

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
September 21, 2020**

The Worksession Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Edison was held via zoom communication. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.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 Northgrave, Business Administrator Ruane, Health Director Elliott, Water & Sewer Director Smith, Acting Recreation Director Fircha, Township Engineer O'Brien, 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.

Ron Loffler, 6 Nancy Circle, he asked if we could look into zoning laws regarding commercial property or subdivisions. He is a resident in the Silverlake, Glendale area.

Maria Orchid, she thanked everyone who participated in the Softball game, and to remind everyone on Saturday there will be food donations for the Hands of Hope at Edison High School. She asked if there is a schedule for Street cleaning, an update on tax map, and traffic study on Old Post Road.

Katie, Westminster Place, speed limit sign on Silverlake and sidewalks to Swales Park.

Councilmember Coyle, we will be discussing an Ordinance later.

Council President Ship-Freeman, we should coordinate with the school on the sidewalks.

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

- 5. **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA
FROM MAYOR LANKEY:**
 - a. And b. No comments were made.

- 6. **REVIEW OF MINUTES:**
 - a. and b. No comments were made.

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

Councilmember Coyle, Beautification Committee is looking at Papanini Park, Silverlake, Swales Park. The 9-11 Memorial looked very nice for the celebration.

Council President Ship-Freeman would like to discuss bathrooms for Papanini Park.

8. POINTS OF LIGHT

Council President Ship-Freeman expressed the sadness on the death of Ruth Ginsberg. Our 9-11 Event was a success, POW/MIA celebration was beautiful and well done. On Saturday at Edison High School from 12-4 please stop by to donate food, it is well appreciated.

Councilmember Joshi, this was the 19th year of 9-11 it was good to see everyone never forgets.

9. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. through c. No comments were made.

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

a. Councilmember Brescher, is this the attorney for the labor issues that were recently in the paper.

Mr. Northgrave, addresses some work issues in the Police Department. He will be circulating a memo which is case sensitive.

Councilmember Joshi, asked for a closed session tomorrow.

Mr. Northgrave suggested an in person closed session if more effective.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

a. Councilmember Brescher, can you update the public.

Ms. Ruane, explained there were no municipal funds at all used. This is a NJDOT grant.

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

a. through c. No comments were made.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SEWER:

a. No comments were made.

14. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:

a. Councilmember Brescher, these funds reoccur year after year.

Ms. Ruane, she believes it the same funding since 1990. We can review by how many are participating.

15. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. No comments were made.

16. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:

a. through c. No comments were made.

d. **Adding to Agenda:** Resolution authorizes the Township to retain Susan Schleck Kleiner of the law firm Vella Singer and Kleiner, P.C. to provide professional legal services to the Municipal Council in connection with the committee of the whole created on September 9, 2020.

Councilmembers Joshi commented this firm is a Personal injury firm, this silly and dumb he will not be voting for this.

17. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Councilmember Coyle, thanked the Chairman of the Planning Board and Jim Devico for access to meeting. He reported on October 5th at Middlesex County College is the Public Hearing on 41 Glendale.

**18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
ORDINANCES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION, PUBLIC HEARING, AND FINAL
ADOPTION:**

O.2082-2020 No comments were made.

19. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Ship-Freeman:

- a. Containers for Clothing Bins around town they are surrounded by garbage.
- b. Send ideas for Master Plan

Councilmember Brescher:

- a. He received calls from residents regarding a 7-11 store not keeping up and maintaining the property. Why don't we have original plans to make sure it's maintained as approved by planning board.

Ms. Ruane, explained there are Record Retention Program/Schedules which are required by the state.

He asked if we can figure a way to require owners to put back.

Mr. Northgrave, possibly adopt an Ordinance for records to make resolution with planning and zoning boards in perpetuity.

Councilmember Coyle

- a. He asked if we could assess a management software to retain.
- b. Edmund Street update.

Mr. O'Brien meeting with DOT this week on the one Way.

- c. 979 Amboy Avenue received a letter for a resident since they removed pumps and tanks they have expanded the mechanic shop.

Mr. O'Brien will look u the recording regarding the use.

- d. Housing Authority, can we look into putting dumpsters there seems to be a issue with garbage cans.

Ms. Ruane, will look into.

Councilmember Diehl:

- a. He commented on the resident who called in regarding zoning laws he had some excellent points.
- b. Thanked Mr. O'Brien on the continuing work on the swale at Calvert Ave.

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- c. Middlesex County had the Hazardous Waste at the DPW in Woodbridge it was done very efficiently.
- d. E Cycle is going to be in middle of October, that is electronics anything with a plug.

Councilmember Gomez:

- a. Thanked everyone who participated in the 9-11 Ceremony and for continuing the support and commitment to keep the memory alive.

Councilmember Joshi:

- a. Route One in front of Skylark Diner the grass isn't being maintained.
- b. P.S.E & G has wires hanging on several poles on Idlewild Road
- c. Care One – Fence who is responsible.

Mr. O'Brien will check on this.

- d. He encouraged residents not to give up on Silverlake, terrible project.

Mr. Northgrave advised Councilmember Joshi, nothing prevents you to do so as a citizen, just let the process play out.

Councilmember Patil:

- a. Permits regarding Utility Companies

Mr. O'Brien he has reviewed the ordinance all is tied back to contractor.

Councilmember Coyle asked for clarification on the roll the Planner and Engineer for the Planning Board to residents.

Mr. Northgrave, to give technical assist to the Board.

On a motion made by Councilmember Gomez, seconded by Councilmember Patil, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm.

Joyce Ship-Freeman
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno, RMC
Municipal Clerk