

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
February 22, 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 6:00 p.m. by Council President Lombardi , followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl,Lombardi, Patil, Sendelsky and Shah.

Councilmember Gomez entered at 6:09pm.

Councilmember Karabinchak was absent.

Also present were Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney McManimon, 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.

Bruce Diamond, Calvert Ave., West, said when the Mayor was running for office he asked for an audit of open space funds, was that ever prepared.

Ms. Ruane replied she will check into the matter and report back.

Mr. Diamond asked how is the Sidewalk waiver fund is funded and processed.

Council President Lombardi said it receives funds when a waiver is granted.

Mr. Kataryniak explained the process, each application is reviewed individually.

Mr. Diamond suggested we should start declining waivers on these large homes that are being built.

Councilmember Sendelsky said this issue came up at a Planning Board meeting. He said the board was opposed to the waiver, so they had to put sidewalks in.

Mr. Diamond asked if anyone is following up on the quality of paving work being done on Stephenville Parkway and Park towards Plainfield

Mr. Kataryniak said he will get the information.

Mr. Diamond asked if the Assistant Director Job was posted.

Ms. Ruane replied No, this is the Mayor's appointment, Mr. Russomanno is being reassigned.

Council President Lombardi said the term goes with the Mayor's term.

Mr. Diamond asked if the council had any answers on the Senator Barnes bill.

Council President Lombardi replied the Public Safety Committee hasn't had their meeting.

Councilmember Gomez said he is gathering information to formulate a report for the public.

Police Chief Bryan gave a report regarding the Senator Barnes bill and also to address the fiction that is in the newspaper.

Walt Stochel, 2118 Oak Tree Road, said regarding the Ordinance O.1924-2016 to grant a temporary easement to the County, he suggests the ordinance should compensate Edison more than \$1.00. This area is part of open space inventory. He submitted a letter to the Council from the Open Space Advisory Committee.

Mr. Stochel asked if we have a list of properties that were considered for Redevelopment.

Council President Lombardi said Heyer & Guel is currently working on developing a list.

Mr. Kataryniak said he is currently working with Green Acres and DEP regarding this Temporary Easement.

Council President Lombardi asked for Mr. Kataryniak to keep the Open Space committee informed.

Mr. Stochel asked for an explanation on the Refunding Bond Ordinance.

Ms. Ruane explained it was recommended by our financial firm and it will bring a \$315,000 dollar savings to the town.

Councilmember Diehl suggest we mail Mr. Stochel the list of Redevelopment properties.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, thanked Police Chief Bryan for his report. He asked for explanation on the mandates in respect to Edison Police Department.

Chief Bryan explained the procedures of the Internal Affairs and Detective bureau are completely overseen by the County Prosecutor, which reports to the Attorney General.

Maryann Hennessey, 20 Carmello Drive, asked when did discussions start taking place regarding the Assistant Director of Public Works and why wasn't it public.

Ms. Ruane said the discussions started over a year ago prior to Jeff leaving. Purview is in Administration.

Ms. Hennessey said Mr. Roderman ran Public Works like clock work so why all of a sudden do we need an assistant.

Ms. Ruane said the past administration had someone in this position.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road, agrees with Mrs. Hennessey and asked if there is a Job Description.

Ms Ruane said there is a job description. Mr. Russomanno has knowledge of the township and 75-80% of his job as Constituent Relations Administrator deals with Public Works. This is a natural progression. The money will move from the Mayors' office to Public Works budget.

Ms. Wolke stated we finally hired someone for \$120,000, don't we think he is qualified.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, announced a meeting will be held at Stelton School on March 7, 2016 from 6:00pm-8:30pm regarding the 514-529 corridor.

Bruce Diamond, Calvert Avenue, West, said he appreciated the report Chief Bryan gave and apologizes. His position is from reading the editorials.

Chief Bryan replied it is part of the legal process, and he does understand and appreciates.

Mr. Diamond suggested when negotiating contracts there should be language regarding discipline.

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

- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
a. through h. Accepted as submitted.

- 6. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA
FROM MAYOR LANKEY:**
a. No comments were made

7. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Patil said he has been unable to attend Library Board Meeting they are on the same date as Council Meeting.

