

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

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Gomez, Karabinchak, Lankey, Lombardi and Mascola. Councilmember Prasad entered at 6:10 p.m.

Also present were Acting Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Township Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney Kemm, Business Administrator Ruane, Management Specialist Stephens, Finance Director Saponaro, Township Auditor Morrison, Recreation Director Halliwell, Public Works Director Roderman, Health Director Elliot, Township Engineer Medina, Deputy Police Chief Vaticano, and Cameraman D'Amato.

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.

Jane Tousman, 14 Butler Road, felt that the state standards have not been addressed at the Kilmer Site. She also stated that there was a news report regarding the Governor borrowing funds from the COAH Trust fund. She was disappointed with the public meeting on the budget as she felt all the directors should have spoken and presented their budgets. She felt there should be an audit of the Open Space Trust fund to find out exactly where the money was spent.

Marilyn Brown, Oak Tree Road, submitted an email to the Council regarding Sam's clubs request for a liquor license.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, spoke regarding the Open Space Trust fund ordinance. She asked what the length of the two bonds mentioned in the ordinance is.

Mr. Morrison said they were both fifteen years.

Ms. Nemitz said fifteen years is up so why are they not paid off.

Mr. Morrison explained the referendum went to the voters in 1998. In 1999 taxes were collected. The first bonds were issued in 2002 and were refunded in 2011 for twenty years so they are due in 2022. The second bonds were issued in 2007 for fifteen years making them also due in 2022.

Ms. Nemitz said she is asking for a pay down on how much is owed on each bond in order to pay it off. She is also asking where Green Acres money went and also the proceeds from Township land sales. She asked to table this ordinance until all the money is accounted for. She echoed Ms. Tousman's sentiments regarding Kilmer and COAH. She said she was dissatisfied during the budget meeting as she expected a presentation from each Director. She asked if all the Directors had submitted a budget plan in writing and if she could obtain a copy.

Ms. Ruane said "yes" and she may fill out an OPRA request to obtain that information.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, asked who the trustees are on the Open Space Trust fund.

Ms. Ruane said the CFO is in charge of all trust funds.

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

Council President Diehl asked Mr. Morrison if we can get an answer to Ms. Nemitz's question. He would also like to know how much real money we have in the Open Space Trust fund as the amount stated by the Administration is not an accurate amount.

Mr. Morrison replied we have no money in the fund as the projected debt service exceeds the amount of money in the fund.

Council President Diehl thanked Mr. Morrison for the information but said this is very disappointing.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad asked Mr. Morrison the interest rates on the two bond issues.

Mr. Morrison said the 2002 issue rate was 4.5- 4.75% but was refunded in 2011 to 3 – 5%. The 2007 issue is at 4.125%

Council President Diehl asked for an explanation of the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Kemm explained the way it is currently set up, the Township could spend the entire balance on acquisitions before paying the debt service. This ordinance would require that the debt service is paid first before making any acquisitions.

Councilmember Lankey asked if the maturity dates remained the same when we refinanced.

Mr. Morrison said "yes".

Councilmember Lankey asked if the bonds can be called.

Mr. Morrison said "no" as a customary call is ten years.

Councilmember Lankey asked if there was any calculation done on paying them off early.

Mr. Morrison said there are very few calls because you must have cash and we do not have cash on hand.

Councilmember Gomez asked if we could look into the call provision and the cost.

Mr. Morrison said "yes".

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. and b. Accepted as submitted.

**6. CY 2013 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION DISTRICT BUDGET:**

a. No comment was made.

b. Council President Diehl added an amendment to 2013 budget and he asked Ms. Ruane to explain.

Ms. Ruane explained that they received a letter from the State with their comments on the budget and she explained the changes that have to be made.

Councilmember Lankey said the Finance Committee will be submitting additional changes with another amendment to the Municipal Budget that will be introduced at the May 22th meeting. Final adoption of the budget is planned for June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA:**

**FROM MAYOR ANTONIA RICIGLIANO:**

- a. through c. Councilmember Dr. Prasad questioned the appointment of the judges.
- d. No comment was made.

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

Councilmember Gomez reported on a press release regarding a recent rash of sprinkler thefts in the Township. He stated he was pleased to report the thief had been caught.

Councilmember Lombardi announced that the Special Meeting on the School budget is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and the Board of Education has changed the date of their caucus meeting to May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Lankey reported the Finance Committee will introduce an amendment to the budget at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**9. POINTS OF LIGHT**

Councilmember Mascola congratulated Ms. Halliwell on a job well done on the fishing derby. He said it was well attended and many tagged fish were caught.

Council President Diehl also complimented Ms. Halliwell and her department on a job well done. He said this annual event has been going on for 31 years. He also congratulated the Girl Scouts on the wonderful job they did planting flowers along Amboy Avenue.

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

- a. through e. No comments were made.

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

- a. through d. Mr. Kemm explained these items.
- e. Mr. Kemm said this item was discussed previously.
- f. Mr. Kemm explained that he had input from Ms. Kasperski regarding this ordinance. It would limit the number of companies to 25 with 10 vehicles each but no limit on drivers. The companies must file their rates with us but we would not set the rates.

**12. FROM THE LIBRARY**

- a. and b. No comments were made.

**13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:**

- a. through f. No comments were made.

**14. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**

- a. Mr. Roderman explained where the computers are going.
- b. No comment was made.

**15. FROM THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT:**

a. through c. No comments were made.

**16. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE;**

a. No comment was made.

**17. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:**

Councilmember Lombardi said the next meeting will be on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC HEARING:**

O.1832-2013 No comment was made

**19. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:**

None

**20. COMMUNICATIONS:**

a. Received as submitted.

b. Electronic communication from Mr. Ohlson was added.

**21. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Council President Diehl**

a. He said he has received inquiries from residents regarding putting a dog park at the CIC site.

Ms. Ruane said she does not know the history of the site but has received requests to develop a cricket field there

Council President Diehl said there are five acres for passive recreation and asked why we couldn't have both.

**Councilmember Gomez:**

None

**Councilmember Karabinchak:**

a. through c. No comments were made.

d.He said they are forming a committee to look into this ordinance.

**Councilmember Lankey:**

None

**Councilmember Lombardi:**

None

**Councilmember Mascola:**

None

**Councilmember Prasad:**

None

**22 . ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion made by Councilmember Lombardi, seconded by Councilmember Gomez, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Robert Diehl  
Council President

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Cheryl Russomanno  
Acting Municipal Clerk