

The Minutes of the **Workshop Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **August 7, 2023** at 7:01 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 Terrence Curran
Commissioner Paul Gallo
Commissioner Kathleen Miller Prunty
Commissioner Gina Black

Absent: None

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper, Business Administrator/CFO Lavona Patterson and Township Clerk Patricia Donahue were present.

Public Comments

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

Mr. Jeffrey Pistol of 243 Hillside Avenue – provided comments regarding proposed Ordinance No. 2023-08 (pertaining to Short Term Rentals). He spoke about the Planning Board’s Short Term Rental recommendations including the recommendation pertaining to triggers which would cause the revocation of a Short Term Rental permit. Mayor Andrews responded.

Ms. Rita LaBrutto of 104 Arlington Road – provided comments regarding proposed Ordinance No. 2023-08 (pertaining to Short Term Rentals). She suggested that the Planning Board’s recommendations regarding Ordinance No. 2023-08 be implemented within thirty (30) days of the ordinance’s adoption. Ms. LaBrutto stated that most of the lots in the ORC (on North Avenue specifically) were residential. She stated that the proposed ordinance did not cover what would result in the loss of a Short Term Rental permit. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Will Thilly of 22 Bloomingdale Avenue – referring to the Closed Session Agenda, Mr. Thilly inquired about Community Access Unlimited. Mayor Andrews responded. Mr. Thilly inquired about the renovations at the Cranford Pool and Fitness Center. Deputy Mayor Curran responded. Mr. Thilly inquired about the proposed Shade Tree Management Commission and its positions. Deputy Mayor Curran responded. Mr. Thilly inquired about a Land Tax Credit associated with one of developments in the Township. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper and Commissioner Black responded. Mr. Thilly inquired about reading and viewing Closed Session Minutes. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Barry Mazza of 205 Walnut Avenue – spoke about his work with checking the names of war heroes at the Memorial Field monument. He stated he believes the monument contains a number of inaccuracies. Mr. Mazza inquired about the way to move forward to correct the monument. Deputy Mayor Curran stated that the Veterans of Foreign Wars was interested in providing input. Discussion ensued. Mayor Andrews requested that Deputy Mayor Curran gather appropriate stakeholders for this matter.

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

Film Ready New Jersey Certification

Downtown Management Corporation (DMC) Director Caren Demyen stated that she had attended a Film Ready New Jersey Program at Kean University this past Spring with Police colleague Detective James Knight. She stated that the Township had submitted a Film Ready

application with the New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission. Deputy Mayor Curran inquired what companies paid for filming in Cranford. Ms. Demyen responded that there were no formal fees to film in Cranford. She noted that in-kind contributions were recommended. Ms. Demyen stated that she wanted the members of the Township Committee to be aware of the Film Ready Program and that there was no need for formal action or a resolution regarding this matter.

Shade Tree Commission Ordinance

Deputy Mayor Curran spoke about proposed ordinance No. 2023-10 pertaining to the establishment of a Shade Tree Management Commission (Commission). He spoke about replicating the framework found in nearby communities. Deputy Mayor Curran stated that the ordinance would become effective on January 1, 2023. Discussion ensued regarding processes, the “Powers and Duties” of the Commission and a Conservation Center nursery. Committee consensus was reached to introduce Ordinance No. 2023-10 at the following evening’s Official Meeting.

County of Union – 2023 Kids Recreation Trust Grant

Business Administrator/CFO Lavona Patterson stated that the Township would apply for County of Union funding to underwrite air conditioning at the Cranford Recreation Center at 375 Centennial Avenue (Recreation Center). She briefly elaborated about funding and price quotes received for the installation of air conditioning at the Recreation Center.

Review Official Meeting Agenda

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that four (4) resolutions would be updated (and distributed) during the following day pertaining to 1) the one (1) year contract extension with Aquatic Service, Inc. (Resolution No. 2023-261), 2) personnel resolutions for the Finance Department and TV35 (Resolution No.’s 271 and 276) and 3) the Home Elevation Project Bid rejection (Resolution No. 2023-278). Commissioner Black requested that Resolution No. 2023-275 (pertaining to the appointment of Commissioner Gallo to various Committees and Groups) be placed on a Roll Call Vote.

Closed Session Minutes - February 21st, March 6th, March 20th, March 20th II, April 20th, April 25th, June 20th, July 10th and July 11, 2023

Commissioner Black made a motion to adopt the February 21st, March 6th, March 20th, March 20th II, April 20th, April 25th, June 20th, July 10th and July 11, 2023 Closed Session Meeting Minutes. Deputy Mayor Curran seconded the motion. Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Curran, Commissioner Miller Prunty and Commissioner Black voted to approve the Closed Session minutes of February 21st, March 6th, March 20th, March 20th II, April 20th, April 25th and June 20th. Commissioner Gallo abstained from the vote to approve the Closed Session minutes of February 21st, March 6th, March 20th, March 20th II, April 20th, April 25th and June 20th. Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Curran, Commissioner Gallo and Commissioner Black voted to approve the Closed Session minutes of July 10th and July 11, 2023. Commissioner Miller Prunty abstained from the vote to approve the Closed Session minutes of July 10th and July 11, 2023

Commissioner Reports

Mayor Andrews stated that the Army Corps of Engineers Update would be an Agenda item for the next Township Committee Workshop Meeting.

Public Comments

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

Mr. Jeffrey Pistol of 243 Hillside Avenue - provided an update from the 150th Anniversary Board. Discussion ensued regarding a quilt, a Trex bench and a time capsule.

Ms. Rita LaBrutto of 104 Arlington Road – spoke about the drive-through bank property and a grant for open space. Referring to the Closed Session Agenda topic pertaining to Community Access Unlimited, she commented about her hope that a certain home was being considered. Ms. LaBrutto inquired about the Planning Board’s review of a Group Home at Myrtle Street.

Mr. Will Thilly of 22 Bloomingdale Avenue – inquired whether film productions paid for police presence. Commissioner Miller Prunty and Ms. Patterson responded. Mr. Thilly inquired about the Land Tax Credit. Discussion ensued.

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

Closed Session

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

Resolution No. 2023-94.19

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

Personnel

- TV 35
- Finance Department
- Department of Public Works
- Clerk’s Department
- Building Department
- Salary Ordinance

Contractual

- Community Access Unlimited
- Westfield YMCA Update

Minute Review

- Closed Session Meeting Minutes – February 21st, March 6th, March 20th, March 20th II, April 20th, April 25th, June 20th, July 10th and July 11, 2023

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Curran, Commissioners Gallo, Miller Prunty and Black
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Deputy Mayor Curran and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 9:58 p.m.

On motion of Deputy Mayor Curran, seconded by Commissioner Gallo and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue
Township Clerk

Dated: August 7, 2023