

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
February 24, 2014**

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 6:06 p.m. by Council President Karabinchak, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Gomez, Karabinchak, Lombardi and Mascola.
Councilmember Prasad entered at 6:25 p.m.
Councilmember Shah entered at 6:17 p.m.

Also present were Acting Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Township Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney McManimon, Business Administrator Ruane, Finance Director Saponaro, Recreation Director Halliwell, Public Works Director Roderman, Health Director Elliot, Township Engineer Medina, Fire Chief Latham, Police Captain Fresco 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 14, 2013 and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

4. COUNCIL APPOINTMENT:

Frank J. Lucchesi, representative from PSE&G said he is here to update the residents on the situation that occurred on January 11, 2014 regarding a fire at the sub-station that feeds parts of Edison along with Highland Park. There was a large failure of a transformer serving 5100 customers mostly in Highland Park. There are currently six temporary transformers serving the area while repairs are taking place. The plan is to have everything up and running by April 2014.

Council President Karabinchak asked why the failure occurred.

James Rigler, Manager of Engineer & Resources from PSE&G said it was due to the wild swings in temperature and the amount of moisture in the air.

Councilmember Gomez asked if the temporary equipment is safe.

Mr. Rigler said the temporary transformers are sized adequately and fenced in. There are also roving security guards patrolling the areas.

Councilmember Mascola said his area was affected by the outage and residents felt there were communication problems with PSE&G during the outages.

Mr. Lucchesi said he is the liason between PSE&G and the Township and he was in communication with Mayor Lankey during the outages providing estimated times for restoration. He said there was also an 800 number for Edison with an actual person answering the phones.

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

Walt Stochel, 2118 Oak Tree Road, asked if there was any information regarding his questions from the last meeting concerning the speed limit on Oak Tree Road and the number of speeding tickets issued there.

Ms. Ruane said she had no information.

Bruce Diamond, Calvert Avenue, said the prior Administration had been looking into new energy suppliers for the Township and he asked if this was still being considered.

Ms. Ruane said yes this is still being considered.

Mr. Diamond asked if there has been any change in the protocol for reporting non-emergencies when Town Hall is closed.

Captain Fresco said residents should call the regular dispatch number which is (732) 248-7400 and not 911. He said dispatch will relay the message to the proper department.

Mr. Diamond said his issue is with the way Dispatch handles the calls. He also asked what kind of training snow plow drivers receive. He felt they need to do a better job of plowing from curb to curb as a good portion of the street is lost when this is not done.

Mr. Roderman said they are not sent for training. When they are hired we hope that they have some experience but mostly it is on the job training.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, said along with clearing snow from the sidewalks we should require a path to be shoveled out to the roadway.

Ms. Monte, Schuyler Drive, spoke about a storm drainage problem in her area. She said she has lived there for 37 years and the front of her house is like a river due to a lack of proper storm drainage. She said currently due to the weather there is six feet of ice in front of her home. She played a video of the problem for the Council.

Council President Karabinchak asked her to provide that information to Mr. Medina and Mr. Roderman.

Julian Zames, 17 Stiles Road, asked for a time estimate as to when the potholes will be repaired.

Mr. Roderman said they are trying to do their best with the elements and they are looking to completing this by spring.

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

6. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Lombardi reported that as a member of the Public Safety Committee he went on a Police ride along. He is happy to report that two suspects that were being trailed were apprehended and he congratulated the Police department on a job well done.

7. POINTS OF LIGHT

Councilmember Diehl wished Jane Tousman a speedy recovery. He said she is missed and he has a get well card for anyone that would like to sign it.

8. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. and b. No comments were made.

9. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. through c. No comments were made.

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

a. No comment was made.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

a. and b. No comments were made.

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

a. No comment was made

b. Council President Karabinchak asked if this is the same company that we have been using.

Mr. Medina said yes we have used them for ten years and we get reimbursed from the DEP.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

a. Councilmember Gomez asked if this is for the new building or the present one.

Mr. Roderman said this system is for the building at Kilmer.

Council President Karabinchak asked when we plan to be in the new building.

Mr. Roderman said by Spring.

Councilmember Mascola asked if this system will also be independent.

Mr. Roderman said "yes.

14. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. through c. No comments were made.

15. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

a. through e. No comments were made.

16. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Councilmember Mascola said there was no new business to report except that the Planning Board will be changing their meeting start time to 7:00 p.m.

17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC HEARING:

O.1854-2014 No comment was made.

O.1855-2014 No comment was made.

18. COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Received as submitted.

- b. Council President Karabinchak added an electronic communication from Mr. and Mrs. Brown regarding handicapped parking.

19. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Karabinchak:

None

Councilmember Diehl:

- a. He asked Mr. Roderman for a report on the pothole situation especially the area of Richard Road and Stephenville Parkway.

Mr. Roderman said they have cold patched many potholes but unfortunately it comes back out. The plants that supply hot patch material will be opening in a few weeks.

Councilmember Diehl asked what residents can do to report pothole situations. He asked if there is a system or procedure to follow and if we can better alert residents to avoid potholes by the use of signage. He asked if we could implement a pothole hot line.

Mr. Roderman said residents can use the Q alert system on our website and he is also looking into forming a pothole hot line.

Councilmember Gomez:

None

Councilmember Lombardi:

None

Councilmember Mascola:

- a. He asked Mr. Roderman to check into a report that he received regarding gutters hanging off at the Senior Citizen Center.

Councilmember Prasad:

None

Councilmember Shah:

None

On a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Lombardi, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Robert Karabinchak
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno
Acting Municipal Clerk