

**MINUTES OF  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
WORKSESSION MEETING  
October 26, 2015**

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 6:04 p.m. by Council President Diehl, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Diehl, Karabinchak, Lombardi, Mascola, Prasad and Shah.  
Councilmember Gomez entered at 6:12 p.m.

Also present were Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Township Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney McManimon, Business Administrator Ruane, Recreation Director Halliwell, Health Director Elliot, Township Engineer Kataryniak, 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 11, 2014 and posted in the Main Lobby of the Municipal Complex on the same date.

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

Bruce Diamond, Calvert Avenue, said he has raised this issue before and has never received an answer. He asked if inspections are done after a street is paved to check for the quality of the work. He does not feel that only two years after paving, Calvert Avenue West should have so many cracks. He feels the quality of the work is not good.

Ms. Ruane said this paving was done by the County through an Interlocal Agreement and was not inspected.

Mr. Diamond again asked what we are doing to inspect the paving that is being done.

Mr. Kataryniak said his staff is inspecting the work.

Mr. Diamond also commented that the recycling trucks are leaving glass in the roads.

Ms. Ruane said she will call the manufacturer of the trucks as she has the same concerns.

Walt Stochel, 2118 Oak Tree Road, said at the last Council meeting there was a proposal regarding the Toth Center on Idewild Road. He said the Toth Center is located in the Toth Park and any parking of vehicles would be a Green Acres diversion and would require Green Acres approval. He said he received Phase II and Phase III of the street paving list and there are fifty-nine streets on the list. He calculated that if we started tomorrow we would have to pave two streets per day in order to finish before the weather turns. He also felt we need crack filling crew to maintain the roads as they will crack. He also commented about an article that appeared in the Star Ledger regarding the Sayreville Water department using the Borough Seal. He asked if Edison ever lends out the Township Seal.

Ms. Ruane said she believes we have something on the books regarding the use of the Township Seal and she will check into it.

Mr. Stochel said he received a political flyer from the Democratic party with the Police seal on it and he did not feel this was appropriate.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad asked if someone needs permission to use the Township Seal.

Ms. Ruane said there is no rule regarding that.

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Council President Diehl said Mr. Stochel brings up a good point and felt we should look into an Ordinance that says the Township logo cannot be used.

Bernadette Penceal, said she was here two weeks ago and has not received the letter she was promised.

Council President Diehl said he met with Mr. Northgrave and was told he is working on it.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road, said she was surprised that the Jewish Renaissance Center was not on the agenda as Council President Diehl said it would be. She said last time it was added at the last minute with no information. She felt if it is passed we would be giving our Health Center, that the taxpayers paid for, away for \$1.00. She asked if other sites were considered and felt they should expand their other facilities in Perth Amboy and New Brunswick. She felt strongly that this should die on the table. She also commented that there are no Councilmembers from South Edison running in the upcoming election and the voters should consider this.

Council President Diehl explained that the questions and concerns they had regarding the Toth Center were not answered. He said he did not understand it ten days ago and was not present when it was first brought up. He said there is nothing clandestine about it.

Ms. Wolke felt if the Council did not have enough information it should never have been on the agenda. She said this is a strictly residential area and is the wrong place to put this.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad asked her to clarify what she said about north and south Edison representation.

Ms. Wolke felt the south end would have more representation if we had Councilmembers that resided on the south side.

Councilmember Karabinchak said he disagrees. This Council is at large and represents everyone regardless of where they live. He said this is one Edison and does not like the North/South distinction.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, commented that the Resolution regarding the Health Center is not recorded anywhere since it was tabled. She said historically if someone wanted to go back and find out what happened there would be no record. She recommended pulling R.717 permanently and starting with a new Resolution.

James Daniels, Amboy Avenue, asked how much money is in the Tree Fund.

Ms. Ruane said she will have that information for Wednesday.

Mr. Daniels said 1075 King Georges Road is being developed and they are taking down trees. He said the amount that they would have to pay into the Tree Fund would be over \$100,000.

Council President Diehl felt there should be a presentation to the Council of how the Tree Fund works. He felt these questions come up over and over again and we never get a clear answer. He asked how many street sweepers we are purchasing.

Ms. Ruane said we are purchasing two new ones.

Mr. Daniels said his street has not been swept in three years.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, said he has an issue with Councilmember Karabinchak's statement. He does not dispute that the Council is trying to do a good job but south Edison feels neglected. They would feel better if they had someone looking out for them. He felt we should put up a more balanced ticket. He also commented that he believes we have an Ordinance on the books regarding use of the Township seal.

