MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WORKSESSION MEETING June 23, 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 6:07 p.m. by Council President Karabinchak, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Gomez, Karabinchak, Lombardi, Mascola and Shah. Councilmember Prasad entered at 6:26 p.m.

Also present were Acting Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Township Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney Northgrave, Business Administrator Ruane, Recreation Director Halliwell, Public Works Director Roderman, Township Engineer Medina, Health Jay Elliot, Police Captain Polkowitz 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 14, 2013 and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

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

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, announced that the Farmer's Market on Amboy Avenue has opened for the season. She also stated that she would like a copy of Mr. Bignell's report on the Amboy Avenue Revitalization Zone ordinance before the Planning Board meeting on July 14th, 2014.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road, asked for clarification as to why it is in the best interest of the community to vacate a portion of Lambert Avenue.

Mr. Northgrave said it is a paper street and not much can be done with it. This will enhance the zoning of the property for the owner.

Mr. Medina said this was recommended by the Planning Board.

Ms. Wolke felt this is for the benefit of the property owner not for the Township. She said we are giving away 180 feet of property and increasing the value to the owner. She felt the Township should be getting something back and not just give land away.

Mr. Northgrave said this creates a viable parcel to ensure that the owner has a rateable for the Township.

Mr. Medina said twenty feet is being retained for snow plowing. He said this will help increase economic development.

Ms. Woke urged the Council to consider tabling this ordinance and suggested that we should receive something in return. She also asked about a rumor she has heard regarding the Township doing away with senior citizen discounts.

Council President Karabinchak said that is not true, the Township will not do away with discounts for seniors.

Councilmember Gomez asked if the Township can receive any benefit for the vacation of a street.

Mr. Northgrave said he did not believe we can receive money for a street vacation but he will check.

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Maryann Hennessey, 20 Carmello Drive, inquired as to why we are looking to increase our number of liquor licenses.

Ms. Russomanno said according to our population we are allowed to have thirteen.

Ms. Hennessey asked if we will go to the maximum.

Council President Karabinchak said we do not have to increase them all at one time. We will offer some now and others at a later date.

Ms. Hennessey asked what locations the sewer bonding is for.

Council President Karabinchak said this will be for Suttons Lane to Division Street. He said the Administration is looking at the worst areas first.

Ms. Hennessey asked about the Senior Citizen bus that will be purchased and if it will be bonded for.

Mr. Elliot said we will use the capital improvement bond to replace a 2009 bus.

Ms. Hennessey asked if we will be bonding for the purchase of Fire pumpers.

Ms. Ruane said there are two pumpers in the capital budget.

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

In response to an earlier question, Mr. Northgrave reported that a municipality cannot request compensation to vacate a paper street.

5. **2014 CALENDAR YEAR MUNICIPAL BUDGET:**

No comment was made.

6. **2014 CALENDAR YEAR SOLID WASTE BUDGET:**

No comment was made.

7. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Gomez said the Finance Committee will hold the first round of meetings on the budget after which they will either present a report or an amendment. He also commented that the Public safety Committee will start to work on the Fire Department hiring ordinance.

8. **POINTS OF LIGHT:**

None

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

a. through d. No comments were made.

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

a. through e. No comments were made.

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11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

- No comment was made.
- b. Councilmember Prasad asked where the freight line is located.

Mr. Medina said the location is off of Talmadge Road.

c. through g. No comments were made.

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

a. through f. No comments were made.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

a. Councilmember Mascola asked what this is.

Mr. Roderman said this is a gas dispensing unit for the Police station.

14. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:

a. through d. No comments were made.

15. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. through c. No comments were made.

d. Councilmember Gomez asked if these are the same Motorola items we are trying to replace.

A member of the Fire Department said they are the same and also some are spares if something should break.

16. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

a. and b. 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 Mascola reported that there was an application on Oak Tree Road to demolish two office buildings and construct a new office building. He said this was discussed for a very long time and the developer agreed to all conditions. The application was given preliminary approval.

Councilmember Shah asked where this is located.

Councilmember Mascola said this is by the Sunnyside Deli.

Councilmember Shah commented that this is across the street from a very large office building.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad said it is west of the Edison Family Restaurant.

Councilmember Mascola said the second application was for the Plainfield Country Club to demolish the old clubhouse and build a new one. The application was given preliminary and final approval.

The third application was for an 11,000 square foot lot sub-division and did not pass.

	Councilmember Mascola said the two ordinances that the Council voted to send to the Planning Board for an opinion should be back to the Council by August 14 th .
19.	PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS: a. No comment was made.
20.	COMMUNICATIONS: a. and b. Received as submitted
21.	DISCUSSION ITEMS:
	Council President Karabinchak:
	a. He asked if we can contact the entity that is holding this up and force them to respond.
	b. through f. No comments were made.
	Councilmember Diehl: None
	Councilmember Gomez: None
	Councilmember Lombardi: None
	Councilmember Mascola: None
	Councilmember Prasad: a. He asked if the Barclay's golf Tournament will be returning next year.
	Council President Karabinchak said "no" this event only occurs once every four years.
	Councilmember Shah: None
	motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Mascola, with all in favor, the meeting djourned at 6:57 p.m.

Cheryl Russomanno Acting Municipal Clerk

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Robert Karabinchak Council President