

**MINUTES OF  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
WORKSESSION MEETING  
April 6, 2015**

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 6:00 p.m. by Council President Diehl, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Gomez, Karabinchak and Lombardi.  
Councilmembers Mascola, Prasad and Shah entered at 6:02 p.m.

Also present were Acting Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Township Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney McManimon, Business Administrator Ruane, Health Director Elliot, Fire Chief Latham, Deputy Police Chief Anderko 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 11, 2014 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.

Water Stochel, 2118 Oak Tree Road, asked that the new speed limit signs be placed on Oak Tree Road now that we have changed our Ordinance. He said all the trees in the Minnie B. Veal parking lot have been cut done and he asked if they will be replaced. He mentioned the wildfires that keep occurring down in Raritan Center and asked if we can do a prescribed burn. He said the foliage that grows there is invasive, dries out and burns easily. He also felt the public needs to see the letter from the DOT regarding the changes they requested at the Hartz site.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, she handed in and went over her list of questions and concerns regarding the changes at the Hartz site.

Councilmember Mascola asked that the answers be obtained before Wednesday's meeting so there is time to go over them.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road, asked the status of the budget as we are now into the fourth month of the year.

Ms. Ruane said she should have a draft to the Finance Committee by the next meeting.

Ms. Wolke asked the status of negotiations on the union contracts.

Ms. Ruane said we are still in negotiations with all nine unions.

Ms. Wolke said she hoped that the contracts will not be held up till after the election. She also asked for an explanation of the repaving bond that is on the agenda.

Ms. Ruane said this is the total cost of repaving and we are not going out for financing at this time.

Ms. Wolke, commented that she would have liked to see a Town Center built at the Hartz site but realizes economically it is not feasible. She asked if the proposed golfing center is something that we want or just a holding pattern. Regarding the open space parcel of the lot, she asked the difference between a deed and a dedication.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, said he noticed in the newspapers that several municipalities are having their own difficulties with their Police departments. He felt Police departments are a fiefdom unto themselves and do whatever they want and get off. He said we need better controls and asked if there is any timetable with regards to settling the union contracts.

Ms. Ruane said we hope to settle by June. She said Police and Fire will be the last to settle.

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

Council President Diehl said a lot of good points have been brought up regarding the contracts but we must get the best deal for the residents and therefore should not rush it.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Accepted as submitted.

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

None

**7. POINTS OF LIGHT:**

Council President Diehl said it finally feels like Spring.

**8. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**

- a. Councilmember Mascola questioned the dollar amount.

Ms. Ruane said it is about the same every year.

Councilmember Gomez commented that other options were looked into but due to dead spots in the Township they were not feasible for the Police department.

- b. through d. No comments were made.

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

- a. through d. No comments were made.

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

- a. through c. No comments were made.

- d. Councilmember Mascola questioned these bills.

Mr. McManimon said errors in these bills needed to be corrected and this is for work that is being closed out by this firm.

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

- a. and b. No comments were made.

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

- a. through e. No comments were made.

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

a. and b. No comments were made.

14. **FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:**

a. and b. No comments were made.

15. **FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:**

a. through c. No comments were made.

16. **FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:**

a. No comment was made.

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

Councilmember Shah announced the next meeting will be on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

18. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION, PUBLIC HEARING, AND FINAL ADOPTION:**

O.1897-2015 No comment was made.

19. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Council President Diehl:**

None

**Councilmember Gomez:**

None

**Councilmember Karabinchak:**

None

**Councilmember Lombardi:**

None

**Councilmember Mascola:**

None

**Councilmember Prasad**

None

**Councilmember Shah:**

a. She said there was a federal indictment brought against the individuals that committed the home invasions in Edison and she thanked the Edison Police Department for their good work and said she is grateful for them protecting the Township.

b. She asked if there is a report on the DPW fire yet.

Ms. Ruane said there is nothing yet.

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- c. She said she asked at the last meeting how many female Firefighters we have either paid or volunteer and would like to follow up.

Ms. Ruane said we have none.

On a motion made by Councilmember Lombardi, seconded by Councilmember Gomez, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

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Robert Diehl  
Council President

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Cheryl Russomanno  
Acting Municipal Clerk