

The Minutes of the **Conference Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **August 8, 2023** at 7:07 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.

Ms. Patterson arrived to the Conference Meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Public Comments

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

Mr. Will Thilly of 22 Bloomingdale Avenue – inquired if he could make a presentation in a Township Committee Closed Session regarding some important matters. Mayor Andrews responded that he should email Business Administrator/CFO Lavona Patterson and Township Attorney Ryan Cooper regarding the nature of the matters to discuss.

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

Review Official Meeting Agenda

Mayor Andrews stated that some of the Personnel-related resolutions for consideration at the Official Meeting had been updated. Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that four (4) resolutions had been updated and distributed to the Township Committee earlier that day, specifically 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). She stated that there would be a roll call vote for Resolution No. 2023-275 pertaining to the appointment of Commissioner Gallo to various Committees and Groups.

Public Comments

Ms. Rita LaBrutto of 104 Arlington Road – noted that there were no bids associated with the North Avenue Redevelopment Area (Area). She stated that the interest rates were affecting the Area. Ms. LaBrutto suggested an alternative for the proposed Area including two-(2) family homes and moving “past” the eight (8) units. Ms. LaBrutto suggested that meetings with developers include a Redevelopment Committee member who was preferably a resident.

Commissioner Black inquired about the North Avenue Redevelopment Area and the delay in next steps. Mr. Cooper stated that (the Township’s Consulting Redevelopment Attorney) Michael Ash and Topology were working with architectural firms on this matter and briefly elaborated.

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Deputy Mayor Curran and passed, the Township Committee moved to conduct the Official Meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 8, 2023

Patricia Donahue
Township Clerk