

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **February 23, 2021** at 7:42 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Due to the ongoing public health emergency, and the Governor's Executive Orders related to the same, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford will conduct the February 23rd Official Meeting remotely and by electronic means.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 (the "Open Public Meetings Act") and consistent with the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services guidelines, the Township Committee Meeting will be open to the public by electronic means. Residents can view the meetings on TV-35, YouTube CranfordTV35 and via livestream on [TV-35's Facebook Page](#).

Members of the public who wish to participate in the virtual meeting for purposes of making a public comment or to participate in any scheduled public hearing can access the videoconference at <https://meet.google.com/rkv-qdpj-nty>, or by telephone at 213-634-2478, with the access code: 367524470#

Members of the public may submit written comments in advance of a meeting, which will be read during the public portion of the meeting. Written public comments submitted prior to the meeting must identify the name and address of the commenter. No anonymous comments will be accepted. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail with the subject line "Public Comment-Township of Cranford Township Committee- Meeting Date of February 23, 2021" to the Clerk of the Township Committee, Patricia Donahue at clerk@cranfordnj.org or by mail addressed to: Patricia Donahue, Municipal Clerk, Township of Cranford, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016. E-mailed comments must be received at least eight (8) hours prior to the meeting. Mailed comments must be received by 12:00 p.m. the day before the meeting.

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.
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of February 8, 2021, the Conference and Official Meetings of February 9, 2021, and the Reorganization Meeting of February 9, 2021 were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Gareis and passed, the Bill List dated February 23, 2021, totaling \$488,143.81 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, Hannen and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

MAYORAL REMARKS

Announced that a public health update regarding the Coronavirus would be held later in the meeting by Health Officer Michael Fitzpatrick and Fire Lieutenant Matthew Lubin, Coordinator Emergency Management Council.

INFORMAL MEETING

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

Rita LaBrutto, 104 Arlington Road,

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

ORDINANCE – Introduction**Ordinance No. 2021-01:**

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2021-01 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE XLIII, TO ESTABLISH AN ANTI-NEPOTISM POLICY”

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Deputy Mayor Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Gareis, and passed by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: Commissioner Hannen and O’Connor

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2021-01 to be held March 30, 2021 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on March 4, 2021.

Ordinance No. 2021-03:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2021-03 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 255 LAND DEVELOPMENT, TO CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OVERLAY DISTRICTS”

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Commissioner Gareis, seconded by Commissioner O’Connor, and passed by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews and Commissioners Gareis and O’Connor

Nay: Commissioner Hannen

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2021-03 to be held March 30, 2021 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on March 4, 2021.

Ordinance No. 2021-04:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2021-04 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 255 LAND DEVELOPMENT, SECTION 255-68 MANDATORY AFFORDABLE HOUSING SET-ASIDE REQUIREMENTS”

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Deputy Mayor Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Hannen, and passed by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2021-04 to be held March 30, 2021 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on March 4, 2021.

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. 2021-123:

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

Resolution No. 2021-124:

APPROVING CONTRACTS FOR ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT PROFESSIONALS

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Cranford (“Zoning Board”) to engage various experts in legal, engineering and planning services; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford advertised for a Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ/P) for the Provision of Various 2021 Professional Services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-71, the Zoning Board may contract for legal and other expert services within the amount appropriated for such services by the Township Committee;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Zoning Board Resolution 2021-02, the Zoning Board appointed Mark S. Rothman, Esq. of Robbins and Robbins LLP, as Zoning Board attorney for the year 2021, and awarded contracts for the same;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Zoning Board Resolution 2021-03, the Zoning Board appointed Jacqueline Dirmann, PE, CME, CFM of Maser Consulting P.A. (to be known as Colliers Engineering & Designs Inc.), as Zoning Board engineering expert for the year 2021, and awarded a contract for the same;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Zoning Board Resolution 2021-04, the Zoning Board appointed Philip Abramson of Topology NJ, LLC, as Zoning Board planning expert for the year 2021, and awarded contracts for the same;

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Finance have certified to the availability of funds for the aforementioned Zoning Board Attorney contract upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk. The aforementioned Zoning Board engineering expert and Zoning Board planning expert contracts will be funded through project escrow;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey, authorizes and approves the issuance of contracts awarded pursuant to Zoning Board Resolutions 2021-02 through -04.

