

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
JULY 25, 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 6:04 p.m. by Council President Lombardi , followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Councilmember Shah entered at 6:47pm.

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.

John Poyner ,40 Roosevelt Blvd., thanked the council for allowing him the opportunity to speak on his concerns with the Amboy Avenue Rehabilitation Plan. He also asked if anyone looked at the circle by Roosevelt Blvd and Third Street for consideration of a yield sign. He would like to do a door hanger marketing campaign in Clara Barton, what is process an is this permitted.

Mr. Poyner thanked Councilmember Sendelsky for relaying his comments to all Councilmembers.

Ms. Ruane said she will get an answer on Wednesday regarding Roosevelt Blvd.

Mr. Northgrave said he will check on the Solicitor Ordinance.

Mr. Poyner also asked if he can help assist in a Township Fan page for the Clara Barton area.

Mr. Northgrave will check with Mr. Devico our IT person. It will have to be monitored by the township whatever he puts on the web.

Councilmember Patil said he will help with linking the fan page.

Council President Lombardi noted the change to be made in the Resolution regarding the Amboy Avenue to read June 2016, plan.

Bruce Diamond,,74 Calvert Ave. West, asked for an update on the open space audit.

Ms. Ruane replied the auditors were in this week finishing the 2015 audit and started working on the open space.

Mr. Diamond said he watched the Planning Board meeting and was pleased to see the board voted no a plan. He asked for explanation on Item J under Law and the Amboy Avenue Redevelopment.

Mr. Northgrave explained the Agreement and fees we will receive from JFK. He also explained the Redevelopment Plan process.

Chris Troiano, 20 Hill Road, asked what is the policy and procedure on abandon pools.

Mr. Elliot said we are maintaining approximately 30 abandoned properties. They get billed out by the Tax Collector.

Mr. Troiano, asked about a traffic light at Truman and Kilmer.

Mark Kataryniak, replied he is working with public works, but there are limitations where to have traffic signals.

Sally Baksh ,102 Gracy Street, had lost her son 11 months ago he drown in a Quarry in Easton, Pennsylvania. She feels we need to implement education on quarries to all of our children. She presently is working on a petition to the White House. She can be reached at email address: sallyyabra @gmail.com . The Inside addition news is coming to her home this week.

Council President Lombardi, said our deepest condolences and thank you for the awareness. He advised Ms. Baksh to attend a Board of Education meeting to get the information out to our children. He also said he would put something on our website and our local television station.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, she did a review on the April Presentation regarding Amboy Avenue. She read some of her comments regarding the Amboy Avenue Redevelopment Plan.

Mr. Northgrave explained a "D" variance cannot be granted.

Council President Lombardi said he would put her comments on the website, he also sent along with Mr. Poyner's comments to the planner.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, regarding areas in need of redevelopment, who decides and what is the process.

Mr. Northgrave explained the process of an area in need of redevelopment and the benefits to the town.

Mr. Wolke, item "h" under Law, what are they doing for \$300,000.

Mr. Northgrave explained there is a lot of work involved. Engineering, lease of the Water System will be expiring in 2017, legal and financial analysis.

Maria Orchid , Jefferson Blvd., she expressed her opinion on the Redevelopment of Amboy Avenue along with keeping it a cozy family area for a nice walk.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road, regarding Employee Handbook she had some suggestions and said it is a great idea.

Ms. Ruane said we are updating the handbook right now.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. through c. No comments were made.

6. **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

FROM MAYOR LANKEY:

a. No comment was made.

7. **2016 CALENDAR YEAR BUDGET:**

Council President Lombardi said the budget will be up for adoption on Wednesday.

8. **2016 SOLID WASTE BUDGET:**

Council President Lombardi said the budget will be up for adoption on Wednesday.

9. **REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

Council Vice President Gomez, as chairman of the Finance Committee he first wanted to thank the Council members Lombardi and Sendelsky along with the residents Mr. Wolke, Mr. Burton and Mr. _____ for their time and commitment. He also thanked the Business Administration and all department heads for their work and cooperation. He explained the committee had to analyze how to provide services and make them better, plan for the future, regenerate surplus, evaluate health care, and focus on contract negotiations. The committee continues working with Government Services and administration on financial analysis. He said there will not be an amendment this year.

Council President Lombardi added there is some funding in this budget for the Environmental Commission .

Councilmember Patil thanked the Council and Administration for the tight budget

Councilmember Sendelsky, said Alvaro did a great job throughout the process.

Councilmember Patil , thanked the council and administration for a tight budget with only a 2.29% increase.

10. **POINTS OF LIGHT:**

Council President Lombardi, there is a heat advisory, we have cooling station on Senior Center and Menlo Park Mall.

Councilmember Sendelsky, he went to Farmer Market on Sunday, reminder everyone every Sunday in Clara Barton .

11. **FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**

a. through f. No comments were made.

12. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:**

a. through g. No comments were made.

13. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:**

a. through d. No comments were made.

e. Resolution re-appointing Mary Briggs as Registrar (added to agenda at meeting)

14. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:**

a. through j. No comments were made.

15. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:**
a. through c. No comments were made.
16. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**
a. No comment was made.
17. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:**
a. through e. No comments were made.
18. **FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:**
a. through c. No comments were made.
19. **FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:**
a. through d. No comments were made.
20. **FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:**
a. through d. No comments were made.
21. **FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:**
Councilmember Sendelsky

Minutes of Regular Planning Board Meeting of July 18, 2016

The regular planning board meeting had scheduled an updated presentation by Heyer and Gruel Regarding the proposed Amboy Avenue Redevelopment Plan as well as two new cases Case #P5174 Hawkeye Developers (a minor subdivision) and the other case #P5172946 65 Waltuma Avenue was postponed.

John Baree of Heyer and Gruel Associates stated that several public meetings had been held to discuss the plan including meetings in Clara Barton and at Town Hall as well as the original introduction to the council. The area in need of Re-Development goes from Route 1 and the NJ Turnpike and includes the Tano Mall Property. There is an overlay zone for Amboy Avenue frontage as well as Tano Mall. The plan calls for ground floor retail usage on Amboy Avenue with residential above. He stated that the new zone would allow 4 stories up to 45 feet which only increases the overall height allowed in the zone by five feet. The fourth story has to be stepped back. He also spoke with a potential link to the greenway. Several board members wanted to make sure that if the potential developers did not meet the required parking requirements that the money that had to be paid into the parking fund would stay in the Clara Barton Parking fund for future parking improvements. It was recommended to by the Board to Mr. Baree that Parking Decks be added as an option under the parking options section.

The next case #P5174 Hawkeye Developers a minor subdivision on 1 Brook Avenue was conforming in all aspects except for lot area 20,000 square feet is required and two lots of 15,333 were proposed. Bill Lund was sworn in as both the planner and engineer for the applicant. He stated that they would demolish the existing dwelling. The property has 200 feet of frontage on Brook Avenue. They would provide dry wells for each new dwelling unit including a piping system that can carry the 25 year storm. They could not purchase property from the west or north because it would create hardships on the other properties. He stated that the lot area variance was the only variance required. Both houses if built would be 3,850 square feet. In his planning testimony Lund stated that both lots would provide adequate light, air, and open space. He said that it meets category E and conforms to all requirements except square foot area. It also meets category I promotes visual environment which conforms to the other homes in the neighborhood. Mr. Lund stated that the two proposed houses would conform better to the neighborhood than one massive house. He also proposed a 12 inch storm pipe that would tie into a 15 inch line on Brook Avenue. This would handle any overflow from the drywells. Several adjoining residents spoke in opposition to the plan. The board first took a vote to deny the application and that was deadlocked 4-4 so it did not pass. The second vote was to allow board members

to go out to the site again that vote also failed at 4-4. The final vote was to approve the application and that vote failed 5-3 therefore the application was denied. The next Planning Board meeting is August 15, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted Councilman Len D. Sendelsky

22. COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. and b. No comments were made.

23.. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Lombardi:

- a. Councilmember Patil – county providing receptacles – it not everyone in Metuchen – it's a program from outreach – small fee

Councilmember Coyle

- a. Environmental Center on Tyler Road asked about signs to be made.

Ms. Ruane said to provide her with a picture of what you want.

- b. Environmental Commission at their recent meeting they had a presentation from the Mosquito Commission.

Councilmember Diehl

- a. Recycling new container work exceptionally well.
- b. Thanked Mark Kataryniak for his help regarding the signs the builder on Calvert.
- c. Fire Arms being sold in residential areas.

Mr. Northgrave – gathering information from the properties – other issues could cause litigation. Trying to figure out if sales are taken place.

Councilmember Gomez:

- a. Recycling cans program is working well.

Ms. Ruane said we pick up a lot more than other towns and we don't get a lot of complaints.

Councilmember Patil:

- a. Garbage pickup, can we educate people how our system works.
- b. Oak Tree Road at Ellmeyer we only have on speed limit sign.

Mr. Kataryniak said he will talk to the County about putting more signs.

- c. Renaming some committees.

Council President will send it to the Clerk.

Councilmember Sendelsky:

- a. He commended our tree crew and DPW workers for the tree down on Harding Avenue in making the area safe.

Councilmember Shah:

- a. Mosquitoes, still water and Zeca virus.

Mr. Elliot explained what is being done. He has had major clean ups on abandoned properties.

Councilmember Coyle said the Environmental Commission did have a presentation at their last meeting from the Mosquito Commission.

- b. Garbage private and public garbage.

Mr. Northgrave said 70% of the town is public, they cannot opt out.

Councilmember Shah asked if there is an opportunity to increase recycling.

Ms. Ruane answer no, not without increasing equipment and staffing.

- c. Neighborhood Watch status on this program.

Chief Bryan said to contact Lieutenant Robert Dudash he is in charge the program, it works out very well .

- d. New program for officers on bikes.

Chief Bryan said it is part of our community policing, two officers from each shift they patrol throughout the town.

On a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Sendelsky , with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.

Michael R. Lombardi
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno, RMC
Municipal Clerk