Council President Lombardi suggested he discuss with the Board to change their meeting dates.

8. POINTS OF LIGHT

Council President Lombardi said there is a new Art exhibit display on the 3rd floor. He also said we have our first female Volunteer Firefighter.

Councilmember Shah said Congrats, to Chief Latham. Waiting for a Woman Boss in Police Department.

Councilmember Diehl thanked Carl Zimmerman for doing a fantastic Job.

Councilmember Sendelsky reported this past Friday children made blankets for animals?????

- 9. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**
a. through c. No comments were made

- 10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:**
a. No comments were made

- 11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:**
a. No comments were made

- 12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:**
a. through e. No comments were made.

- 13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:**
a. and b. No comments were made

c. Council President Lombardi commented he thought we already did this.

Mr. Kataryniak said this is another property.

14. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**
a. and b. No comments were made
15. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:**
a. No comments were made.
16. **FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:**
a. and b. No comments were made
17. **FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:**
a. No comments were made
18. **FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:**
Councilmember Sendelsky 's report.

Two cases were on the agenda for the meeting. The first case was #P5167 Tai Kui Lee and Raymond Lee at 59 Middlesex Avenue Block 661 Lots 10,11,12. It was a proposal for a two lot minor subdivision in the RB zone which had no required variances. They will install sidewalks at the street and replace any trees removed in accordance with Edison Township's tree ordinance. There was one public comment from resident Esther Nemitz who agreed that the sidewalks should be installed. The application was approved unanimously.

The second application was case #P2-2016 The Wardlaw Hartidge School located at 1295 Inman Avenue, Block 415 Lot 9.E5 & 9.J1. They were originally proposing an addition of 9,944 square feet and removing 10 parking spaces. The plan was revised to provide an additional 10 parallel parking spaces along the entrance driveway therefore no net loss of parking from the site and no variances required. The size of the new auditorium was increased to 10,345 square feet. Their Head of School, engineer, and architect all made presentations before the board. The application was unanimously approved with the following conditions: acceptance of our engineer's and planners reports, no simultaneous uses on the property at the same time, working out the new lighting and foot candles with our planner, no outside use by the paying public (only for the school), and full compliance with the tree ordinance. The application was given unanimous preliminary approval **only** due to the revisions that must be made to the plan.

Board member Olga Sgambettera was sworn in to her new term on the Planning Board.

Two previously approved resolutions #P-06-2013 J K Estates and #5165 Anthony Malinowski 40 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, were memorialized.

Three Land Use resolutions were Approved and returned to the Council :

- Council Resolution R.031-012016 For an area in need of Redevelopment 635 Amboy Avenue, Block 748, Lot 36
- Council Resolution R115-022016 Redevelopment plan for Salzberg Properties, Block 1142 Lot 21.b, Block 1143 Lots 27.01 and 27.02 - 1906 Route 27
- Council Resolution R.108-022016 Redevelopment Plan for Block 390.A Lot 1.A4 (844 King George's Post Road)

All three were approved with 6 affirmative votes and my abstention to be able to vote on the council.

19. **COMMUNICATIONS:**
a. No comments were made.

20. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Lombardi:

None

Councilmember Diehl

None

Councilmember Gomez:

None

Councilmember Karabinchak:

- a. Oaktree and Woodland Light

Councilmember Patil:

- a. Is there a process or procedure in place to visit the areas around town for pot holes.

Ms. Ruane explained we have the Q alert system and everyday police and workers on the road call in streets.

- b. Regarding Senator Barnes bill discussion, can we have a time line to inform the public.

Councilmember Gomez said he is going to be scheduling a Public Safety Meeting within the next two weeks.

Councilmember Sendelsky:

- a. Thanked Melissa, Maureen and Kirsten for giving him a tour of the Animal Shelter facility and he feels we are heading in right direction.

Councilmember Shah:

- a. She Thanked Kirsten for her working toward resolving the issues at the Shelter.
- b. If residents need to get in touch with her, you can leave a message in the clerk's office.
- c. There is a course on March 13th & 14th American Women in Politics at Rutgers. She encourages Women to get involved.

On a motion made by Councilmember _____, seconded by Councilmember _____, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at

Michael R. Lombardi
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno, RMC
Municipal Clerk