

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **October 27, 2015** at 8:00 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 MAILING THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS TO THE CRANFORD CHRONICLE, UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, AND THE STAR LEDGER, 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 MAY BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.

PRESENT: Mayor Andis Kalnins
Deputy Mayor Mary O’Connor
Commissioner Barbara Bilger
Commissioner Robert D’Ambola
Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

The invocation was led by Deputy Mayor O’Connor, followed by the flag salute.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner D’Ambola and passed, the minutes of the Workshop and Official Meetings of October 13, 2015, were approved by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor O’Connor, Commissioners Bilger, D’Ambola and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner Bilger, seconded by Deputy Mayor O’Connor and passed, the bills list dated October 27, 2015 totaling \$560,587.00, were approved for payment by recorded vote and are on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor O’Connor and Commissioners Bilger, D’Ambola and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

INFORMAL MEETING

Mayor Kalnins opened the informal meeting portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no comments, Mayor Kalnins closed the informal meeting portion of the meeting.

ORDINANCES – Final Reading and Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 2015-33:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2015-33 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT PART II GENERAL LEGISLATION, CHAPTER 98 DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD”

Said ordinance having been advertised and posted in accordance with law, Commissioner Hannen opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Commissioner Hannen closed the public hearing. On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Deputy Mayor O’Connor and passed, said ordinance was adopted by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Aduato, Commissioners D’Ambola, O’Connor and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

ORDINANCES – Introduction

Ordinance No. 2015-35:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2015-35 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 28 FIRE DEPARTMENT AND CHAPTER A266 (FIRE DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD”

Said ordinance was approved on first reading on motion of Deputy Mayor O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Bilger, and passed by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor O'Connor, Commissioners Bilger, D'Ambola and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2015-35 to be held November 24, 2015.

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

On motion of Commissioner D'Ambola, seconded by Commissioner Hannen and passed, the following resolutions were adopted by consent agenda:

Resolution No. 2015-355:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that Regina Hryniewicz be and hereby is appointed as full-time Office Assistant within the Construction Code Office effective November 2, 2015.

Resolution No. 2015-356:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that Maryanne Del Negro-Mason be and hereby is appointed as Municipal Alliance Program Coordinator to fill an unexpired term effective June 13, 2015, ending December 31, 2015.

Resolution No. 2015-357:

A RESOLUTION REJECTING A BID FOR A FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT AT 2 VENETIA AVENUE

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2015 bids were received and opened for a flood mitigation project at 2 Venetia Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016; and

WHEREAS, one bid was received from Javier Construction in the amount of \$293,200.00; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a report dated October 9, 2015 from the Township of Cranford's construction manager, said bid was higher than the budgeted amount for said project; and

WHEREAS, the Township reserved the right to reject any and all bids.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Cranford that the bid for Flood Mitigation Project at 2 Venetia Avenue be and is hereby rejected for exceeding the budgeted amount; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township's construction manager be and hereby is authorized to re-advertise for bids for the aforementioned project.

Resolution No. 2015-358:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford requires an expert to provide professional engineering services in connection with Phase 2B of the Northeast Quadrant Storm Water Management 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, the Chief Financial Officer has certified 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. **Hatch Mott MacDonald, 412 Mt. Kemble Avenue, Suite G22, Morristown, New Jersey 07960** be and hereby are awarded a contract for professional engineering services in connection with the aforementioned project at a fee not to exceed \$21,700.00; and
2. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with Hatch Mott MacDonald; and
3. This contract is awarded pursuant to the "fair and open" process (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.).

Resolution No. 2015-359:

Moved to Roll Call Vote

Resolution No. 2015-360:

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 extend the free shopper parking period.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the payment of parking fees be, and hereby are, suspended to allow for three (3) hour free shopper parking in all metered spaces in municipal parking lots and the parking garage in the Special Improvement District, beginning December 10, 2015 through December 27, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee authorize free parking on Saturday, November 28, 2015 for “Shop Small Saturday”, a national campaign to support local businesses.

