

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **February 21, 2023** at 8:22 p.m. in Council Chambers.

This meeting is in compliance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” as adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by e-mailing the annual schedule of meetings to THE WESTFIELD LEADER, THE UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, THE STAR LEDGER, AND TAP INTO CRANFORD, by posting such annual meeting schedule on a bulletin board in the Municipal Building reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Cranford. Formal Action will be taken at this meeting.

PRESENT: Mayor Brian Andrews
Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis
Commissioner Terrence Curran
Commissioner Kathleen Miller Prunty
Commissioner Gina Black

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

The invocation was led by Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis, followed by the flag salute.

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Andrews invited Cranford Rotary Club President Joseph Starkey and “Rotarians” in the audience to the podium and read the Mayor’s Proclamation:

Rotary Club’s 100th Anniversary

WHEREAS, the Cranford Rotary Club, affiliated with Rotary International, was established in 1923 and serves the Cranford Community through service projects, sponsorships and scholarships; and

WHEREAS, members, known as Rotarians, are a group of professional men and woman united both locally and worldwide who provide humanitarian service and encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build good will and peace in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Cranford Rotary Charitable Fund, Inc. was created with a focus on supporting education and to support many other charitable efforts and projects of the Cranford Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, Cranford Rotary has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship awards to Cranford students since its inception; and

WHEREAS, past beneficiaries of the Rotary support include the Cranford First Aid Squad, Cranford PAL, Cerebral Palsy League, Project Home, Children’s Specialized Hospital, the United Way and many others; and

WHEREAS, as signified by the motto, Service Above Self, Rotary’s main objective is service; in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford acknowledges and commemorates the Cranford Rotary Club on celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

Mr. Starkey expressed his appreciation to the Township Committee for recognizing the Cranford Rotary Club. He spoke about the work of the Rotary Club.

Mayoral Appointments to the Historic Preservation Advisory Board

Accepting the resignation of Ron Meeks as a Class C, Alternate No. 2 member, effective December 31, 2022

Ron Meeks as a Class A member for a three (3) year term, ending December 31, 2025

Accepting the resignation of Stephen Price as a Class C member, effective December 31, 2022

Stephen Price as a Class B member for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2025

Steve Saltzman as a Class B member for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2025

Jeffrey Pistol as a Class C member for an unexpired term ending on December 31, 2023

Alan Lieberman as a Class C member for a three (3) year term ending December 31, 2025

Loretta Smith as a Class C member for an unexpired three (3) year term ending December 31, 2023

Accepting Sarah Oliver’s resignation as a Class C member, effective December 31, 2022

Sarah Oliver as a Class C, Alternate No. 1 member for a two (2) year term ending December 31, 2024

Justin VanDyk as a Class C, Alternate No. 2 member for an unexpired term ending on December 31, 2023

MAYORAL REMARKS

Mayor Andrews discussed an upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony for the Cranford Recreation Center at 375 Centennial Avenue. He stated that the new facility represented a generational investment in the community and elaborated. Mayor Andrews stated that the process which “got” us here exhibited the best of local government and elaborated. Mayor Andrews stated that the ribbon cutting ceremony would be held on the upcoming Saturday. He encouraged members of the community to attend.

Mayor Andrews spoke about a recent Mayors Council for Rahway River Watershed Flood meeting he attended with Commissioner Miller Prunty. He provided an overview of the Council. Mayor Andrews thanked the Township’s federal partners for working to get the Army Corps of Engineers back “to the table” to talk about Rahway River flooding (and specifically thanked Senator Cory Booker, Senator Bob Menendez, Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., and Congressman Tom Malinowski). Mayor Andrews then spoke about engaging with local partners and working in Cranford on flood mitigation strategies.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Curran – Finance

- Spoke about the recent annual Budget meeting and announced that the Township Budget would be introduced at the Township Committee’s March 21st Official Meeting;
- Discussed challenges faced by the Township including increased costs in pension payments, increased healthcare benefits costs and increased Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) fees; stated that the Township was in good position to handle these challenges;
- Announced that the Capital Budget meeting would be held on the upcoming Thursday;
- Stated that the Centennial Village Group would conduct a “Pot of Gold Raffle”;
- Discussed recent work of the Environmental Commission; encouraged interested residents to reach out to the Environment Commission;
- Stated that a Frequently Asked Question flyer had been circulated pertaining to Pool matters; stated that the Township Committee was interested in communicating the correct information and briefly elaborated.

Commissioner Miller Prunty – Engineering & Public Works

- Announced that Conservation Center stickers would be available for sale, both online at www.cranfordnj.org and at the Conservation Center, beginning March 4, 2023;
- Spoke about the Downtown Management Corporation’s upcoming Fire & Ice event to be held on February 25, 2023;
- Stated that she believed that the “Townwide Walk/Bike Study” would be presented by the Cranford Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee at the next Township Committee Meeting.

Deputy Mayor Gareis – Public Safety

- Spoke about the Emergency Management Council and an upcoming meeting;
- Spoke about the age of the Fire Department’s Rescue Truck and the need to replace it.

Commissioner Black – Public Affairs

- Announced that there would a formal opening for the Recreation Facility at 375 Centennial Avenue during the upcoming weekend;
- Praised the role that Director of Recreation and Parks Steve Robertazzi played at the new facility, specifically with 1) communication with the architects and contractors and 2) program development;
- Reported that the Recreation Department would be starting a new pickleball training class and a Friday night volleyball program;
- Discussed Resolution No. 2023-128 pertaining to a concession rights contract award for the Cranford Canoe Club.

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue

- Congratulated Cranford Rotary Club President Joseph Starkey.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Andrews opened the informal portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Jim Carvalho – Mr. Carvalho spoke about growing up in Cranford and using the Orange Avenue Pool after hours. Mr. Carvalho commented about declining membership at the Pools and the Township’s focus on programming and hardware for youth members. He suggested that the Township focus on programming for adult members and provided specific suggestions. Mr. Carvalho expressed his support for the Indoor Pool & Fitness Center senior members who had provided feedback at the previous Official Meeting.

William Thilly – Referring to the Township’s collaboration with the Westfield YMCA, Mr. Thilly inquired whether there had been a bidding process. He also asked about the OPRA (Open Public Records Act) process and whether an OPRA request could be made verbally and during the Public Comments session.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Andrews closed the informal portion of the meeting.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Miller Prunty and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of December 12, 2022, and Conference Meeting of December 13, 2022 were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis and Commissioners Miller Prunty and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: Commissioner Curran

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Miller Prunty and passed, the minutes of the Official Meeting of December 13, 2022 were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis and Commissioner Miller Prunty

Nay: None

Abstained: Commissioners Curran and Black

Absent: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner Curran, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gareis and passed, the Bill List dated February 21, 2023, totaling \$700,608.37 was approved for payment by indicated vote of the Township Committee and is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

ORDINANCE – Final Reading and Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 2023-01:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2023-01 entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CHAPTER 93, ARTICLE III, SECTION 27 (pertaining to Firearms Fees)”

Said ordinance having been advertised and posted in accordance with law, Deputy Mayor Gareis opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Deputy Mayor Gareis closed the public hearing. On motion of Deputy Mayor Gareis, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, said ordinance was adopted by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, the

following resolutions were adopted by consent agenda:

Resolution No. 2023-122:

APPROVE RELEASE OF CONTRACT RETAINAGE AND PERFORMANCE BOND FOR THE NJDOT (NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION) FY2021 BURNSIDE AVENUE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Contractor, CCM Contracting Inc., 336 Route 22, Green Brook, New Jersey, 08812 has submitted a Maintenance Bond No. 0239852(M) in the amount of \$1,217,265.92 to the Township in connection with aforementioned project; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Engineering Department has indicated that CCM Contracting Inc. has completed the project and has met all requirements for final payment and is recommending the return of the Performance Bond No. 0239852 in the amount of \$1,345,680.96 currently on file with the Township Clerk of the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Engineering Department recommends the release of contract retainage and final payment in the amount of \$24,345.32 to CCM Contracting Inc., for the NJDOT (New Jersey Department of Transportation) FY2021 Burnside Avenue Drainage Improvements Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorizes the release of the Performance Bond and release of contract retainage to CCM Contracting Inc., in connection with the NJDOT FY2021 Burnside Avenue Drainage Improvements Project.

Resolution No. 2023-123:

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the Township of Cranford to engage an expert to provide Municipal Prosecutor legal services; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford advertised for a Request for Proposals (RFP's) for the Provision of Various 2023 Professional Services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 2023-09, the Township of Cranford appointed a municipal prosecutor for a period of one month, and wishes to appoint a replacement for the balance of 2023; and

WHEREAS, Mark S. Rothman, Esq., of Robbins and Robbins LLP, 568 Amboy Avenue, Woodbridge, New Jersey, 07095 ("Contractor"), submitted a proposal to serve as alternate Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford has deemed that Contractor has the background, experience and qualifications of to serve as Prosecutor, and pursuant to Resolution 2023-10 appointed Contractor to serve as alternate Prosecutor in the absence of the regular Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5, the Township may award respondent a contract as Prosecutor for the balance of the 2023 calendar year based on respondent satisfaction of the criteria set forth in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Finance has certified to the availability of funds upon adoption of the 2023 municipal budget which will be on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey, as follows:

1. **Mark S. Rothman, Esq.**, of Robbins and Robbins LLP, 568 Amboy Avenue, Woodbridge, New Jersey, 07095, hereby, is appointed as Municipal Prosecutor effective February 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023; and
2. **Mark S. Rothman, Esq.** is awarded a contract to provide all regular and routine activities of a prosecutor at a cost not to exceed \$46,750.00 during his term as Municipal Prosecutor; and
3. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with **Mark S. Rothman, Esq.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. 3-01-20-155-100-214.

