

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
March 6, 2017**

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 Vice President Gomez, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Coyle, Diehl, Gomez, Patil, Sendelsky and Shah.

Councilmember Lombardi was absent.

Also present were Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Township Clerk McCray, Township Attorney Northgrave, Business Administrator Ruane, Health Director Elliott, Assistant Public Works Director Russomanno, Fire Chief Latham, Police Deputy Chief Mieczkowski 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 30, 2016 and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

Council Vice President Gomez opened the meeting for comments from the public.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, asked about the contract paving for Amboy Avenue. She was told an application to the state was done in the fall. When will the plan be available for this project. She gave all Councilmembers a copy of an article from Saturday, February 25, 2017 Homes News Tribune regarding the Edgewater Apartment Complex fire, concerning the building codes. She feels we should improve our construction codes since we have projects like Kilmer going up.

Council Vice President Gomez thanked Esther for her concerns. He said Mr. Kataryniak will be here Wednesday to explain.

Walter Stochel, 2118 Oak Tree Road., he again thanked everyone for the Resolution of Recognition, it was a great surprise. As Chair of the Open Space Committee, he announced the public meeting of Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 6:00pm, presentation on the updated of maps and goals for The Edison Township Open Space and Recreational Plan. Regarding Woodland Estates he found the draft developers agreement, which he handed to our attorney.

Councilmember Diehl, this Open Space Pubic Meeting we will be going over in detail what the Open Space Committee has done and potential plans for our Township.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, Oak Tree Pond light on the Flag Pole is not working.

Mr. Russomanno, we are aware and are in process of working with a contractor to fix.

Mr. Wolke, he thought the Utility Companies were going to pave Amboy Avenue to the Turnpike Bridge.

Mr. Northgrave this is not that section.

Ms. Ruane said Mr. Kataryniak will give a full report on Wednesday.

Councilmember Diehl, the Mayor and Department of Public Works took immediate action on the Oak Tree Pond light. Councilmember Coyle with the Beautification committee is working on sprucing up the park.

John Poyner, 40 Roosevelt Blvd., yesterday the clean- up of Amboy Avenue took place. They collected seventeen (17) bags of trash. The Overpass Height sign is knocked off on Amboy Avenue.

Council Vice President Gomez, thanked everyone who came out to participate in the clean up.

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

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

a. No comment was made.

6. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Coyle reported the Environmental Commission if fully staffed and committed. They are searching for location to plant the flowers, inventorying the parks and working with the Beautification committee.

Councilmember Diehl, reported the Sub Committee for Top Golf had another meeting we are making progress and will continue.

Councilmember Shah, Education Committee she met with Mr. Frank Healan and Ms. Theresa Ward regarding their visit to the state on school funding. She asked to add to communications the letter in which Ms. Ward presented to the Assembly.

Council Vice President Gomez, Finance Committee he thanked the committee for the review on Sewer rates for 2017. We are proposing 1.75% increase to residential and a 4.5% for commercial and our seniors will remain frozen.

7. POINTS OF LIGHT

Council Vice President Gomez, reminder of Open Space Committee meeting on Thursday, March 30,2017 at 6:00pm in Council Chambers.

Councilmember Diehl, anyone who has walked the greenway and explored the town can see what a success this is, please come out to the Edison Open Space Committee to see the maps and explanation of goals.

Council Sendelsky, James Monroe Grand Opening of the school they did a beautiful job and how wonderful it was to see the children altogether.

Council Vice President Gomez, it was a great moment to see the excitement of the children.

8. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. No comment was made

9. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. through g. No comments were made.

h. Resolution authorizing refund for Sewer Tax Overpayments. (added to agenda at meeting)

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

a. No comment was made.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

a. Councilmember Sendelsky asked reason for this change.

Mr. Northgrave, Mr. Kataryniak initiated this to clarify.

Councilmember Shah asked if this is for taking soil or importing.

Mr. Northgrave, importing soil, to make sure review is in Engineering Office, to clarify who has the authority.

b. and c. No comments were made.

d. Councilmember Sendelsky, is this for temporary trailers or storage units itself.

Mr. Northgrave, the ordinance isn't clear, so this completes other quality of life.

Councilmember Shah, this is for storage units.

Mr. Northgrave, this is the enforcement mechanism.

e. Councilmember Patil, are the Senior Citizens still frozen.

Ms Ruane, yes there is no increase for Senior citizens.

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

a. through h. No comments were made.

13. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. and b. No comments were made.

14. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

a. and b. No comments were made.

15. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Councilmember Sendelsky, no report the next meetings are scheduled for March 7th and March 13th.

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION, PUBLIC HEARING, AND FINAL ADOPTION:

O.1963-2017 No comment was made.

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17. COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. A copy of the letter Theresa E. Ward presented to the Assembly Education Committee on February 23, 2017. (added to agenda at meeting).

18. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Lombardi:

- a. Absent

Councilmember Coyle:

- a. Police Department, regarding an email Rabbi Rosenberg sent, some of the Jewish Foundation Centers being targeted, are we doing anything in addition to these areas.

Deputy Chief Mieczkowski along with Chief Bryan, they are also in constant contact with Rabbi when he has an issue we instruct special enforcement. .

Councilmember Diehl

- a. Some confusion on what goes in the recycling container for example Styrofoam does not go in recycling. His suggest is to have an information video on recycling.

Councilmember Gomez:

- a. Recycling of cardboard boxes highlight on the web site way to be aware to put next to the recycling bin for boxes.

Councilmember Patil:

- a. None

Councilmember Sendelsky:

- a. Richard Road and Stephenville Parkway streets are undergoing a lot of utility work, he commended the Department of Public Works for the great job on picking up the garbage in the neighborhood.

Councilmember Shah:

- a. National Women Awareness – March 10th and the 11th women entering into public life. www.Cawp.rutgers.nu

- b. She asked if there is anything new regarding the Woodland Avenue property owned my Mr. Ferrante.

Council Vice President, the county working on it.

Mr. Russomanno, the property it next to the Stephens preserve.

- c. Air B & B, there are bills being introduced to tax Air B & B. When she puts in Edison for Air B & B 300 properties come up.

Mr. Northgrave said to be clear, it says Edison Area.

Mr. Elliot, we approach all the property as per our traditional ordinances. We have done 183 Housing complaints, 55 Summons and collected just under \$6,000 worth of fines. There are 22 cases yet to be heard.

- d. Current events, sad to say we are still living in a climate of hate crimes and they are on the rise. She would like this council to commit to equality to all people and be a welcoming community, to adopt a resolution similar to Maplewood on Wednesday.

Council Vice President Gomez said it has been the focus of Public Safety to make sure we address all issues to keep us all safe. Our police department is doing a great job. We have kept an open means of communication with our administration and police to present these issues.

On a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Sendelsky, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.

Alvaro Gomez
Council Vice President

Cheryl Russomanno, RMC
Municipal Clerk