

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
July 22, 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 6:03 p.m. by Council President Diehl, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Karabinchak, Lankey, Lombardi, and Mascola.
Councilmember Dr. Prasad entered at 6:06 p.m.
Councilmember Gomez entered at 6:16 p.m.

Also present were Acting Township Clerk Russomanno, 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 Elliot, Township Engineer Medina, Police Sergeant Cimmino, 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 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.

Tony Eggert, Pleasant Avenue, said he is a member of the Clara Barton neighborhood committee and for the past two years they have been planting flowers provided by the Township along Amboy Avenue. They were assured by the Township that the flowers would be watered. They have not been watered and all forty plants are now dying and he felt that this is a waste of time and money.

Mr. Roderman said there is a watering schedule and he will find out what went wrong. He said they try to do their best.

Ray Koperwhats, 12 Deerwood Avenue, said the Housing Authority is currently short two members and he asked the Council to make these two appointments. He said for the past three years he has been working with Mr. Roderman and Conrail on the flooding problem at Lake Pappaini. They have been notified by Conrail that this will be taken care of shortly and he thanked Mr. Roderman for his assistance.

Peter Schwajalie, 15 Brook Avenue, said his street has not been paved in fifty years and is in deplorable condition. He asked when it will be paved.

Mr. Roderman said they will assess the situation and contact him within the next few weeks.

Jane Tousman, 14 Butler Road, said she received a robo call from the Mayor regarding the status of EMS and she asked what is going on. She also said she is very concerned about what is occurring at Wardlaw Hartridge. She said this was the site of the Battle of Short Hills and she felt a stop work order should be issued immediately.

Council President Diehl asked for an explanation of the EMS matter and said he will address the Wardlaw Hartridge matter during his discussion items.

Mr. Stephens said they are still in negotiations with the squads and there will be a meeting between the squads and JFK tomorrow evening.

Bruce Diamond, 74 Calvert Avenue West, asked about the status of the Police hiring Ordinance. He also asked about the status of his inquiry regarding alternate energy companies for the Township.

Councilmember Lombardi replied that the Public Safety Committee submitted changes to the ordinance and they are being reviewed.

Ms. Ruane said there will be a presentation from a utility company at the meeting in August.

Mr. Diamond asked why the Police ordinance is such a political issue. He felt this is more nonsense and makes it hard to have confidence in the Township.

Council President Diehl said the recent Police promotions took the Council by surprise.

Eugene, Raritan Valley EMS, explained that RVEMS is a conglomeration of the three First Aid Squads. They have a bicycle team, a boat team, they do work at the schools and they do rehab for the Firefighters during fires. The difference between them and JFK is that they do soft billing. If people are not able to pay, they don't collect. He is asking for the Council's support. He felt that behind the scenes they are being swept under the rug.

Mr. Stephens said all squad leaders were given an opportunity to contract with JFK.

John Hibell, President Clara Barton First Aid Squad, said the squads have many years of history in the Township. He asked why the Township felt the need to contract for 24/7 service.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, said he seconds all Ms. Tousman's comments on Wardlaw Hartridge.

Two representatives from Rebounders, said they are here to speak in support of the Edison First Aid Squads. He said they are a huge help to them in their business and their response time is excellent.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad said when the Resolution for JFK came to the Council, they were told that all employees would be offered employment.

Mr. Stephens said the Township has no problem with the squads. It all comes down to the billing.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad said the squads do a great job and asked what we are doing to protect them.

Ms. Ruane explained we are not disbanding the First Aid Squads.

Resident, 2 Lyons Lane, said she is present to discuss the flooding problem in her basement.

Mr. Roderman said there was a collapsed sewer main. The line is being repaired and there is more work to be done.

Sam Khan, said he is here in support of the Edison First Aid Squads.

Skip Schnider, said there is an unseen issue here. He has been a member of AA for forty years. For the past twenty-two years, there meetings have been held at the First Aid Building on New Dover Road. They have between 125 and 150 attendees every Sunday. They are concerned that they will not have a place to hold their meetings.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, said she also supports the First Aid Squads. She would also like to have the disbursements on Open Space explained to her. She also supported Ms. Tousman's comments on Wardlaw Hartridge.

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

Councilmember Dr. Prasad asked who will attend the meeting with the First Aid Squads.

Mr. Stephens said it is not a public meeting. It will be held at 5:00 p.m. tomorrow in the Edison Room.

Mr. Stephens said a member of the Public Safety Committee could attend along with Councilmember Dr. Prasad.

The Council retired to Closed Session at 7:29 p.m., on a motion made by Councilmember Lankey, seconded by Councilmember Karabinchak 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) Litigation regarding pending law suits for Indian Day Parade

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 8:10 p.m., on a motion made by Councilmember Karabinchak seconded by Councilmember Lankey and duly carried.

Council President Diehl opened the Hearing on the India Day Parade.

The Attorney for the Indian Business Association presented their case.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. through e. Accepted as submitted.

**6. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA:
FROM MAYOR ANTONIA RICIGLIANO:**

- a. through e. No comments were made.

7. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEE:

Councilmember Gomez read a summary of the changes in the Police Hiring Ordinance that will be on for Wednesday for introduction. He thanked everyone on the Council, the Public Safety Committee and the Prosecutors Office for all their input to help revise this ordinance.

Councilmember Lankey thanked Councilmember Gomez and the Public Safety Committee for all their work on improving this ordinance and taking the politics out of it.

Council President Diehl also thanked all who worked on this ordinance.

Ms. Ruane presented the variance analysis report.

- 8. POINTS OF LIGHT-**
Council President Diehl gave kudos to Mr. Elliot and Mr. Roderman for their quick response to his concerns.
- 9. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**
a. through f. No comments were made.
- 10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:**
a. through e. No comments were made.
- 11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:**
a. No comment was made.
- 12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:**
a. This was held earlier in the meeting.

b. Council President Diehl felt that the fee increase to \$1,000 was excessive.

Councilmember Karabinchak said he had no problem with the dollar amount and has not received any negative feedback.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad requested the numbers for Metuchen and Woodbridge.

Councilmember Lombardi said he is okay with the dollar amount.

c. Mr. Kemm explained the ordinance.

d. Mr. Kemm explained the ordinance.
- 13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:**
a. through e. No comments were made.
- 14. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**
a. through h. No comments were made.
- 15. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:**
a. No comment was made.
- 16. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:**
a. through c. No comments were made.
- 17. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:**
a. through k. No comments were made.
- 18. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:**
Councilmember Lombardi reported on the applications heard at the July 15th meeting.
- 19. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Council President Diehl:

- a. He asked for an explanation of the current construction going on at Wardlaw Hartridge School and how it was able to occur without anyone being notified.

Councilmember Gomez:

None

Councilmember Karabinchak

- a. He said due to the recent events at Wardlaw Hartridge, they will be looking into revising the site improvement permit process.

Councilmember Lankey:

None

Councilmember Lombardi:

None

Councilmember Mascola:

- a. He asked for an update on the landfill closure.
- b. He asked for a status report on the Red Light Cameras.

Councilmember Prasad:

- a. He asked why it is taking so long to obtain the report on the Red Light Camera statistics.
- b. He asked for an explanation of the recent Police promotions.

CLOSED SESSION:

This was held earlier in the meeting.

On a motion made by Councilmember Lankey, seconded by Councilmember Mascola, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Robert Diehl
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno
Acting Municipal Clerk