

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
September 23, 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 6:05 p.m. by Council President Patil, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present were Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Clerk McCray, Township Attorney Northgrave, Business Administrator Ruane, Acting Director Fircha, Health Director Elliott, Township Engineer O’Krepky, Fire Chief Latham, Police Captain Shannon 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 and the Sentinel on December 1, 2018 and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

Council President Gomez opened the meeting for comments from the public.

Maria Orchid, 83 Jefferson Avenue, ask about the referendum, on the tree ordinance who is the Tree Commission. Clara Barton Preservation Committee will table at the Fall Festival this weekend.

Ms. Ruane, it’s the Environmental Commission.

Walt Stochel, 2118 Oak Tree Road, you need to change Tree Commission to Environmental Commission. He went to Freeholders Meeting they will be closing on the Ferrante Property which is 13.2 acres of Open Space to the town. If we hadn’t over the last twenty years secured the nine hundred acres they would have been developed. We still have more to do. As far as re-opening the Stelton School, remind everyone it is on the Open Space Recreation Inventory it cannot to be done. The Open Space Committee gave the school board twenty other sites to look at.

Councilmember Lombardi asked Mr. Stochel about the American battle field trust to obtain the Shea property.

Mr. Stochel, the county is working on it.

Mary O’Rourke, 45 Kenmore Road, she was here back in May 20, 2019 when we discussed to do something about the easement between Sander and Kenmore Road. The Township sent out certified letters to everyone to remove their stuff off the easement. She was talking to Michael O’Krepky, Engineer he said it in the q for DPW. When will the work be done.

Mr. O’Krepky, he evaluated he sent the letter out to resident in the easement area so DPW it was turned over to them they have not provided an exact date.

Ms. Ruane will have an answer on Wednesday where we are at.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, about the Tree Ordinance she is opposed to these changes. When any applicate comes before the zoning and planning board there is an extensive list of charges regarding the trees. There is a reason we have a tree fund. We have extensive controls. It is not appropriate. Who will be in charge of trees in this town? Ask you table this ordinance.

Councilmember Joshi, Our tree fund has about \$300,000 the intention is to beautify Edison. The goal is to allow residents who are interested to tap into that fund. It protects the township from maintaining the trees.

Bruce Diamond, 74 Calvert Avenue, under Law item “a” is this new? Public Works item “d” are these for the new machines.

Mr. Northgrave no this is just a formality for that Signal.

Ms. Ruane these are for machines we have to be used for snow plowing.

Mr. Diamond, he thanked the three guys from the tree crew they did a wonderful job. He asked for explanation on the Tree Ordinance.

Mr. Northgrave explained if you are a resident interested in a tree you would come initially to administration then go to the environmental commission. It would be a joint decision and the law department would make sure the resident takes responsibility for the tree.

Ms. Ruane added we will be doing a lot of work with the environmental commission.

Cristo, 14 Fox Road, he has seen a lot of people complaining about Germantown Cemetery we have here’s buried there why aren’t we taking care of it.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. and b. No comments were made

6. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

JC - this weekend baurtication worked on

7. POINTS OF LIGHT:

Council President Gomez announced this Saturday, September 28th Fall Spectacular on Amboy Avenue, Wednesday, October 2nd at 7:00pm Committee of the Whole, Saturday, October 19th Recreation Department has their Harvest Fun and Trial of Horro at Thomas Edison Center Tower looking forward to that and on October 26, 2019 at Lake Papappain form 12-7pm Horror Fest by Edison Chamber of Commerce.

8. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. and b.
Councilmember Coyle asked for an inventory control.

9. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. through f. No comments were made.

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

a. No comments were made.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

a. and b. No comments were made.

c. Councilmember Coyle asked is this Menlo Park mall what do they want exactly.

Mr. Northgrave their concerned about the office building in the back the study is the entire area. The planner will look at and then refer back to this body.

Councilmember Sendelsky said the Redevelopment Committee has been discussing in great detail.

d. No comments were made.

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

a. through d. No comments were made.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:

a. through c. No comments were made.

14. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. No comments were made

15. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:

a. No comments were made.

16. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Edison Planning Board Meeting of September 16, 2019

Resolutions

#P14-2019 Federal Business Centers - 140 Fieldcrest Avenue - Resolution approved

New Business:

#P22-2019 Samuel Fromkin- 125 Clearview Road, Block 390.C Lot 13.B3

This was a proposal to expand an existing parking area construction warehouse where the Parking lot property is primarily in Woodbridge and 1-1/2 of the new spaces are in Edison. They have already received Woodbridge planning board approval. There is a variance requested for lot impervious area coverage required 80% proposed 84.24%. The **existing** lot impervious coverage area is 83.94%. The building consists of 7,000 sf of office and 38,000 square feet of warehouse. There are no pipelines within 75 feet of the area of disturbance and they will get the required waiver from the pipeline companies as a condition of approval. There will be no change in lighting on the Edison Side of the property. Preliminary and final approval was granted along with the variance for impervious coverage with the following conditions, adherence to Engineer and Planner's reports, and providing us with the pipeline waivers.

