

**MINUTES OF  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
WORKSESSION MEETING  
August 17, 2014**

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 6:08 p.m. by Council President Diehl, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Gomez, Karabinchak, Lombardi, Mascola, Prasad and Shah.

Also present were Township Clerk Russomanno, Clerk McCray, Township Attorney McManimon, Business Administrator Ruane, Recreation Director Halliwell, Health Director Elliot, Township Engineer Kataryniak, Police Chief Bryan, Fire Chief Latham 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.

Jack Rothstein, 24 Sheryl Drive, asked how Government Strategy Group was selected. He felt CFO services are very important and said he searched the internet and found five (5) firms that provide these services.

Ms. Ruane replied it has been very difficult to find a Chief Financial Officer. We have been talking with Government Strategy Group since 2011 and we received positive recommendations from other municipalities that use their services.

Councilmember Gomez said as Chairman of the Finance Committee, they were were looking for a company that shares the same vision. He said they spent time interviewing this firm and also received positive feedback from other Business Administrators and as a Committee they felt this firm is a good fit for Edison.

Jack Rothstein, 24 Sheryl Drive, said he will give Ms. Ruane the information he obtained on the five (5) other companies.

Mike Orlowski, 26 Sheryl Drive, said he received a copy of Government Strategy's Contract and he feels it is deficit and would like to discuss it with Mr. Northgrave. He said on their invoices it does not indicate the amount of hours they are working.

Ms. Ruane said they are here over 114 hours per month.

Walt Stochel, 2118 Oak Tree Road, asked about the Street Paving Program and if we know do we know what streets and how many will be done this year.

Mr. Kataryniak, said it will include Stephenville Parkway, Wintergreen Avenue and Talmadge Road.

Mr. Stochel asked if we still have a paving crew.

Ms Ruane replied "yes". She said they will be doing our parking lots and catch basins and since most of our equipment was lost in the fire we will be contracting for the paving program.

Mr. Stochel, commented that during a recent fire in North Brunswick drones were used to take pictures. He asked if Edison has any drones.

Chief Bryan said we do not but we would like to.

Council President Diehl felt that before we look into using drones we should develop some policies for their use.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road., said according to the Open Public Meetings Act, a closed session should have an explanation and she would like to know what litigation is being discussed.

Council President Diehl replied that the litigation involves an employee and also tax appeals. .

Ms. Wolke, questioned item 11b under Law and asked who placed this on the agenda.

Council President Diehl said this was placed on the agenda by Administration with a recommendation from the Planner. It is a Resolution asking the Council to forward to the Planning Board for review.

Ms. Wolke handed in a copy of a Woodbridge Township news letter booklet which comes out four times a year. She asked if Jaffee Communications could do something like this for Edison.

Council President Diehl asked if it is mailed to the residents. He felt this is a great concept and loves the idea.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, expressed concerns about the North Brunswick warehouse fire. She asked what the procedure is when we have leased warehouse space. She asked if they need to let us know what is being kept at that location.

Councilmember Karabinchak explained the code and said there are yearly fire inspections done by our inspectors.

Councilmember Mascola added that there are government standards such as a new label type that must be on the records.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, asked where residents can dispose of old television sets.

Mr. Elliot said they can call the Department of Public Works to schedule a pick up at no cost.

Mr. Wolke asked the status of the leaf bags.

Council President Diehl said the Resolution to obtain leaf bags was voted down. They are looking into obtaining the bags at a lower cost.

Councilmember Gomez added that there isn't any addition cost of manpower.

Mike Orłowski, 26 Sheryl Drive, spoke to the Engineering Department regarding a cut pole and a light that has not been replaced. He said he also called PSE&G.

Mr. Kataryniak said there is a work order in at PSE&G.

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

## **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. through e. Accepted as submitted.

**6. 2015 Calendar Year Solid Waste Budget:**

Council President Diehl asked why is there a separate budget for Solid Waste?

Ms. Ruane said, back in 1954 there was a referendum passed, 69.9% of the municipality has town garbage. It's the law, to change that you would have to pass a referendum, with all we get to charge she doesn't recommend.

Councilmember Shah, she understands a number of residents have private garbage, how are their rated determine.

Councilmember Karabinchak, they call private companies. Actually private garbage districts pay less. Municipal garbage rate is based on value of your home.

Councilmember Shah, welcomed back Maureen. She had heard comments about solid waste budget, issues that were corrected.

Councilmember Karabinchak explained the Sewer Budget changes based on the MCUA report. He also said New meters were installed so Rutgers will get billed correctly.

Councilmember Prasad asked if there is a way sewer flow for home owners is measured.

Councilmember Karabinchak said no.

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

None

**8. POINTS OF LIGHT;**

Council President Diehl said Edison is hosting the Barclays Golf Tournament again this year and the traffic pattern will be posted on the website. He said this is a wonderful event and a great benefit to our town and we will do our best to put the information out to everyone.

