

The Minutes of the **Workshop Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **September 27, 2022** at **6:32 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 Kathleen Prunty
Commissioner Brian Andrews
Commissioner Gina Black
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

Absent: Deputy Mayor Gareis

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

Public Comments

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

Mr. William Thilly of 22 Bloomingdale Avenue inquired about and/or commented about Birchwood Park's Affordable Housing credits, credits associated with a settlement agreement with Hartz Mountain Industries, the amended agreement (2020) between the Township and the Fair Share Housing Center, Round 3 allocations, meeting with Township Attorney Ryan Cooper outside of the Workshop Meeting, areas in need of Redevelopment and thirty (30) year PILOT's (Payment in Lieu of Taxes).

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

Proposed Ordinance – New "Stop Sign" Intersections for 1) Belmont Avenue and Arbor Street and 2) Carolina Street and Fairfield Avenue

Police Lieutenant Matt Nazzaro spoke about a proposed Ordinance which would add stop signs to 1) Belmont Avenue and Arbor Street and 1) Carolina Street and Fairfield Avenue.

In regards to the Carolina Street and Fairfield Avenue intersection, Lieutenant Nazzaro noted that the area had a zigzag design and stated that there were some close call accidents with bicyclists and pedestrians at the Fairfield Avenue and Carolina Street intersection. Lieutenant Nazzaro stated that the area at Belmont Avenue and Arbor Street was a family drop-off location for Orange Avenue School families. He noted that the area contained crosswalks and blind spots. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that the area was also used by bicyclists. Lieutenant Nazzaro stated that the proposed stop sign at Belmont Avenue and Arbor Street would be a perfect complement to Eagle Scout candidate Dan Kennedy's project. Commissioner Andrews stated that he had heard similar complaints for the Locust Street area. Lieutenant Nazzaro responded that the area could be studied. He stated that the Police Department was responsive to both complaints and data information.

Pay to Play Ordinance

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper stated that the Pay to Play Ordinance had been presented at previous Township Committee Meetings and he had no further comments about its introduction. Commissioner O'Connor requested clarification regarding Chapter 6, Article XLIV, Sections 183 and 184. Discussion ensued regarding the effective date of the proposed ordinance. Mr. Cooper stated that the ordinance would be effective thirty (30) days after its adoption date, i.e., if the Township Committee adopted the ordinance at its October 25th Official Meeting, then the ordinance would be effective on November 25th.

Salary Ordinance

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan stated that work had been in progress on the Salary Ordinance since March. He stated that the gist of the ordinance was that employees would receive Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increases including employees who were not at the top of their salary range and employees who had reached the maximum salary in their range. Commissioner Andrews requested clarification regarding employees who had reached their maximum salary. Mr. Cryan responded that employees who had reached the maximum salary in their range would be eligible to receive a COLA increase and all other employees would be eligible to receive a COLA increase and a performance kicker percentage increase.

Cranford Recreation Facility at 375 Centennial Avenue Renovation and Programming Update

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan stated that a work punch list had been developed for Triform Contracting and DMR Architects (DMR). He stated that both the scoreboard and netting had not arrived. Mr. Cryan stated that proposed resolution (Resolution No. 2022-352) regarding the change order for additional improvements pertained to the purchase of high impact boards. Commissioner Black noted that the Township was seeking for the vendors to pay for a portion of the high impact boards. She stated that such boards would be installed behind the nets. Mayor Miller Prunty inquired why only one (1) scoreboard had been delivered. Commissioner Black and Mr. Cryan explained that Tri-Form mistakenly only ordered one scoreboard. Commissioner Black spoke about DMR's performance and the need to request accountability from the DMR project manager. She stated that (Program Specialist) Christian Francisco was working with Recreation Director Steve Robertazzi on matters such as computers, Cintas supplies, traffic issues, landscaping and the garden grant.

Joint Insurance Fund Renewal

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan stated that the three (3)-year term of the Township's Joint Insurance Fund agreement would expire at the end of the year. He stated that the Township's Risk Manager firm (Meeker Sharkey & Hurley) had been asked to survey other Joint Insurance Funds. Mr. Cryan stated that he had targeted November 14th as a Township Committee Meeting to discuss this matter further.

Review Official Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Black requested that she would like to receive a paving project update regularly. Commissioner O'Connor stated that the Township Committee used to receive Engineering Department updates at every Township Committee Meeting. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that Township Consulting Engineer Jacque Dirmann had attended a number of the Township Committee Meetings. Committee consensus was reached that Ms. Dirmann attend the Township Committee Meetings on a monthly basis and Mr. Cryan will share her weekly updates, if not every Meeting.

Commissioner Andrews inquired about the resolution pertaining to the MDTV Realty, LLC litigation award (Resolution No. 2022-342). Township Attorney Cooper responded.

Commissioner Black inquired about the resolution pertaining to the contract award to Connolly & Hickey Historical Architects, LLC (Resolution No. 2022-341). She expressed a desire to be involved in the design process and requested that the Township receive project updates.

Referring to the resolution pertaining to the purchase of holiday decorations for the Special Improvement District (SID) award (Resolution No. 2022-344), CFO Patterson stated that additional monies were needed for the contract award to Rilieghs Outdoor Décor and such funding was taken from the Administration Department. Administrator Cryan stated that if the Township didn't move forward now then the price of the holiday decorations was expected to increase next year. Commissioner Black inquired about the storage of the decorations.

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that the Ordinance pertaining to composting would be considered for final adoption at the October 25th Township Committee Official Meeting. Commissioner Andrews stated that he would forward the Green Team's suggested edits regarding the Composting ordinance.

Minute Approval – Closed Session Minutes of September 13, 2022

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to adopt the September 13, 2022 Closed Session Meeting Minutes. Commissioner O'Connor seconded the motion. Mayor Miller Prunty and Commissioners Andrews, Black and O'Connor voted to approve the Closed Session minutes of September 13, 2022. Deputy Mayor Gareis was absent from the Meeting.

Closed Session

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

Resolution No. 2022-98.19

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
 - Township Consulting Affordable Housing Attorney Michael Edwards
 - Council on Affordable Housing – State-wide efforts
 - Affordable Housing Plan Update

Personnel

- Salary Review
- Department of Public Works
- Collective Bargaining

Contractual

- Police Department
- Westfield YMCA and Cranford Pool & Fitness Center

Minute Review

- Closed Session Minutes of September 13, 2022

Recorded Vote:

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

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Township Committee returned to the Workshop Meeting at 8:03 p.m.

The Township Committee moved to Council Chambers at 8:03 p.m. to conduct the Official Meeting.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 10:39 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue
Township Clerk

Dated: September 27, 2022