

APPROVED: May 27, 2014

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
April 28, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: President Maher called the meeting to order at 9:01 p.m.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

This is to advise that the notice requirement provided for in the "Open Public Meetings Act" has been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given and transmitted to The Times and Princeton Packet; filed with the Clerk of the Municipality; and posted in the West Windsor Township Municipal Building at North Post and Clarksville Roads on April 10, 2014.

ATTENDEES: President: Maher; Vice President: Geevers; Council: Borek; Mendonez, Jr.; Samonte; Mayor: Hsueh; Business Administrator: Schmid; Township Attorney: Herbert; Director of Public Works: Drummond; Township Clerk: Young

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Alison Miller, 41 Windsor Drive, noted that the Parking Authority is meeting in a conference room at Mrs. Green's Natural Market. She explained that the brush ordinance can only be effective if residents abide by the mandates of the ordinance and fines are implemented.

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, advised that Colonial Drive is a disaster and is littered with brush. He noted landscapers are to blame for not adhering to the ordinance.

FOR DISCUSSION:

COUNCIL MEMBER/CLERK

Brush and Leaf Pickup and Ordinance Discussion

Mr. Drummond advised that it will cost the Township over \$215,000 if the new Britton contract terms are agreed to. He suggested that residents be limited in the amount of yard waste that can be disposed of at one time, and also suspend brush pickup October through December.

Mr. Borek suggested that a flat rate would be more cost effective versus a per ton rate which is what the new Britton contract would be based on.

Ms. Schmid discussed costs associated with taking the brush debris out of town for disposal. She noted that there were not a lot of options.

President Maher explained that a cubic yard of debris can vary based upon how compact it is and if the debris had been shredded.

Mr. Drummond advised that shredding the debris is more labor intensive versus using the truck that is equipped with a claw to pick up the debris. He again urged limiting the amount of yard debris that can be placed at the curb for pickup.

Ms. Schmid spoke about the enforcement procedure and the issuance of fines. She noted that she was not aware of the number of violations that have been taken to Court.

Mr. Borek noted that private landscapers who are not aware of the Township regulations are to blame for a lot of brush being placed out on the curb prior to the homeowner's pickup schedule.

President Maher urged better enforcement as the solution to the problem. He asked Administration if the part-time employee is enforcing the mandatory followup to make sure the homeowner is complying with the written notice.

Mr. Borek agreed with reducing the brush pickups during the year, and suggested posting the regulations on the Township website. He urged strict enforcement for those who do not abide by the Township ordinance.

President Maher offered suggestions in reducing the debris that Public Works must pickup.

Mr. Drummond suggested cutting logs by a certain length and diameter to assist with debris pickup.

Ms. Schmid noted that there is no guidance for homeowners when reviewing the ordinance.

Ms. Samonte suggested creating a small committee to work with Mr. Drummond to create better crafted language for the ordinance.

Ms. Schmid suggested a tiered fee structure.

President Maher commented on getting the brush ordinance out to the public via website, mailings, providing it to realtors for distribution, and suggested sending it out with the tax bills.

Mr. Mendonez suggested reaching out to other townships to create shared services.

President Maher asked if the Township had a parcel of land where the shredded debris could be left for Township residents to use as mulch.

Ms. Schmid advised that the Department of Environmental Protection has restrictions and could impose fines if a site set aside for mulch turn into a Township dump.

President Maher asked Mr. Drummond to check with Plainsboro about their township facility where residents deposit their debris.

Mr. Borek suggested that he and Ms. Samonte work with Mr. Drummond on tightening the language in the ordinance, and having a draft ready by the next Work Session.

President Maher recommended limiting the complexity of the debris pickup schedules.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Borek  
Second: Geevers  
VV: All approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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Sharon L. Young  
Township Clerk  
West Windsor Township