

**MINUTES OF  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
WORKSESSION MEETING  
AUGUST 26, 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 6:02 p.m. by Council Vice President Patil followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Councilmember Gomez was absent.

Also present were Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Clerk McCray, Township Attorney London, Business Administrator Ruane, Health Director Elliott, Township Engineer O’Krepky, Fire Chief Latham, Police Captain Schreck and Cameraman Cologne.

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

Maria Orchid, 83 Jefferson Avenue, horrendous condition of our parks and the children cannot enjoy. The time line posted for the dirt to be removed was by August 5, 2019. Also please drive safely the schools will be opening on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Do we have a street sweeper she went through to see if the covers were clear on the sewers and noted she hasn’t seen a sweeper come through. Fall Family Festival is coming up on September 28<sup>th</sup>, we are looking of vendors.

Engineer O’Krepky said the timeline provided by the contractor was not met. We had a lot of rain which caused delays, however the contractor will not be recommended for payment until everything is completed.

Council Vice President Patil, he asked about the quality of the work, do we inspect before payment what is the process?

Mr. O’Krepky explained we inspect all items on punch list must be completed prior to any payments.

Councilmember Sendelsky asked for a revised update for Wednesday on the parks.

Mr. O’Krepky will contact the contractor to get a timeline update for the public.

Councilmember Joshi, it’s clear none of us are satisfied with the time line one this how many parks are being worked on by this contractor and how many employees do they have.

Mr. O’Krepky answered it is eight parks however he doesn’t know the number of employees the company has. He will find out.

Bruce Diamond, 74 Calvert Avenue, regarding item c under Department of Law, Mott MacDonald to get status on water, who is paying for this is it the residents of South Edison, I don’t think I should pay I pay to Middlesex Water.

Ms. Ruane, this resolution is to just get us authorization, we are working on the financing part, and at a later date eventually the 12,000 residents will be.

Mr. Diamond, item J under law I am assuming the town is getting ready to take on the water and sewer if the referendum passing. Based on the amount of people who signed that petition you all should reconsider your position and save the town one hundred thousand dollars reopen the resolution and vote to accept the deal we are not going to have Suez and go with it. We are investing all this money what do you think?

Council Vice President, it's already on the ballot.

Ms. London explained the resolution was passed to proceed with the ballot question we cannot change that.

Mr. Diamond, regarding the Mundy Avenue Ordinance, did you all receive the letter form Walter Stochel. The next Open Space Meeting is September 5<sup>th</sup> Walter can explain.

Councilmember Lombardi is looking to table this ordinance for possibly looking into other uses for Mundy Avenue.

Councilmember Diehl added he spoke with the Mayor on this there is some question on moving forward. The position of the Open Space Committee is this area or a portion of it would be utilized for residents that live behind this property. A pathway to James Street, that makes sense to me. He spoke with Councilmember Lombardi today to table this with hopes we can end up with a path/walk way. That is his recommendation.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, she read Walter Stochel's letter opposing to vacate Mundy and hopes you all consider their points.

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

**5. REVEIW OF MINUTES**

- a. No comments were made
- b. Councilmember Coyle was absent from that meeting
- c. through e. No comments were made

**6. 2019 SOLID WASTE BUDGET:**

- a. No comments were made

**7. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

Councilmember Coyle thanked the Administration on behalf of the Beautification Committee for the Flower Planting on Amboy Avenue along with Billy Thomas and Rich Montoro. We are working on two other locations one in Bonhamtown and one on Silverlake. Environmental Commission we are working on some recycling I provided everyone with some pictures. He asked the administration if she can put some money in the 2020 budget.

Councilmember Diehl, just to announce we have a date for the next Committee of the Whole, on Monday September 30<sup>th</sup> here in Council Chambers at 6:00pm.

Councilmember Sendelsky asked if there are any dates for the Education Committee for a meeting with the school board. He heard at the last school board meeting the individual mentioned we don't want to meet because of a law suit. I don't know where he got that message from.

Councilmember Diehl, they have not reached out I did here the same thing. That is absolutely not true he understands the law suit has been dismissed. I never agreed with the law suit it was a waste of money. It should not have been stated why a committee meeting wasn't held.

Councilmember Joshi, the School Board President shouldn't make here say comments. We are all elected officials we can still pick up the phone and talk to us reach out to us.

Councilmember Diehl added it inaccurate and unfair to put out to the public.

Councilmember Joshi, the Library Board did not have a meeting in August, will be meeting in September.

**8. POINTS OF LIGHT:**

Council Vice President Patil announced the following. Our next Council Meeting is combined on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> there is a Special Election, September 11<sup>th</sup> is our 911 Memorial Service at Lake Papappani at 6:30pm, September 28<sup>th</sup> is our Fall Family Spectacular on Amboy Avenue from Jackson Avenue to Waltuma starting at 11:00am. On Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at Yelenscic park from 11:00am – 3:00pm Military & Veterans Family Day.

**9. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**

a. Councilmember Coyle commented this is the third year leasing this building could you explain why.

Ms. Ruane, on this agenda we have a resolution to hire an architect to draw up plans to rebuild.

b. through e. No comments were made.

**10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:**

a. through g. No comments were made

**11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:**

a. through c. No comments were made

**12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:**

a. Councilmember Lombardi, requested this be tabled for now based on the letter that was received from Walter Stochel, Chairman of the Open Space Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Diehl agreed we need to look at it further.

b. Councilmember Coyle would like to know how many grants we received.

Ms. Ruane will get the information for him by Wednesday.

c. Councilmember Coyle this is a lot of money what exactly are they doing.

Ms. Ruane explained we have to do this no matter what, this is the first time it falls on us where before American Water did this.

e. and f. No comments were made.

g. Councilmember Lombardi, happy to finally have the agreement it has been in the works.

h. through k. No comments were made.

l. Councilmember Sendelsky asked for clarification.

