

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
April 20, 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 6:03 p.m. by Council President Diehl, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Gomez, Karabinchak, Mascola and Shah.
Councilmember Dr. Prasad entered the meeting at 6:09 p.m.
Councilmember Lombardi was absent.

Also present were Acting Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Township Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney Northgrave, Business Administrator Ruane, Health Director Elliot, Township Engineer Kataryniak, Fire Chief Latham, Police Captain Shannon, and Cameraman Cologne.

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.

Bruce Diamond, Calvert Avenue, asked for a follow up to his question at the last meeting regarding the quality of the paving that was done.

Ms. Ruane said she will get that information for Wednesday.

Mr. Diamond again asked about tear down permits and what can be done to make builders more responsible after a tear down. He felt we should have more requirements in the permitting process for keeping the site nice and not only rely on residents to report violations.

Mr. Elliot said summonses for violations are issued just like any other piece of vacant property until the rebuilding begins.

Mr. Diamond asked what can be done to keep seniors living in modest ranch homes from leaving the Township. He said those homes are torn down and larger homes are built bringing more children into the school system.

Council President Diehl said we would love to be able to bring taxes down but it is the same all over Central Jersey. He said there is no easy fix. We can't change the State school funding formula.

Walt Stochel, 2118 Oak Tree Road, said there was an article in the newspaper about two pedestrians being struck by a car on Oak Tree Road. He asked if the car was speeding.

Captain Shannon said he will get that information.

Mr. Stochel asked for a follow up to his question at the last meeting regarding the removal of the trees at Minnie B. Veal. He again asked if they will be replaced.

Ms. Ruane said she will have to get that information.

04/20/2015

Mr. Stochel felt something should be added to a demolition permit to force the builder to rebuild. He announced that Sunday, April 26 is the Earth Day celebration at Lake Papaiani.

Bob Spiegel, 206 Tyler Road, also spoke about a tear down issue on Southfield Avenue. He said we can lower taxes if we raise rateables. He felt one way to raise money is through recycling textiles which is mandatory. He said the Edison Wetlands Association has a lease with both Edison and Woodbridge to recycle their textiles. He commented that Woodbridge recycles more tonnage than Edison because unlike Edison, they do not allow outside clothing bins to be placed all over town. He felt these bins do not have permission for textile recycling and are not legitimate charities. He asked that this be looked into.

Council President Diehl said he has provided them with a lot of information and they will investigate.

Mr. Spiegel thanked the Councilmembers that attended the function at the Edison Wetlands.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad asked what the monetary loss is to Edison regarding the recycling of textiles.

Mr. Spiegel said there is a formula used to calculate the dollar amount and he will get that information.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road, said there was an article in the newspaper regarding the India Day Parade. She asked for an explanation of the Resolution the Council passed that gives "non-exclusive conditional" permission for the parade. She also asked if any other organization has been given multiple year permits. She asked if this is legal as a Resolution is only good for one year.

Council President Diehl said this means that no particular group has an exclusive right to the permit. It shows no favoritism.

Mr. Northgrave said no one has ever asked for three years before. There are conditions that they must meet. He said a Resolution is an expression of the Council going forward and it is perfectly legal.

Councilmember Shah said the Administration is working on a fee schedule.

Julian Zammit, 17 Stiles Road, asked where area A and B are located on the Hartz plan and also how many areas there are.

Mr. Northgrave explained the areas and said he will have a map for Wednesday.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, asked if there is any progress on hiring a CFO.

Ms Ruane said they are trying very hard but nothing as of yet.

Mr. Wolke asked about the Resolution regarding overpayment of property loss.

Ms. Ruane said we received two checks for same claim and have to refund one.

Mr. Wolke asked about the Resolution regarding payment of interest on Tax Court Appeals.

Ms. Ruane said we were ordered by a judge to pay this.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, said there are no height signs by the turnpike bridge at Woodbridge Avenue and Main Street.

Captain Shannon said he will look into it.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. through d. No comments were made.

6. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

None

7. POINTS OF LIGHT;

None

8. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. and b. No comments were made.

9. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. through e. 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 pulled from the agenda.

b. and c. No comments were made.

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

a. and b. No comments were made.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

a. No comment was made.

14. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. No comment was made.

15. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

a. No comment was made.

16. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:

a. through d. No comments were made.

17. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Councilmember Shah said the meeting was held on April 13th and there were three items on the agenda. The first was 113 Oakland Avenue which was for a subdivision to build a home. The second was Anan Builders to subdivide into three lots and build new homes. The neighbors were concerned about flooding. The third was a medical building at Oak Tree Road and Ventnor Drive. There was a huge turn-out for this application but it was postponed until May 18th due to the court reporter not showing up.

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

O.1899-2015 No comment was made.

O.1900-2015 No comment was made.

19. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Diehl:

- a. He said the event held at the Triple C Ranch was very nice and enjoyed by all.
- b. He announced that Earth Day is Sunday, April 26th and the celebration and tree planting will be held at Lake Papaianni. . The tree planting will take place 1:00 p.m.

Councilmember Gomez:

None

Councilmember Karabinchak:

- a. He announced that now that Spring is here, the Edison Wetlands has compost available for residents to use in their gardens. The telephone number for information is 732-231-1300.

Councilmember Lombardi:

Absent

Councilmember Mascola:

- a. He asked Ms. Ruane for an update on the budget.

Ms. Ruane said she needs one more weekend to nail it down.

- b. He asked about the search for a DPW Director.

Ms. Ruane said nothing yet and Mr. Roderman's last day is next Thursday.

Councilmember Prasad

- a. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Roderman for his long years of service to the Township.

Councilmember Shah:

- a. She asked where residents can access the dates for pick-up and also if the clean-up includes private garbage districts.

Ms. Ruane said the information is available on our website and there is no clean-up for private garbage districts.

- b. She asked where we stand on the neighborhood watch groups and if we have every street covered.

Captain Shannon said we have twenty active groups and if anyone is interested they can call Police Administration to set up an appointment for the Police to come out.

- c. She again asked for report on the DPW fire.

Ms. Ruane said it is still in the hands of the prosecutor.

- d. She reported that since 2011 there have only been four female applicants for Firefighter. She said this is hard to accept as woman today fight wars. She doesn't see why we do not have more woman applying as other municipalities do have woman Firefighters.

On a motion made by Councilmember Karabinchak, seconded by Councilmember Prasad, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Robert Diehl
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno
Acting Municipal Clerk