

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF
THE TEANECK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by Resolution 331-10, setting the 2011 meeting dates, sending a copy to THE RECORD, THE SUBURBANITE, THE BERGEN NEWS/SUN BULLETIN, THE JEWISH STANDARD, and THE COUNTY SEAT, filing a copy in the Township Clerk's Office and posting it on the Municipal Building bulletin board, and the Mayor hereby directs that this statement be included in the minutes.

ROLL CALL

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

286-11 Authorize Council to enter Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Hameeduddin called the Open Session Meeting of the Teaneck Township Council to order at 8:00 p.m. and asked all those present to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: C. Parker, C. Stern, DM. Gussen, C. Honis, C. Katz, C. Toffler, Mayor Hameeduddin.

Absent: None.

Also Present: S. Turitz/W. Rupp – Ferrara, Turitz, Harraka & Goldberg, Esqs.; W. Broughton, Township Manager; J. Evelina, RMC, Township Clerk; I. Abbasi, Executive Assistant.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

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PRESENTATIONS

Officer Vincent Ascolese – Bergen County Humane Enforcement.

C. Katz expressed that a presentation would not be necessary tonight and inquired about the Organization's response time and if residents were charged for services.

DM. Gussen noted that due to the dollar amount of this service, bid specifications need to be prepared for a forthcoming public bid to take place.

Mr. Turitz stated that his office has been in contact with Mr. Ascolese and determined that this service is not a professional service and will need to go out to bid. Mr. Turitz's office will be preparing bid specifications with the Purchasing Agent, Mr. Kevin Lynch.

C. Katz spoke about Bergen County's fee structure and scope to handling only public right-of-way issues and inquired if Mr. Ascolese's Organization charged residents for service calls.

Mr. Ascolese responded that residents can be charged and many times are not charged and rather encouraged that a donation to the Organization be made.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR GOOD AND WELFARE OR PUBLIC INPUT ON ANY MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA

Mayor Hameeduddin inquired whether any member of the Council had any comments prior to opening the meeting to any comments from the public.

C. Toffler requested that the language captioned in the Board of Education's resolution regarding their position on the virtual charter school be circulated to the Council by the Clerk.

Mayor Hameeduddin referenced his recent conversations with members of the Board of Education and shared the Board's approval of the Council's position on the virtual school.

C. Toffler discussed the proposed position by State Senator Loretta Weinberg requesting a moratorium on the approval of Charter Schools.

Mayor Hameeduddin spoke about an upcoming meeting with Governor Christie later this week to discuss the Township's position on the proposed virtual charter school and felt that an additional resolution was not necessary.

C. Toffler discussed the upcoming Council meeting being the final meeting for the 2011 calendar year and requested from the Manager additional information for the public regarding shelters during inclement weather. She also inquired if Fairleigh Dickinson University could be reached out to inquire about the availability of the Rothman Center for future emergencies. She also requested if an emergency liaison number could be given to the public.

Mr. Broughton responded that there is no automatic emergency shelter in the Rothman Center but it is determined by the County which shelter location is determined.

C. Toffler requested a method of getting members of the public information in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Broughton responded that members of the public may stay informed about shelter locations in the event of an emergency by calling the police station.

DM. Gussen discussed the portion of Council's comments prior to the beginning of Good and Welfare and their purpose functioning as a place for a member of Council to make a statement rather than begin a discussion.

Mayor Hameeduddin declared that any members of the public who wished to be heard come forward and state their names for the record. Comments were limited to five minutes per person.

Charles Harnesdale, Teaneck – spoke about a township tree sitting in front of his home since the October snow storm and prior complaints he made. He referenced prior requests to receive permission to trim said tree. He advised that branches are falling during wind storms on his home and utilities. He discussed the condition of the Township tree and the need for it to be pruned. He requested that future problems with the tree be taken care of with timely tree trimmings.

Ruth Brower, Teaneck – referenced Council's response to other concerns at the November 29, 2011 Council meeting; spoke about Council members and their previous terms in office regarding ordinances relating to Township trees; referenced Mr. Broughton's opinion regarding the public tree and its roots on her property; spoke about Council's job to serve all residents and her prior complaints brought before Council regarding her Swamp Maple tree.

There being no further persons who wished to speak, Mayor Hameeduddin declared the public comment portion of the meeting closed.

Mayor Hameeduddin inquired whether any member of the Council or the Manager wished to respond to the public comments or whether a member of the Council wished to remove any item from the Consent Agenda and have a separate discussion thereon.

Mayor Hameeduddin responded to Mr. Saunders' complaint by stating that more funding will be placed into the 2012 Township budget for tree pruning. Mayor Hameeduddin also referenced on-going discussions with members of the Council to create a permit for property owners to trim their own trees on their lawns. The Council will be instructing the attorney to create such an ordinance when a consensus is achieved regarding this ordinance. He also requested Mr. Saunders email Council directly to avoid any delay.

Mr. Broughton added that he will have the Department of Public Works visit and evaluate the tree and trim any hanging branches.

DM. Gussen corrected Ms. Brower's statement that advisory boards are under the Council and not the Manager as she claimed.

C. Toffler corrected Ms. Brower's reference of her name and noted that she is serving on the Council for the first time. C. Toffler asked Ms. Brower to recognize that several members of the Council are trying hard to have attention received to township trees and their maintenance in front of property owners' homes.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed below are considered to be routine in nature by Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by Council, that particular item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

RAFFLES

All subject to approval and conditions applicable with the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission and pursuant to State Statute.

RA#1310 – Rotary Club of Teaneck – On Premise Draw Raffle Awarding Merchandise - \$20.00

MINUTES

None.

RESOLUTIONS (Resolution 286-11 – vote taken prior to Closed Session)

- 287-11. Appoint Representatives to Community Development Regional Committee.
- 288-11. Award Contract – Municipal Inspection Company – Elevator Inspection and Plan Review
- 289-11. Award Contract – Donofrio & Son, Inc. – Landscape Maintenance – 2012 and 2013.

BILL LIST

NO BILL LIST.

C. Stern moved to approve the Consent Agenda, including Minutes and Resolutions, and to dispense with the reading of same inasmuch as it has been posted on the bulletin board all day, except Resolution #290-11 (Endorse Assembly Bill No. 3852/Senate Bill No. 2243) and F (Designate Official Newspapers – OPMA and Legal Notices – 2012).

Seconded by Mayor Hameeduddin.

Mayor Hameeduddin called on Ms. Evelina for a roll-call vote.

Roll Call

In Favor: C. Parker, C. Stern, DM. Gussen, C. Honis, C. Katz, C. Toffler
Mayor Hameeduddin.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Mayor Hameeduddin declared whether said items were passed.

C. Katz moved Resolution #290-11 (Endorse Assembly Bill No. 3852/Senate Bill No. 2243) for discussion. Seconded by C. Stern.

C. Katz thanked Mayor Hameeduddin and C. Parker for their work on Resolution #290-11 and discussed his pending support for same.

Roll Call

In Favor: C. Parker, C. Stern, C. Honis, C. Katz, C. Toffler, Mayor Hameeduddin.

Opposed: DM. Gussen.

Absent: None.

C. Katz moved Resolution F (Designate Official Newspapers – OPMA and Legal Notices – 2012) for discussion. Seconded by Mayor Hameeduddin.

C. Katz referenced his comments last week and maintained his position to include *the Teaneck Patch* and *Cliffview Pilot* as official newspapers. He inquired about the status of the *Bergen News Sun Bulletin*.

Clerk Evelina advised that official newspapers are defined under Title 35 of the New Jersey Statutes and further advised that the *Cliffview Pilot* and *The Suburbanite* are not considered official newspapers, pursuant to the statute. She also provided Council with the following update: the *County Seat* informed that they can no longer circulate to the Township of Teaneck, as per their Editor, and she contacted the *Bergen News Sun Bulletin* who still has an active automated phone system; however, she left a message for a representative and has received no response.

Mr. Turitz referenced the New Jersey statute about what comprises an official newspaper and noted that the Township Clerk must follow the law regarding official newspapers.

Mayor Hameeduddin requested additional clarification be sought for the next meeting with respect to the *Bergen News Sun Bulletin*.

Mr. Turitz read the statute regarding qualifications for official newspapers into the record.

DM. Gussen requested that the Township Attorney circulate the statute to Council.

C. Parker asked Clerk Evelina if Resolution F was time sensitive, and Clerk Evelina advised that this resolution must be adopted by the next meeting, December 13, 2011. Clerk Evelina will re-list the resolution for municipal consent on December 13, 2011 and will provide Council with an update prior to any vote being taken.

Resolution F was tabled.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

MISCELLANEOUS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - COUNCIL LIAISONS

Mayor Hameeduddin spoke about his recent conversation with the Chairman of the Patriotic Observance Advisory Board and requested the purchase and installation of a banner on Cedar Lane for veterans returning home to Teaneck from the Iraq War. He noted that the cost should be between \$200-\$500 and asked Council to support same. A majority of Council was conceptually in favor of this idea.

COUNCIL-LISTED ITEMS

1. Washington DC Trip – Official Request from Township (C. Parker).

C. Parker requested Council submit their forms of interest to attend this tour to the Clerk as soon as possible. C. Parker was also hopeful of lobbying Senators to assure this trip occurs. She also discussed the possibility of the Manager providing non-taxpayer funds for this trip and a bus for transportation and the use of chaperones.

Mr. Broughton requested a meeting with C. Parker to discuss options for funding and chaperones.

Ms. Evelina requested approval to respond on the Council's behalf for this trip, and the Council consented to same.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

1. I have probationally appointed Mr. Jason Forsyth to the position of Electrician in the Department of Public Works, effective December 1, 2011.

Mr. Broughton discussed the preparation of the survey for restricting parking on Chadwick Road, his request to have a presentation by PSE&G at the December 13, 2011 Council meeting, emergency preparedness information being placed in the upcoming *Teaneck Times* recycling calendar and his work with the Community Response Team.

C. Honis inquired if information will be disseminated about the Good Morning Check-Up program in the *Teaneck Times*.

Mr. Broughton responded in the affirmative and added that the Police Department will be holding emergency management preparedness seminars in January, February and March, and exact dates would be forthcoming.

C. Honis asked if a daytime and nighttime session will be held.

The Manager responded in the affirmative.

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

DM. Gussen moved to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Seconded by Councilmember Honis.

Roll Call

In Favor: C. Parker, C. Stern, DM. Gussen, C. Honis, C. Katz, C. Toffler, Mayor
Hameeduddin.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.