

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
June 22, 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 6:06 p.m. by Council President Diehl, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Karabinchak, Lombardi, Mascola, Prasad and Shah.
Councilmember Gomez entered at 6:07 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 Shannon, Fire Chief Latham and Cameraman D'Amato.

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.

George Stafford, Outreach NJ Highlands Coalition, said he is present this evening to ask for a Resolution in support of the 2004 Highland Regional Protection Act. There are changes being proposed and they would like a Resolution urging that things be left as they are.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad said he agrees we must protect our water supply but asked if keeping things as they are does not hurt some of the residents who farm.

Mr. Stafford said yes but it is a balancing act and there is wording in the act that addresses compensation. He said only 3% fall into the farming category. He agrees that people should be compensated, but where will the funds come from.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, said she recently saw Pope Francis on television with a world map of all the aquaphors and the potential future of our planet. She felt we need to start at home with the Highland's Region and we should seriously consider the Resolution requested. She asked for an explanation of item 12A on the agenda.

Mr. Northgrave explained that this is the completion of an agreement with Waste Water Management.

Ms. Nemitz asked if the wording of the conveyance is available.

Mr. Northgrave said he will provide her with a copy.

Ms. Nemitz thanked the Council for the Greenway Resolution. She said she is glad to see Roosevelt back on but feels we need better communication as the Planning Board did not know we hired a planner.

Councilmember Shah said she was present at the Planning Board meeting and she will relay the concerns.

Carl Zimmerman, 247 Grandview Avenue, asked where we stand with getting Galaxy shut down. He said the situation is getting worse and worse.

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Council President Diehl said we have talked a lot recently about quality of life issues and we need to put pressure on them. He said we will be hiring a new DPW Director on Wednesday and he asked Ms. Ruane for a report one month from now letting the residents know where we stand with code enforcement and how many fines have been issued in all areas He said we cannot keep giving lip service. We need to get the ball rolling. We should not have some of these violations and we need to do better.

Mr. Zimmerman said we should consider putting a note in the tax bills reminding residents to cut their grass. He asked if we have looked into speeding cameras.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, questioned item 10c. He asked what type of medical service this is.

Ms. Ruane said this is for testing we give to employees for workman's compensation.

Mr. Wolke also questioned item 10d. He asked what extraordinary unspecifiable services are. He asked how much they are paid and where are the articles that they write.

Ms. Ruane said this is a term used when something cannot be classified. She said they are paid on a month to month basis and their articles appear in the Star Ledger, Home News and online.

Mr. Wolke asked about the estimated tax bills and the sewer bills.

Ms. Ruane said the sewer bills will go out this Friday and the first half will be due July 15th with a grace period till July 24th.

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

5. 2015 CALENDAR YEAR SOLID WASTE BUDGET

No comment was made

6. 2015 CALENDAR YEAR MUNICIPAL BUDGET

No comment was made.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. and b. No comments were made

8. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Gomez reported the Finance Committee met with the Department heads last week and they were very helpful. He said they will continue to review the budget and give their final report at the July meeting.

9. POINTS OF LIGHT;

None

10. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. and b. No comments were made.

- c. This item was discussed earlier
- d. Councilmember Dr. Prasad said this was questioned earlier by a resident and he feels it does sound contradictory. He asked why this cannot be consolidated with constituent relations. He felt we should consider this when we are asking residents to tighten their belts.

Councilmember Diehl said he agrees with the belt tightening. He said he hasn't seen these articles and asked where they appear.

Councilmember Mascola said we had a contract with them last year for \$45,000.

Ms. Ruane said this is a new contract on a month to month basis for the same amount.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

- a. through d. No comments were made.

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

- a. No comment was made.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

- a. and b. No comments were made.

14. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

- a. and b. No comments were made.
- c. A Resolution to hire the DPW Director was added.

15. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

- a. No comment was made.

16. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

- a. and b. No comments were made.
- c. Council President Diehl asked for an explanation.

Captain Shannon said this is for the computer dispatch system and has to be maintained annually.

17. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:

- a. and b. No comments were made.

18. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Councilmember Shah said the Planning Board met on June 15th. A request to construct a two-story medical office at Ventnor Drive and Oak Tree Road was held over to July 13th. There was a presentation from Hartz Mountain on Top Golf. The Roosevelt Hospital redevelopment was passed. The application from Dr. Mody for an MRI facility on Amboy Avenue was also held until July 13th.

19. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

O.1910-2015 No comment was made.

20. COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. Received as submitted.

19. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Diehl:

- a. He thanked Ms. Ruane for getting back to him on residents complaints. He said he heard from a resident wanting to know if we can save money by changing to one trash pick-up per week.

Ms. Ruane said they have looked into that and the tonnage would still be the same. We would also have to provide residents with two trash cans each. It would not be cost effective.

- b. He questioned why 35 MPH and 25 MPH speed signs on Amboy Avenue are placed so close together.
- c. He said a resident brought up an issue regarding work being done at the Yelencsics building without permits. He asked where that issue stands.

Ms. Ruane said someone will be going out to investigate.

- d. He said a letter went out from Edison to South Plainfield residents regarding the paving on Woodland Avenue. He questioned why we are sending a letter to South Plainfield residents and if it was accurate. He asked if we are in sync with South Plainfield officials.

Mr. Kataryniak said there was talk of extending the limits and he made the call to send out the letters. He felt more notice was better than less notice and he said we are in sync with South Plainfield officials.

Councilmember Karabinchak said half of the paving is complete and it looks beautiful.

Councilmember Gomez:

None

Councilmember Karabinchak:

None

Councilmember Lombardi:

None

Councilmember Mascola:

None

Councilmember Prasad

- a. He again asked about the felling of trees in Oak Ridge Park and if permits were taken out with Edison.

Ms. Ruane said no permits were taken out as this is located in Clark.

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- b. He said recently there was a public event held where roads were blocked making it difficult to get around. He asked why there were no signs posted and residents were not notified of the street closings.

Ms. Ruane said she will ask the Police department and find out.

Councilmember Shah:

- a. She said holiday and festival time is coming up and permits have been requested. She said she has received complaints from neighbors regarding clean-up. She felt people who sponsor the festivals need to take care of the clean-up afterwards and said there may have to be a higher cost for clean-up. She said she would like to get this rolled out before festival season begins.

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

Robert Diehl
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno
Acting Municipal Clerk