

**MINUTES OF  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
WORKSESSION MEETING  
October 6, 2014**

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 6:00 p.m. by Council President Karabinchak, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Gomez, Karabinchak, Lombardi, Mascola and Shah.  
Councilmember Prasad was absent.

Also present were Acting Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Township Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney McManimon, Business Administrator Ruane, Recreation Director Halliwell, Health Director Elliot, Township Engineer Medina, Fire Chief Latham, Police Captain Kelly 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 14, 2013 and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

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

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, inquired as to why our Cablevision Committee has never been utilized. He said he volunteered for the committee five year ago but all the positions remain vacant. He asked if this will be revived. He said he feels that Cablevision is a monopoly and a fifteen year contract is too long. He said everything is going up so why isn't their fee to the Township increasing also.

Ms. Ruane said she believes this is statutory and the fee is set by the BPU and we cannot change it.

Mr. Wolke said he was told by the BPU that it is up to the Council and that the BPU only sets the price for basic service.

Ms. Ruane said there has been no contract since 2002. She will get more information for Wednesday.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road, said she has lots of questions regarding the Cablevision contract. She asked if the Township could have simultaneous contracts with both Cablevision and FIOS.

Mr. McManimon said he believes we can.

Ms. Wolke said she compared this contract to the last one and we are getting \$10,000 less and they are asking for three times the length of time. She also asked what time the fireworks will begin and end for the upcoming festival.

Ms. Ruane said the festival starts at 1:00 p.m. and will last until the fireworks are over.

Ms. Wolke said she likes the television monitors in the lobbies. She asked if the insurance broker in the proposed Resolution is the same one we have been using as she found he was very reasonable.

Ms. Ruane said yes it is the same broker we have been using.

Councilmember Gomez said he agrees with Ms. Wolke regarding cablevision and feels we should have some sort of leverage. He would like more information by Wednesday.

Rabbi Rosenberg, 5 Fairhill Road, said he was one of the last members on the Cable Television Committee and it did not do any good. He offered congratulations to Mr. Cologna on the birth of his son. He thanked the Police department for guarding the Jewish community against anti-semitism during the high holy days. He also thanked

Mr. Russomanno for helping the synagogue at his own expense. He said he is a little tired of the ticket nonsense in the media attacking Mayor Lankey. He felt they are only out to make trouble.

Marilyn Brown, Oak Tree Road, said she lives in South Brunswick which is a much smaller community than Edison and they have FIOS because the residents asked for it.

Council President Karabinchak asked the Administration to make inquiries.

Councilmember Gomez said part of the problem with FIOS is that Edison is a large municipality and the capital outlay to bring FIOS in would be significant.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, thanked all the people who have supported the Farmer's Market and said it has been extended until November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. and b . Accepted as submitted

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

Councilmember Diehl gave a report from the Open Space Committee. He said they passed a Resolution in support of ballot question #2 which was sent to the Council.

**7. POINTS OF LIGHT**

None

**8. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**

a. and b. No comments were made.

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

a. through e. No comments were made.

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

a. and b. No comments were made.

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

a. Councilmember Mascola said this issue came up four or five years ago and this is the same contract he was in favor of back then but we walked away from it. Now we need new equipment that that money could have been used for. He said last time nothing was done and Cablevision is still here. He felt in this economy, FIOS will not invest the kind of money needed to bring them to Edison. His feeling is let's take what we can get now and move forward.

Councilmember Diehl said Councilmember Mascola's recollection is correct. We wanted more back then but the reality is it was the only deal we had and we left the money on the table. We could do a lot with that money and we need to come to a compromise. He felt we lost the last round and we shouldn't do that again.

Councilmember Gomez agreed that we shouldn't leave anything on the table but if we have the ability to do something we should.

b. No comment was made.

- c. Councilmember Lombardi asked for an explanation of how the proposed ordinance works.

Ms. Ruane said currently we do not have an ordinance in place so the State would like us to clean up our books.

**12. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING: (Added to Agenda)**

- a. No comment was made.

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

- a. Councilmember Diehl commented that last year, due to the snowy winter, everyone ran out of rock salt. He asked how we are looking for this year.

Ms. Ruane said we will get as much as we can in this budget.

Councilmember Diehl asked where it will be stored since the salt shed has burned down.

Ms. Ruane said the salt shed will be rebuilt next month. Currently we are keeping it in Building 1072.

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

- a. and b. No comments were made.

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

- a. and b. No comments were made.

**16. FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:**

- a. and b. No comments were made

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

Councilmember Mascola said the next meeting will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

0.1881-2014 No comment was made.

**19. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- a. Received as submitted

**20. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Council President Karabinchak:**

- a. through f. No comments were made.

**Councilmember Diehl:**

None

**Councilmember Gomez:**

None

**Councilmember Lombardi:**

None

**Councilmember Mascola:**

None

**Councilmember Prasad**

Absent

**Councilmember Shah:**

None

21. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilmember Diehl, seconded by Councilmember Gomez, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

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Robert Karabinchak  
Council President

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Cheryl Russomanno  
Acting Municipal Clerk