

**ON TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020, AT 6:00 P.M. THE JACKSON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL HELD ITS SPECIAL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING IN THE MAIN MEETING ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING (NO EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING WAS HELD THIS DATE) VIA ZOOM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALOGERO-** please take a moment of silence for our military and the First Responders here at home.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COUNCILMAN BRESSI (via teleconference)      ATTORNEY MCGUCKIN**  
**COUNCILMAN FLEMMING                              TOWNSHIP CLERK KISTY**  
**COUNCILMAN KERN**  
**COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT SAUICKIE**  
**COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALOGERO**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR TERENCE WALL**  
**MAYOR MICHAEL REINA**

As Clerk of this meeting, I publicly announce that in compliance with the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act" adequate notice of this meeting of the Jackson Township Council has been advertised in the manner prescribed by law.

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**OPENING COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALOGERO-** we need to reflect on the suffering of the hundreds of Jackson residents who have been impacted by this terrible virus. To those who have lost their lives, lost their employment, who are sick or struggling to deal with the changes that we have been forced to accept, you are in my prayers. The township will take the necessary measures to aid those individuals in need. I have the honor of serving as the State Director for the USDA Farming Service Agency in New Jersey. In his professional life he has served in many leadership roles. None of the positions have made me feel more fulfilled than serving as Council President. When I took this position in 2017 shortly after being reelected, I knew I would need to balance my political role of an elected official with a non- partisan role of a Federal employee. I also knew a political future beyond this term would be impossible. It is difficult to serve as Council President as I struggle with the effects of Parkinson for the last 7 years. I have served for over 15 years in the great town from volunteering at the Zoning Board and being a Council member. I am announcing my resignation from this position as Council President with the effective date being May 13, 2020. I am addressing rumors that my decision was sudden. I was pondering my decision but after speaking with my family determined I must focus on my family and my health. As I reflect my 8 years as a public official, I was truly honest in every decision made and voted based on my morals, ethics and in the best interest of all Jackson residents. The decisions that I made were based on information carefully researched and consultations with experts. We sought the needs of the residents. It is tough to determine what decisions were the most important. Perhaps the ones that are the most controversial such as those for overdevelopment were the most important. This is an area where the selfish, misinformed, the pretend media, and the losers who hide behind social media attempt to take a fundamental opinion over land use and turn it into something disgusting and make sickening accusations. I have strong feelings about our land use rules and the individuals who should be responsible in designing them. I believe the courts are incorrect in their approach on Affordable Housing mandates. I believe changes in land use sought by greedy builders should be rejected. I believe those individuals who would like to turn Jackson into an overdeveloped town need to be called out. I was elected by the people of this town, which entrusted me with the honors of making the correct decisions for our town. If I voted against my conscious it would have been a violation of our residents trust in me. I accepted all the criticism of becoming an elected official, and know all the good that was accomplished. I believe in every decision made on opposing overdevelopment, pushing the council to fight the courts in their unruly realistic COAH mandates, and in standing up for our tax payers. The decisions made at times were unpopular but were made

in the best interest of every resident. As an elected official you must withstand lies, nastiness and slander which comes from the darkness of social media. I do not like bullies and cannot tolerate them, and as always stood up to them during my time as Council. Bullies only win if you allow them to. When you push back they will run away. This is a lesson for my colleagues and those sitting in the Council for the future. We must stand up for what's right even if it is unpopular. We must always speak against injustice and speak the truth when people lie. Do not chase votes, do not chase headlines, and do not make decisions ahead of your morals. During my tenure as Councilman tough decisions were made and I voted against the majority on the dais. I have seen current Council members dismiss their values and make decisions in order to remain on this Council for one more term. This job must be conducted correctly and without follow others decisions. I have made decisions for the betterment of Jackson and leave this position with my head held high. This town is in a better position. Thanked residents for giving him the opportunity of serving as their elected official. In the words of Ronald Reagan "there are no easy answers but there are simple answers". We need to have the courage to do what is correct. As the last time as Council President God Bless our Troops, God Bless our First Responders, God Bless Jackson and God Bless America.

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**COUNCILMAN BRESSI** – confirmed that Council President Calogero is resigning. He is glad he isn't resigning due to health reasons as he has struggled with Parkinson's disease. He expressed that this decision must have been a hard one to make. Wished him well in his endeavors, and wishes the best with his health. Thanked him for his many years of service to this town.

**COUNCILMAN FLEMMING**-thanked Council President Calogero for his service and wished him well in his future endeavors.

**COUNCILMAN KERN**- Barry is an honest and honorable man. He is also a wonderful friend. He has always had Jackson residents at heart and made decisions based on the well-being of our residents. He has worked hard for the people of Jackson as a volunteer and elected roles for over 15 years. He is an inspiration as he fights with his condition and continues to put other people first. He worked hard at the last campaign and was a mentor. He never asked for anything in return. Jackson is a better place due to his service. Thanked Council President Calogero for his service.

**COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT SAUICKIE** – it is a somber night and Barry has served our town for over 15 years. He listened to all the residents of Jackson and he fought for the quality of life in this town. The quality of life is a way of measuring a town. When you live in the State with the most foreclosures, it doesn't make sense to continue building housing units. He fought against state mandated COAH, more affordable housing and overdevelopment. He fought for fiscal efficiency and working along with Mayor Reina and Business Administrator Wall have accomplished this. Jackson has earned S& P rating of AA+ rating. The State of New Jersey has BBB rating which is the second worst in the country. He fought for smart commercial rates to lower the tax burden to our residents. He encouraged business in specific areas to keep traffic lower throughout our town. He has been a champion of our Police Department and First Responders. He recently stated that he is so proud of all of our First Responders. He is proud as Jackson First Aid once again regains the responsibility of serving the residents of our town. He has fought repeatedly for the first and second amendments. He has volunteered to several groups of all types. He is a great leader, friend, and an example of doing was right even when he has been pressured to do otherwise. This council will truly miss his leadership. Those serving on this council are long time residents who cherish Jackson and all the things that make up this town. Earlier this year we provided objectives that all resulted from things residents have asked for. The Council has executed some of our objectives such as the purchase of Rova Farms, passed ordinances against animal cruelty and fought to protect our unique environment. We are holding developers accountable of bringing clean dirt and fill into our town. We recently transferred a million dollars to our school district to support teachers and students in keeping Jackson Schools among the best in the county. As we move forward there will be decisions made that you may not want to hear as others will exceed your expectations. Encouraged residents to read the details and avoid headlines and keywords. All actions will come with explanations and encourage questions made by the residents to ensure complete

understanding. All of our actions will be based on the best of our abilities and in support of our resident's interests. With Council President Calogero's departure effective on May 13, 2020 we will immediately open the opportunity for residents to be interviewed to be appointed by the council for this vacant position. Any interested candidate can submit a resume to the Clerk's Office no later than May 15, 2020. Please include the reasons for the candidate being qualified for this position. Reminded candidates that candidates must reside in Jackson, We are seeking the best candidate to serve the residents of Jackson as quickly as possible. Thanked residents for attending the meeting and thanked hospital staff and First Responders during this time. Please stay safe.

**MAYOR REINA-** did not expect this announcement at this meeting. He stated the Council President Calogero has accomplished many things and it will continue for many years to come. He has been a voice of reason, stood on his principles even when others disagreed. He is a gentleman, and showed respect to others even when at times he was disrespected. As a public official one is open to criticism and this will continue going forward. Echoed comments made by the council and wished him the best in his future and more importantly in his health. Thanked him for his service. He will continue to fight to have Governor Murphy start to relax the measures and restrictions on small businesses that cannot survive in this economy as it stands. He believes small businesses are educated enough to be responsible as their customers to practice social distancing, wearing masks, and adhering to the regulations as other stores are accomplishing. Our small business do not have the same capabilities as larger corporations have. He has received phone calls from residents in regards to these measures and he will continue to fight to open safely, responsibly and in a timely fashion. Regardless of what the Governor's office states we are ready to reopen. We all owe Jackson resident's patience and understanding. Thanked healthcare workers who are unable to be with their families, and First Responders who risk their lives now more than ever before. Clarified that the drive in movie is only for Jackson Township residents and a quite a few special people. He encouraged people to stop judging Jackson Township for the drive in movie instead of asking questions. We are glad to answer any questions you may have. Stay positive, stay safe and stay healthy. God Bless you and God Bless America.

**TOWNSHIP CLERK KISTY -** thanked Council President Calogero for his service. She has known him for many years. She worked with Council President Calogero on the Zoning Board and now as the Township Clerk. She knows he made decisions based on what he thought was right. He has behaved as a leader and thanked him for his leadership. Good luck with everything.

**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR WALL-**echoed all the comments made. On behalf of Administration, our staff and all the employees of Jackson Township thanked him for his leadership, and statesmanship. You are the best and have given the best of your time. We look forward to seeing you often and engaged as we move forward in our journey to succeed for the tax payers of Jackson.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALOGERO-** thanked the Administration, the Clerk's office and all the employees who work hard for our town. These people helped in making my job easier. They are the true people who make this town a great town.

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#### **PUBLIC COMMENT, ANY TOPIC**

**ELENOR HANNUM- 6 EVERGREEN COURT-** bravo Barry. Thanked him for speaking against those individuals that needed to be spoken about. Thanked Council President Calogero for his service. You have done right by the residents and will be truly missed. We will still watch over our beloved Jackson as instigators continuing working to destroy our beloved town.

**JEFF RIKER-15 WALTER DRIVE** thanked Council President Calogero for all his tireless efforts and for his service to Jackson Township. Wished him the best of health.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALOGERO-**thanked Ms. Hannum and Mr. Riker for their comments. Asked Ms. Hannum to continue to speak up. The Mayor and Council have shown that we listen to the people.

**DENISE GARNER- 14 EVERGREEN COURT-** thanked Council President Calogero for his service and expressed we have lost a true voice in protecting a “pearl of our township”. She is saddened to hear his decision to resign. Wished him well in his future endeavors. God Bless you and your family.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALOGERO**-thanked Ms. Garner.

**JOSEPH SULLIVAN- 38 CATHY COURT-** thanked Council President Calogero for everything he has accomplished for Jackson and especially everything he has done for me. He was privileged to have learned from him and admires him.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALOGERO-** thanked Mr. Sullivan for his comments. God Bless.

**MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC BY: SAUICKIE  
MOTION SECONDED BY: KERN  
YES: BRESSI, FLEMMING, KERN, SAUICKIE, CALOGERO**

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**MOTION TO ADJOURN BY: SAUICKIE  
MOTION SECONDED BY: KERN  
YES: BRESSI, FLEMMING, KERN, SAUICKIE, CALOGERO**

**6:25 P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

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**COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALOGERO**

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**JANICE KISTY, R.M.C.  
TOWNSHIP CLERK**

JK/xo