Councilmember Shah commented that she believes the Mayor is from South Edison.

Councilmember Gomez commented that he resides in South Edison, and has been on the Council for five years and finds there is no barrier.

Mr. Wolke said he is in favor of the ward system used in Woodbridge where there are wards and also Councilmembers at large. He feels this is a more fair system.

Councilmember Mascola said Edison should be one Township but the truth is it is not. There is a big difference between north and south as to how streets are decided to be paved. He said more north Edison streets are being paved. He said this is the way people actually feel but he still does not believe in the ward system.

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

Councilmember Karabinchak said he agrees with Councilmember Mascola about wards. He feels they would polarize Edison even more. He said south Edison is older therefore the infrastructure is older.

Councilmember Lombardi said he knocked on a lot of doors recently and he felt residents should vote for the best candidate not by where they live.

Councilmember Dr. Prasad said he has the feeling that an election is around the corner. He said there have been two attempts in the last ten years to change to a ward system and it was voted down both times.

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

None

**6. POINTS OF LIGHT**

Council President Diehl said the rededication and relighting of the Edison Memorial Tower was a tremendous day for Edison. He congratulated everyone involved in the restoration of the Tower.

**7. FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**

a. No comment was made.

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

a. through e. No comments were made.

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

a. through c. No comments were made.

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

a. through c. No comments were made.

d. through f. Councilmember Mascola asked for an explanation.

Mr. McManimon explained the differences between areas in need of rehabilitation and areas in need of redevelopment. He explained the criteria and said a program of rehabilitation will benefit the area.

**11. FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:**

a. through f. No comments were made.

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

a. No comment was made.

b. Councilmember Lombardi commented that the last time this was rescinded.

Ms. Ruane said it had to be rejected before we can go out to bid again.

c. and d. No comments were made.

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

a. No comment was made.

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

a. and b. No comments were made.

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

Councilmember Shah thanked Ms. Nemitz for keeping her abreast of the meeting. She said the next meeting will be November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**16. COMMUNICATIONS:**

a. and b. Received as submitted.

**17. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Council President Diehl:**

a. He said he would like answers regarding the JFK ambulance services.

**Councilmember Gomez:**

None

**Councilmember Karabinchak:**

a. He said he would like to add a Resolution for Wednesday reappointing Chris Mazsaukas as a Housing Authority Commissioner as his current term ends on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

b. He said he heard from Alan Magrini of Hartz Mountain stating that their access permit has been approved by the NJDOT so they are ready to move forward.

**Councilmember Lombardi:**

a. He asked for an update on the milling of the roads that was supposed to start today.

Mr. Kataryniak said it will start next week.

**Councilmember Mascola:**

a. He asked for an update on the cars parked on Route 27 and Schuyler Road.

Mr. Elliot said they were photographed and should be moved soon.

- b. He said he had a report of Senior buses being used by Recreation and leaving the seniors high and dry.

Ms. Halliwell said they were used for summer trips.

- c. He asked for an update on the Landfill

Ms. Ruane said there is nothing to report.

- d. He asked for an update on ADP.

Ms. Ruane said everyone is currently using it except Police and Fire.

- e. He asked for an update on the Unions.

Ms. Ruane said the sewer workers which are the smallest union are almost done and she is close with a couple of the others.

- f. He asked the outcome of the lawsuit between the Fire union and the Township.

Ms. Ruane said the settlement was over \$1 million and she still has to figure out the legal fees.

**Councilmember Prasad**

- a. He asked if the resumes received for the DPW Director can be shared with the Council.

Ms. Ruane said the Council can form a sub-committee when the Administration puts them forward.

- b. He asked the permitting process for events and if they need permits for events held on private property.

Ms. Ruane explained the permitting process and the departments involved.

- c. He asked if the job description of an employee can be discussed without using their name.

Ms. Ruane said it cannot be discussed in public.

**Councilmember Shah:**

- a. She thanked the Administration for not allowing the Navratri Festival to be held out in the street with the loud music but she still has concerns about the safety of the festival being held on private property.

- b. She said last Saturday someone came to her door selling meat out of a truck. She is concerned about this for health and safety reasons and she asked if they need a permit.

Mr. Elliot explained that some companies sell frozen food but not door to door.

- c. She said there were a lot of comments this evening about the north/south Edison issue and she feels that her quality of life ordinance will address many of those concerns.

- d. She said she will be adding a domestic violence awareness Resolution for Wednesday.

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**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion made by Councilmember Karabinchak, seconded by Councilmember Gomez, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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Robert Diehl  
Council President

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Cheryl Russomanno, RMC  
Municipal Clerk