

The Minutes of the **Workshop Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **March 29, 2022** at **6:30 p.m.** in Room 108.

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 TOWN HALL RESERVED FOR SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE FILING OF SAID NOTICE WITH THE TOWNSHIP CLERK OF CRANFORD. FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.

Present: Mayor Kathleen Prunty  
Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis  
Commissioner Brian Andrews\*  
Commissioner Gina Black  
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

Absent: None

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper, Administrator Jamie Cryan, Police Chief Ryan Greco, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Lavona Patterson and Township Clerk Patricia Donahue were present.

Commissioner Andrews arrived to the Meeting at 6:35 p.m.

### **Public Comments**

Mayor Miller Prunty opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no comments, Mayor Miller Prunty closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

### **Lead Pipe Update**

Mr. Michael Bange, Mr. William Lewis, Mr. Matthew Csik and Ms. Cassandra Malone of New Jersey American Water were present.

Mr. Bange spoke about New Jersey American Water's (American Water) replacement of lead pipes and galvanized steel initiative. He stated that the program sought to replace lead and galvanized steel service lines over the next ten years. Mr. Bange stated that 989 certified program notification letters were mailed to Cranford property owners and only eight (8) property owners had responded to the mailing. Discussion ensued on ways to contact American Water, further American Water outreach efforts, American Water permitting needs (i.e., blanket open permits), and the extent of the service line initiative, specifically from the water main to the curb versus from the water main to the curb to a property.

### **Draft North Avenue Redevelopment Plan**

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper stated that the North Avenue Redevelopment Plan (Plan) was included in the Commissioners' Meeting packets. He stated that the Downtown Management Corporation had formed a subcommittee regarding the proposed North Avenue Redevelopment. Mr. Cooper requested that the Commissioners provide Plan feedback. He recommended that the North Avenue Redevelopment Plan be introduced for Township Committee consideration at the April 12<sup>th</sup> Township Committee Official Meeting. Commissioner Black stated that she would like to have highlighted what was unique to the Plan as it seemed there was a lot of "cut and paste" narrative included in the Plan and that the narrative was repetitive. Commissioner Black inquired about the intersections of North Avenue and Centennial Avenue and North Avenue and Springfield Avenue.

Mr. Cooper noted that a proposed North Avenue Redevelopment Agreement would provide specifications as well as address the Township's Affordable Housing obligations. Mayor Miller Prunty requested that the Commissioners forward all questions regarding the proposed North Avenue Redevelopment Plan to Administrator Cryan and Township Attorney Ryan Cooper.

### **Hours of Operation**

Commissioner O'Connor elaborated briefly about the hard-working Township employees. Commissioner O'Connor noted that the current work hours made the Township less competitive for prospective new hire employees. She stated that by changing the work hours, the Township could be more competitive with neighboring communities (the Workshop Meeting packet contained the work day hours for Union County municipalities). She then spoke about the propose salary ordinance and summer hours and stated that she was a big proponent of employee morale.

Administrator Cryan inquired if Commissioner O'Connor was advocating for a thirty-two and half (32.5) or thirty-five (35) hour work week. Commissioner O'Connor stated that she was advocating for a thirty-five (35) hour work week. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that she was happy to see this matter "back on the table". Discussion ensued.

### **Public Comments**

Mayor Miller Prunty opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no comments, Mayor Miller Prunty closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

### **Closed Session**

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the following resolution was adopted by roll call vote:

### **Resolution No. 2022-98.7**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee will go into closed session to discuss the following, the minutes of which will be released at some time in the future at the discretion of the Township Committee:

### **Legal**

- Tax Court Settlement – Signature Properties (pertaining to a property on Jackson Drive and properties on Commerce Drive)

### **Personnel**

- Police Department
- Registrar of Vital Statistics – Health Department
- Salary Ordinance
- Collective Bargaining Negotiations Update

### **Recorded Vote:**

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Andrews, Black & O'Connor  
Nay: None  
Abstained: None  
Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Township Committee returned to the Workshop Meeting at 7:28 p.m.

### **Review Official Meeting Agenda**

Commissioner Black inquired about proposed Resolution No. 2022-179 which pertained to the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund and the 2021 Kids Recreation Trust Fund grant and the proposed financing of Hillside Avenue Tennis Courts, Johnson Park Beautification and the Adams Field Concession Stand. Discussion ensued including discussion about the removal of the resolution from the Official Meeting Agenda.

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that the Budget would be introduced for consideration at the Official Meeting and reviewed the administrative details associated with the Budget introduction.

The Township Committee moved to Council Chambers at 7:34 p.m. to conduct the Official Meeting.

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at approximately 9:05 p.m.

### **Draft North Avenue Redevelopment Plan (continued)**

Commissioner Black inquired about the role of the Downtown Management Committee (DMC) as it pertained to the proposed North Avenue Redevelopment Plan. Discussion ensued including discussion regarding the attendance of Township Committee members at DMC subcommittee meetings. Committee consensus was reached that only the Township Committee's DMC liaison (Commissioner Andrews) would attend the DMC North Avenue Redevelopment Plan subcommittee meetings.

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 29, 2022

Patricia Donahue  
Township Clerk