

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
August 24, 2020**

The Worksession Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Edison was held via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:03p.m. by Council President Ship-Freeman followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Brescher, Coyle, Diehl, Gomez, Joshi, Patil, and Ship-Freeman.

Also present were Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Clerk McCray, Township Attorney London, Business Administrator Ruane, Acting Recreation Director Fircha, Health Director Elliott, Water & Sewer Director Smith, Francis McManimon, McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, Dennis Enright of NW Financial, Joseph Salemme, Fred Rubenstein, Paul Beiser, Ken DeRoberts, Township Engineer O’Krephy, Deputy Fire Chief Toth, Police Chief Bryan 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, Criterion Sentinel and News India Times on December 13, 2019 and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

Council President Ship-Freeman opened the meeting for comments from the public.

None

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

5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

a. through d. No comments were made.

6. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Gomez as Chairman of Finance Committee, thanked all the department heads, Business Administrator, Councilmembers Joshi and Ship-Freeman along with resident Himanshu Majmundar for all their work on the budget review. He explained the process the Finance Committee goes through.

He went through his power point presentation that was sent to all Councilmembers. The presentation covered the Methodology, Key statistics, changes in amended budget and objectives.

Councilmember Coyle, asked for explanation for the residents regarding the 2% cap, inside cap and items outside the cap. He also asked Ms. Ruane what short fall in revenue comparison to 2019.

Ms. Ruane replied such as court, taxes, ABC program, Tax appeals and Hotel/Motel taxes.

Councilmember Coyle asked what the approximate dollar amount.

Ms. Ruane replied will get that to you by Wednesday.

Council President Ship-Freeman complimented Councilmember Gomez for his work and experience with the budget.

Councilmember Joshi, regarding the amendment it's a great start but he feels there is more room for improvement.

Councilmember Brescher questioned the unfilled positions in the budget.

Ms. Ruane said they should be made whole by end of this year. The DCA has approved this amendment.

Councilmember Coyle asked Chief Bryan for a report on man power.

Chief Bryan, gave a report

Council President Ship-Freeman, they had a very productive Public Safety Meeting each person on the committee had great ideas. She complimented Chief Bryan on our most diverse Police Department.

7. POINTS OF LIGHT

Council President Ship-Freeman announced she and Mayor will be Celebrating 100th Anniversary of Women Suffrage on Sunday, August 30th.

8. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. through d. No comments were made.

9. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. through e. No comments were made.

f. Councilmember Coyle asked about the CARES Act money.

Ms. Ruane reported we will be receiving 2.1 million.

h. through j. No comments were made

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

a. through d. No comments were made.

e. and f. Councilmember Brescher asked why?

g. No comments were made.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

a. through g. No comments were made

h. Councilmember Brescher he thought the amount was larger.

Ms. Ruane, bids came in lower

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

a. through d. No comments were made.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SEWER:

a. through d. No comments were made.

e. Councilmember Brescher asked for explanation.

Mr. Smith, explained the need and function.

14. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. through d. No comments were made.

15. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

a. through c. No comments were made.

16. FROM THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

a. No comments were made.

17. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:

a. through c. No comments were made.

18. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Councilmember Coyle, last week meeting was postponed until August 31st.

19. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION, PUBLIC HEARING, AND FINAL ADOPTION

O.2073-2020 No comments were made.

O.2074-2020 No comments were made.

20. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Ship-Freeman:

a.

Councilmember Brescher:

a. He received a complaint from a resident regarding a business which is in disrepair regarding a fence. Our building department lost the records on this.

Ms. Ruane, stop saying we lost records, there are retention schedules required by the state and we not required to keep.

Ms. London will review with Mr. Northgrave and follow up.

Councilmember Coyle

- a. He had complaints on the project near the Boat Basin
- b. Can we look into for 2021 a software system GEO mapping.
- c. He expressed his concerns about Mr. Northgrave not responding to him.

Councilmember Diehl:

- a. He has worked with a lot of lawyers and he finds Mr. Northgrave very responsive.
- b. He thanked Councilmember Gomez and the Finance Committee for all their work, it not an easy task.
- c. Middlesex County Hazardous waste is this Saturday from 8:00am – 2:00pm in Woodbridge at the Public Works building.

Councilmember Gomez:

- a. None

Councilmember Joshi:

- a. He had complaints from residents that utility companies are not informing them about road work.

Ms. Ruane, will follow up, they are supposed to place door knockers.

- b. He explained his resolution he sent everyone regarding Municipal Broadband.

Councilmember Patil:

- a. Westgate condos the road was never signed over.

Ms. Ruane, we are starting to deal with developments to bring roads up to standards.

On a motion made by Councilmember Gomez, seconded by Councilmember Joshi, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Joyce Ship-Freeman
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno, RMC
Municipal Clerk