Resolution No. 2015-361:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 27th day of October 2015 that the following checks will be refunded by the Tax Collector to the lien holder according to statutory requirements:

Redemption of Certificate# 15-00003

Block 164 Lot 6
DTW Associates, LLC
1355 Martine Avenue
Plainfield, N.J. 07060

Refund: \$ 457.66
(5-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$ 1,400.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Redemption of Certificate# 15-00026

Block 417 Lot 9
DTW Associates, LLC
1355 Martine Avenue
Plainfield, N.J. 07060

Refund: \$ 481.37
(5-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$ 300.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Redemption of Certificate# 15-00039

Block 576 Lot 2
US Bank as Custodian for PC4 & Crdtrs
50 South 16th Street Suite 2050
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

Refund: \$ 11,313.40
(5-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$123,100.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Resolution No. 2015-362:

WHEREAS, all New Jersey local contracting units must have a basis of award for purchases of goods and/or services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford is charged with the responsibility of assuring all purchases of goods and services, and subsequent payments made through the Purchase Order process, are completed in compliance with the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. seq.); and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford has established a Purchasing Policy Manual to outline the procedures, for procuring goods and services under the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law. (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. seq.); and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has reviewed said document and desires to adopt the Purchasing Policy Manual.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford be and hereby authorizes adoption of the Township’s Purchasing Policy Manual.

Resolution No. 2015-363:

WHEREAS, water is a necessary and fundamental building block of all life; and

WHEREAS, clean drinking water is a fundamental right of New Jersey citizens; and

WHEREAS, all drinking water in New Jersey is supplied by underground aquifers, rivers, and/or reservoirs replenished by rain, snow melt, or fed by rivers and streams; and

WHEREAS, an ample supply of clean water is critical to agricultural production in the Garden State; and

WHEREAS, an ample supply of clean water is necessary for a healthy economy and a robust business climate for key industries in New Jersey, such as hospitality, tourism, manufacturing, healthcare and others; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s ecosystems and wildlife rely on an adequate supply of clean water in creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, 12 of the 21 counties in New Jersey entered into a state of drought watch and seven drought warnings, watches, and emergencies have been declared in New Jersey since the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, the New Jersey Legislature adopted Chapter 262, known as the Water Supply Management Act; and

WHEREAS, the Water Supply Management Act requires the development of a Statewide Water Supply Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Water Supply Management Act requires the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to update the Statewide Water Supply Plan at least every 5 years; and

WHEREAS, the last completed and publicly available version of the Water Supply Plan occurred in 1996; and

WHEREAS, for over a decade under an outdated Statewide Water Supply Plan, land use planning and development have been proceeding in New Jersey without publicly available updated scientific or policy guidance regarding the availability of adequate water supplies; and

WHEREAS, municipalities depend on the Governor of New Jersey and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to adopt policies and regulations allocating a safe, sustainable supply of New Jersey’s water resources in accordance with the Water Supply Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Cranford respectfully requests that the Governor of New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection release an update to the

New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan immediately for public review and comment and, following such comment, finalize, adopt, and implement the Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be sent to the Governor's office, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and to Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr., Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick, and Assemblywoman Nancy F. Muñoz.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor O'Connor, Commissioners Bilger, D'Ambola and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTION – By Roll Call Vote

On motion of Commissioner D'Ambola, seconded by Commissioner Hannen and passed, the following resolution was adopted by **roll call vote**:

Resolution No. 2015-359:

WHEREAS, an application has been filed by Cranford Restaurants, LLC (t/a The Thirsty Turtle) for a person-to-person transfer of Alcoholic Beverage Plenary Retail Consumption License, License No. 2003-33-008-010, heretofore issued to The Office of Cranford, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes; regulations promulgated hereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has disclosed, and the issuing authority reviewed the source of all funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the licensed business.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford does hereby approve, effective October 13, 2015, the transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Retail Consumption License to Cranford Restaurants, LLC t/a The Thirsty Turtle and does hereby direct the Township Clerk to endorse the license certificate to the new ownership as follows: *"This license, subject to all its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to Cranford Restaurants, LLC t/a The Thirsty Turtle effective October 27, 2015."*

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor O'Connor and Commissioners Bilger and D'Ambola

Nay: Commissioner Hannen

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Michael Petrucci, 437 Brookside Place, Candidate for Township Committee, discussed concerns expressed to him while campaigning with respect to the North Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Project and the PSE&G project on South Avenue, and the impact these projects would have to parking downtown. Requested clarification as to the amount of parking spaces the Township would lose as a result of these projects. Mentioned that the Township Committee has been promoting the use of Municipal Lot No. 3 for commuter parking because it is currently underutilized.

