

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
December 7, 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, Lombardi, Mascola and Prasad.
Councilmember Shah was absent.

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

Bob Yackel, President Firefighters Union, said the Union won an arbitration award and has not yet been paid. He said bills have been outstanding for 22 months. He said they have won all appeals and the case is now five years old. He asked what is going on with the training part.

Ms. Ruane said she will sit down with the Council next week to go over the training schedule.

Mr. Yackel said this was supposed to be done immediately.

Ms. Ruane said we have to wait for a payroll to pay the dividend. She said we will never know overtime ahead of time as it is based on hour to hour.

Mr. Yackel said a rice notice was served on a member and he asked what type of pension he is receiving.

Ms. Ruane gave the type.

Ms. Demis, Wintergreen Avenue, said she heard that after her street is paved, the speed bumps will be removed.

Mr. Kataryniak said the speed bumps will be replaced after the paving is complete.

Jim Kelly, Route 27, asked that a left hand turn signal be placed at the traffic light on Route 27 and Municipal Blvd.

Mr. Kataryniak said he is working with the DOT on this but it does take time.

Mr. Kelly said a traffic light was promised by the developers of the Ford site at the corner of Boulevard of the Eagles and Old Post Road and he asked if anything had been done yet.

Mr. Kataryniak said there are no plans at this time.

Ms. Penceal, Resident, shared a list with the Council from the residents in her area that support her.

Bruce Diamond, 74 Calvert Avenue, asked if there is any update on the Toth Center.

Council President Diehl said there is no update.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, commented that it gets dark early now and as she goes to meetings she notices certain problems. She said the German car company located on Route 27 was recently given permission to expand their business. This has caused cars to stop dead on Route 27 because they cannot get into the German car lot creating a very dicey situation. She also said she has asked repeatedly for the speed bumps on Central Avenue to be repainted. She felt sidewalks are needed on Central Avenue as residents coming from the train station must walk in the street.

Jim Walsh, said he has a question regarding the EMT pay. He said this is pensionable and should be included in their pay.

Ms. Ruane clarified.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, commented on the Amboy Avenue Redevelopment zone. He said they are having a lot of problems due to what he feels is incompetence by the Planner.

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

5. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Gomez said there will be a Finance Committee meeting tomorrow.

6. POINTS OF LIGHT:

Council President Diehl wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah and announced there will be a lighting of the Menorah On December 8th at 7:00 p.m. He also said the Christmas Tree Lighting was a wonderful event and he thanked all who performed.

7. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. Councilmember Karabinchak thanked Ms. Ruane for the information on the attorney bills and said we will bring back those Resolutions on Wednesday.

b. Councilmember Karabinchak asked for a brief summary of the new contract.

Ms. Ruane said the numbers are still being finalized but she highlighted the changes.

Councilmember Mascola asked what departments are covered under AFSCME.

Ms. Ruane said it includes the bulk of all the clerical workers.

c. The UAW contract was added at the meeting.

Councilmember Mascola asked the total cost.

Ms. Ruane gave the highlights and said a rough estimate is around \$16,000.00

8. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. through e. No comments were made.

9. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

a and b. No comments were made.

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

a. through d. No comments were made.

e. and f. These Resolutions were added at the meeting for the Hoagland and Roth firms.

g. This Resolution for Top Golf was added at the meeting.

Mr. Northgrave said he would like to answer some of Councilmember Mascola's questions from the last meeting regarding selling firearms from a home.

Mr. Northgrave explained Federal and State law regarding gun sales. He said it would appear that if the gun seller is in violation of local zoning laws then they may be in violation of Federal law.

Council President Diehl said his primary concern goes far beyond zoning issues. They are selling dangerous items not handicrafts. He asked how safe the home is, are there alarms and bars on the windows and what about background checks. He asked how we can safeguard the neighborhood

Mr. Northgrave said we are looking at our options. This is a 2nd Amendment issue and we cannot impose stricter regulations than Federal Law permits.

Council President Diehl said we live in a world of identity theft and people can use fake ID's.

Mr. Northgrave said that is an inherent risk that can happen anywhere.

Council President Diehl said the problem is that these items are very dangerous.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad asked if there is a background check for every transaction.

Mr. Northgrave said no.

The Police Officer explained that the background check is processed through the Police Department and takes about 45 days.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

a. through c. No comments were made.

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

a. through f. No comments were made.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:

a. through c. No comments were made.

14. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. and b. No comments were made.

15. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

a. through d. No comments were made.

16. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK;

a. No comment was made.

17. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Councilmember Shah was absent.

18. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Diehl:

a. He said there will be a Resolution of recognition for Eagle Scout Shree Nadknanari.

Councilmember Gomez:

None

Councilmember Karabinchak:

- a. He said the BAPS have asked for a permit fee waiver and he asked the Administration to look into an ordinance that allows us to waive a certain portion of that fee. He asked if there is any waiver on a trunk sewer system.
- b. He said he has received telephone calls regarding the leaking roof at Stelton Community Center. He asked what we are doing to fix the leaks and if we are considering opening a new community center at Kilmer in Building 1072.
- c. He asked for an update on the street paving.

Mr. Kataryniak said the first contract work will be completed by the end of the year.

- d. He said we have sewer agreements with other municipalities and he would like to see the sewer maps for Metuchen, Scotch Plains and Clark. He said he would like a list of all non-profits that do not pay a sewer fee and commented that some municipalities do not allow that. He would also like to know if the surrounding municipalities we are paying have a fixed rate as we do it by usage.
- e. He said we will be changing the salary ranges for Directors and Councilmembers as this Council is the lowest paid in the County.

Councilmember Lombardi:

None

Councilmember Mascola:

a. He asked for an update on Route 27 and Schuyler.

Mr. Elliot said a family member has stepped up to take care of the property.

b. He asked for an update on ADP.

Ms. Ruane said that has taken a backseat to the contract negotiations that are presently going on.

Councilmember Prasad:

- a. He inquired on the status of the traffic light at Woodbridge Avenue and May Street.

Mr. Kataryniak said the county is close to completing their design. He is receiving progress plans from the county and they will notify him when they hit four milestones in the process. They are currently at three of four.

- b. He said he was elected to the Council eight years ago and he thanked the residents for electing him. He said everything comes to an end but he will be forever grateful to the residents for the opportunity to serve.

Council President Diehl said Councilmember Prasad made a great contribution to Edison and he thanked him for his service.

Councilmember Shah:

Absent

On a motion made by Councilmember Lombardi, seconded by Councilmember Gomez, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Robert Diehl
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno, RMC
Municipal Clerk