmember Carolyn Grace in her role as liaison to the Housing Authority. The email detailed a constructive, practical suggestion for cost saving for the Housing Authority. I have not received a response to this email. Could Ms. Grace give her feedback to this cost saving recommendation?* Mr. Mercado explained Ms. Grace is absent from this evening's meeting due to bereavement. Mr. Mercado stated he does not have this email in order to respond, but he will follow up with Ms. Grace.

Sam Sweet of Elizabeth Place asked council the following questions:  
 1. *When will the non-fair contracts for 2021 be announced?* Mr. Mercado stated the CFO has been out ill, but these will be completed at the next meeting.  
 2. *When can I expect the EDC minutes and agendas that I requested?* Mr. Mercado stated he is in receipt of this items and will give to Mr. Sweet personally.

Sam Sweet of Elizabeth Place asked council the following questions:  
*According to Statutory Regulation Title 40, EMS is overseen by the Chief of Police when it is not delegated elsewhere such as a fire district or the OEM Branch. It appears that in the past the business administrator of Gloucester Township was in charge of oversight of EMS. Is that correct?* Chief Harkins explained the responsibility falls on the Mayor's office who has delegated the responsibility to Chief Harkins, who has delegated responsibility to the Office of Emergency Management Coordinator based upon the code of the township.  
*Who currently oversees EMS in Gloucester Township?* Emergency Management Coordinator John Swack  
*Is AMR leaving the township? I noticed that there is an RFP for EMS Services. The RFP says that Gloucester Township will be providing the 2 buildings in order to house the ambulances. Will Gloucester Township be receiving any compensation for use of those buildings? Will the companies be paying rent and/or utilities and/o insurance on those buildings? Or will those expenses be the responsibility of the taxpayers like they were in the AMR agreement?* Chief Harkins stated it is unknown, AMR could resubmit. Chief Harkins stated EMS services are being monitored daily. Mr. Cardis stated the contract was designed to have zero cost to the township. Mr. Cardis wishes to make the contract as attractive as possible, due to the regional issues surrounding EMS.  
*In light of these recent developments and since we have two deputy chiefs, has any consideration been given that one of them could handle oversight of the EMS?* Chief Harkins stated he ultimately has oversight over the Office of Emergency Management.  
*Finally, due to the recent and past problems with EMS in Gloucester Township, has any consideration*

*been given to Gloucester Township having a home grown EMS system much like Cherry Hill, and Voorhees?* Chief Harkins stated they have explored every option, but a homegrown EMS is costly.

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

Mr. Mercado opened the public portion.

Paul Krug of Blackwood Estates wished Mr. Lechner a happy retirement. Mr. Krug also supports reading EGov submissions prior to the agenda. Mr. Krug suggested a non mechanical roller for athletic fields and to rent a roller for the unpaved streets and parking lots. Mr. Krug asked council for support so Mr. Krug could join the NPP Stakeholder Committee.

Shaunessy Smithman of Millbridge Gardens wished to bring up education issues in our school systems. Ms. Smithman stated schools are not educating on stillborn pregnancies. Mr. Mercado stated this matter should be brought to the Board of Education if you wish to reach children.

Ray Polidoro of Erial stated the market to affordable question was proposed to the Housing Authority and he was not satisfied with their response. Mr. Polidoro asked if there was an issue with the GT EMS Alliance in the past. Mr. Mercado recalled the service near the end was lacking. Chief Harkins provided a timeline of the township EMS. Mr. Polidoro asked for someone to dispute that EMS service was not available three days the previous week. Chief Harkins stated the township made agreements for coverage with neighboring towns and using the fire department as supplementation. Mr. Polidoro asked if there is anything preventing the township to obtain EMS out of the state. Chief Harkins stated the volunteers would require a NJ certification.

Shaunessy Smithman of Millbridge Gardens asked if all religions are welcome to speak at council meetings. Mr. Mercado explained there is a ministry that sets forth a schedule of clergy to lead the council meeting in prayer. The pandemic has affected the clergy attendance. Ms. Smithman is suggesting that clergy can utilize the public portion to pray.

There being no further comment the public portion closed.

**POLLING OF DIRECTORS:**

Mr. Carlamere wished everyone a Happy New Year and wished Mr. Lechner a Happy Retirement.

Mr. Cardis wished everyone a Happy New Year and wished Mr. Lechner a Happy Retirement and that he leaves Gloucester Township a better place.

Mr. Lechner appreciated the opportunity to work in Gloucester Township and enjoyed working with the administration and council.

Chief Harkins wished everyone a happy and safe New Year. Chief Harkins asked residents to enjoy the New Year, but don't drink and drive. Chief Harkins wished Mr. Lechner a Happy Retirement and on behalf of the police department Chief Harkins thanked Mr. Lechner.

Mr. Chadwell wished everyone a Happy New Year and Congratulated Mr. Lechner on his retirement.

**POLLING OF COUNCIL:**

Mr. Mignone wished everyone to stay safe with the pandemic. Mr. Mignone wished Mr. Lechner a Happy Retirement.

Mrs. Stubbs wished everyone a safe and prosperous New Year. Mrs. Stubbs congratulated Mr. Lechner on his retirement.

Mrs. Winters wished everyone a safe, happy, healthy New Year. Mrs. Winters asked everyone to keep themselves safe through the season. Mrs. Winters wished Mr. Lechner the best of luck in his retirement.

Mrs. Trotto wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mrs. Trotto congratulated Mr. Lechner and thanked him for making himself available whenever Mrs. Trotto has a question.

Mr. Mercado thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Mercado stated Mr. Lechner has worked under three mayors but was never partisan and always put the needs of the township first. Mr. Mercado thanked Mr. Lechner for his work on the Gloucester Premium Outlets and every project he has helped to complete.

Mrs. Trotto made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Mignone. Roll call vote: All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Nancy Power, RMC



Council President  
Orlando Mercado

Township Clerk