

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL - TOWNSHIP OF EDISON  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
May 23, 2019**

A Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Municipal Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex on Thursday, May 23, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 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 Township Clerk McCray, Special Counsel Christopher Maikschmitt of the Dressel Malikschmitt Law firm.

The Township Clerk advised that adequate Notice of this meeting as required by the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, has been provided by a Special Notice published in The Home News Tribune and New India Times on April 25, 2019 and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

Council President Gomez opening statement of this meeting, thank you all for coming out to Council Chambers for the continuation of the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Quick Recap we started with eleven individuals the witness that testified were Paul DeStefano, Beth Maroney, Keith Hahn, Sylvia Engel and Shivi Prasad. Those who didn't attend were Shariq Ahmad, Jerry Shi, Shannon Peng, Falguni Patel and Mahesh Bhagia. We think it is vital you attend to come and share with us any information you may have.

Councilmember Lombardi reported the individuals that were subpoena for tonight were Jerry Shi, Shannon Peng and Shariq Ahmad however we did receive a letter from Mr. Ahmad's attorney stating this is the month of Ramadon, and Mr. Shi's attorney just notified us this afternoon he is not available he is out of town. He asked our attorney Mr. Maikschmitt to send a letter to see if both Mr. Bhagia and Mr. Shi since they both have the same attorney their availability for June 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting. He explained the procedure of questions and answering to all witness that will be testifying tonight.

Councilmember Diehl said there was a letter sent from the Board of Education attorney advising the Board Members not to come before the Committee of the Whole because of a law suit filed against the Zoning Board. We formed our Committee on February 27<sup>th</sup>. We said we would take all necessary steps to gather all information related to this flyer. We invited individual and got back attorney letters. He found a court case in Elizabeth similar to ours where involving the Board of Education to support candidates for a specific ethnicity. He briefly read the case. It was found the Board of Education attorney shouldn't have represented them since it wasn't a Board of Education issue. The Board of Education President and the Superintendent had to pay back the \$63,000.00 to the Board of Education. I brought this up because I hope the resident's aren't paying for the Board of Education attorney since this is not a Board matter.

Councilmember Joshi, there is one volunteer we requested to come to my knowledge he is here tonight to testify.

Council President Gomez, for the record he is the Postal Inspector, David Comer at 21 Kilmer Road, Edison.

Councilmember Coyle asked if this council was notified of this witness. He would like to know the process.

Council President Gomez explained the sub-committee handles the witnesses.

Councilmember Joshi explained we did not know if the US Postal Inspector would come. We are happy and thankful he is here, he was a volunteer.

We have a court stenographer who will be recording the minutes. When the transcripts are ready they will be available in the Clerk's office.

Having no further testimonies this evening, on a motion made by Councilmember Diehl seconded by Councilmember Patil this meeting will reconvene on June 27, 2019 at 7:00pm. This meeting adjourned at 9:22pm.

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Alvaro Gomez  
Council President

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Cheryl Russomanno, RMC  
Municipal Clerk