Mr. Petrucci also requested information as to the amount of parking spaces that the Township would lose as a result of PSE&G's project. Discussed arrangements the Township has made to address this matter and believes the net difference in parking spaces would be between zero (0) and five (5). Requested confirmation as to the impact to parking when both projects are complete. Feels the public is being misinformed.

Commissioner D'Ambola explained that the original North Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Project, which was prepared by the former Township Engineer, indicated a loss of five (5) parking spaces. In February of 2015, the Township's consulting engineer reviewed the project and determined that twenty-six (26) parking spaces would be lost because angled parking on a state highway is not permitted. Explained that the Township has acquired the parking lot adjacent to Cervantes to make up the difference for the loss of spaces and feels the loss is minimal. Also discussed the Township's plan to resurface and reconfigure Municipal Lot No. 3 in order to gain additional parking, which would result in no spaces being lost. In addition, discussed the impact to parking as a result of the PSE&G project and confirmed that thirty-eight (38) spaces would be lost. Explained that the project is currently before the Planning Board and discussed additional parking that has been made available to commuters to offset this loss.

Commissioner Hannen referred to Commissioner D'Ambola's statement that twenty-six (26) spaces would be lost as a result of the North Avenue Pedestrian Improvement Project. Discussed (2) two properties in the downtown the Township decided to purchase after the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project moved forward, and feels one property, the lot adjacent to Cervantes, should not be included for additional parking because the Township Committee has not made a decision as to the use of this property. Also discussed the current condition of Municipal Lot No. 3 and feels it should not be utilized to offset the loss of parking spaces because he feels it is unsafe due to potholes and poor lighting. In addition, discussed the need for additional parking when the banquet hall on South Avenue opens. Referred to the PSE&G project and stated that the Township Committee should not be commenting on applications that are before the Planning Board. Explained that residents also expressed their concerns to him regarding the loss of parking spaces while he was campaigning. Feels the loss of parking spaces would significantly exasperate the current parking problem, which could potentially have a negative impact on downtown businesses. Feels it is also a hardship on commuters and discussed the Township's policy to "oversell" permit spaces to ensure maximum utilization of spaces.

Deputy Mayor O'Connor stated that she disagrees with some of Commissioner Hannen's statements. Explained that the Township Committee is constantly evolving. Feels the Township Committee should keep the lot next to Cervantes as additional parking knowing that it is serving the business community, and because it would offset the loss in parking spaces to a deficit of five (5) once the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project is complete. Also stated that she does not feel Municipal Lot No. 3 is dangerous for people to utilize for parking. In addition, discussed the PSE&G project and the ordinance that was adopted as a result of this project to create twenty-seven (27) permit parking spaces. Also explained that all permit parking spaces are on a first-come, first-served basis. Feels the Township has planned very well to supplement parking that is being affected by construction and is confident that the Township Committee would continue with this practice.

Commissioner Hannen referred to Deputy Mayor O'Connor's comment concerning the use of the parking lot adjacent to Cervantes and feels a policy decision should not be made at the dais during the public comment portion of a meeting. Stated that the Township Committee has not yet discussed potential uses for this property and has not reviewed it with a planner.

Mayor Kalnins stated that he agrees with Commissioner Hannen that a decision concerning the use of the property to be acquired by the Township has not yet been made. Discussed the opportunity to promote the use of Municipal Lot No. 3 for commuter parking. Assured residents that the Township Committee has done everything possible to help alleviate and compensate for the loss in parking spaces. Stated that while the Township Committee is unsure as to how the lot would be used in the future, it would continue to be utilized for parking until the Township Committee has the opportunity to evaluate the area and determine the best plan for the property.