Resolution No. 2021-125:

WHEREAS, an application has been filed by Christopher Quigley, 5 Normandie Place, Cranford, New Jersey, for a limousine/livery service vehicle license for Quigley Transportation Corp; and

WHEREAS, the submitted vehicle license application form is complete in all respects, and the fees have been paid, and

WHEREAS, the applicant has complied with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:16-13 et seq. with respect to proof of insurance;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford does hereby approve, retroactive to January 1, 2021, the issuance of a limousine/livery service vehicle license to Christopher Quigley (dba Quigley Transportation Corp/Clover Coaches Quigley Transportation Corp.) for a license term ending December 31, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-126:

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the Township of Cranford to engage an expert to provide Planning services in connection with the preparation of a Redevelopment Plan for Block 541, Lot 2, Qualifiers C01 through C07, and known as 750 Walnut Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford advertised for a Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ/P) for the Provision of Various 2021 Professional Services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 2021-21, the Township of Cranford deemed that the background, experience, and qualifications of Topology NJ LLC satisfied the criteria set forth in the RFQ/P, and designated Topology as a firm for providing the Township planning services; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Finance has certified to the availability of funds upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget 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. Topology NJ LLC, 60 Union Street, #1N, Newark, New Jersey 07016, be and hereby is awarded a contract to provide planning services, at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, in connection with the preparation of a Redevelopment Plan for Block 541, Lot 2, Qualifiers C01 through C07, and known as 750 Walnut Avenue; and
2. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with Topology NJ LLC; and
3. This contract is awarded pursuant to the “fair and open” process, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. 1-01-20-100-100-216.

Resolution No. 2021-127:

WHEREAS, prior years General Capital Fund Receivable balances exist in the records of the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the balance of the Union County - Infrastructure and - Ramps grants that will not be received is as follows:

ORD #2019-05	Construction of Handicapped Access Ramps	\$2,000.00
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ORD #2020-06	Resurface/Reconstruction of Township Roads	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
		\$4,500.00

WHEREAS, certain General Capital Improvements appropriated balances remain dedicated to projects; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said unfunded balances:

ORD #2019-05	Construction of Handicapped Access Ramps	\$2,000.00
ORD #2020-06	Resurface/Reconstruction of Township Roads	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
		\$4,500.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to cancel the balances from the records of the Township.

Resolution No. 2021-128:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 9th day February that the following checks will be refunded by the Tax Collector to the lien holder according to statutory requirements:

Redemption of Certificate# 20-00011

Block 266 Lot 1.03 Q: C0303

4 Riverside Drive Unit #303

FIG CUST FIGNJ19LLC & SEC PARTY

PO Box 54226

New Orleans, NJ 70154

Refund: \$244.30

(1-01-55-000-010-029)

Premium: \$1000.00

(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTION – By Roll Call Vote

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

Resolution No. 2021-129:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, that the Township Clerk be and hereby is authorized to advertise for the solicitation of Expressions of Interest for the North Ave Gateway Redevelopment Area.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hannen expressed concerns regarding the resolution. Concerned with the use of eminent domain. Is hopeful that the municipality will continue to keep all the properties owners informed. Expressed concern that the proposed number of parking units would interfere with the current parking available for consumers in Municipal Parking Lot Number One (1.)

Deputy Mayor Andrews explained that this resolution gives the town the opportunity to receive input from architectural firms and designers. Is excited to see what they come up with. Stated that the town is not bound by any of the proposals it receives but it is an opportunity to take advantage of private sector experience. Explained that they are leaning towards transit-oriented development. Fees this is a good step and is eager to see what will happen and to hear the publics' input regarding the proposals received.

Commissioner O'Connor stated that she is in favor of this resolution but with some reservation, as she shares some of Commissioner Hannen's concerns. Is against the eminent domain portion of the plan. Hopeful there will be alternative solutions in the proposals that will lead her in a more favorable direction towards the development.

Mayor Miller Prunty explained that part of the process is for the Township Committee to provide the parameters and guidelines for developers and to have fresh eyes to look at the project. Stated that the Township is not bound to anything and this is an opportunity for the town to see potential for that area. This will be a long process that will have lots of opportunities along the way.

Commissioner Gareis feels the different approaches are good. Stated that it does not hurt to see the other opportunities that are out there. Sees no harm in getting insight from outside professionals.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews and Commissioners Gareis and O'Connor

Nay: Commissioner Hannen

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Miller Prunty opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no comments, Mayor Miller Prunty closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan

- Reminded residents that the ten-day grace period to pay property taxes ends tomorrow. Provided contact information;
- Reminded residents that Town Hall will be closed Friday and Monday for the observation of Lincoln's Birthday and President's Day.

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper

- Stated that the Township settled with the Fair Share Housing Center and Hartz Mountain late last year and the Township is hopefully in the final approach to getting court approval for the third round of the affordable housing plan which is scheduled for April 12, 2021. Explained the process that will happen over the next six to eight weeks, and there will be several resolutions and ordinances before the Planning Board and Township Committee to implement the settlement.

MAYORAL REMARKS - Public Health Update – Coronavirus

Mayor Miller Prunty stated that she planned to tape a meeting with Health Officer Fitzpatrick and Fire Lieutenant/OEM Coordinator Lubin and air such information on TV35.

Fire Lieutenant Matt Lubin, Coordinator, Emergency Management Council was present and provided a Coronavirus update. Realizes there is a lot of public interest, particularly in the vaccine program. Discussed the number of vaccines that have been administered in the state of New Jersey. Stated that there is a significant amount of demand for the vaccine than there is supply of the vaccine. Explained the process that must be followed in order for states to receive the vaccine and discussed the six (6) mega sites that are located in New Jersey. Spoke about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and its anticipated availability which will increase the allotment. Explained the process to register for a vaccine and provided the information. Suspects that in six to eight weeks there will be more supply of the vaccine to be distributed. Assured the public that the State's plan is to get a vaccine for everyone that wants to be vaccinated by the early summer. Discussed various programs to get hospice and homecare individuals vaccinated. Feels everyone still needs to follow the CDC guidelines. Discussed COVID-19 testing and how it works.

Mayor Miller Prunty shared that the County website has a lot of information for the public regarding COVID-19. Stated that the County set up a call center to register for the vaccine. Encouraged the public to utilize this program and share the information. Announced that the Township posts updates every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on various Township social media sites. Discussed the number of active cases in long-term care facilities in the past few months.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Mary O'Connor

- Hopeful there are more opportunities for the public to receive the vaccine. Discussed her experience with trying to register her mother;
- Announced the Coffee and Cocoa with a Cop event that will be taking place. Provided information and encouraged the public to attend;
- Discussed the snow sculpture of Abraham Lincoln that a Cranford resident made on their front lawn. Thanked him and commended his talent;
- Expressed her condolences to Commissioner Hannen and his family on the passing of his mother;
- Encouraged everyone to wear their masks and social distance.

Commissioner Jason Gareis

- Commended Superintendent of Public Works Hastrup and the entire Department of Public Works (DPW) on a job well done with the snow storm earlier this month. Understands that not everyone will be happy with the cleanup but explained that there was a lot of snow and feels the DPW did

an admiral job. Superintendent of Public Works Superintendent Hastrup did a wonderful job communicating with the Township Committee and Administration. Discussed concerns he received from residents and was happy that all complaints were rectified by the DPW and the follow-up feedback from the residents were positive and complementary. Spoke about the weather forecast for the next couple of days. Recommended any residents with concerns to reach out to the Township Committee and they will convey them to DPW.

Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews

- Echoed Commissioner Gareis' comments regarding the cleanup of the snow storm. Expressed his appreciation to the Department of Public Works (DPW). Is very impressed with the responsiveness of Superintendent of Public Works Superintendent Hastrup and his department. Also acknowledged that there is room for improvement on the Township Committee's part. Discussed various issues that need to be addressed. Spoke about the need to hire an Assistant Superintendent of Public Works and discussed various retirements coming up and the need for new hires to be trained on the large equipment. Thanked Police Chief Greco for transferring an employee to help DPW fulltime. Discussed the equipment that needs to be replaced and upgraded through the Capital Budget. Provided contact information for residents with concerns;
- Welcomed Fettle Market to Cranford. Provided background on the owner. Encouraged residents to show their support and stop by;
- Announced that it is National Pizza Day and if you order pizza in the downtown send your receipt to the DMC for a chance to win a free prize;
- Discussed Galentine's Day Weekend;
- Announced that the unveiling of the Take Over, Make Over project is February 12, 2021. Thanked the businesses and volunteers that supported this event;
- Announced the My Furry Valentine event. Provided information for those interested;
- Announced the Fire and Ice event to take place and the Wing Contest. Provided information for those interested;
- Announced that there will be a Virtual Restaurant Week the end of February;
- Encouraged residents to participate in the Downtown Cranford Story Walk through history;
- Discussed an informational video he did with Recreation and Parks Director Robertazzi regarding all the virtual programs that Cranford is offering;
- Expressed his condolences to Commissioner Hannen on the passing of his mother.

Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

- Spoke about his parents, his wife, his family and the passing of his mother.

Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty

- Stands by her commitment to keep the public informed regarding projects happening in town. Intends to do a series of virtual question and answer sessions to keep the public informed;
- Read an excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King;
- Expressed her condolences to Commissioner Hannen.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Gareis and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 9, 2021

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk