

**MINUTES OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WORKSESSION MEETING
December 8, 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 6:03 p.m. by Council President Karabinchak, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Councilmembers Gomez, Karabinchak, Lombardi, Mascola and Prasad.
Councilmember Diehl entered at 6:19 p.m.
Councilmember Shah was absent.

Also present were Acting Township Clerk Russomanno, Deputy Township Clerk Kenny, Township Attorney Northgrave, Business Administrator Ruane, Recreation Director Halliwell, Public Works Director Roderman, Health Director Elliot, Fire Chief Latham, Police Captain Merker 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.

Keith Hahn, Resident, spoke about a settlement agreement that is on the agenda for Wednesday and he urged the Council not to pass it.

Bob Spiegel, 206 Tyler Road, inquired if anyone has been apprehended for the home invasions.

Council President Karabinchak said this is still an ongoing investigation.

Mr. Spiegel asked if there has been any information released on the meeting that was held regarding the home invasions. He also asked how to set up a community watch.

Council President Karabinchak said he can obtain the criteria for forming a community watch from Sergeant Dudash.

Mr. Spiegel said last winter there were very bad storms and the only lifeline residents had was calling the Police department. He asked if there has been any thought given to an alternate form of communication.

Ms. Ruane said residents can sign up on the Township website for the Nixel system which provides text messages in times of emergency.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road, questioned agenda item 11b regarding the severance liabilities. She asked if this is over and above the amount set aside in the budget.

Ms. Ruane said nothing was set aside in the budget. This is a deferred charge that we will pay over the next five years.

Ms. Wolke asked how many are layoffs and how many are retirements.

Ms. Ruane said there were no layoffs they are all retirements and she can obtain the list from the Clerk's office.

Esther Nemitz, 162B Fay Street, asked for an explanation of agenda item 13c.

Mr. Roderman said Edison is entitled to a host benefit due to our proximity to the landfill. We receive a reimbursement from the County for the effects on our municipality.

Ms. Nemitz asked about the landfill closure.

Ms. Ruane said there is \$14 million set aside in the solid waste budget for the closure.

Fred Wolke, 10 Peake Road, asked if we bond for the severance liabilities since they are not in our budget.

Ms. Ruane said we have been doing this since 2011. We raise 1/5th each year and we will eventually go out to bond for this.

Mr. Wolke asked who is doing the Engineers work.

Ms. Ruane said Peter Cecko is our Acting Engineer.

Keith Hahn, Resident, asked if the Council can circumvent an ordinance to promote it in another fashion.

Mr. Northgrave said that is a hypothetical question which he will not respond to.

Ravine Shah, Raritan Valley EMS, said on behalf of the squads he encourages the Council to vote for the squad funding. They are in the final stages of negotiations with JFK and had to forgo their billing income so they must rely on donations and fund raising.

Councilmember Prasad said he is very happy to support this. He asked if JFK does hard billing.

Ms. Ruane said JFK will work with people that have a hardship.

Councilmember Gomez asked if we know if this has been a hardship for residents.

Councilmember Prasad said he has heard that it has.

Councilmember Gomez felt if there is no evidence of this it may be premature but we should look into it. He said he is in full support of the contribution.

Lois Wolke, 10 Peake Road, in rebuttal said she felt that Mr. Hahn brought up a good legal question which she felt should be answered.

Council President Karabinchak felt it was hypothetical and did not know how it could be answered. He said it is not black and white.

Ms. Wolke felt we have gotten answers before and did not see why this is any different.

Mr. Northgrave explained the difference. He said he can't answer until there are facts surrounding the situation.

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

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
a. through c. Accepted as submitted.

6. **REPORTS FROM ALL COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**
No comments were made.

7. **POINTS OF LIGHT:**

Councilmember Diehl said a nice crowd turned out for the Christmas tree lighting. He wanted to compliment the band and the chorus. He said there were some technical difficulties and they did not stop or miss a beat even when the music went off. He passed his congratulations on to all the students involved who showed what they are made of.

Council President Karabinchak also commented that you had to be there to see it. He said they did not miss a beat. It was a good professional atmosphere and a nice affair. He wished everyone a Happy Chanukah and said the Festival of Lights will be held on December 17th at the JCC on Oak Tree Road.

8. **FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**
a. through f. No comments were made.

9. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:**
a. through d. No comments were made.

10. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:**
a. No comment was made.

11. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW:**
a. through d. No comments were made.

12. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENGINEERING:**
a. through d. No comments were made.

13. **FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**
a. through c. No comments were made.

14. **FROM THE CHIEF OF FIRE:**
a. through e. No comments were made.

15. **FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE:**
a. through c. No comments were made.

16. **FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK:**
a. through c. No comments were made.

17. **FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD:**
Councilmember Mascola said there will be a meeting next Monday and the agenda will include PSE&G on Pierson Avenue, Fox and Foxx on Calvert Avenue West and a warehouse on Route 27.

18. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND PUBLIC HEARING:

O.1880-2014 No comment was made.

O.1892-2014 No comment was made.

19. COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Received as submitted.

20. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Council President Karabinchak:

a. He said we are getting closer to this. There will be a meeting with the Edison Playhouse and hopefully this will happen next year.

b. He said we are looking at this area for a community center.

c. through f. No comments were made.

Councilmember Diehl:

None

Councilmember Gomez:

None

Councilmember Lombardi:

None

Councilmember Mascola:

None

Councilmember Prasad

None

Councilmember Shah:

Absent

The Council retired to Closed Session at 6:54 p.m., on a motion made by Councilmember Lombardi, seconded by Councilmember Mascola and duly carried. The Township Clerk read the following Resolution into the record:

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Article VI of the Open Public Meetings Act provides that a public body may hold a closed session; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council will during this meeting enter into discussion of the following matters:

- 1) Personnel/Litigation

WHEREAS, the matters to be discussed in closed session are to remain in the strictest of confidence by all Council Members in furtherance of their fiduciary duties to the Township of Edison;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, matters discussed at this meeting will be released to the public when the reasons for discussing and acting upon them in closed session no longer exists.

The Council returned from Closed Session at 8:25 p.m., on a motion made by Councilmember Gomez, seconded by Councilmember Mascola and duly carried.

On a motion made by Councilmember Gomez, seconded by Councilmember Mascola, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Robert Karabinchak
Council President

Cheryl Russomanno
Acting Municipal Clerk