Resolution R.464-082019- Redevelopment Plan For Ray Catena Automotive Properties

The council had previously designated this property as an area in need of redevelopment and had submitted to the planning board for further study. A presentation by Bignell Consulting for the Redevelopment Plan for Ray Catena

Automotive Properties. Mr. Bignell went through his lengthy report for the redevelopment of the Ray Catena Properties which are 16 individual lots located on two separate tracts and is referred to as the Ray Catena Redevelopment Area. The redevelopment plan separates the redevelopment area into two separate sub areas - sub area A (Route 1 side) , which consists of 3 lots and sub area B which consists of 13 lots (Main street side). Mr. Bignell went through all of the criteria of the redevelopment zone including lighting which after 10 PM will be required to be turned down. The planning board approved the redevelopment plan that Mr. Bignell outlined and sent the plan back to council for its approval.

Resolution R.414-082019 Recommendations and Comments for 21 Courtland Street Condominiums Block 203 Lot 17 satisfies criteria for an "area in need of redevelopment"
Mr. Bignell is working on the report and will report back to the planning board.

Resolution R.408-082019 Recommendations and Comments for 21 Courtland Street Condominiums Block 203 Lot 17 determining if the property satisfies the criteria for an "Area in Need of Rehabilitation". The board asked Mr. Bignell to research to see if the property meets the criteria of under utilization and over 50 plus years old and in need of repair. He will report back to the planning board at the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted: Councilman Leonard D. Sendelsky

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

O.2051-2019 No comments were made.

O.2052-2019 Councilmember Lombardi noted a typo in the Ordinance O.2052-2019, it should say Environmental Commission.

Mr. Northgrave will make the change for Wednesday before Public Hearing.

18. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Gomez:

- a. None

Councilmember Coyle:

- a. Few complaints sent out a 103 Hickory
- b. Edmund Street several complaints again. The residents are asking for that road to be closed.

Ms. Ruane, will talk to Chief about enforcement.

- c. Flooding on Pleasant
- d. He asked Ms. Ruane to set up a meeting with DPW regarding the snow plowing season, amount of drivers, routes.
- e. Sewer and water will there be a committee.

Ms. Ruane, they are working on that.

Councilmember Diehl

- a. Swale between Abbott & Calvert

Mr. O’Krepky, he will have the plans by Wednesday.

- b. Tree Ordinance he agree that residents want to replace a tree however they also need to know how to plant and care for the trees. If we planted any trees recently we need to water them we haven’t had any rain in weeks.

Councilmember Joshi:

- a. Regarding the Stelton Community Center he went Facebook live in the building to start the conversation of what we can and cannot do with the building. The best use of that property isn’t good for a school and it’s on the Rossi.

- b. Inman & Grove intersection.

Ms. Ruane it has been twelve weeks working with Purchasing.

- c. He asked if we have the ability of where Vaps are sold, can a municipally regulate.

Mr. Northgrave he will look into.

- d. He asked the Board of Education to send over the Overcrowding Report.

Councilmember Patil said the presentation is on the Board of Education website.

- e. He is working on the Census with Mr. Elliot and Ms. Perilstein. He is on the committee of the Census. The Census Bureau needs people for two months in the spring.

- f. Edison Light Transit Program we had years ago he would like us to look into mass transit. He believes there are grants available from the State.

Councilmember Lombardi:

- a. The Land Fill Committee looking into an alternative capping method to save the town millions of dollars and give us additional acres.

- b. He asked Mr. Elliot about the deer recreation program status.

Mr. Elliot he will set up another company to do a presentation.

Councilmember Patil:

- a. He thanked Ms. Ruane for responding to his questions.

- b. He asked if the Citizen Request is rolled out to all departments.

Ms. Ruane, all

- c. He asked if we know the Paving Schedule.

Ms. Ruane, we have weekly updates on the website.

Councilmember Sendelsky:

a. Park update

Mr. O’Krepky he is interacting daily with the contractor.

b. Old Post and Route 1

Mr. O’Krepky, he spoke to DOT the problems are on our municipal streets. He will continue to engage with them.

c. Overcrowding, Sixty percent of our tax bill goes to Board of Education, they have two important jobs to do.

On a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Coyle , with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Alvaro Gomez
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno, RMC
Municipal Clerk