

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
May 11, 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 6:04 p.m. by Council President Diehl, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Karabinchak, Lombardi, Mascola and Shah.
Councilmember Dr. Prasad entered at 6:06 p.m.
Councilmember Gomez entered at 6:18 p.m.

Also present were Acting Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Township Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney Northgrave, Business Administrator Ruane, Recreation Director Halliwell, Health Director Elliot, Township Engineer Kataryniak, Police Captain Kelly 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.

Bruce Diamond, Calvert Avenue, commented that the ramp coming off of Route 287N is a nightmare and is poorly designed. He said by the time trucks see the "No Trucks" sign on Stephenville Parkway, it is already too late and he asked if signs can be placed at a 45 degree angle in order to see them earlier.

Mr. Kataryniak that there are requirements and he will need to consult with the County.

Mr. Diamond asked if there is voicemail in Townhall and if the employees are able to turn it off.

Ms. Ruane said there is voicemail and it is up to the employee.

Mr. Diamond felt that since recycling has been using the one armed trucks there is more glass in the roads.

Council President Diehl said there is no DPW director right now to answer questions.

Mr. Diamond commented that with the money saved by the new recycling trucks, maybe the street sweeper could come around more often.

Council President Diehl suggested that maybe the street sweeper could follow the recycling trucks.

Mr. Diamond again brought up the demolition issue. He asked why there is no time limit and also why fencing is not required to be placed around the areas.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, agreed with Mr. Diamond about demolition. She said it took ten years to get a fence around a whole on Amboy Avenue. She said she is very interested in the COAH resolution. She asked what we are doing now and what we expect to do in the future.

Shirley Bishop explained that on March 10th there was a decision by the Court that the Superior Court now assumes jurisdiction over all Mount Laurel decisions. In order for Edison to be protected, we must file a declaratory judgement action requesting five months to prepare an amended Fair Share plan.

Mr. Northgrave explained what a declaratory judgement means. He said we are clarifying that we have a plan and allows for anyone to object.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. through e. Accepted as submitted.

6. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

None

7. POINTS OF LIGHT;

Councilmember Mascola said on last Thursday the Edison Sheltered Workshop Dinner was held. He said it was a very interesting night as usual and the Knights of Columbus donated money to the cause from their annual Tootsie Roll Drive. He thanked the residents for their generosity in donating to the drive.

Council President Diehl thanked the Knights of Columbus for all they do.

8. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. through d. No comments were made.

9. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. through c. No comments were made.

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

a. and b. No comments were made.

c. Councilmember Karabinchak said this ordinance is changing some things that we have never seen before. There are some good things that he agrees with such as we are starting to bill for the flow. He said some industrial users have not been billed these rates for years and this will shift the burden off the homeowners. He also said there is now a penalty clause for infractions. He said the rates for Class 1-4 will increase by 18.3% and the residential increase will be 3.5%. He felt we are still trying to fix the problems of yesteryear and he would like to see the residential increase lowered to 1.9%. He said he will make a motion to change this rate on Wednesday.

Ms. Ruane said the Mayor will put forth an increase of 2.5% for residential and 19.4% for commercial users on Wednesday. She said they need to create a surplus.

Council President Diehl thanked Councilmember Karabinchak for spearheading this investigation. He said the can has been kicked down the road for a long time and it is difficult to make it all up in on shot. He said we must find some common ground and strike the rate keeping our residents in mind.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad asked if this increase includes salary and wages.

Ms. Ruane said salary and wage are the same.

d. This item was discussed earlier.

e. and f. Mr. Northgrave said these resolutions are being added to the agenda.

Mr. Northgrave explained that this Resolution was requested by Middlesex County. He said they are on a very tight time frame so this will be referred to the Planning Board and brought back to the Council at the May 27th meeting.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad said this has come up before and one opinion that was expressed was that no matter what Edison says, the County can do whatever they want.

Mr. Northgrave said this requires Council approval to be declared an area in need of rehabilitation. The County may be able to build what they want but cannot get the tax credits they need if it not approved by the Council. He said we will have a say on what is built.

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

a. through j. No comments were made.

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

a. and b. No comments were made.

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

a. Council President Diehl said he is very enthusiastically in favor of this Resolution. He said John Spiess contribution to that gym and the Township was great and he can think of no more fitting tribute.

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

a. No comment was made.

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

a. through c. No comments were made.

16. **FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:**

a. through d. No comments were made.

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

Councilmember Shah announced that the next meeting will be held on May 18th.

18. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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

O.1901-2015 No comment was made.

O.1902-2015 No comment was made.

19. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Council President Diehl:

- a. He said this will be presented on Wednesday

Councilmember Gomez:

None

Councilmember Karabinchak:

- a. He said this will be done on Wednesday.
- b. He said the Water Company took down trees and a fence that separate the residents from the Dreyfus facility. He asked that this be looked into.

Councilmember Lombardi:

None

Councilmember Mascola:

- a. He asked where we stand on the budget.

Ms. Ruane said she should have it to the Finance Committee by the end of this week.

- b. He asked if there is an update on the landfill closure.

Ms. Ruane said yes but it is nothing she can speak about at this time.

- c. He asked for an update on the parade fees.

Council President Diehl asked Councilmember Mascola to form a sub-committee to look into this. He said he would be willing to be on the committee along with Councilmember Shah.

- d. He also asked for an update on Mr. Spiegel's request regarding the textile bins.

Captain Kelly said he will look into it.

Councilmember Prasad:

- a. He asked for an update on the removal of trees at Oakridge Park.

Ms. Ruane said she did not have any information yet.

Councilmember Shah:

- a. She asked if there is anything yet on the DPW fire.

Ms. Ruane said nothing yet.

- b. She said at Lavendar and Heritage there is a section of the road with drainage issues and also trash on the grass.

- c. She said there is a Neighborhood Watch meeting tomorrow evening in the Council Chambers. She asked if it is open to the public and how the public can find out about future meetings.

- d. She asked about the use of body cams by the Police Department and the availability of grants for body cams. She asked the limitations of the dash cams.

Captain Kelly said the dash cams are stationary in the cars where the body cam stays with the Officer.

Ms. Ruane said the grants are very competitive and they just started working on them.

Councilmember Karabinchak said Generated Materials has started to dump again and hide materials that they shouldn't have.

Mr. Elliot said they are under an order to close but are fighting it in court and still have the opportunity to operate.

On a motion made by Councilmember Karabinchak, seconded by Councilmember Gomez, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Robert Diehl
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno
Acting Municipal Clerk