

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **May 25, 2021** at 8:13 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.
Commissioner Mary O’Connor

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

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

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Commissioner O’Connor read the Mayor’s Proclamation:

Recognition of Jason Quinones, Cranford Soccer Club

WHEREAS, Jason Quinones has been a Cranford resident for over eighteen (18) years, where he and his wife, Carole, have raised their family on Walnut Avenue. Each of their four children, Brennan, Kelsey, Sean and Drew, have played for The Cranford Soccer Club; and

WHEREAS, The Cranford Soccer Club is helping foster the enhancement and development of soccer for Cranford residents of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, our community thrives because of the selflessness of volunteers like Jason Quinones. For fifteen (15) years serving as a Board member of the Cranford Soccer Club, including serving as President for the last five (5) years, Jason has put the children of Cranford first; and

WHEREAS, it is no exaggeration to say that thousands of children from Cranford have had a better experience with soccer because of Jason’s efforts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Quinones’ caring, considerate manner and tireless work on behalf of the Club is evident in more than just the smiles on the faces of the children who play soccer in Cranford. Mr. Quinones’ work with the Cranford Soccer Club’s infrastructure, i.e., the installation of both lights and turf on Memorial Field, will serve as a shining legacy of Mr. Quinones service to our community; and

WHEREAS, we thank Jason Quinones for all he has done for our children. The Cranford Soccer Club hopes to carry forward Mr. Quinones’ selfless and energetic spirit and attitude; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford thanks and commends Jason Quinones for his dedication to the Cranford community and to his work as a leading advocate for the Cranford Soccer Club and wishes him much success in all his future endeavors.

Mr. Quinones thanked the members of the Township Committee, his family and his friends, Matt and Mike (for coming to the Meeting.) He stated that he was one person of many. Mr. Quinones spoke about the wonderful Board as well as the Township Committee being instrumental to the success the Club has had in town. Mr. Quionnes stated that he was truly honored.

MAYORAL REMARKS

Mayor Miller Prunty spoke about the introduction of an ordinance that evening which would temporarily pause opening cannabis businesses in Cranford. She stated that this step will allow Cranford to take the necessary time to review all aspects of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Act. She further elaborated. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that this ordinance is not a permanent decision about how cannabis will be or won’t be in Cranford.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Gareis, seconded by Commissioner Hannen and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of May 10, 2021 and the Conference and Official Meetings of May 11, 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 Deputy Mayor Andrews and passed, the Bill List dated May 25, 2021, totaling \$674,291.56 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

INFORMAL MEETING

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

Pete Dickson, 230 North Avenue West, stated that they had spoken about Ordinance No. 2021-11 at last night's Meeting and thanked the members of the Township Committee for hearing him. Noted he wanted to speak again to put his comments on the record. Mr. Dickson asked members of the Township Committee if they had an opinion on what the negatives or the reservations, they had regarding allowing the State to govern this when they do roll it out. He briefly elaborated. Mayor Miller Prunty stated she had not read the entire Act but certainly in most cases, when given the opportunity, we would rather have something tailored for our own community. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper noted that the State had not yet issued its regulations yet. Mr. Dickson inquired about the expected timeline associated with Cranford's plan. Mr. Dickson noted that Bayonne approved a cannabis ordinance on March 17th and elaborated.

Commissioner Gareis stated that that the Cannabis Working Group was meeting the following evening and the timeline matter was on his notes as an item to discuss and elaborated. He acknowledged the regulation efforts of other municipalities, such as Union Township and Scotch Plains.

Turney Baba, 131 Mohawk Drive, stated that he was also here to discuss Ordinance No. 2021-11. Stated that he appreciated the comments today regarding taking the time to have all the input to make the right decision. Wanted to clarify that if we had moved earlier, we could have had been in the position of some other towns who have comprehensive plans. Stated that it's important that the voices of the public are heard. He stated that he appreciated that Commissioner Gareis shared with him that seventy (70) per cent of Cranford residents voted in favor of the legalization of marijuana. Mr. Baba stated that the make-up of the Working Group should take full account for the public and the residents. Suggested that there was not enough widespread knowledge about this ordinance. Urged that if there wasn't one hundred (100) per cent confidence that the Working Group represented the seventy (70) per cent that voted in favor of the Cannabis legislation, then we may consider re-opening up the opportunity to join the Working Group and elaborated. Mr. Baba urged that the voices are being heard in the Working Group and not just in Public Comments.

