

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
February 25, 2019**

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 6:04 p.m. by Council President Gomez, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Coyle, Diehl, Gomez, Joshi, Lombardi, Patil, and Sendelsky

Also present were Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Clerk McCray, Township Attorney Northgrave, Business Administrator Ruane, Public Works Director Russomanno, Health Inspector Spearnock, Township Engineer O'Brien, Fire Chief Latham, Police Captain Askelson 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 1, 2018 and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

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

Maria Orchid, 83 Jefferson Avenue, asked what is the time line for the New Community Center and do we have plans for the Stelton Community Center building.

Ms. Ruane, we should have a time line for new community center within the next month, no plans for Stelton at this time.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road, item 9 "g" could you explain this appeal.

Ms. Ruane will have the explanation on Wednesday.

Ms. Wolke, item 10 (i) she noticed it went from 80 units to 86.

Mr. Northgrave explained the Resolution from the last meeting was wrong, there was a typo it should be 86 units. This resolution will clear this up.

Bruce Diamond, 74 Calvert, Thanks to John Poyner for getting the \$37,000 donation. He asked when will The Committee of the Whole start.

Council President Gomez said if the resolution passes on Wednesday, committee will be formed.

Mr. Diamond, asked about the Sewer & Water lease arrangement.

Council President Gomez it would be a lease agreement there will be a public meeting on March 28th at 6:00pm in Council Chambers.

Mr. Northgrave explained briefly some parts of the agreement.

Mr. Diamond, he hopes this new appointment person is not a Committee Person.

Julian Zammit, 17 Stiles Road, asked if we are getting closer to the planning of the new community Center. He asked if we could contact the DOT regarding the jug handle at Rt. 1 at Old Post Road.

Council President Gomez, we are getting into the design and planning stages. We will be voting on the architect on Wednesday for Community Center.

A member of the Food and Watch Association asked about the Water and Sewer contract.

Mr. Northgrave explained the agreement is still being negotiated we will have a Public Meeting on March 28th here in Council Chambers.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, suggested we review the newspaper article in Star Ledger which indicated how to help financially not giving away too much control.

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

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

a. No comments were made

6. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

None

7. POINTS OF LIGHT-

Council President Gomez, On February 21st Mayor Lankey State of the Township addressed all the good things he is working on moving Edison forward. We are continuing to re-invest in our Township. On March 28th there will be a Public Meeting at 6:00pm in Council Chambers regarding our Water and Sewer lease agreement. We are canceling March 25 Worksession and making Wednesday March 27th a Combined Meeting. North Edison Library on March 23, 2019 will be hosting an Environmental Fund Fare from 10:30am – 12:30pm. The 4th Annual Clara Barton Neighborhood Yard Sale is on Saturday, May 4th from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Councilmember Sendelsky, Assemblywomen Pinkin sponsored a

8. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. and b. No comments were made

9. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. through g. No comments were made

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

a. No comments were made

b. Council Vice President Patil, he would like to know if this can be used for Recreational.

Mr. Russomanno replied not sure this property is safe for children to play on. This is just an agreement to use as a staging area for pipes.

Mr. O'Brien will look into.

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Mr. Northgrave explained this is a Hold Harmless agreement for the storing of materials for a six month period.

Councilmember Joshi, added if the area is safe, it should be used for recreational purposes.

Councilmember Lombardi asked for Mr. O'Brien to check into what testing would be needed/required report to us by next meeting.

Council President Gomez asked Ms. Ruane is that the intention of the Administration?

Ms. Ruane, this came from Department of Public Works.

Councilmember Coyle, feel any contractor should be charged a fee.

Councilmember Joshi, asked how many lots are there for permitting use. Do we have maps?

Ms. Ruane, you all received the Open Space Report.

c. No comments were made.

d. Councilmember Lombardi, it is not clear in this Ordinance what the scope it would be.

