

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
January 11, 2016**

The Worksession Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Edison was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Council President Lombardi, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Gomez, Karabinchak, Lombardi, Patil, Sendelsky and Shah.

Councilmember Diehl entered at 6:15pm

Also present were Township Clerk Russomanno, Clerk McCray, Township Attorney Northgrave, Business Administrator Ruane, Recreation Director Halliwell, Health Director Elliott, Township Engineer Kataryniak, Fire Chief Latham, Police Chief Bryan and Cameraman Cologna.

The Clerk advised that adequate notice of this meeting as required by the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, has been provided by an Annual Notice sent to The Home News and Tribune, The Star Ledger and the Sentinel on December 12, 2015 and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

Council President Lombardi opened the meeting for comments from the public.

Phylis Girone, 9 Taurus Court asked what can be done about the homes behind her house that were built about 15 years ago as their water spills into her property. She said her home has gutters that go out to the street. She called several times and was told that's the lay of the land.

Edward Guarnieri, 80 Webb St. stated regarding Ms. Girone's property, there is about a 15ft. drop, stone her top soil is all washed away. He said it should be looked at by the Engineer.

Council President Lombardi asked for arrangements to be made to look at Ms. Girone's property.

Councilmember Karabinchak asked Mr. Kataryniak to report back to the council regarding this matter.

Bruce Diamond, Calvert Ave., West asked for an update on the recycling trucks regarding the glass spills. He also asked when preparing the solid waste budget are holidays and benefits taken into consideration. He commented on recent news article regarding Police. He feels that we should have the state do the Internal Investigations. He also asked if we received an answer from the cable company regarding the franchise fees.

Ms. Ruane said she will check and have an answer on Wednesday regarding the recycling truck glass.

Ms. Ruane stated all costs are factored into the solid waste budget.

Mr. Northgrave said the answer he received from the Cable Company didn't appear right. He will contact them again and get back to Mr. Diamond for the next council meeting.

Mr. Northgrave said he will defend the police department, this was in the past.

Mr. Diamond commented, the chief does a good job and he is a good man, but he feels we should not have internal affairs within our own department.

Bob Spiegel 202 Tyler Road, wished everyone a Happy New Year. He expressed his concerns regarding the vacate property the town owns at 205 Tyler Road. There is dumping going on and kids are using the property to hang out. He has offered his help to take care of it. He asked if there is an update on the Edison Land fill and also the former CIC property.

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Council President Lombardi said he will have Police Chief Bryan look into the breakins in the area. He also asked Ms. Ruane to follow up on the trash dumping.

Councilmember Diehl reported along with the Environmental Club we are working and planning on 205 Tyler Road to be open in the spring.

Mr. Spiegel said he feels we need to see some action at the property for example, patrol the area and put lights on in the house.

Council President Lombardi asked Ms. Ruane if we have an update on land fill closure.

Ms. Ruane replied there is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, she will have a report on Wednesday.

Ms. Ruane reported we have an Interlocal Service Agreement for the dog park with Metuchen which was approved about a month ago. She told Mr. Speigel he can contact the Clerk for a copy.

Esther Nemitz, 163B Fay St. said she wanted to let everyone know to try to attend the Redevelopment meeting scheduled on January 14 at 7:00pm at the Clara Barton First Aid Squad. All businesses and resident in Clara Barton area should come and listen to the presentation.

Council President Lombardi thanked Ms. Nemitz for her support and help regarding the Redevelopment Meeting scheduled for January 14, 2016.

Ms. Nemitz said she would like Edison TV to be there.

Council President Lombardi said the meeting is advertized on the website and channel 15.

Water Stochel, Oak Tree Road, asked if this meeting is being sponsored by the Township.

Mr. Northgrave explained this hasn't gone to the Planning Board for review yet. He said about a year ago it was brought up by Esther to inform the neighborhood.

Mr. Stochel asked if the Administration received his letter regarding the Boat Basin. He also asked why P.S. E & G was only charged \$1.00 for an access agreement and when the Council passed a resolution for this.

Mr. Stochel said the Recycle Center on Meadow Road is a mess.

Ms. Ruane stated the company went bankrupt and she will have someone there tomorrow.

Mr. Stochel asked if there have been any Civil Rights law suits filed.

Mr. Northgrave replied not that he is aware of right now.

Council President Lombardi asked Ms. Ruane if the administration is in receipt of Mr Stochel's letter.

