

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
May 21, 2018**

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 6:05 p.m. by Council President Patil, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Councilmember Joshi entered meeting at 6:06pm.

Councilmember Diehl entered meeting at 6:29pm.

Also present were Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Clerk McCray, Township Attorney Northgrave, Business Administrator Ruane, Public Works Director Russomanno, Health Director Elliott, Tax Assessor Jimenez, Finance Director Ken DeRoberts, 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 9, 2017 and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

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

Bruce Diamond, 74 Calvert Avenue, under Law Item "b" how much is the salary.

Ms. Ruane, explained it is an additional \$10,000 for this year, until we hire.

Mr. Diamond, regarding sidewalk fund how much do we have and what do we do with the money.

Ms. Ruane will report back on Wednesday.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road , Department of Finance item "f" we have 12 or 13 tax appeals she thought we were finished with all of them.

Ms. Ruane explained the process on tax appeals.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. No comment was made.

**6. ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA:
FROM MAYOR LANKEY:**

a. through d. No comments were made.

7. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Coyle the Environmental Commission will be meeting to discuss charging stations. On behalf of the beautification committee we are gardening around the community .

Councilmember Joshi, the Library Board meeting they are working on getting the roof done.

Councilmember Gomez, Public Safety Committee is meeting the review the ordinance and Finance committee will begin budget process.

8. POINTS OF LIGHT

Council President Patil, announced Family Day was well attended great job done by Police, Department of Public Works and Health. Mayor's bike tour has over 100 participants it was well organized. He announced events as follows, Tuesday, May 29th – Dismal Swamp Preservation Commission at 7:00pm – Metuchen Borough Hall, Sunday, May 27, 2018 Fire Department Memorial Service At 9:30am – Municipal Complex, Memorial Day Parade (Noon) Plainfield Avenue- begging at Division Street, ending at Oakland Avenue Father & Son post # 435. On Monday, May 28th 2018 All Municipal Offices and Services are closed For Memorial Day and Memorial Services Start at 8:00am.

Council Vice President Sendelsky is moving his Resolution of Recognition for Shankar Saikia Eagle Scout to June 13th.

Councilmember Coyle thanked the council for their participation in the Health and Wellness initiative, it was a great event.

9. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. Councilmember Lombardi asked why only is the Solid Waste Budget being introduced.

Ms. Ruane, the budget number were done first.

b. through e. No comments were made.

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. through e. No comments were made.

f. Council Vice President Sendelsky commented he thought we were over the hump on the tax appeals.

Ms. Jimenez, Tax Assessor explained the ongoing process.

Ms. Ruane added we will never get to the end however instead of borrowing money we have been able to fund in the current budget year.

Council President Patil, asked how far can we go.

Ms. Jimenez, you can apply every year.

Mr. Northgrave there is a statue it has to be filed by April 1 in the tax year.

Council President Patil asked how many.

Ms. Jimenez reported there are approximately 382 appeals at Tax Court Level dating back to 2010. There has been a decrease of forty percent filed.

Councilmember Gomez, the economic health has a direct link to the reducing amount of tax appeals.

Ms. Jimenez said she is closely monitoring the profits from the commercial properties.

Council President Patil, hopefully we are at the end.

Councilmember Coyle added we pay it all for the school board.

Ms. Ruane, we pay municipal and school board on tax appeals, county gives it back

Councilmember Coyle asked what is the law?

Councilmember Diehl, it's a line that never ends.

Ms. Jimenez explained the analysis she is working on. Her department is taking action after the freeze act time is up.

g. No comment was made.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

a. No comment was made

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

a. No comment was made.

b. Council Vice President Sendelsky, this is due to a resignation only until replacement.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

a. through e. No comment was made.

14. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

a. Councilmember Coyle, can he get a quarterly report from Lowes.

Councilmember Lombardi, it's a not to exceed amount.

b. and c. No comments were made.

15. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. No comment was made.

16. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

a. No comment was made.

17. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:

a. and b. No comments were made.

18. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:

a. through d. No comments were made.

19. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Councilmember Coyle, reported on May 14th Dr. Acello was approved for fifteen unit building on Amboy Avenue, this is final. Subdivision for Markim Builders seven homes on Oak Tree Road, application approved.

20. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

O.2009-2018 No comments were made

21. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Patil:

a. 880 Grove Avenue, water issue in their back yard. He was told by the resident the matter is with DEP?

Mr. Russomanno explained it is designated as a blue line waterway.

Mr. O'Brien explained we cannot do work on private property. He will take a look at the tax maps and meeting with Anthony to go out there.

b. He asked how often is the Speed limit evaluated on Talmadge Road it is 40 mph There is no way anyone can drive 40 mph on that road.

Mr. O'Brien explained the roadways are designed to handle that speed limit. If you are asking for a speed study could possibly be done by engineering and police.

Mr. Northgrave WN –we need the Police Department and engineer

c. Notice on Liddle Avenue, one car it's a private street a couple of tenants complain. Who owns this road?

Ms. Ruane, there are multiple owners.

Councilmember Coyle asked if we can get the proper ownership on this road.

Mr. Northgrave

d. Oaktree Road, Grove Avenue and Wood Avenue need of paving.

Councilmember Lombardi said it is his understanding the county is going to widening Oaktree and Grove first. He will ask Freeholder Tomaro for an updated. Oaktree and Wood half is owned by Woodbridge

Councilmember Coyle:

- a. Thanked the administration for handling his complaints along with the Zoning Department. He feels they should go around town on a regular basis. How can we enforce landlord if they get a bad tenant.

Mr. Northgrave we cannot dictate to the landlord who their tenants can be. If there is a zoning or construction issue we can only enforce to the landlord.

- b. He asked what the balance in the account is with Lowes on a quarterly report.

Councilmember Diehl

- a. Follow up on the light at Oak Tree & Woodland, last Tuesday at 5:00pm ,the sky looked threatening he sat over 10 minutes glad to see project being pushed.
- b. The Education Committee met with the Board of Education, this was the first meeting of this year new committee and new meeting of the two branches. He felt it was a very fruitful meeting. Dealing with shared services and their concerns about the pilot project. We explained we are in the infancy of pilot program and we will keep the Board of Education in loop with regards to pilot also continue communications with the board. He asked Ms. Ruane for a Payment schedule for the Board. Class Rooms are overcrowd

Councilmember Gomez:

- a. He asked for a follow up on work being done at Firehouse 3.

Mr. Russomanno reported on the progress of the work.

Councilmember Joshi:

- a. Rutland Avenue trucks parking there.

Ms. Ruane, asked for summons to be issue.

- b. Who runs dismal swamp?

Councilmember Diehl, there is a commission we are in the process to find the outline of metes and bounds survey - this year we are in the process of obtaining bids for metes and bounds, part is Triple C, it is several hundred acres. You can reach out to me or Walter Stochel. He would like the history of dismal swamp.

- c. Plastic Bags, he reported on his research on towns and cities banding plastic bags. He would like the councils thoughts on purposing an ordinance for our township.

Councilmember Diehl, agrees but right now people do not know what to do with Plastic Bags. We need to educate the public to recycle.

Councilmember Lombardi, his concern is enough time to transition for retail and restaurants.

Councilmember Lombardi:

- a. He asked Engineer for an update on the Light at Oak Tree & Woodland is August still the estimated time.

Mr. O'Brien will check with the county on the time line.

- b. He has seen a lot of work going on at Woodbrook onto Talmadge regarding the left turn signal. He is happy to see the work being done for the residents.

Councilmember Sendelsky:

- a. The Resolution of Recognition is being moved to June 13th.
- b. He asked Mr. Elliot for an update on the Route 27 Jacoby & Meyers building hedges.

Mr. Elliot, a summons was issued.

- c. Harding and Oak Tree Road burned down house.

Mr. Elliot, we had meeting with the owners they went in today to do sewer capping.

- d. He asked if Mr. Russomanno to look into the tree on the Middlesex Water easement behind the old Dreyfus building.
- e. Residential permit for 68 Wooding Avenue took a month to get.

Mr. O'Brien, they are working on stream lining the process. He will check on when they actually filed for the permit.

On a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Gomez, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

Ajay Patil
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno, RMC
Municipal Clerk