Council Vice President Patil asked for this regarding homeowners for ten yards of soil.

Mr. O'Brien explained however it should be in the soil section of code book.

Councilmember Diehl added his concern is not to have the situation like on Calvert pertaining to soil.

e. Councilmember Joshi, would like this resolution pulled or tabled. We didn't receive any information on this person. A lot of residents feel a lack of transparency. We need to have a better process. He feels there is a conflict since this man is a committeeman and will be voting some councilmembers for reelection.

Councilmember Diehl added we need to get people who are qualified. We need to look at the procedure to do a better job in getting people to volunteer.

Councilmember Lombardi, this is a Mayoral appointment. We can ask for back up and request additional information. He feels we should vote on Wednesday.

Councilmember Joshi, feels there is a conflict of interest we should vote after the committee votes on March 14, 2019.

Council President Gomez, he suggested you all should reach out to the Mayor.

Councilmember Coyle, feels we should have had this in January, however he supports the Mayor's choice. He will be supporting this appointment.

f. No comments were made

g. No comments were made

- h. Council Vice President Patil, thanked Councilmember Diehl for his moving forward on the Committee. He feels we should amend this Resolution to include Suez Company in case we need to do an investigation.

Councilmember Coyle, support this addition.

Councilmember Diehl doesn't understand where you are going with this huge agreement. This doesn't make any practical sense to be put together. With all due respect I don't think understand how a Committee of the Whole works and what is involved. We have been patient for two years with no results which has lead us to the Committee of the Whole. I will not support this amendment.

Councilmember Joshi, this is for the Raciest Flyer why would we combine this with the water contract. This is premature we haven't had the Public Hearing on the Water proposal. The Committee of the Whole is to focus on the Raciest Flyer.

Councilmember Lombardi added if we begin solely with the flyer at some later date if we feel we are not getting the services from Suez then we can expand the scope. Right now we need to move forward on the flyer.

Mr. Northgrave explained this is a statutory hearing it's not just one and done. There will be another hearing on the ordinance.

Councilmember Coyle would like a second opinion on this contract.

Councilmember Joshi let's start with the Public Hearing. This is the largest deal we will be voting on and right now we still don't have all the information.

Councilmember Lombardi stated anyone can contact any Councilmember to hear your concerns.

Councilmember Diehl said on March 28th is the Public Hearing for all to come with their questions.

Council Vice President Patil asked Ms. Ruane to advertising as much as possible to get the word out.

i. No comments were made.

j. No comments were made.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:
a. through d. No comments were made

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:
a. No comments were made

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:
a. No comments were made.

14. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:
a. and b. No comments were made

15. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:
a. No comments were made.

16. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

None

17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

O.2039-2019 Council Vice President Patil asked to amend to not allow a subdivision.

Mr. Northgrave he will provide.

18. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Gomez:

a. None

Councilmember Coyle:

a. He asked for an update regarding the truck traffic on Edmund Street.

Mr. O'Brien has been calling the DOT hasn't had a response.

b. He asked if the Code Enforcement and Zoning can review all the used car lots on Route one.

Councilmember Diehl

a. Regarding the Mayor's Address there were a lot of good thing mentioned, however I was happy to hear the revitalization of the Mr. Fix It, new name "The Edison Fix it Program". He asked for an update on when will it begin.

Ms. Ruane, it should be up and running by July. The program is similar to the last program the services will be free to senior and disabled residents.

Councilmember Joshi:

a. None

Councilmember Lombardi:

a. He asked Mr. Elliot for the Ordinance regarding CCO's.

Councilmember Patil:

a. None

Councilmember Sendelsky:

a. He asked Mr. O'Brien to look into the signal on Route 1 and Old Post jug handle .

b. Top Golf Lighting please look at the resolution the back of Rodak Circle the lights still are reflecting in the homes.

On a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Patil, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07.

Alvaro Gomez
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno, RMC
Municipal Clerk