Ms. Ruane replied yes, she will report on Wednesday.

Frank Greco, 10 Maida Road, said we have great activists in this town and he feels we should keep in touch with them. They are good people and care about making our town better.

Carl Zimmerman, Grandview Ave., said he is not afraid to work. He urged people to look around as there are fewer signs all over town.

Council President Lombardi thanked Mr. Zimmerman for his good work.

Mr. Spiegel, 202 Tyler Road suggested we look into grants for cleaning up the Meadow Road area of the Raritan River.

Mr. Diamond suggested the attorney look into the State taking over internal affairs.

Hearing no further comments, this public hearing was closed, on a motion made by Councilmember Karabinchak seconded by Councilmember Diehl , with all in favor.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. and b. Accepted as submitted.

6. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

None

7. POINTS OF LIGHT

Council President Lombardi said Edison Township along with Edison Chamber of Commerce will be Co-Sponsoring a Community meeting on the Amboy Avenue Revitalization Plan on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at Clara Barton First Aid Squad at 7:30pm. He also wanted to invite everyone to attend our Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration held on Saturday, January 16, 2016 at 1:00pm at the Minnie Veal Community Center.

8. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. Councilmember Sendelsky asked if this contract is in addition to our Health Insurance benefits and have we used them in the past.

Ms. Ruane replied someone to administer the plan and pay whether use them or not.

b. No comments were made.

9. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. through d. No comments were made.

e. Councilmember Karabinchak asked why are we refunding Lien Holders.

Ms. Ruane replied she will get back to him on Wednesday.

g. and h. No comments were made.

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

a. through c. No comments were made.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

a. Mr. Northgrave explained this is Our Lady of Peace property to refer to Planning Board for review.

b. Mr. Northgrave explained this is the Rt. 27 site by TD bank to execute the redevelopment plan.

c. Ms. Ruane explained this is the agreement with the county for tipping fees. This is done every three years.

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

a. through c. No comments were made.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

a. through e. No comments were made.

14. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:

a. No Comments were made.

15. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. No comments were made.

16. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

a. and b. No comments were made.

17. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Council President Lombardi, thanked Councilmember Shah for her work on the Planning Board last year. Councilmember Sendelsky will be the new Councilmember to the Planning Board.

Councilmember Sendelsky reported the next Planning Board Meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2016 at 6:30pm.

18. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Lombardi:

None

Councilmember Diehl

a. He asked Ms. Ruane if we are prepared for the weather with salt and necessary equipment.

Ms. Ruane replied, we are absolutely ready.

Councilmember Gomez:

None

Councilmember Karabinchak:

a. He would like to reappoint the three members.

b. He asked if we are still on track for this Spring on the Woodland and Oak Tree Light.

Mr. Kataryniak said yes, according to the County. He also said the paving is shut down now due to the weather.

Councilmember Patil:

None

Councilmember Sendelsky:

None

Councilmember Shah:

- a. She asked Ms. Ruane what services we provide to the Board of Education for free. She also asked Ms. Ruane for a cost benefit analysis.
- b. She said regarding the animal shelter, she has received anonymous emails stating we are no longer a non kill shelter.

Ms. Ruane said our shelter is a non kill. Nothing is done at the shelter, not even stitches, everything is done as humanly possible.

- c. She asked Chief Bryan for an update on Body Cams.

Chief Bryan said he is presently looking at three vendors to see which works the best for us. He said there are six Body Cams being used now.

CLOSED SESSION:

The Council retired to Closed Session at 7:20 p.m., on a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Karabinchak and duly carried. The Township Clerk read the following Resolution into the record:

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Article VI of the Open Public Meetings Act provides that a public body may hold a closed session; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council will during this meeting enter into discussion of the following matters:

- 1) Litigation

WHEREAS, the matters to be discussed in closed session are to remain in the strictest of confidence by all Council Members in furtherance of their fiduciary duties to the Township of Edison;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, matters discussed at this meeting will be released to the public when the reasons for discussing and acting upon them in closed session no longer exists.

The Council returned from Closed Session at 7:39 p.m., on a motion made by Councilmember Diehl seconded by Councilmember Karabinchak and duly carried.

On a motion made by Councilmember Gomez , seconded by Councilmember Karabinchak , with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.

Michael R. Lombardi
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno, RMC
Municipal Clerk