

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
JULY 25, 2011**

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 Council Vice President Karabinchak, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Gomez, Karabinchak, Lankey, Mascola and Prasad.
Councilmembers Diehl and Perilstein were absent.
Councilmember Dr. Prasad entered at 6:14 p.m.

Also present were Township Clerk Murphy, Deputy Township Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney Kemm, Acting Business Administrator Stephens, Acting Finance Director DeRosa, Recreation Director Halliwell, Public Works Director Roderman, Health Director Elliott, Township Engineer Medina, Deputy Fire Chief Latham, 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 and the Sentinel on January 6, 2011, and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

Council Vice President Karabinchak opened the meeting for comments from the public.

Jane Tousman, 14 Butler Road, spoke on the Visco property application. She said Mr. Kemm still has a lock and key on the Visco application for Green Acres. She said she filed an OPRA request for this application. She also spoke about an application regarding Oak Tree Road property that took a court action.

Mr. Kemm said he has not put anything together. He said if he has advanced notice he will make everything available. They will have to hold a hearing on this matter.

Ms. Tousman said she would still like to see the information by the end of the week.

Mr. Kemm asked her to send him an email to set up an appointment a few days in advance.

Ms. Tousman said she will send a request tomorrow because it has been a month already. She questioned the Ordinance regarding the sale of property and asked what the emergency is.

Mr. Kemm said this is a quit claim deed. Any interest the Township has in the property will be given to the buyer. This property is not on the ROSI and he said the money goes into the Open Space trust fund.

Julian Zammit, 17 Stiles Road, spoke about the traffic light at Parsonage Road between Target and the mall. He said the walk signs are not operating at this location.

Council Vice President Karabinchak asked Mr. Stephens to pass this on to the appropriate people.

Mr. Zammit said at Old Post Road and Route 1 someone dumped a projection television set and it has been there over a month.

Mr. Stephens said he will notify the State.

Jim Walsh, 8 Yuro Drive, spoke about an incident on July 3rd regarding a fire at JFK hospital. During that time, no ladder truck companies were in service. He said truck one was out of service and truck two went out of service that weekend with a cracked rim. He said there was a delay responding to a fire at a major hospital. They had to wait for

mutual aid companies. He asked what it would have cost to have someone come in to replace the tire so there could have been service.

Deputy Chief Latham said there were maintenance problems but he felt it was not prudent to have someone come in over the weekend. They were covered by mutual aid from Metuchen and were covered for what was needed for that time period.

Mr. Walsh said he was still concerned with the delay and the fact that if a resident had to be rescued there was no ladder truck.

Deputy Chief Latham said we do not have any spare apparatus at this time.

Mr. Walsh asked what it would have cost for overtime to have someone change the tire.

Mr. Stephens said he will look this up. He said they are in negotiations to try and raise money for a new truck and they plan on being able to order this in the near future. This is a priority of the Administration.

Councilmember Gomez asked how many people would have to come in on overtime to fix the tire.

Mr. Roderman said he is not sure if they were aware that the tire needed repair but it would require a minimum of two people at around fifty dollars per hour.

Councilmember Gomez said we were looking at about one hundred dollars to fix the tire and he felt we should not get stuck on overtime or financial matters when it comes to something like this.

Mr. Roderman said he will find out if they knew in advance.

Deputy Chief Latham said he knew about this at 11:30 p.m. at night. This was repaired on the Tuesday following the holiday.

Councilmember Mascola asked who made the decision.

Deputy Chief Latham said he was notified and it was his decision to hold this.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, spoke about the Farmers Market on Amboy Avenue and encouraged everyone to enjoy the fruits and vegetables. She said on the website there is a recipe contest going on.

Jill Weislo, 206 Tyler Road, Edison Wetlands Association, spoke about the Visco file. She would also like to be able to review them and be prepared for the public hearing. She said they are hearing more from the State than from the Township regarding this and she wanted communications to remain open.

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

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. through i. No comments

6. **ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA:
FROM MAYOR ANTONIA RICIGLIANO:**
 - a. and b. No comments were made.

7. **REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**
None

8. POINTS OF LIGHT

None

9. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

a. No comment was made.

b. In response to Councilmember Gomez's questions, Mr. Stephens said there are no spare computers in the building and they want to create the ability to get spares.

Councilmember Gomez asked if we are also looking into computer replacements for the court.

Mr. Stephens said they will get that next. He said they are trying to put the IT budget in one place. They are also in the process of putting together a grant to replace the existing servers. He hoped to have this plan with the capital plan by the next meeting. This money is coming out of Administration.

a. through i. No comments were made.

10. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

a. Councilmember Mascola asked if we can have the Legal Department all in one area.

Mr. Stephens said he will look into this.

b. through d. No comments were made.

e. Councilmember Lankey asked for an explanation.

Mr. DeRosa said this is an audit comment every year that we have to dedicate funds by rider.

Mr. Stephens said this one is for the off duty Police and Fire money to pay the employees.

Councilmember Lankey asked if this was dollar for dollar and Mr. Stephens said "yes".

Councilmember Lankey said the Resolution reads that this is for health benefits.

Mr. DeRosa said that is a misprint.

f. Council Vice President Karabinchak asked for an explanation.

Mr. DeRosa said the State increased State aid to the schools. Only twenty municipalities have taken advantage of this. He said Edison's budget was approved and he hoped the tax bills will go out late this week and there will be a thirty day grace period.

Council Vice President Karabinchak said the tax bills will be due August 31st.

Mr. Stephens said if they go beyond the 31st, they have to go back to normal time for the interest.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad asked if people will have an additional ten days and Mr. Stephens said they are getting a thirty day grace period.

Councilmember Lankey questioned the wording one tenth millionth of one percent.

Mr. DeRosa said this is standard.

g. through i. No comments were made.

11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

a. and b. No comments were made.

c. Councilmember Gomez asked if there was a decision on Edison Light Transit.

Mr. Elliott said there has been no movement with the private partners. We are still moving the community so NJ Transit will allow us to use the buses.

12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

a. Mr. Kemm said he already discussed the sale of property. The property owners next door asked for this land.

b. Mr. Kemm said he will provide the developers agreement tomorrow.

c. Mr. Kemm said this will be pulled.

13. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:

a. No comment was made.

b. In response to Councilmember Mascola's questions, Mr. Medina said this is supposed to be Suburban Real Estate.

c. through r. No comments were made.

s. Council Vice President Karabinchak said this is a CDBG grant resolution.

14. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

a. through e. No comments were made.

15. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION:

a. Mr. Kemm said they are working out the final details of the contracts and should have them finalized by Wednesday.

Councilmember Mascola asked if the funds are being raised by private donations.

Mr. Stephens said they have raised \$11,000 and are in the process of seeking out additional companies. He hoped to have more success in raising money.

b. No comment was made.

c. Council Vice President Karabinchak asked what playgrounds this is for.

Mr. Stephens said this is for Dudash Park.

d. and e. No comments were made.

16. FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:

a. Deputy Chief Latham said this is to retrofit the vehicle exhaust system for the Fire stations so that all stations are compatible.

Council Vice President Karabinchak asked if any other repairs would be done on the Firehouses.

Mr. Roderman said there are repairs scheduled but no major renovations.

17. FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:

a. and b. No comments were made.

c. Councilmember Gomez asked what type of vehicles these are and if existing equipment can be used.

Chief Bryan said they will be able to use some equipment. The cars are Crown Victorias and cost \$22,000 each with an additional \$8,000 each for equipment.

Council Vice President Karabinchak asked if we are purchasing all eleven and Chief Bryan said "yes".

Councilmember Mascola asked if Mobile Data Computers and Mobile Vehicle Cameras are included.

18. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:

a. No comment was made.

19. FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

Council Vice President Karabinchak said two cases were heard on Monday and he explained the applications. He spoke about an alternative energy ordinance.

Mr. Stephens said there is a lot of federal law that limits the control over this type of development but they are still looking at how to control this in Edison.

20. COMMUNICATIONS:

a. through d. No comments.

21. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Diehl:

Council President Diehl was absent.

Councilmember Gomez:

a. Councilmember Gomez spoke about the EMS analysis and asked for an update.

Mr. Stephens said they were working on this but ran into employee's vacation time.

Councilmember Gomez asked how much longer it will take and Mr. Stephens said this is the next project to be done and he hoped within the next two weeks.

b. Councilmember Gomez had questions about sick time buyouts and asked if there is a cap for everyone regardless of time of employment.

Mr. Kemm said this would depend on what union is involved.

Mr. Stephens said there are people who are grandfathered but they are now all capped at the same level.

Councilmember Karabinchak:

a. No comment was made.

b. In response to Council Vice President Karabinchak's questions, Mr. Medina said the last communication with the County was regarding the right of way documents and he anticipates having the documents by September.

- b. through e. No comments were made.
- f. Council Vice President Karabinchak said he would like to add a Resolution regarding Raritan Center. They have applied to the Federal government to get foreign trade zone status. As a Council, he is requesting urging the Federal government to grant this status.
- Mr. Stephens asked for documentation and to hold this until the next meeting. He also asked Mr. Kemm to review this. He wants to understand any impact on the Township.
- Council Vice President Karabinchak said Mr. Kemm drew this up and asked if there are any major impacts.
- Mr. Kemm said he did not do any research on this he just took the information and put it in Resolution form.
- Council Vice President Karabinchak said he would like to hear something prior to the next meeting if there is negative impact.
- Mr. Stephens discussed breakage.
- Council Vice President Karabinchak said we have to start promoting growth as a Township. We need businesses that employ people. He said the Heller properties already have this status.
- g. Council Vice President Karabinchak said, in the last month, he has been inundated with telephone calls regarding the permitting process in the Township. This has come from a litany of residents. He does not think it should take months to get a permit and a senior citizen should not have to realize that they do not have to pay the fee.
- Mr. Stephens said they have to ensure that the person paid the contractor for the permit and then they will be refunded the money.
- Council Vice President Karabinchak was concerned with the constant redoing of drawings. He feels this stifles growth and the stimulus process of the economy.
- Mr. Stephens said we now have a full complement of inspectors and he asked anyone who has an issue to come and talk to the Administration to document the appropriate changes.
- Council Vice President Karabinchak asked Mr. Stephens to look into this. He said it is not up to the staff to correct architects. The Township has the ability to stop a project at any time. It should not take months just to get something going.
- h. Council Vice President Karabinchak asked Mr. Kemm to fill everyone in on COAH as we are rehiring Shirley Bishop.
- Mr. Kemm said even though COAH disbanded it will move to the DCA and we are still under the criteria for the third round. We are in a wait and see position. The only thing that was streamlined was the application for release of COAH monies.
- Council Vice President Karabinchak asked if we are in compliance.
- Mr. Kemm said nothing has changed.

Councilmember Lankey:

- a. Councilmember Lankey asked about a number of street signs being removed off of Nevsky and Fleet Avenues.

Mr. Roderman said they have been replacing them on a weekly basis.

Councilmember Mascola:

- a. Councilmember Mascola said he was on Kilmer Road a few weeks ago and noticed that there were still a lot of cars on both sides.

Mr. Stephens said the police are going out there and the parking has been better.

Councilmember Perilstein:

Councilmember Perilstein was absent.

Councilmember Prasad:

None

22. CLOSED SESSION:

None

On a motion made by Councilmember Lankey, seconded by Councilmember Gomez, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Robert Karabinchak
Council Vice President

Reina A. Murphy, RMC
Municipal Clerk