Resolution No. 2023-124:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford required the installation of interior drainage in the Township of Cranford Municipal Building; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford requested quotes for the installation through a non-fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Signature Scapes LLC of 52 Round Top Road, Warren, New Jersey, 07059, has submitted a proposal dated December 27, 2022, indicating they will perform the interior drainage for \$43,375.00; and

WHEREAS, Signature Scapes LLC has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Signature Scapes LLC has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Cranford in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Signature Scapes LLC from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer have certified to the availability of funds which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk and said contract amount shall be charged to Account Number C-04-12-015-101-280.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, authorizes the Purchasing Agent to enter into a contract with Signature Scapes, LLC as described herein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification, the Business Entity Contribution Disclosure Certification and the Determination of Value to be placed on file with this resolution.

Resolution No. 2023-125:

WHEREAS, an application has been filed by Joseph Kalamaras, 1 Retford Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, for a limousine/livery service vehicle license for JK Car Service LLC; and

WHEREAS, the submitted vehicle license application form is complete in all respects, and the fees have been paid, and a favorable recommendation has been provided by the Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has complied with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:16-13 et seq. with respect to proof of insurance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford does hereby approve, retroactive to January 1, 2023, the issuance of a limousine/livery service vehicle license to Joseph Kalamaras (JK Car Service LLC) for a license term ending December 31, 2023.

Resolution No. 2023-126:

WHEREAS, an application has been filed by Christopher Quigley, 5 Normandie Place, Cranford, New Jersey, for renewal of limousine/livery service vehicle licenses for Quigley Transportation Corp., DBA Clover Coaches; and

WHEREAS, the submitted vehicle license application form is complete in all respects, and the fees have been paid, and a favorable recommendation has been provided by the Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has complied with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:16-13 et seq. with respect to proof of insurance;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford does hereby approve, retroactive to January 1, 2023, the issuance of limousine/livery service vehicle licenses to Christopher Quigley (Quigley Transportation Corp., DBA Clover Coaches) for a license term ending December 31, 2023.

Resolution No. 2023-127:

WHEREAS, an application has been filed by Milen Roussenov, 73 Winans Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, for renewal of limousine/livery service vehicle license for Milen Roussenov; and

WHEREAS, the submitted vehicle license application form is complete in all respects, the fees have been paid, and a favorable recommendation has been provided by the Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has complied with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:16-13 et seq. with respect to proof of insurance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford does hereby approve, retroactive to January 1, 2023, the issuance of limousine/livery service vehicle license to Milen Roussenov for a license term ending December 31, 2023.

Resolution No. 2023-128:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, that the Township Clerk be, and hereby is authorized to post advertisements to the Township's website and local newspaper for the solicitation of bids for services to be provided within the Township of Cranford for:

“CONCESSION RIGHTS FOR THE CRANFORD CANOE CLUB”

Resolution No. 2023-129:

WHEREAS, Nadia Jones, a Sergeant within the Cranford Police Department, is qualified for a leave of absence pursuant to the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA) and the New Jersey Paid Family Leave Act (NJPFLA) for the care of her mother.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Committee of the Township of Cranford that Nadia Jones is approved for a FMLA/NJFLA/NJPFLA leave of absence beginning on January 16, 2023, using accumulated time as available as employee so elects;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Nadia Jones shall comply with all provisions of law during the FMLA/NJFLA/NJPLA leave of absence, including providing all required medical proofs

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gina Black

- Spoke about the Mayoral Appointments to the Historic Preservation Advisory Board;
- Announced that the Centennial Village Group would hold their St. Patrick's Day Pot of Gold Raffle from March 1st to March 16th; spoke about an upcoming Bunny Hop which would be held on Centennial Avenue and the beginning of a new tradition.

Commissioner Terrence Curran

- Stated that he would address the Pool matter again, specifically that the Township Committee was working to do the right thing and communicate correct information;
- Spoke against juvenile and inappropriate comments which were made during the Public Comments section.

Commissioner Kathleen Miller Prunty

- Announced that Craft Protein Bar had recently opened in Downtown Cranford and spoke about owner/operator 19-year-old Union College student Kamily Flores.

Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis

- Spoke about a recent tragedy which had occurred in Linden and expressed his condolences to the affected family and entire Linden community.

Mayor Brian Andrews

- Spoke about a number of pedestrian improvement projects which had been impacted by supply chain issues; thanked Interim Administrator Greco for helping to facilitate these projects.

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, the Township Committee returned to the Workshop Meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk

Date: February 21, 2023