Chief Bryan said they will be working on flashing signs for August 24<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Karabinchak the Two parades Indian & Pakistan were well attending and had great weather.

**9. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**

a. No comment was made.

b. Councilmember Lombardi asked if we have an estimate.

Mr. Kataryniak said the preliminary assessment is \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Councilmember Lombardi asked if we went out to bid.

Ms. Ruane said "no" this is an emergency repair that we had gone into closed session about previously.

Mr. Kataryniak said the contract is for review.

Councilmember Karabinchak added it is a force main under constant pressure and it is a specialized fix.

c. Councilmember Mascola asked what is in the change order.

Ms. Ruane said putting up the screens and monitors on each side of the room.

d. and e. No comments were made.

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

a. Councilmember Mascola asked what the \$8,000 bill for the township web site is for.

Ms. Ruane said it is an upgrade to the website and she will find out the particulars.

b. through f. No comments were made.

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

a. Councilmember Lombardi asked if we can assess fines if someone is in violation of Ordinance.

Mr. McManimon said this includes penalties that are already set by Ordinance.

Council President Diehl said the cleanup of site triangles also falls into the enforcement that Karl Zimmerman is working on.

b. No comment was made.

Council President Diehl stated we are adding item c. to the agenda which amends Resolution R.424-072015 clarifying the parcels to be investigated that the Township intends to acquire for recreational use.

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

a. through g. No comments were made.

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

a. through e. No comments were made.

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

a. through c. No comments were made.

d. Councilmember Mascola requested this Resolution be pulled . He said he has a few questions. He would like more information on enrollment and what the formula is for the amount of money each league receives and what are the funds are used for.

Council President Diehl asked Ms. Halliwell to provide Councilmember Mascola with the answers to his questions and said it will be pulled off the agenda for now.

- 15. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:**  
a. through c. No comments were made.

- 16. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:**  
a. through d. No comments were made.

- 17. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:**  
a. and b. No comments were made.

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

Councilmember Shah reported she couldn't attend the meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup> however she received a report from the Secretary of the Planning Board as follows. There were two resolutions that were passed, Loring Avenue minor sub division and 75 Fieldcrest Ave, The Carpenters Union is putting up a two story building for a training center. The next meeting will be on September 14, 2015.

**19. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:  
ORDINANCES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION, PUBLIC HEARING, AND  
FINAL ADOPTION:**

O.1912-2015 No comment was made

**20. Proposed Resolutions:**

R.395-062015 No comment was made.

R.440-072015 No comment was made.

**21. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Council President Diehl:**

- a. He asked what we are doing to be proactive regarding the Oak Ridge Park Festival in Clark.

Chief Bryan said in the past we have assigned parking as it gets closer to the event. As far as he knows there were no complaints last year.

- b. He asked what can be done about the deer population.

Mr. Elliot said there is no easy answer except to make your yard as unattractive as possible.

**Councilmember Gomez:**

None

**Councilmember Karabinchak:**

None

**Councilmember Lombardi:**

- a. He asked if Legal Counsel can give us an update on the status of the light at Oak Tree Road and Woodland Avenue.

Mr. McManimon said he will have Mr. Northgrave get back to him.

**Councilmember Mascola:**

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

Ms. Ruane said there are meetings being set up and she should have some answers in the next few months.

**Councilmember Prasad:**

- a. He welcomed Ms. Ruane back.
- b. He asked for an update on the light at May Street and Woodbridge Avenue.

Mr. Kataryniak said he understands the county is moving forward with this project but it is not scheduled yet.

**Councilmember Shah:**

- a. She asked Ms. Ruane for some assistance with the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance.

Ms Ruane said she will speak with the Mayor and get an answer for her.

- b. She asked if we have received any Volunteer Firefighter applications from woman.

Chief Latham said "no".

- c. She asked how many Edison employees worked at the Parades and what was the cost of clean-up.

Ms. Ruane said it was Police and DPW workers.

- d. She asked the status of Police Body Cams.

Chief Bryan said we are looking into different grants and feels we cannot get them fast enough, however it is funding.

- e. She said she is very impressed with Internal Affairs.

- f. She asked about our neighborhood watch

Chief Bryan said Sergeant Dudash is in charge of Neighborhood Watch .

g. She asked the time table for hiring new Police Officers.

Chief Bryan said they just put the ad out. We are looking to hire PT Certified candidates and after this round of hires we should be at 182 officers in our Police force.

**22. CLOSED SESSION:**

The Council retired to Closed Session at 7:38 p.m., on a motion made by Councilmember Karabinchak, seconded by Councilmember Gomez 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) Employee litigation
- 2) Tax Appeals

**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.

On a motion made by Councilmember Karabinchak, seconded by Councilmember Gomez, the meeting reconvened at 8:22 p.m.

On a motion made by Councilmember Karabinchak, seconded by Councilmember Gomez, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

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Robert Diehl  
Council President

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Cheryl Russomanno, RMC  
Municipal Clerk