Mr. Petrucci explained that it was not his intention to debate this issue, but to request clarification. Stated that he agrees with Commissioner Hannen's statement that policy should not be decided at the dais, but should be done after the proper channels have been followed. Also referred to Commissioner Hannen's statement with respect to Municipal Lot No. 3 and does not feel it is unsafe for parking. Thanked the Township Committee for its feedback.

Commissioner Hannen welcomed Mr. Petrucci to join him after the meeting to walk through Municipal Lot No 3 to see issues with potholes and poor lighting. Also stated that he would like to hear ideas for the use of the properties to be acquired by the Township and ideas as to how the Township could improve Municipal Lot No. 3 from a safety standpoint and a pedestrian standpoint.

Mr. Petrucci stated that he does not disagree with the need for improvement, but he does not feel any of the parking lots in Cranford are unsafe.

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

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Clerk Tara Rowley

- Reminded everyone that November 3, 2015 is Election Day and that polls would be open from 6 AM to 8 PM. Provided contact information for those needing information.

Township Administrator Terence M. Wall

- Discussed the loss of his father and thanked Cranford residents, employees and the Township Committee for their condolences.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

- Informed residents that there is no update to provide regarding the Birchwood Avenue litigation;

- Wished everyone a Happy Halloween and urged residents to be mindful of children's safety during the holiday;
- Discussed his support for the New York Mets and his hope that they win the World Series title;
- Urged residents to vote on Election Day.

Commissioner Robert D'Ambola

- Discussed the recent Township Newsletter and mentioned that it includes a map of roadways where parking would be prohibited when snow covered. Explained that if a resident does not have access to a driveway, they would be required to move their vehicle to a side street. Explained that the purpose is to allow for faster plowing of through streets;
- Discussed various events being hosted by the Friends of the Public Library and provided contact information for those interested in attending;
- Discussed Downtown Cranford and the reasons for the closing of long time businesses. Feels Cranford's downtown is vital and urged residents to show support and shop locally, especially in those businesses currently being impacted by construction;
- Urged residents to exercise their right to vote.

Commissioner Barbara Bilger

- Discussed the Veterans Breakfast being hosted by the Cranford VFW on November 8, 2015. Provided information for those interested in attending;
- Announced that the Scarecrow Stroll event is underway and encouraged residents to walk through the downtown and cast a vote for their favorite scarecrow;
- Urged residents to vote on Election Day.

Deputy Mayor Mary O'Connor

- Announced that the Cranford Fire Department is being featured in "What's Cooking in Cranford". In addition, Lieutenant Matthew Lubin would be providing a tour of fire safety in the home. Also provided the link to the Cranford Fire Department's new Facebook page;
- Announced that both the Police and Fire Departments would be participating in the "No Shave November" campaign. Explained that campaign focuses on raising cancer awareness and provided contact information for those interested in making a donation;
- Discussed the importance in supporting local businesses. Explained that that many stores in Downtown Cranford are open late on Thursdays and challenged those watching to support downtown businesses this Thursday.

Mayor Andis Kalnins

- Discussed his attendance at the swearing-in of former Deputy Mayor Lisa M. Adubato as a Supreme Court Judge and extended his best wishes to Judge Adubato in her future endeavors;
- Discussed his attendance at the grand opening ceremony of Investors Savings Bank and welcomed the new business to Downtown Cranford. Mentioned that this property was the former dilapidated site of the Delta gas station;
- Announced that on November 6, 2015 the Jr. Women's Club would be hosting a "Sip and Shop" event in Downtown Cranford. Provided information for those interested in attending;
- Discussed Halloween safety tips provided by the Police Department and encouraged residents to monitor their children;
- Expressed his appreciation to Edward Davenport from TV35 for the many long hours he works broadcasting Township meetings and other events;
- Urged everyone to vote on Election Day.

On motion of Deputy Mayor O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner D'Ambola and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Rowley, RMC
Township Clerk

Date: October 27, 2015