

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2013**

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 Diehl, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Gomez, Karabinchak, Lankey and Lombardi.
Councilmember Prasad entered at 6:12 p.m.
Councilmember Mascola entered at 6:31 p.m.

Also present were Deputy Township Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney Kemm, Business Administrator Ruane, Management Specialist Stephens, Finance Director Saponaro, Recreation Director Halliwell, Public Works Director Roderman, Health Director Elliott, Township Engineer Medina, Fire Chief Latham, Police Captain Pemberton and Cameraman Bologna.

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 27, 2012, and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

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

Janet Baio, 16 Taft Avenue, said she is present to speak on the Taft Avenue parking Ordinance. She said she is very disappointed that the residential parking is being changed and she feels it is due to the objections of business owners in the area.

Mr. Medina said this provides for parking for everyone to promote harmonious existence between businesses and the residents.

Ms. Baio said there is no parking for the residents. She asked what the weight limit is for commercial trucks that are stored on the street as there are three large sewer trucks currently being parked there and they also do not know what these trucks contain. She felt the residents should not have the burden of being responsible for business owner's employees to park. She said the residents were extremely happy when they were granted residential parking. She felt the businesses have a total disregard for the residents.

Council President Diehl said she brings up some good points that involve several different departments and they will be investigated.

Ms. Baio said it is the employer's responsibility to provide parking for their employees and she felt the businesses are not compliant.

Jane Tousman, 14 Butler Road, asked for an explanation of item 8A.

Councilmember Karabinchak said he spoke to Mr. Petrucelli and he is pulling his proposal. He felt it is more important for him to sit on the Finance Committee and work on the budget. He felt there is no conflict but didn't want any questions to be raised.

Ms. Tousman asked for the amount in item 9D.

Ms. Saponaro provided her with the figure.

Ms. Tousman questioned item 11C.

Mr. Kemm explained that this is for legal representation for Police Officers.

Ms. Tousman asked for an explanation of item 13C.

Mr. Medina explained that this is an additional loan program.

Ms. Tousman asked which bank holds the accounts for Police, Fire and legal fees

Ms. Saponaro said these monies are in the current fund which is held by TD Bank.

Mary Allen, 106 Taft Avenue, said she has lived there for thirty eight years and hopes that the Ordinance will not be changed as the residents desperately need those parking spaces. She provided photos to the Council.

Council President Diehl said these are good points and they will take a hard look at them.

Don Ohlson, 85 Harding Avenue, said he filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office about his quality of life issues but still the Mayor refuses to respond.

Council President Diehl said Mr. Ohlson has a long history of issues and he asked Mr. Medina if he could shed some light on these issues.

Mr. Medina asked if he was referring to the debris issue.

Mr. Ohlson said "no" that is not the problem and he explained the Ordinance violations.

Mr. Medina said in response that there were no violations found.

Mr. Ohlson said he filed an OPRA and nothing was done.

Mr. Medina said an investigation was done and there was no information on file.

Mr. Kemm explained that there were no documents found and under OPRA we do not have to create documents.

Mr. Ohlson said when the berm was created they did not investigate what was buried there. He felt now this is a dangerous situation, the Mayor was informed and did nothing about it.

Mr. Medina explained that when the berm was constructed all excavation soil was clean.

Mr. Ohlson explained what the berm was supposed to be compared to what it is and also said there is no maintenance being done.

Mr. Medina said Green Acres has inspected the work and is satisfied that the Township has done nothing wrong.

Council President Diehl said he will get more information and telephone Mr. Ohlson.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road, said prior to the February 13th meeting, there was a subcommittee meeting held and she felt the public has no way of knowing what went on at that meeting. She said she has heard rumors about a transit village and wanted to ensure that no rezoning for residential housing is done.

Julian Zames, 16 Stiles Road, asked if there were any updates on the Edison Towne Square.

Ms. Ruane said "no".

Mr. Zames said it has been years and could we get an update.

Councilmember Karabinchak said he spoke to Hartz and they are looking for national retail chains to come here but they need enough to fill the stores before they will spend the money.

Mr. Zames said the red light cameras should be placed more effectively and felt one is needed on Vineyard Road near the Sam's Club.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, questioned agenda item 11A.

Ms. Ruane said she had no information on this.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, questioned agenda item 9E.

Ms. Ruane said this is the mechanism in order to have the bottom line drop into surplus.

Mr. Wolke asked when the budget will be received.

Ms. Ruane said she will have a draft to the Council this week.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Accepted as submitted

6. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Gomez said the Public Safety Committee met on the storm related issues. The three major issues were loss of power, flooding and communications. Mr. Roderman has put a plan in place for the amount of generators that are needed and submitted this to FEMA. Regarding the flooding, Mr. Roderman has put additional pumps in place but the long term plan is for the repair of the sewers. As far as communications are concerned if residents have no power then robo calls, the website and Chanel 15 are of no use. He felt a large number of people have the capacity to sign up for NIXEL, a program that communicates emergencies through texting and he encourages all residents to do so.

Councilmember Lombardi also encouraged all residents to sign up for NIXEL.

Councilmember Mascola said there will be a meeting on the landfill on Wednesday.

7. POINTS OF LIGHT

None

8. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

- a. This item was pulled from the agenda
- b. through d. No comments were made.

9. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

- a. through f. No comments were made.

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

- a. through c. No comments were made.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

- a. This item was discussed previously
- b. No comment was made.

c. This item was discussed previously

FROM THE LIBRARY:

a. through c. No comments were made.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

a. through c. No comments were made.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

a. No comment was made.

b. Council President Diehl questioned if this was being purchased for this year.

Mr. Roderman said this is a renewal of the contract.

15. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. and b. No comments were made.

FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

a. and b. No comments were made.

17. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Councilmember Lombardi explained the three applications that were heard at the Planning Board meeting of February 20, 2013.

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC HEARING:

O.1824-2013 No comments were made.

O.1825-2013 This item was discussed previously.

19. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

None

20. COMMUNICATIONS:

a. No comment was made.

21. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Diehl:

a. and b. No comments were made.

Councilmember Gomez:

None

Councilmember Karabinchak:

a. He asked what the next step is in the process.

Ms. Ruane said we will be going back to Trenton in November.

b. He said this is being worked on.

- c. No comment was made.
- d. He said this is being worked on and is not ready yet.

Councilmember Lankey:
None

Councilmember Lombardi:
None

Councilmember Mascola:
None

Councilmember Prasad:
None

22. CLOSED SESSION:

The Council retired to Closed Session at 7:08 p.m., on a motion made by Councilmember Lankey, seconded by Councilmember Mascola 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) Pending Litigation – IBA v Edison Township

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 8:02 p.m., on a motion made by Councilmember Mascola, seconded by Councilmember Lombardi and duly carried.

On a motion made by Councilmember Mascola, seconded by Councilmember Lombardi, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Robert Diehl
Council President

Robin Kenny
Deputy Municipal Clerk