

**MINUTES OF  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
WORKSESSION MEETING  
MAY 24, 2010**

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 Tomaro, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Karabinchak, Lankey, Mascola and Tomaro.

Councilmember Diehl entered at 6:34 p.m.

Councilmember Perilstein was absent.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad entered at 6:21 p.m.

Also present were Township Clerk Murphy, Deputy Township Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney Kemm, Business Administrator Gonzalez, Finance Director Acker, Recreation Director Halliwell, Public Works Director Roderman, Health Director Elliot, Deputy Fire Chief Latham, Police Chief Bryan and Cameraman Ellis.

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 10, 2010, and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

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

Jane Tousman, 14 Butler Road, asked about the amount of tax appeals. She did not feel there was any input from the Finance Committee prior to the budget.

Council President Tomaro said the public hearing is on the budget as presented. If the budget is amended there will be another opportunity to speak on this. He said the Finance Committee will meet with the directors.

Councilmember Lankey said the meeting with the director's is on Thursday.

Ms. Tousman said she would have liked to see the hearings earlier.

Jim Kelly, Route 27, said the potholes on the Boulevard of the Eagles are being repaired.

Council President Tomaro said this is the Board's contractor.

Bob Spiegel, Edison Wetlands, said he attended a Freeholder meeting and discussed the Open Space Trust Fund. He asked the County to provide funding for the Edison acquisitions and he asked the Council to direct the Open Space Committee to put together a priority list of sites and forward it to the County.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, discussed the changes made to the gas station Ordinance. She felt this should not just apply to 24 hour gas stations. She was also concerned with the gas stations closing late and opening early. She felt the gas stations can circumvent this Ordinance.

Council President Tomaro said the Ordinance can be changed. If they are going to circumvent the Ordinance, it will gladly be changed. He spoke about the eighteen robberies this year.

Ms. Nemitz felt the Ordinance is inadequate and does not accomplish anything.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road, spoke about the Clara Barton Library. She felt the Mayor and Council promised that \$100,000 would be allocated in the budget.

Council President Tomaro said no one guaranteed anything. The Council asked to look into this.

Burton Gimelstob, 6 Churchill Road, asked if the gas station Ordinance was modeled after other municipalities and if they felt this would protect the citizenry of the Township.

Mr. Kemm said this can always be amended.

Mr. Gimelstob felt most gas stations have video cameras and their insurance may actually be reduced when this is installed.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, said a store owner in the Clara Barton area questioned the increase in his food service permit fees.

Mr. Elliot said there has not been any fee change in at least twelve months. He asked Mr. Wolke to have the individual call him.

Mr. Wolke spoke about the Clara Barton Library. He said the Library was a madhouse last Saturday. He noted many people signed up to become members of the library.

Council President Tomaro said they may move money around on Wednesday to do the improvements.

Tom Gockel, 77 Safran Avenue, agreed with the Wolke's. He said the neighboring community has five libraries. He appreciated efforts to keep Clara Barton library open.

Sue Barber, Pleasant Avenue, asked if there is only \$20,000 left in the Neighborhood Preservation Program Grant.

Mr. Gonzalez assured her there will be sufficient funds to do the improvements.

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. through e. No comments.

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

Councilmember Lankey said there is a meeting on Thursday with the Department heads. He has prepared many budgets and felt the Council needed to look at this closely before meeting with the Department heads and asking the appropriate questions.

Councilmember Mascola said, at the Library meeting, they voted "no" to close the Clara Barton Library.

**7. POINTS OF LIGHT**

Councilmember Mascola said he attended the Edison Sheltered Workshop dinner.

**8. 2010 CALENDAR YEAR BUDGET**

a. No comment was made.

**9. 2010 SOLID WASTE COLLECTION DISTRICT BUDGET**

a. Council President Tomaro asked if the budget is staying flat.

Mr. Acker said the budget is down to \$181,000. The amount to be raised by taxes is flat.

**10. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**

a. No comment was made.

b. Councilmember Dr. Prasad asked about the performance of the system.

Chief Bryan said this is for forty four additional cameras compatible with the Wifi system. He noted the life expectancy is five years and this is being purchased with grant money.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad asked if an Officer can turn the system off and Chief Bryan said "no".

c. Councilmember Mascola asked why the Town is going month to month.

Mr. Gonzalez said they are in the process of discussions with ADP to look at their products and other company's products.

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

a. through f. No comments were made.

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

a. Mr. Kemm said this is the sale of a small parcel of property that was discussed in closed session.

Council President Tomaro said the money generated from the sale goes into the Open Space Fund.

b. Mr. Kemm said he worked with Councilmember Karabinchak regarding the tax appeal process.

c. Mr. Kemm said this is for textile recycling and is through the Edison Wetlands Association.

Council President Tomaro asked where the bins will be located.

Mr. Kemm said at the Department of Public Works on New Durham Avenue and also on Meadow Road and the sewer yard on Langstaff.

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

a. Council President Tomaro said this is a County road and he asked if the County approved this.

Mr. Medina said this is based on a discussion with the Administration and Police. It is currently posted at 40 mph.

b. through h. No comments were made.

i. and j. Councilmember Dr. Prasad asked if this is for resurfacing that was done.

Mr. Medina said this is an application for the bank adjacent to Oak Tree Park.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad asked if this has to do with resurfacing on New Dover Road and Tingley Lane.

Mr. Medina said this is the construction of the bank only.

k. and l. No comments were made.

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

Councilmember Karabinchak said he did not attend the meeting, but will obtain the results of the meeting.

**15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:  
ORDINANCES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC HEARING:**

O.1741-2010 This was previously discussed.

**16. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:**

R.273-052010 No comment was made.

R.279-052010 Council President Tomaro said this is the NPP Grant.

Council President Tomaro asked Mr. Medina for the costs on the Library.

Mr. Medina said the preliminary cost estimate is in the ballpark of \$66,000. Further review can isolate the work to four major areas.

**17. COMMUNICATIONS:**

a. through c. No comments.

**18. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Council President Tomaro:**

a. Council President Tomaro said the Boy Scouts Resolution will be presented on Wednesday.

b. Council President Tomaro asked to keep this on the agenda.

c. Council President Tomaro said this will be adopted on Wednesday.

d. Council President Tomaro said this idea came from a resident who felt certain areas in the community, that are currently maintained by the Township, could have a private landscaper adopt and maintain them. Signs could be placed at these locations acknowledging that they are being maintained by a certain landscaper.

Councilmember Diehl said he has an issue with signage. He felt a limit should be put on how long the sign will remain there. He doesn't want to see Edison become one long billboard.

Mr. Roderman said a list is being put together and this will be mapped out.

e. Council President Tomaro said the Township started a fund a few years back and asked how to move the money in the fund to replace the sidewalks by the cemetery.

Mr. Gonzalez said he will look at the options.

Council President Tomaro asked if the contractor came to review the skate park.

Ms. Halliwell said she will call him.

f. Council President Tomaro asked for updates.

Mr. Medina said they are close to securing the right of way and may go to bid in about a month.

g. Council President Tomaro asked if there is one.

Mr. Roderman said the Administration will have this.

h. through l. No comments were made.

m. Council President Tomaro asked to have the house located at the site triangle on Grove and Calvert Avenue East looked at.

- n. Council President Tomaro said he has been speaking to Senator Buono's office regarding the Route 1 corridor. He said the traffic going north is fine, but south needs to be improved.
- o. Council President Tomaro spoke about the underground storage applications and said the Township has given out eighty applications and the waiving of the fee is in effect.

**Councilmember Diehl:**

None

**Councilmember Karabinchak:**

- a. No comment was made.
- b. Councilmember Karabinchak said there is a Resolution on Mr. Kemm's agenda regarding tax appeal reform. The Town currently has 320 commercial tax appeals and 130 residential tax appeals pending.
- c. Councilmember Karabinchak said is working on the GBH Zone Ordinance. He said gas stations are currently permitted in the GBH Zone with no limit on the number of pumps. He would like to see this changed and hoped the Council will have input on this.

Council President Tomaro asked if the Town can limit gas stations going into this zone.

Mr. Kemm said the Planning Board would have to review this also.

**Councilmember Lankey:**

None

**Councilmember Mascola:**

None

**Councilmember Perilstein:**

Councilmember Perilstein was absent.

**Councilmember Prasad:**

None

**19. CLOSED SESSION:**

Councilmember Mascola asked why this was not on the agenda.

Council President Tomaro said this was just for discussion.

The Council retired to Closed Session at 6:59 p.m., on a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, 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) Contract negotiations

**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 8:06 p.m., on a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Karabinchak and duly carried.

On a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Karabinchak, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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Charles Tomaro  
Council President

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Reina A. Murphy, RMC  
Municipal Clerk