

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL - TOWNSHIP OF EDISON
JULY 12, 2017**

A Special Meeting of the Municipal Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex on Wednesday, July 12, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Council President Lombardi, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Gomez, Lombardi, Patil, and Sendelsky.

Councilmembers Coyle and Shah were absent.

Also present were Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Township Clerk McCray, Township Attorney Northgrave, Business Administrator Ruane and Mayor Lankey.

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 sent to The Home News Tribune, The Star Ledger and the Sentinel on June 27, 2017, and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

Council President Lombardi opened meeting to Welcome Mayor Lankey to present the budget.

Mayor Lankey thanked Council President and members of the Council. We are here tonight to show some details on the budget. He said he will spend approximately 20 minutes doing the presentation, copies on front desk and power point is on television monitors around the room.

Summary starting with Page two, we are the sixth lowest tax rate within Middlesex County. The pie chart on page four shows the municipal side increase of only 1.5%. Page six is the breakdown of Non- Property tax revenue, page seven are the appropriations which 60% is police, fire and health insurance. We have the highest possible rating for short term municipal debt from Moody Investment Service. Our tax appeals are less. Our economy continues to grow and attract new business to its ratable base.

Council President Lombardi thanked the Mayor and opened the meeting for any councilmember questions or comments.

Councilmember Patil thanked the Mayor and he asked have we made an attempt to share services with the county.

Mayor Lankey, they are doing a lot of work, such as paving Amboy Avenue and work at Woodland Avenue. We have been talking to Freeholders and have had communications

Councilmember Patil asked for a time line regarding Recreation.

Mayor Lankey explained we have been working with the company to finish the assessment. We should have the study in October. We want to make sure we get it right. We want to analysis and discuss it's not just the Community Center it is also our Parks and fields.

Councilmember Sendelsky commented that the County has always been helpful with the Edison Tower.

Council President Lombardi, opened meeting for public comments.

Wayne Mascola, 16 Gates Place, stated we have quite a few consultants in the town such as Engineer Department, Government Strategy Group, Shirley Bishop and Heyer & Guel. Maybe that's why we have had a tax increases every year.

Mayor Lankey explained Shirley Bishop is the consultant for the Housing Authority which is not paid for by tax payers. Heyer & Guel has been our redevelopment strategy. Engineering firm is equivalent to Salary and Benefits actually we are getting more with the company. He respects Mr. Mascola's opinion however inflation is over one and half percent. We believe this is a prudent budget.

Mr. Mascola asked if the Road Department will be doing any paving this year.

Mayor Lankey replied no.

Maria Orchid, Jefferson Blvd., asked if there is someone on staff to attract new business.

Mayor Lankey answered we do it within the administration.

Ms. Orchid, are we working on stream lining the permit department.

Mayor Lankey, our Engineer will be working in permits to process more efficient.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, thanked the Mayor for our recreation assessment. She asked if they would consider input from the public, perhaps a public meeting. She remembers that Rob Karabinchak and Angelo Orlando in the past had some good ideas.

Mayor Lankey, he will reach out to Rob to see what he has but not sure if we can find anything from Mr. Orlando.

Mr. Mascola, where are we with Union Contracts.

Mayor Lankey said all settled except for the Fire Superior. We currently have scheduled meetings. The Police contract was settled as follows: 2014 – 0 increase, 2015 - 0 increase and September 1, 2016 2.0% increase and 2017- 2.9%. The contracts settled the lowest in recent history.

Ms. Nemitz asked if the Open Space audit was completed.

Mayor Lankey, yes

Council President Lombardi said Ms. Nemitz can get a copy from the Clerks' Office.

Hearing no further comments from the public Councilmember Diehl made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Councilmember Sendelsky and duly carried.

Council President Lombardi thanked Mayor Lankey again for coming out to present the budget and reminded everyone copies are available at the Clerk's office as well as on our website.

On a motion made by Councilmember Gomez seconded by Councilmember Sendelsky , the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Michael R. Lombardi
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno, RMC
Municipal Clerk