Ms. Ruane, this is for our billing of the water and receive payments.

m. Councilmember Joshi is excited he has been working on this ordinance for about a year with the Mayor, Mr. Bhagia and Mr. Northgrave.

Councilmember Sendelsky asked is this for any minority to have the opportunity to bid.

Councilmember Joshi we will be one of the first municipality with this ordinance, it will be 5%. Most of the counties have this in place. The company bidding must have approval from the state.

Council Vice President Patil added it is more consistent with state laws.

**13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:**

a. Councilmember Lombardi this resolution doesn't explain the work to be performed.

b. through f. No comments were made

g. Councilmember Coyle asked for explanation for this change order.

Mr. O'Krepky explained this is for the drainage which will be greatly improved. This was not part of the Park Improvements that was solely for park equipment.

**14. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**

a. Councilmember Joshi said he googled this type of equipment and it was much less.

Ms. Ruane will check with purchasing.

b. Councilmember Coyle asked who makes the decision on these check valves.

Ms. Ruane replied Mike Waldron the Sewer Supervisor.

c. through e. No comments were made.

**15. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:**

a. through c. No comments were made.

**16. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:**

a. No comments were made.

**17. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:**

- a. Councilmember Coyle asked for explanation.

Ms. Russomanno explained.

**18. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:**

**Edison Township Planning Board Meeting Of August 19, 2019**

The Following resolutions were passed:

- #P12-2019- FedEx Ground Package System -25-53 Talmadge Road
- #P2-2017 Amended Camp Kilmer A Urban Renewal Associates (Road 2)  
Area in need of redevelopment -1696 Oak Tree Road-JK Estates  
Area in need of redevelopment -1820 Vineyard Road- Mandy's

**#P5214 Gulberg Builders- 45 Preston Street**

Block 161 U Lot 14.C

Proposal to demolish an existing garage and home and construct 3 new single family homes.  
Variance requested for lot width on two lots required 75 feet proposed 70 feet (lot 14.04 and 14.05)  
All lots are in excess of the 7500 sf required.

This application was to be continued on October 15, 2019 for the engineer to find the catch basin location along with doing a perk test on the property. No further notice

**#P14-2019 Federal Business Centers-140 Fieldcrest Avenue**

Block 390.D Lot 9.A

Proposal to construct a 74,012 SF addition , 40 Parking stalls and 19 loading docks to existing warehouse .  
No variances were requested.

The existing building is 59,692 square feet so the total new building will be 133,704 sf

The applicant will contribute 170 trees to the Edison Tree Fund.

The project was approved with the following conditions:

Applicant will adhere to Engineer and Planners reports

No outside parking will be allowed from other tenants

Any changes to the approved plans will require applicant to come back before the board.

The project was approved unanimously

**#P18-2019 Edison Land Investment Route One**

Block 198.L Lot 37.09

A proposal to construct a new 2,300 sf Chipotle's Restaurant

No variances requested

The subdivided new property will consist of .21 acres

The single story building will have 55 seats including outdoor patio

The hours of operation will be 10:45 AM-10 PM

There will be 9-11 employees per shift.

Motion was made for preliminary and final approval conditioned on adherence to our professional engineer and planners reports and if any changes are made to the approved plans that they will come back before the board. The application was approved unanimously

**Respectfully Submitted: Councilman Len Sendelsky**

**19. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Council President Gomez:**

- a. Absent

**Councilmember Coyle:**

- a. He said a resident complained about Capestro Park graffiti.

Engineer O’Krepky, graffiti is not part of the contract.

- b. Edmund Street Update.

Engineer O’Krepky the striping was completed in that area on August 7, 2019.

- c. He asked if there are any changes in the Solid Waste Budget.

Ms. Ruane, nothing has changed.

- d. He requested a meeting with the Administration and Mott MacDonald regarding this date compliance. He feels this referendum will pass.

- e. He passed out a copy of a photo flag for hometown hero for possibly to do along Amboy Avenue.

**Councilmember Diehl**

- a. Update on easements on Calvert & Abbott.

Ms. Ruane will have on Wednesday.

**Councilmember Joshi:**

- a. Reider Road pile of dirt.
- b. Inman & Grove Senior building, light is out

Ms. Ruane said she is in the process of getting quotes.

- c. Cinder Road & Minebrook- traffic blocking roads.

Ms. Ruane will send to the Chief.

- d. Tree fund has \$300,000 why not start planting trees

Ms. Ruane she is working through the legal.

**Councilmember Lombardi:**

- a. He received an email from a resident regarding the railroad on Inman Avenue.

Ms. Ruane, we received the all clear today, Conrail found the problem hopefully by end of the week it will be done. She will email the council.

- b. Freeholder Tomaro said County has received signed contracts from the Seller of the Ferrante Property and Board of Freeholders will be approving at the September 19, 2019 meeting.

**Councilmember Patil:**

- a. Paving Schedule

Ms. Ruane updates will be on website, we are only one week into.

- b. Jackson Avenue Traffic

Ms. Ruane will talk to Chief and have a report on Wednesday.

**Councilmember Sendelsky:**

- a. He asked Mr. Elliot for an updated on the property on Oak Tree Road

Mr. Elliot, the property has been foreclosed on and the Bank is going to take it down.

- b. He asked if we have a cost of the Water Rates if this referendum is passed.

Ms. Ruane said it will be going up over fifty percent.

- c. Minnie B. Veal heating system.

Ms. Ruane will look into she just took over DPW.

On a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Lombardi with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.

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Ajay Patil  
Council Vice President

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Cheryl Russomanno, RMC  
Municipal Clerk