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

ORDINANCE - Introduction

Ordinance No. 2021-11:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2021-11 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE BY PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF ANY CLASS OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD AND AMENDING CHAPTER 255 OF THE CRANFORD MUNICIPAL CODE"

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Commissioner Gareis, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Gareis stated he had prepared some additional comments but felt that between the Mayor's comments and the colloquy between the two residents, most of his points that he wanted to get out had been made. In regards to the "opt-out" ordinance, after consulting with the Township Attorney and with other municipalities, we believe that the "opt-out" ordinance is the correct way to proceed and then to regulate back from that point.

Commissioner O'Connor stated that the Working Group is fact-based not opinion (-based) and elaborated. She stated that it was a well-made point to make sure that everyone was represented.

Deputy Mayor Andrews stated he appreciated the public expressing interest in this. He stated that he was voting in favor of it because he believes the Cannabis Task Force should have the time to do it its work. He stated that he believed it was our obligation to have a lot of public input and discussion and elaborated.

The Ordinance passed by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2021-11 to be held July13, 2021 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on June 3, 2021.

ORDINANCE - Introduction

Ordinance No. 2021-12:

The Township Clerk by title only Ordinance No. 2021-12 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.

Commissioner Hannen made a motion to amend the Ordinance, specifically Section four (4) of Chapter 255, Article five (5), Section 36, Subsection I, Number three (3) Accessory Uses, Subsection A, Parking Garages (where Subsection A, Parking Garages, would be eliminated.)

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue asked Township Attorney Ryan Cooper what the roll call vote would now pertain to. Mr. Cooper responded that Commissioner Hannen's motion was not seconded. He stated the amendment was not approved by the Court and Special Master. Ms. Donahue stated that the roll call vote would pertain to Ordinance 2012-12.

The Ordinance 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. 2021-12 to be held July13, 2021 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on June 3, 2021.

ORDINANCE – Final Reading and Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 2021-09:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2021-09 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A PEDESTRIAN MALL ON EASTMAN STREET BETWEEN NORTH AVENUE AND MILN STREET"

Said ordinance having been advertised and posted in accordance with law, Deputy Mayor Andrews opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Deputy Mayor Andrews closed the public hearing.

On motion of Deputy Mayor Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Gareis.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner O'Connor stated that she was a reluctant no because she still had some outstanding concerns.

Deputy Mayor Andrews stated that he was an enthusiastic yes.

The Ordinance passed by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: Commissioners Hannen and O'Connor

Abstained: None

Absent: None

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. 2021-210

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 1994. C.72

WHEREAS, in order for the Township of Cranford to meet our financial obligations, maintain the tax collection rate, provide uniformity for tax payments and save the unnecessary cost of interest expenses on borrowing it would be in our best interest to do so; and

WHEREAS, the municipal Tax Collector and the Chief Financial Officer have completed an estimated tax levy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3, and have signed a certification showing the tax levies for the previous year, the tax rates and the range of permitted estimated tax levies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union and the State of New Jersey on this 25th day of May 2021 as follows:

1. The Municipal Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the municipality for the third installment of 2021 taxes. The Tax Collector shall proceed and take such actions as permitted and required by P.L. 1994, c.72 (N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.2 and 54:4-66.3).
2. The entire estimated tax levy for 2021 is hereby set at: **\$109,892,774.67** and Special District is **\$178,854.27**
3. The estimated third quarter tax bill is due August 1, 2021. Interest will be charged after August 10, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-211

APPROVE RELEASE OF CONTRACT RETAINAGE AND PERFORMANCE BOND FOR THE NORTHEAST QUADRANT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Contractor, Underground Utilities Corporation, 711 Commerce Road, Linden, New Jersey, 07036 has submitted a Maintenance Bond Number #106982511M in the amount of \$2,406,453.18 to the Township in connection with aforementioned project; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Engineering Department has indicated that Underground Utilities Corporation has completed the project and has met all requirements for final payment and is recommending the return of the Performance Bond #106982511 in the amount of \$2,188,198.00 currently on file with the Township Clerk of the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Engineering Department recommends the release of contract retainage and final payment in the amount of \$49,768.64 to Underground Utilities Corporation, for the Northeast Quadrant Stormwater Management Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorizes the release of the Performance Bond and release of contract retainage to Underground Utilities Corporation, in connection with the Northeast Quadrant Stormwater Management Project.

Resolution No. 2021-212

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 25th day of May, 2021, that the Tax Collector has been authorized to refund tax overpayments for the reason noted:

Resident Tax Overpayment

Block 249 Lot 1 200 Arbor Street
Attorney Title Services, LLC
6 South Avenue East
Cranford, NJ 07016

Refund \$ 3,297.40
(1-01-55-000-010-025)

Resident Tax Overpayment

Block 596 Lot 1 39 Wall Street
Nigro, Antonio & Marissa
972 Midland Boulevard
Union, NJ 07083

Refund \$ 2,762.60
(1-01-55-000-010-025)

Resolution No. 2021-213

EXHIBIT B

Resolution to Apply for Funds: Two copies of this resolution must be included in the completed application. Each of the municipality and the library/nonprofit agency/association library must certify that they are authorizing their governing bodies to submit this grant application. This resolution may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which together shall be one instrument.

The Township of Cranford and the Cranford Public Library
Municipality Library/Nonprofit Agency

hereby certify that permission has been granted to apply for the project entitled the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act, in the amount of:
\$ 1,111,443

The filing of this application was authorized at the official meeting of the governing body of the Municipality/Library/Nonprofit Agency held on: Tuesday, May 25, 2021.

For the Municipality:

_____	_____ Signature
<u>Kathleen Miller Prunty, Mayor</u>	Certification Signature <u>Jamie Cryan, Township Administrator</u>
Typed Name and Title	Typed Name and Title
<u>May 25, 2021</u>	<u>May 25, 2021</u>
Date	Date

For the Library/Non-Profit Agency:

_____	_____ Signature
<u>Patricia Pavlak, Board President</u>	Certification Signature <u>Arline McCloskey, Board Secretary</u>
Name and Title	Typed Name and Title
<u>May 27, 2021</u>	<u>May 27, 2021</u>
Date	Date

Resolution No. 2021-214

WHEREAS, the Cranford High School (“CHS”) Class of 2021 Project Graduation Committee, in conjunction with the CHS Parent-Teacher Association (“PTA”), plans annually a Project Graduation event as a fun and safe post-graduation event for graduating seniors that is an alcohol and drug-free event; and

WHEREAS, the Project Graduation Committee has requested to host this year’s event at the Orange Avenue Pool on June 22, 2021 from 10:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. on June 23, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Project Graduation event will include food, a deejay, carnival games, a hypnotist, tattoo artists, a photo walk, and inflatables and related entertainment; and

WHEREAS, the Project Graduation event will be staffed by adult volunteers and Cranford Police Department officers, and the Project Graduation Committee has established Rules/Guidelines that all participants must acknowledge and adhere to.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford approves the Project Graduation Committee’s use of the Orange Avenue Pool for the Project Graduation event on June 22, 2021 from 10:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. on June 23, 2021;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Committee approves a waiver of local noise, hours of operation and related ordinances, for all Project Graduation activities occurring **within** the Orange Avenue Pool facility and to the extent such activities are consistent with and conform to the Project Graduation proposal and Rules/Guidelines.

Resolution No. 2021-215

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE 2020 VARIOUS ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., bids were opened in the presence of the Purchasing Agent and the Township Clerk; and

WHEREAS, there were eleven (11) bids received with the low bidder for the project being DLS Contracting Inc., 36 Montesano Road, Fairfield, New Jersey, 07004, with a Total Base Bid price of \$557,824.11; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer and other appropriate Township Officials have reviewed the bids and recommended an award of contract, for base bid only, for this project to DLS Contracting Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer reviewed the available funding for the improvements and has certified that sufficient funds are available for said purpose by way of Bond Ordinance No. 2020-06 and that such improvements will be charged to C-04-20-006-000-201; and

WHEREAS, this Project is funded by way of a capital improvements bond ordinance stated herein as provided by Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, this project is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the general public in the Township of Cranford.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, Union County, New Jersey that the above referenced construction project is awarded to DLS Contracting Inc., 36 Montesano Road, Fairfield, New Jersey, 07004 for Base Bid in the amount of \$557,824.11 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2021-216

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford requires an expert to provide construction administration (engineering) services in connection with the 2020 Various Roadway 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 as Maser Consulting is familiar with the procedures that are necessary for said improvements and shall perform the tasks as delineated in the April 29, 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 **\$59,750.00**; 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-04-20-006-000-S22

Resolution No. 2021-217

RESOLUTION AWARDING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE ELM STREET AREA DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 10:30 am, bids were opened in the presence of the Purchasing Agent and the Township Clerk; and

WHEREAS, there were nine (9) bids received with the low bidder for the project being American Asphalt & Milling Services, LLC, 96 Midland Avenue, Kearny, New Jersey, 07032, with a base bid price of \$818,288.64, plus Alternate Bid ‘A’ amount of \$24,883.32, for a Total Bid Amount of \$843,171.96; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer and other appropriate Township Officials have reviewed the bids and recommend award of contract for base bid only for this project to American Asphalt & Milling Services, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer reviewed the available funding for the improvements and has certified that sufficient funds are available for said purpose by way of Bond Ordinance No. 2020-06 and that such improvements will be charged to C-04-20-006-000-202; and

WHEREAS, this Project is funded by way of a capital improvements bond ordinance stated herein as provided by Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, this project is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the general public in the Township of Cranford.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, Union County, New Jersey that the above referenced construction project is awarded to American Asphalt & Milling Services, LLC, 96 Midland Avenue, Kearny, New Jersey, 07032 for the Base Bid Amount of \$818,288.64, plus Alternate Bid ‘A’ in the amount of \$24,883.32 for a Total Bid amount of \$843,171.96 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2021-218

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford requires an expert to provide construction administration (engineering) services in connection with the Elm Street Area Drainage 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 May 19, 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 **\$86,400.00**; 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-04-20-006-000-S22.

Resolution No. 2021-219

WHEREAS, the Cranford Jaycees is a local membership and nonprofit organization that makes numerous contributions to the Cranford community through its volunteering, community events, and college scholarship program; and

WHEREAS, the Cranford Jaycees annually host an Induction Barbeque to acknowledge the Cranford High School Seniors receiving college scholarships from the Cranford Jaycees and to swear-in new Jaycees Officers, and has requested the use of Hanson Park, for the Induction Barbeque; and

WHEREAS, the Induction Barbeque will comply with all applicable COVID-19 restrictions, which currently do not limit attendance at outdoor gatherings;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford approves the Jaycees' use of Hanson Park on Saturday, June 5, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., including the consumption of alcohol, consistent with all applicable State laws, regulations, COVID-19 restrictions, and municipal ordinances.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-220

WHEREAS, the Newcomers' Club of Cranford is for women who have recently moved to Cranford, Garwood or Kenilworth, New Jersey or current residents who have recently experienced a change in life status that opened the door for new activities and friendships; and

WHEREAS, the Cranford Jaycees wish to hold an end-of-year dinner meeting at Hanson Park on June 8, 2021, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., to celebrate the Club's members and accomplishments prior to breaking for the summer; and which such dinner meeting will include "bring your own" (BYOB) beer and wine;

WHEREAS, the dinner meeting will comply with all applicable COVID-19 restrictions, which currently do not limit attendance at outdoor gatherings;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford approves the Newcomers' Club of Cranford's use of Hanson Park on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., including the consumption of alcohol, consistent with all applicable State laws, regulations, COVID-19 restrictions, and municipal ordinances.

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 Commissioner Gareis, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the following resolution was adopted by **roll call vote**:

Resolution No. 2021-221

WHEREAS, John Dillon, Lieutenant within the Cranford Fire Department, is qualified for a leave of absence pursuant to the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA) and the New Jersey Paid Family Leave Act (NJPFLA) for the care of a newborn.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that John Dillon is approved for a FMLA/NJFLA/NJPFLA leave of absence beginning on or about July 31, 2021, using accumulated time as available as employee so elects;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that John Dillon shall comply with all provisions of law during the FMLA/NJFLA/NJPLA leave of absence, including providing all required medical proofs.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: Commissioner Hannen

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Chemda Mindy Kipness, 26 Colby Lane - stated that she is a member of the Union County Residents United, a group formed to help fight the cell tower; stated she is extremely proud of the Zoning Board's unanimous denial of the cell tower application. Ms. Kipness stated that many of her neighbors and she have four (4) major concerns: 1. Verizon and other applicants will appeal the Zoning Board's decision and will use bullying tactics to push the township for a settlement; 2. the Town Council will either settle with Verizon or override the Zoning Board's unanimous decision of the application; 3. that the Town Council will fight the appeal but will not hire an attorney who is a land use attorney

or who has a winning track record. 4. extremely concerned with transparency going forward with this process; extremely concerned regarding our neighborhood; urged our elected officials to stand with the Zoning Board and to stand with the community and defend Cranford against this terrible intrusion on a quiet residential neighborhood.

Mayor Miller Prunty asked Township Attorney Ryan Cooper to respond to Ms. Kipness' questions.

Mr. Cooper stated he would address what he could but noted that there were some things he could not address. Mr. Cooper stated that an appeal had not been filed. He noted that the Township had positioned itself to respond if an appeal is filed. Mr. Cooper noted that up until two (2) years ago, Union County College was not propelled to come before the Zoning Board and Planning Board. Mr. Cooper stated that the Township Committee of two (2) years ago demanded that any application get first approved by the Zoning Board and not for an advisory review, but for a binding and obligatory review.

Ms. Kipness inquired how the residents who are concerned about the cell tower matter would be notified when there is an appeal. Mr. Cooper responded that he would coordinate with the Mayor, the Township Committee and Administrator Cryan and elaborated.

Rita LaBrutto - stated that she wanted to reiterate and show her support for the cell tower (matter) and the residents and briefly elaborated.

Ms. LaBrutto inquired about the berm as it appeared in the 750 Walnut Avenue concept plan. She stated that she would like to see the berm stay. Ms. LaBrutto stated that she believed that residents would prefer to see a berm rather than a three (3) to five (5) story building and noted especially if the building had a PILOT associated with it. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that she would not have commented on the berm as there is no definite plan for 750 Walnut Avenue at this point. Ms. LaBrutto reiterated her preference for the berm to stay.

Ms. LaBrutto spoke about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) associated with the Wells Fargo property, which she believed had an address of 201 Walnut Avenue. Ms. LaBrutto stated that Item D on the MOU referred to numbers which had been forwarded from Iron Ore to the Township and the Tax Assessor. She elaborated about another PILOT and another tax abatement. Ms. LaBrutto stated that she had requested information about the MOU via an OPRA request and had not received these referenced numbers in the OPRA response. Ms. LaBrutto stated that if the Township Committee voted on something then the associated numbers should be available to review. She noted that tax abatements and PILOT's were not popular and elaborated.

Ms. LaBrutto asked each member of the Township Committee to answer a question: what was their vision for Parking Lot One (1), specifically, whether the Parking Lot One (1) should be open space or a parking deck.

Commissioner Hannen stated that Parking Lot One (1) should stay the way it is and elaborated. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that she would not be so presumptuous to assert that her vision is the vision. Ms. LaBrutto responded that we vote for you and we need to know what we are voting for. Mayor Miller Prunty spoke about the upcoming process and not going into the process with a closed mind. Deputy Mayor Andrews stated that we don't have enough community spaces downtown in general. He stated that Parking Lot One (1) serves a valuable purpose. He noted that we need to preserve and build on our public space options and elaborated. Commissioner Gareis stated that he hadn't prejudged the proposals. He said that he would like to see where the Evaluation Committee goes with it. Commissioner Gareis stated that he agreed with Deputy Mayor Andrews, that as the last year and a half has shown us, open public spaces, especially in the downtown, are valuable. Commissioner O'Connor stated that she would like to do everything possible to preserve the parking lot and elaborated. Ms. LaBrutto stated that the parking lot was pivotal and elaborated. She then spoke about the effect of a parking garage on Parking Lot One (1). Mayor Miller Prunty stated that there had not been a decision regarding a parking garage on the referenced corner as there was not a Redevelopment Plan for this space. Commissioner Gareis spoke about the use of the term, "wrapped," as it pertained to a parking lot and briefly elaborated.

Gina Black, 34 Columbia Avenue inquired when we would be able to see these Expressions of Interest as well as when there would be a meeting with the public and elaborated. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that the Committee was meeting on either June 1st or June 2nd. She stated that there would be a presentation at

the Township Committee's June 15th Meeting. Further discussion ensued between Ms. Black and Mayor Miller Prunty.

Tom Usinowicz, 418 Casino Avenue inquired about the recent utility incident in his neighborhood specifically, about the expected paving of the street, the twenty-four (24) hour law enforcement vehicle presence and what the incident would cost the Township. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that the incident didn't cost the Township anything as it was the responsibility of the utility company. She stated that the police vehicles were needed for security for the area and briefly elaborated. In regards to paving, Mayor Miller Prunty stated that the Township Consulting Engineer was waiting for the Gas Company to finish their work first. Mayor Piller Prunty stated that the street had been scheduled for work.

Mayor Miller Prunty spoke about the incredible patience and understanding shown by the residents of Manor and Casino Avenues. Mr. Usinowicz inquired whether there was a place to look for the incident updates. Mayor Miller Prunty provided website information and noted that updates could also be found in the Township's newsletter. Commissioner Hannen provided additional information regarding the law enforcement vehicle presence and the paving schedule.

Turney Baba, 131 Mohawk Drive inquired if the police expense was being reimbursed. Mayor Miller Prunty responded that the Police presence expenses were being reimbursed.

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

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue

- Stated that the Primary Election was scheduled for Tuesday, June 8th. She encouraged residents to call the Clerk's office with voting questions.

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan

- Offered condolences to the family of resident and Former Township Administrator John Laezza;
- Thanked the Township Committee for introducing the Cannabis ordinance and elaborated;
- Stated that the Township would be closed on Memorial Day and spoke about the Memorial Day Parade and briefly elaborated about those who had served;
- Noted that the Township would close on Fridays beginning the Friday after Memorial Day, at 1:00 p.m., and briefly elaborated about such Summer Hours.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Mary O'Connor

- Spoke about the upcoming Memorial Day Parade. She stated that she believes strongly that if you see a veteran, thank a veteran;
- Spoke about mask-wearing;
- Offered her condolences and prayers to the Laezza family. She spoke about their service to the Cranford community;
- Wished everyone a safe and healthy Memorial Day weekend.

Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

- Stated that he echoed Administrator Cryan and Commissioner O'Connor's condolences to the Laezza family. He spoke about Mr. Lazza's professional contributions to the Township government including the changes Mr. Lazza made to the Administrator's office;
- Referencing earlier comments during the Meeting pertaining to the berm at 750 Walnut Avenue, Commissioner Hannen stated that the berm should stay and be enhanced;
- Referencing one of Ms. Kipness' earlier comments, Commissioner Hannen stated that if an attorney is needed (for the Cell Tower matter,) he agreed that we need an attorney with expertise and a winning track record;
- Stated that he asked to amend the introduced ordinance that evening. He stated that he supports what Cranford is doing to comply with its Affordable Housing obligations and elaborated;
- Requested that we remember our veterans on Memorial Day.

Commissioner Jason Gareis

- Spoke about the upcoming Memorial Day weekend and implored everyone not to lose sight of the purpose of Memorial Day;
- Encouraged residents to become involved and elaborated;
- Spoke about the upcoming Memorial Day Parade;

- Encouraged everyone to stay safe.

Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews

- Announced that Fireworks would return to Cranford on Friday, July 2nd at Nomahegan Park and elaborated;
- Spoke about the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony plans. Recognized and commended Recreation Director Steve Robertazzi for his efforts with the Memorial Day event planning;
- Thanked the Memorial Day participants including the VFW Color Guard, the Grand Marshall (Mark Schwarz,) VFW Post No. 335, the Cranford Historical Society, the 150th Anniversary Committee, the Cranford High School Band, the Township Committee, the Cranford Fire and Police departments, the Department of Public Works, the First Aid Squad, the Garwood Fire Department and First Aid Squad and the Garwood Mayor and Council;
- Thanked the residents who have complained about the trash cans overflowing in the Downtown area and briefly elaborated about solutions;
- Spoke about the Taste of Cranford event on June 1st;
- Spoke about various PRIDE events in Cranford;
- Spoke about planters recently installed in parklets;
- Spoke about the recent opening of new businesses in Downtown, specifically, Connolly & Hickey Architects and Box Car in the refurbished Cranford Hotel.

Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty

- Mayor Miller Prunty congratulated and thanked Mr. Jason Quinones for his years of service with the Cranford Soccer Club;
- Spoke about the upcoming Memorial Day and remembering and appreciating every day heroes. She noted that this year marked the 100th anniversary of Cranford's first Memorial Day Parade. She further elaborated about Memorial Day history in Cranford. She stated that she hoped residents would join her and the Commissioners for the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.
- Encouraged residents to enjoy the weekend and to stay safe.

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 25, 2021

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk