

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 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 6:08 p.m. by Councilmember Diehl, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Councilmember Patil entered at 6:47pm.

Also present were Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Clerk McCray, Township Attorney Northgrave, Business Administrator Ruane, Acting Recreation Director Fircha, Health Director Elliott, Township Engineer O’Krepky, Acting Deputy Fire Chief Anselmo, 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.

Presentation, Doris Lynn, from Animal Protection League of NJ. She gave a power point presentation which included non lethal management procedures. The problem is the state doesn’t give these permits out to municipalities.

Councilmember Diehl, thanked Ms. Lynn for this very informative presentation, however our situation is different here. We see small groups of deer every day in our yards. We already did a population survey. What advice would you give up on how to limit deer population that would be practical for Edison?

Ms. Lynn explained the surgical sterilization method.

Council President Gomez thanked Ms. Lynn for her very helpful presentation. She gave us a lot to consider.

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

Lisa Bukachevsky, 11 Outcalt Road, is here to inform the Council Amazon is loud 24-7. She recently went on the Tour of Amazon warehouse it’s also loud in there they couldn’t hear the outside noise.

Councilmember Sendelsky, the committee hasn’t met since the wall was constructed. He will discuss with committee and reach out to the management.

Councilmember Coyle added most of this is from the truck handling and the switcher of the trailers. There should be a method to change this situation.

Maria Orchid, 83 Jefferson Avenue, asked about Resolution authorizing tax appeals and under Health “b”.

Joann Jimenez explained Tax appeals.

Jay Elliot explained the grant, for middle schools they find it most effective is to get them younger 6-9 grades.

Musleh Hakki , 19 Ned Court, is a long time resident of this area. There is a Member running for BOE his was arrested September 9, 2016. He should be taken off the ballot.

Mr. Northgrave explained this council has nothing to do or can do with the ballot.

Dhrav Patel – Denver Blvd. wanted to address Mr. Anthony DeAmorin and his criminal record.

Mr. Northgrave explained this is not the form for you to speak about a man’s candidacy.

Atharva Patil, Ten Eyck Place asked how can he get on the ballot.

Mr. Northgrave reiterated this council has not power to due this, this council and will not allow political speeches in this room.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, passed out a copy of a letter from a resident from 2007 about the tree ordinance. She asked the council members to review. Why don’t; we have a tree expert. We need a tree management person. Can we use the money in the tree fund for a person?

Bruce Diamond, 74 Calvert Avenue West asked Ms. Ruane are we getting closer on the tree and sidewalk study. We need a traffic study on Talmadge. There should be a traffic study on Talmadge Road. He asked about item “d” under Business Administrator, hopes this is only charged to the 12,000 customers of the water. Also he feels we should wait until January on this \$15,000,000 Bond Ordinance.

Council President Gomez asked Engineer if we can have the DOT look into this on Talmadge.

Mr. O’Krepky, we can reach out to the DOT.

Resident, why is this gentlemen allowed to be on the Water Board.

Mr. Northgrave we understand the question, no one has an answer for you tonight.

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

6. REVIEW OF MINUTES

a. No comments were made.

7. REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Coyle report on Beautification Committee regarding the Silver Lake adoption the County is requiring a letter from us to adopt that area we are making progress. We also had a clean-up on Amboy Avenue. He thanked the township for their cooperation. The ramp is blooming with flowers.

Councilmember Joshi, Library Board meeting was canceled.

8. POINTS OF LIGHT:

Council President Gomez, we had our Trail of Terror.

Councilmember Sendelsky reported there were 400 people who attended the Harvest Fun and 700 people for the trail this is becoming a great event at the Edison Tower. He thanked the Edison High School Drama Club, kids did a great job. He also thanked Joyce Recreation Director, Recreation Department , Department of Public Works and our Auxsilary Police.

Council President Gomez, Edison High Marching Band participated in a competition this past Saturday, received 1st place and won multiple awards. Very proud what our schools do great even.

Councilmember Joshi regarding the Trail of Terror it was a sold out event. The drama club performed all day and worked on this event all night. Since it was sold out we maybe should consider a two day event.

Councilmember Diehl, congratulated the Edison Marching Band and all the people involved great job well done. They have an extremely impressive performance.

9. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. through c. No comments were made

d. Councilmember Coyle, asked what is the emergency.

Ms. Ruane, explained it is the heating system.

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. through e. No comments were made

g. Councilmember Joshi, asked which property is this at 180 Talmadge. He will have to preclude himself.

Ms. Jimenez specified the property by lot and block.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

a. and b. No comments were made.

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

a. through c.

d. Councilmember Sendelsky, asked how did you come up with this amount of the bond.

Ms. Ruane explained it for start- up costs anything the local finance board will allow for the first year. We will be doing Interviews on Wednesday for a Director.

Council President Gomez, said any of the start- up would be capital of nature.

Councilmember Coyle, what is actually included.

Ms. Ruane explained a maximum we need to get approval and talk after that meeting. Anything you need to start up a utility.

Councilmember Joshi, we don't have to use the nine million is to replace some items, it's a healthy precaution. He is comfortable to support this.

Council President Gomez its debit service a lot of thought that went into the \$15,000,000 well thought out to have the best tools in place. Spend the money efficiently.

Councilmember Diehl, Wednesday night it is on for Introduction.

Councilmember Coyle as we go through this process we would have the normal process in detail to purchase.

Ms. Ruane replied, yes they will be on the bid list

Councilmember Sendelsky added this all has to go through the bidding process.

Council President Gomez said let's remember this has to go before Local Finance Committee. It's been a lot of work the administration has taken the lead to get the approval from the local finance board. Once we get that approval we can move forward.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

a. through c. No comments were made.

14. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

a. through d. No comments were made.

15. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:

a. and b. No Comments were made.

16. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. No comments were made

17. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

a. No comments were made.

18. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:

a. and b. No comments were made

18. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Edison Planning Board Meeting of October 15, 2019

Resolutions:

P18-2019 Edison Land Investment (Route 1 Chipotle Restaurant)

P22-2019 Samuel Fromkin 125 Clearview Road

Ray Catena redevelopment plan

Resolution R408-082019 Patrick Avenue Area in need of Rehabilitation

(All Approved)

Old Business

Case P5214 Gulberg Builders - 45 Preston Street

Block 161,U Lot 14.C

Was a proposal to demolish an existing garage and home and construct 3 new single family homes. Variance requested for lot width- 75 feet required and 70 feet proposed.

This case was held over from the previous meeting because there was some investigation as to where the nearest catch basin was for storm water. There were 3 catch basins but they were over 1/4 mile away. The applicant performed a perc soil test on the proposed lots and found that it was sandy drainable soil. The applicant will increase the size of the 3 seepage pits by 30% in order to **not** contribute extra runoff to the neighborhood.

10/21/2019

The application was approved with the following conditions adherence to the engineer and planners reports, variance for lot width granted and a sidewalk easement for one lot is provided because it is on private property.

New Business:

Case#P5213 Federal Business Center- Raritan Center Parkway

Block 395 Lot 4.B and 22

Took off 3400 sf from a 36 acre property to square off parking area of an adjacent property .

Proposal for a 2 lot subdivision, no changes to the site, no variances requested.

The project was approved with the following conditions: They will comply with Planner and engineers reports and provide reciprocal cross access agreements between the two properties.

Amended P17-2019 Chintan Modi- 122 James Street

Block 631 Lot 8.01

Was previously approved for a two story medical building of 3,500 sf and now downsizing it to a one story 1,740 sf medical building. They will have 2 physicians and 19 parking spaces. The rear buffer between the neighbors will be increased to 9-1/2 feet with a board on board 8 foot high fence.

The amended plan was approved provided adherence to our professional engineer and planners report.

Case P21-2019 Edison Land Investment - Route One (Chik Fil-A)

Block 198.L Lot 37.09 Minor Subdivision

Proposal to construct a 4,945 sf restaurant- no variances required.

The restaurant will have a drive through and will be located in close proximity to the I Fly entertainment.

There will be 35 parking stalls including 2 ADA spaces.

The hours of operation will be 6 AM to 10 PM Monday through Saturday and will be closed on Sunday. They will have 15-18 employees per shift. They will have 4 deliveries/week via tractor trailer.

The application was unanimously approved with the following conditions : cross access planning easement because not fronting on main road, along with acceptance of Planner and engineers report along with the police and fire.

Case #P-20-2019 Edison Land Investment - Route One (Tommy's Tavern)

Block 198.L Lot 37.09 Minor Subdivision

Proposal to Construct a 14, 163 SF restaurant, no variances requested

Hours of operation will be 11 am-10pm

The second floor of the building will have an open rooftop for entertainment. No sound studies had been performed.

The board is requiring testimony from a sound expert regarding outdoor noise to make sure that noise is not greater than what is there now due to the outside live bands with the open second floor.

Case was held over until November 18 meeting for additional testimony.

Resolution R.497-092019 Comments and recommendation for Block 690 Lots 3 and 5 (55 Parsonage Road) should be designated as an area in "need of redevelopment" pursuant to local Redevelopment and Housing law. Voted to send to Bignell Planning for further study.

Resolution R.462-09 2019 Comments and recommendations on Block 266 Lot 49 and Block 198 Lot 29 (in the area of 1000 Route One should be designated as an area in need of redevelopment pursuant to local housing law. (B J's property) Voted to send to Bignell Planning for further study.

-Presentation from Bignell Planning of Resolution R.408-082019 dealing with Patrick Street Area in Need of Re-habilitation. Block 203, Lot 17 Qualifier C0003 & Blocks 206, Lots 1A & 2-15.

The site houses 50 year old housing stock and is underutilized. The water and sewer infrastructure is over 50 years old. The property meets both criteria 3 (Underutilized pattern of vacancy) and criteria 6 a majority of the water and sewer infrastructure is in need of repair or substantial maintenance as verified by our engineer on page 16 & 17 of Mr. Bignell's report. The property was approved by the planning board to be sent back to council as an area in need of rehabilitation.

Respectfully submitted: Councilman Leonard Sendelsky

19. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Gomez:

a.

Councilmember Coyle:

- a. 103 Hickory complained flooding of curbs.
- b. Grandview Avenue towards Woodbridge Avenue some homes with over grown tree.
- c. 18 Safran Tree
- d. Trees the Turnpike property across from 15 Albourne
- e. 82 Philo- flooding and trees
- f. 20 Sine Road
- g. 149 Fourth Street, this is an abandoned property.

Mr. Elliot, we received complaint and issued multiple summons. He did come in to register the property. He will continue to issue summons.

Councilmember Coyle, When do we take our part it way past it's time.

Councilmember Diehl

- a. Update on the drainage project – Abbot and Calvert.

Mr. Northgrave said we have had numerous meeting on this he will have an answer on Wednesday.

Councilmember Joshi:

- a. Recommendation looking to hire in the Police Department through the public safety committee we should look into rewording the ordinance for certain things to be taken into consideration. He pulled in residency for the whole township a residency with the township. Within a certain radius of the township with x amount of miles. He compared with other towns do. Evaluating how we hire police officers. Look at putting more people through the academy. Health Insurance Costs starting off is higher than if you put a young person through the academy we should revisit the ordinance before we hire. Police to be invested in our community. He wants people to be invested in our community within the vicinity or history of Edison.

Councilmember Coyle added he doesn't agree about the code. Where married single HR compliant. They come from police departments of action. I think it's a talent of combination that comes to Edison. He supports coming from the outside and different departments.

Council President Gomez, the Public Safety current hiring process with PBA and Middlesex County procedure. Chief of Police is with the intention to get the best people on the force. The best qualified candidates

Capt. Shannon explained the ordinance, clear we are moving forward with the hiring process. If you are wearing a Edison Police Badge whether you live in or out you are invested to do your duties in Edison.

Mr. Northgrave said if you want to have a dialog going forward not making changes in the process. Send it to the Public safety committee. We are not making any changes in mid stream.

Councilmember Lombardi:

- a. None

Councilmember Patil:

- a. None

Councilmember Sendelsky:

- a. Commend that job at the mini cooper commend all the officers
- b. 73 Kenmore Road, flooding problem follow up

Mr. O’Krephy we are coordinating with DPW.

- c. Park Renovation update

Mr. O’Krephy, he will have a punch list by this Friday

- d. Blue tarp house follow up.
 - a. Jay moving forward with a knock down and new.

- e. Water Committee , do we need to go to BPU to set rate.

Mr. .Northgrave no need for BPU to set rate.

- f. Dixie was a ten year volunteer at the Edison Township, she passed away. She was a blessing to the Tower.

On a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Patil, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.

Alvaro Gomez
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno, RMC
Municipal Clerk