

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **September 28, 2021** at 8:01 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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 will be taken at this meeting.

PRESENT: Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty
Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews
Commissioner Jason Gareis
Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

ABSENT: Commissioner Mary O’Connor

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

The invocation was led by Deputy Mayor Andrews, followed by the flag salute.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Gareis, seconded by Commissioner Hannen and passed, the minutes of the Official Meeting of August 10, 2021, and the Conference Meeting of September 14, 2021 were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews, Commissioners Gareis and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner O’Connor

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner Gareis and passed, the Bill List dated September 28, 2021, totaling \$408,632.95 was approved for payment by indicated vote of the Township Committee and is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews, Commissioners Gareis and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner O’Connor

MAYORAL REMARKS

Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty stated that Hurricane Ida assistance was available at the FEMA trailer in the parking lot of Orange Avenue School as well as at the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center in Elizabeth at the O’Donnell Senior Center. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that FEMA teams were visiting Cranford neighborhoods.

Mayor Miller Prunty stated that she had been working with the mayors of seven (7) other towns along the Rahway River to schedule a meeting with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. She explained that the consensus plan that was agreed upon by all the towns and Union and Essex Counties had been rejected by the Army Corps of Engineers. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that everyone on the Township Committee would continue to advocate until there was a flood control project in place.

Mayor Miller Prunty spoke about upcoming public engagement sessions pertaining to the North Avenue Gateway Redevelopment Area.

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Miller Prunty thanked and congratulated the 150th Anniversary Committee for all their hard work. She spoke about the success of Cranford Day and thanked the Cranford Day volunteers.

INFORMAL MEETING

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

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

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Andrews and passed, the following resolutions were adopted by consent agenda:

Resolution No. 2021-332:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, that the salary for Patricia Kozlowski, part-time Clerk/Receptionist within the Clerk's Department, be and hereby is set at \$20.00 per hour, effective September 13, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-333:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on September 28, 2021, that Aaryn Backiel be, and hereby is, appointed as Administrative Assistant/Program Specialist for the Recreation and Parks Department, retroactive to September 13, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-334:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on September 28, 2021, that Lori-Ann Donnelly be, and hereby is, appointed as Fitness Center Manager of the Pool and Fitness Center, retroactive to September 13, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-335:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on September 28, 2021, that Jenna Matousek be, and hereby is, appointed as Aquatics Manager of the Pool and Fitness Center, retroactive to September 13, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-336:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on September 28, 2021, that Carol Kaminski be, and hereby is, appointed as Program Coordinator in the Recreation and Parks Department, effective October 21, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-337:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held September 28, 2021, that Kathleen Nemeth be, and hereby is, appointed as Zoning Officer in the Office of Planning & Zoning, effective October 4, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-338:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on September 28, 2021, that Jessica Meisch be, and hereby is, appointed to the position of Laborer/Driver in the Department of Public Works, effective October 12, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-339:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby ratifies, approves and affirms the resignation of Louis Lambe as a Commissioner/Liaison of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA), effective September 30, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-340:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby ratifies, approves and affirms the resignation of Ashley Legg as a Resident (2) member of the Downtown District Management Corporation (DMC), effective September 30, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-341:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held September 28, 2021, that Roberta Vanata be, and hereby is, appointed as a member of the Cranford Housing Board, Inc., effective September 29, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-342:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, on this 28th day of September, 2021, that the Township Committee hereby accepts, with regrets, the resignation of Regina Hryniewicz, Administrative Assistant within the Building Department, effective October 1, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-343:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, on this 28th day of September 2021, that the Township Committee hereby accepts, with regrets, the resignation of

Sarah Ritter, part-time Administrative Assistant within the Building Department, effective September 28, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-344:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, on this 28th day of September 2021, that the Township Committee hereby accepts, with regrets, the resignation of Ellen O'Donnell, Payroll Specialist within the Finance Department, effective October 8, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-345:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on September 28, 2021, that the Township Committee hereby accepts, with regrets, the retirement of Derek M. Farbanec, a Sergeant within the Cranford Police Department, effective October 1, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-346:

WHEREAS, the Township Committee, in the past, has approved the temporary suspension of parking meter enforcement for shoppers during the holiday season, and this Township Committee wishes to the extend the free shopper parking period; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby authorizes free parking on Friday, November 26, 2021 and Saturday, November 27, 2021 for "Shop Small Saturday", a national campaign to support local businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby authorizes free parking at three (3) and four (4) hour metered spaces in the municipal parking lots and the municipal parking garage and for on-street parking during the period of December 10, 2021 to December 24, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-347:

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Cranford Public Works Department secured vehicle pricing through the Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System, System Identifier 47-CPCPS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-7-1, et seq., and

WHEREAS, Gentilini Motors, 2703 Fire Road, Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey 08234 is the lowest responsible bidder for this contract at a low bid price of \$37,098.00 for the purchase of one (1) 2022 Ford Super Duty F-250 Pickup Truck.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, on this 28th day of September 2021, that Gentilini Motors, 2703 Fire Road, Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey 08234, as more particularly set forth in the Successful Bidder's proposal dated July 30, 2021, which bid proposal is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk; be and hereby is awarded a contract for the purchase of one (1) 2022 Ford Super Duty F-250 Pickup Truck.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk be and hereby are authorized and directed to execute documents in connection with said award of contract.

Resolution No. 2021-348:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford requires On-Site Brush Grinding in the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford requested quotes for On-Site Brush Grinding through a non-fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, J.H. Reid Onsite Recycling, Inc. of P.O. Box 324, South Plainfield, New Jersey, 07080 (yard location is 172 Baekeland Avenue, Middlesex, New Jersey, 08846) has submitted a proposal dated August 6, 2021 indicating they will perform the On-Site Brush Grinding for \$39,100.00; and

WHEREAS, J.H. Reid Onsite Recycling, Inc. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that J.H. Reid Onsite Recycling, Inc. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Cranford in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit J.H. Reid Onsite Recycling, Inc. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer have certified to the availability of funds which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of

Cranford, authorizes the Purchasing Agent to enter into a contract with J.H. Reid Onsite Recycling, Inc. as described herein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification, the Business Entity Contribution Disclosure Certification and the Determination of Value to be placed on file with this resolution.

Said contract amount shall be charged to Account Number 1-01-26-290-145-214.

Resolution No. 2021-349:

WHEREAS, Governor Philip D. Murphy declared a State of Emergency for the State of New Jersey with Executive Order No. 259 on September 1, 2021 in response to Storm Ida; and

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on September 28, 2021, that the Construction Sub-code Official be and hereby is authorized to waive building, electrical, plumbing, fire, mechanical and zoning permit fees for residents and businesses and retail establishments affected by Storm Ida, retroactive to September 1, 2021; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that said authorization to waive said fees shall be in effect for the period from September 1, 2021 through October 15, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-350:

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

Resolution No. 2021-351:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford requires an expert to provide construction administration (engineering) services in connection with the 2021 Capital Road Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford advertised a Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford deemed that the background, experience and qualifications of the respondent herein satisfy the criteria set forth in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, Colliers Engineering & Design Inc. DBA Maser Consulting is familiar with the procedures that are necessary for said improvements and shall perform the tasks as delineated in the September 17, 2021 correspondence; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified as to the availability of funds, which is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey, as follows:

1. **Colliers Engineering & Design Inc. DBA Maser Consulting, 400 Valley Road, Suite 304, Mount Arlington, New Jersey 07856** be and hereby are awarded a contract to perform engineering services in connection with the aforementioned project at a fee not to exceed **\$64,500.00**; and
2. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with Colliers Engineering & Design Inc. DBA Maser Consulting; and
3. This contract is awarded pursuant to the "fair and open" process (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. C-04-21-010-000-S21.

Resolution No. 2021-352:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 28th day September, 2021 that the following checks will be refunded by the Tax Collector to the lien holder according to statutory requirements:

Redemption of Certificate# 20-00020

Block 505.01 Lot 1, Qual C0309

(309 Lincoln Park East)

FIG CUST FIGNJ19LLC & SEC PTY

PO Box 54226

New Orleans, LA 70154

Refund: \$ 1,535.50
(1-01-55-000-010-029)

Premium: \$1,200.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Resolution No. 2021-353:

WHEREAS, there exists a need for collection and marketing of recyclable materials within the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the Township advertised for bid specifications for collection and marketing of recyclable materials to occur within the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday September 15, 2021, the Township received one (1) bid for Collection and Marketing of Recyclable Materials within the Township of Cranford; and
WHEREAS, **Giordano Company Inc. 142-156 Frelinghuysen Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07114** is the lowest responsible bidder for this contract for Year 1 (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021) in the amount of \$516,600.00 and Year 2 (January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022) in the amount of \$521,100.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township will award a contract for Year 1 in the amount of \$516,600.00 with an option to add an additional year at a Year 2 rate of \$521,100.00; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance has certified to the availability of funds which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk; and said contract amount shall be charged to Account Number 2-01-26-305-100-214.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on this 28th day of September 2021, that **Giordano Company Inc.** be, and hereby is, awarded the contract for the Collection and Marketing of Recyclable Materials within the Township of Cranford; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign a contract with **Giordano Company Inc.**

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews, Commissioners Gareis and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner O'Connor

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Don Smith, 21 Oneida Place – Mr. Smith asked about Resolution No. 2021-325 which was approved at the September 14th Township Committee Meeting. He asked about the future of the Centennial Avenue Pool and spoke about the other recreation facilities in town. Discussion ensued.

Gina Black, 34 Columbia Avenue - Ms. Black spoke about the changing demographics in town and asked that the Township Committee consider that information when deciding the future of the Centennial Avenue Pool. She spoke about a recent flood control article which was published in The Patch. Ms. Black stated that there was a strain on the sewers and storm water systems in the Township. She spoke about development and Affordable Housing.

Loretta Smith, 21 Oneida Place – Ms. Smith thanked the Mayor for her words regarding Cranford Day. She stated that it was an honor to work with Mr. Jeff Pistol and spoke about the success of the day. Ms. Smith stated that a Library display set-up commemorating Cranford's 150th Anniversary was scheduled for October 1st.

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

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue

- Spoke about election day, early voting, using the vote-by-mail process and drop box locations;
- Thanked Patricia Kozlowski for her dedication and hard work in the Clerk's Office;
- Thanked Regina Hryniewicz, Sarah Ritter and Ellen O'Donnell for their assistance to the Clerk's Office and wished them luck in their futures.

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan

- Thanked the Department of Public Works for their hard work following storm Ida;
- Provided an update on debris pickup;
- Asked anyone that still has storm debris to call the Department of Public Works;
- Spoke about personnel reorganization within the Recreation Department;
- Thanked Sergeant Derek Farbanec for his service and wished him well in his retirement;
- Thanked Regina Hryniewicz and Sarah Ritter for their hard work and service to the community;
- Thanked Ellen O'Donnell for her hard work and spoke about her contributions to the Township;
- Spoke about vacancies within the Building Department and Finance Department;
- Spoke about the Township's Recycling contract award with Giordano Company Inc.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

- Congratulated Township Administrator Jamie Cryan for his work with Giordano Company Inc. and the 2022 recycling savings that would be passed on to the taxpayers;
- Spoke about the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council's COVID-19 Memorial at St. Helens Church;
- Thanked Louis Lambe for his service to the Community and wished him well in the future;
- Spoke about the appointment of Jessica Meisch to the Department of Public Works;
- Congratulated Sergeant Derek Farbanec on his retirement;
- Wished his daughter-in-law a happy birthday.

Commissioner Jason Gareis

- Wished his son a happy National Son's Day;
- Spoke about Commissioner O'Connor's absence and asked that she hurry back;
- Spoke about an August incident with an autistic non-verbal young adult and both the Police Department resources utilized and the exemplary manner in which the Cranford Police Department employees conducted themselves;
- Commended the Department of Public Works' efforts after Hurricane Ida;
- Spoke about the raising of homes and the bi-weekly planning meetings being held at the Township regarding rebuilding efforts (in light of Hurricane Ida;)
- Encouraged residents to stay "Cranford Strong".

Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews

- Congratulated the promotions within the Parks and Recreation Department;
- Congratulated Kathleen Nemeth on her appointment as Zoning Officer;
- Spoke about the filming going on in town and thanked Caren Demyen, Shayne Temple and Steve Robertazzi for their efforts towards this endeavor;
- Spoke about upcoming events including the Pooch Plunge and Porchfest as well as volunteer opportunities available to residents;
- Spoke about the Pink Out Festival, Autumn Sounds and the Scarecrow Stroll.

Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty

- Thanked Louis Lambe for his service to the Township;
- Congratulated Sergeant Derek Farbanec on his retirement;
- Welcomed Zoning Officer Kathleen Nemeth and Department of Public Works Employee Jessica Meisch;
- Spoke about Commissioner O'Connor and wished her to feel better.

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Andrews and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 28, 2021

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk