

The Minutes of the **Workshop Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **April 3, 2023** at 7:00 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 MUNICIPAL BUILDING 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 Brian Andrews
Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis
Commissioner Terrence Curran
Commissioner Kathleen Miller Prunty
Commissioner Gina Black

Absent: None

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

*Ms. Patterson arrived to the Workshop Meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Fire Chief Dan Czeh and Fire Department advancement candidates Carmen Giordino and Samuel Scher were present.

Public Comments

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

Mr. Greg Carey of 25 Locust Drive – thanked Township staff Ryan Greco and Patricia Donahue for their work with him. Mr. Carey stated that he had sent (wireless telecommunications) materials to members of the Township Committee and had not heard back from them. Mr. Carey spoke about health, public safety, his family and self. Mr. Carey stated that there were nineteen (19) 5G wireless telecommunication facilities throughout the Township. He stated that the Township had never held a public hearing regarding this matter. Mr. Carey requested an independent assessment of the matter and further elaborated. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper responded and spoke about the FCC's regulatory responsibility

Mayor Andrews thanked Mr. Carey for sharing this information.

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

Closed Session

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the following resolution was adopted by roll call vote:

Resolution No. 2023-94.9

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

- Legal Update
- North + Springfield Redevelopment Area
- Property Inventory

Personnel

- Township Administrator
- TV 35
- Fire Department Advancements

Minute Review

- Closed Session Meeting Minutes – May 9th and May 10, 2022*

Recorded Vote:

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

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 7:41 p.m.

State of New Jersey-mandated Flood Ordinance

Township Consulting Engineer Jacqueline Dirmann spoke about proposed Ordinance No. 2023-05, the Floodplain Management Ordinance. She stated that the ordinance had been sent to the State of New Jersey (State) for review on March 20th and the State had not yet provided feedback. Ms. Dirmann stated that the ordinance could be introduced at the following evening's Official Meeting without the receipt of State feedback or the Township Committee could wait to introduce the ordinance after receiving State feedback. Discussion ensued. Committee consensus was reached to remove the introduction of the Floodplain Management Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2023-05) from the following evening's Official Meeting Agenda and consider the ordinance at an upcoming Official Meeting.

Proposed Impervious Cover resolution

Ms. Ann Dooley and Ms. Pat Vogler introduced themselves and spoke about their work with 1) the Environmental Commission and 2) a subcommittee of the Flood Prevention and Mitigation Advisory Committee. Discussion ensued regarding the resolution for consideration at the following evening's Official Meeting pertaining to the "preparation of an impervious cover assessment to identify impervious surfaces and manage stormwater" in Cranford.

Commissioner Black inquired about working with the Army Corps of Engineers. Commissioner Miller Prunty and Mayor Andrews responded.

Township Communication Staff

Commissioner Miller Prunty spoke about an updated Communications position job description. She stated that she believed that the hiring process should be moved forward. Mayor Andrews stated that he agreed and spoke about the importance of the Communications role. Commissioner Black stated that she was not convinced that this matter should be moved forward and elaborated. Commissioner Miller Prunty stated that the Township's current communications processes were not efficient and elaborated. She noted that the Police Department had a Public Information Officer. Further discussion ensued regarding proposed salary and whether there was a budget for the Communications position. Commissioner Curran spoke about his support for a Communications position. Deputy Mayor Gareis stated that the position hiring should not occur until after a Township Administrator was hired. Consensus was reached to post the position. Commissioner Black requested that the salary of the Communications person remain in line with the salaries of other Township employees.

Public Art Commission

Mayor Andrews spoke about starting a Public Arts Commission in Cranford. He noted that he had reviewed Public Art Commission ordinances in other municipalities and briefly elaborated.

Capital Budget Workshop Meeting Follow-up

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Lavona Patterson spoke about the proposed Capital Budget appropriation. Discussion ensued regarding the Capital Budget requests for the Library roof, the Fire Department Rescue Truck, TV35 equipment and the Police Department License Plate Reader and Radar Message Signs.

Union County Drug Recognition Expert Grant

Interim Administrator Ryan Greco spoke about the Drug Recognition Expert Grant and explained the Callout program.

Lincoln Financial Group – Special Pay Plan 401A

Interim Administrator Ryan Greco spoke about implementing a Lincoln Financial Group Special Pay Plan 401A (also known as the Bencor Plan). He stated that the proposed plan would likely be utilized by Fire and Police employees. Ms. Patterson noted that this type of plan is good for both the employee and the employer.

Review Official Meeting Agenda

Mayor Andrews directed the removal of the Floodplain Management ordinance, Ordinance No. 2023-05 from the following evening's Official Meeting Agenda. Discussion then ensued regarding a typographical error on the Construction Fees ordinance (Ordinance No. 2023-04). Township Attorney Ryan Cooper stated that he would address this matter.

Closed Session Minutes of May 9, 2022*

Commissioner Miller Prunty made a motion to adopt the May 9, 2022 Closed Session Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Black seconded the motion. Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioner Miller Prunty and Commissioner Black voted to approve the Closed Session minutes of May 9, 2022. Commissioner Curran abstained from the vote to approve the Closed Session minutes of May 9, 2022.

*The Workshop Agenda referred to Closed Session Minutes of May 9th and May 10, 2022. There was not a May 10, 2022 Closed Session Meeting.

Township Administrator Report

Interim Administrator Ryan Greco stated that the Administrator Report was included in the Agenda package. Commissioner Black inquired about (The New Jersey Historic Trust) grant pertaining to the Hanson House. A brief discussion ensued.

Public Comments

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

Ms. Loretta Smith of 21 Oneida Place – stated that a Communications Officer was crucial and briefly elaborated. She suggested hiring a college student. Commissioner Miller Prunty responded. A brief discussion ensued.

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

Closed Session

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

Resolution No. 2023-94.9

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

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Personnel

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Minute Review

- Closed Session Meeting Minutes – May 9th and May 10, 2022*

Recorded Vote:

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

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 9:29 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Curran, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue
Township Clerk

Dated: April 3, 2023