

The Minutes of the **Workshop Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **June 25, 2018** at 6:05 p.m. in Room 108.

THIS MEETING IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE "OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT" AS ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY 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 MAY BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING THE EARLIER START TIME OF THE MEETING WAS ADVERTISED IN THE WESTFIELD LEADER AND ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THE EARLIER START TIME WAS SENT TO THE WESTFIELD LEADER, THE UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, THE STAR LEDGER, AND TAP INTO CRANFORD.

Present: MAYOR THOMAS H. HANNEN, JR.
DEPUTY MAYOR ANN DOOLEY
COMMISSIONER PATRICK GIBLIN
COMMISSIONER JEAN-ALBERT MAISONNEUVE
COMMISSIONER MARY O'CONNOR

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

Resolution No. 2018-94.21:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee will go into closed session to discuss the following, the minutes of which will be released at some time in the future at the discretion of the Township Committee:

Legal Matters

- Third Round Affordable Housing Obligations

Real Estate

- Abandoned Property Act
- Birchwood PILOT

Contractual

- FEMA Elevation

Legal Matters

- Legal update
- Ben Elazar vs. Macrietta Cleaners
- Monarch Housing/Myrtle Avenue Update
- Community Access

Minute Review

- Closed Session Minutes of June 11th and June 12th

Personnel

- Non-Uniformed Department Heads
- June Review and Recommendations
- Building Department
- Finance Department
- Fire Department
- Collective Bargaining Negotiations

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Deputy Mayor Dooley, Commissioners Giblin, Maisonneuve and O'Connor
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

On Motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Maisonneuve and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 7:39 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Mr. Jim Gelson of South Union Avenue spoke about a parking meter situation in which the parking meters accept payment during non-toll hours or suspended hours (i.e., during a snow storm) and spoke about the (City of) Elizabeth's approach to this situation. He further elaborated about parking meter issues. Mayor Hannen stated that his concerns would be brought to the attention of the Parking Committee.

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

Engineering update

North Union Avenue and Alden Street Intersection Improvements

Township Engineer Bill Masol noted that there were about two more weeks of work expected with the Traffic signal repair, once PSE&G had provided electric service to the new signal.. He further elaborated about remaining items to be completed specifically, the removal of existing signal equipment, remaining curb/paver work, the resurfacing of Alden Street and the pavement markings and line striping.

FY 2016 NJDEP/NJDEIT Program – Phase 2B Flood Control Project

Mr. Masol stated that all Phase 2B Flood Control Project information which had been submitted to NJDEP was now returned. Mayor Hannen inquired about the timing of the bid document processing.

Late Starter - Desilting

Deputy Mayor Dooley inquired about the desilting status and then inquired about the delay. Further discussion ensued regarding getting work finished before the “window” closed. Resident Maureen Strazdon noted that there there had been studies done before which may be useful.

Moratorium Road Opening Requests

Mr. Masol spoke about a residential situation (on Orchard Street) in which a driveway had to be shifted 3 feet and the subsequent need to open the street. Mayor Hannen inquired whether the resident could wait. Mr. Masol responded that he would inquire whether they could wait. Deputy Mayor Dooley spoke about the associated Township fees.

Mr. Masol spoke about the Department’s receipt of an Application for a Street Opening Permit from the 401 Central Avenue property owner to facilitate the installation of granite block curb along the entire property footage. Mr. Masol spoke about the requisite approval needed by Township Committee resolution in order for the permit to be approved. Commissioner O’Connor inquired about infrared repairs. Discussion ensued. Mayor Hannen requested that follow-up information and discussion occur during the next evening’s meeting.

Late Starter - Desilting

Ms. Maureen Strazdon stated that the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) had never designated the dams as historical sites. Discussion ensued. Deputy Mayor Dooley noted that the State believes that Cranford had designated the dams as historical. Ms. Strazdon responded that the only two historical sites designated by Cranford were Droescher’s Mill and the Crane Phillips House.

Designation of Sunny Acres as a Cranford Historic District

Ms. Strazdon stated that the Cranford Historic Preservation Advisory Board was seeking historic district designation for Sunny Acres. She introduced Sunny Acres resident, Ms. Loretta Smith. Ms. Smith spoke about the sense of community which existed in Sunny Acres. She noted that Sunny Acres was a community of 172 homes which had been built in the southern section of Cranford between 1940 and 1943. Ms. Smith noted that 1) the community had been built by Sears and, 2) Sears utilized 12 (twelve) different house plans to build the development.

Ms. Strazdon stated that the Cranford HPAB supported the initiative to designate Sunny Acres an historic district and referenced the supporting materials which had been forwarded to the Township Committee. Ms. Strazdon noted that the HPAB had made a presentation to the Planning Board regarding this initiative. She elaborated about the history of Sunny Acres. Ms. Strazdon noted that the proposed designation would not prevent residents from changing or demolishing their homes. Ms. Strazdon stated that if the historical designation was approved, the HPAB would develop guidelines for the area which were anticipated to be overseen by the Zoning and Planning Boards. Deputy Mayor Dooley inquired if this was simply an honorarium. Ms. Strazdon responded that it was and the designation had “no teeth.” Ms. Strazdon stated there were no proposed regulations. Commissioner Giblin inquired how this was different from the previous historic designation attempt for the North Cranford Historic District.. Ms. Strazdon responded. Deputy Mayor Dooley stated that she completely supported the designation but noted that she had a concern and elaborated about the State’s perception that the Township’s dams were deemed historical by Cranford and the ensuing challenges the Township faced because of that perception. Deputy Mayor Dooley inquired whether there was intention to put “teeth” into the designation. Ms. Strazdon responded that their intention was simply an honorary designation. Commissioner Giblin inquired about grant monies. Ms. Strazdon stated that she would like the Committee to designate Sunny Acres through an Ordinance as required per Township Code. Mayor Hannen stated that they had the Township’s support and asked Ms. Strazdon to send Township Attorney Cooper proposed draft documents.

Ordinance Introduction – Driveways and Porches

Mayor Hannen asked Township Attorney Ryan Cooper to review the Driveways and Porches matter as drafted by Zoning Officer Ron Johnson. He directed Mr. Cooper to have a proposed Ordinance on the July 17th Meeting Agenda.

Review Official Meeting Agenda

Deputy Mayor Dooley inquired about Item Number 13 (LandTek Group Performance Bond Release) on the Official Meeting Agenda. Mayor Hannen responded. Deputy Mayor Dooley inquired about Item numbers 6 and 7 on the Official Meeting Agenda. Regarding salary increases for Communications Officers Davis and Powell respectively. Township Administrator Terence Wall and Commissioner Giblin responded.

Committee consensus was reached to review the Bill List on the following night.

Minute Approval – Closed Session Minutes of June 11th and June 12th

Deputy Mayor Dooley handed Municipal Clerk Patricia Donahue one page of edits for the June 12th Official Meeting Minutes. Ms. Donahue noted that she would share the edits with each of the Committee members. Commissioner O’Connor stated that she would forward changes for the Closed Session minutes to Ms. Donahue the following day. Mayor Hannen noted that he would abstain from voting on the Closed Session minutes due to the possible conflict of interest and subsequent redactions which were made to the Mayor’s “Minutes” copy.

Garbage Pickup – Weekly

Discussion ensued regarding weekly garbage pickup. Deputy Mayor Dooley stated that she spoke to Fanwood about their weekly pickup. She noted that there would not be a cost savings in moving to a weekly pickup. Mr. Wall spoke about his conversations with the garbage hauler and elaborated about maggots, the expected difficulty in knowing which residents are once/week pickup customers versus twice/week pickup customers, and curb versus no curb pickup of garbage. Further discussion ensued regarding the Plainfield Municipal Authority and “junk” pickup.

COMMISSIONER’ REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Dooley provided a Recycling update. She noted that Westfield’s recycling contract ended December 31st and thus, changes to their recycling would begin after the contract end. Deputy Mayor Dooley stated that our contract period ended sooner and noted that we had a very good rate. Mayor Hannen inquired whether we can still “separate” at the Conservation Center. Deputy Mayor Dooley responded that for now, Recyclable items numbers 3 to 7 could still be brought and separated at the Conservation Center.

Mayor Hannen stated that July 8th was Cranford Day at the Somerset Patriots’ Baseball game.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

Resolution No. 2018-94.21:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee will go into closed session to discuss the following, the minutes of which will be released at some time in the future at the discretion of the Township Committee:

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Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Deputy Mayor Dooley, Commissioners Giblin, Maisonneuve and O'Connor
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Maisonneuve and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 10:11 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Maisonneuve and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 25, 2018

Patricia Donahue
Municipal Clerk