

APPROVED AS AMENDED: November 22, 2010

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
AGENDA SESSION
September 13, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: President Ciccone called the meeting to order at 6:06 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 on July 7, 2010 and Princeton Packet on July 9, 2010; filed with the Clerk of the Municipality; and posted in the West Windsor Township Municipal Building at North Post and Clarksville Roads. Closed sessions were noticed on September 7, 2010 and September 9, 2010 for the purpose of discussing IC/L-A Washington Road LLC Litigation and the acquisition of land from the Jewish Community Center.

ATTENDEES: President: Ciccone; Vice President: Khanna; Council: Borek, Geevers, Morgan; Business Administrator: Hary; Township Attorney: Herbert; Township Clerk: Young

CLOSED SESSION I

Motion to go into closed session: Khanna

Second: Borek

RCV: aye Borek

aye Geevers

aye Khanna

aye Morgan

aye Ciccone

Ms. Young read the closed session resolution into the record:

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting, and

Whereas, the Township Council of West Windsor Township has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the public; and

Whereas, the regular meeting of this Township Council will reconvene; and

Whereas, the below stated subject matter shall be made available at such time as the issues discussed therein are resolved and its disclosure would not subvert any particular exception for convening a closed session.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Township Council of the Township of West Windsor will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12: For the discussion of IC/L-A Washington Road LLC Litigation and Strategies.

MEETING RECONVENED

Meeting reopened at 6:34 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION II

Motion to go into closed session: Borek

Second: Geevers

RCV: aye Borek

aye Geevers

aye Khanna

aye Morgan

aye Ciccone

Ms. Young read the closed session resolution into the record:

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting, and

Whereas, the Township Council of West Windsor Township has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the public; and

Whereas, the regular meeting of this Township Council will reconvene; and

Whereas, the below stated subject matter shall be made available at such time as the issues discussed therein are resolved and its disclosure would not subvert any particular exception for convening a closed session.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Township Council of the Township of West Windsor will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12: For the discussion of the acquisition of land from the Jewish Community Center.

MEETING RECONVENED

Meeting reopened at 7:12 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Janet Lerner, 67 Rainflower Lane, voiced her concerns on the effects the transfer of the General Assistance Program to the County of Mercer will have on residents that use this program.

Mr. Alvin Lerner, 67 Rainflower Lane, referenced an article that appeared in The Times on Sunday regarding solar energy and suggested that the Township look into the possibility of using a portion of the Wyeth property for solar fields. He noted this could generate revenue for the Township.

FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor/Administrator

DISCUSSION OF CROSSWALK SAFETY AND THE INSTALLATION OF CAMERAS AT INTERSECTIONS

Chief Pica reported that in 2008 the Police Division reviewed the possibility of installing red light cameras. He noted that the suggestion at the time was to place these devices along Route One and at the intersection of Route 571 and Clarksville Road. Chief Pica advised that approval must be received from the State of New Jersey prior to installation of these devices. He noted statistics show that installation of these devices decreases accidents. Chief Pica advised that the program has been successful in Newark and that the Police Division is in favor of moving forward with these cameras.

Mr. Borek expressed his views regarding the red light cameras and noted that he has seen signs saying that the next intersection is a red light camera area.

President Ciccone voiced her concerns regarding the intersection of Penn Lyle Road and Clarksville Road.

Ms. Geevers inquired as to who pays for the equipment.

Chief Pica advised that the fine for running a red light is \$85 and is distributed between the State, County, vendor, and the Township. He noted the Township would have to solicit RFP's for this service.

Mr. Morgan voiced his support of the red light cameras.

Mr. Khanna voiced his support of the installation of red light cameras for safety reasons.

President Ciccone advised that the full Council supports moving ahead with the installation of the red light cameras.

CROSSWALK AT MAURICE HAWK SCHOOL

Mr. Borek voiced his concerns about the necessity of a lighted crosswalk at Maurice Hawk School. He noted that he has contacted the Police Division on several occasions to have the problem reviewed. Mr. Borek suggested a device similar to the one installed by the County at Avalon Watch and suggested marking one side of Clarksville Road as a "No Parking" area.

Chief Pica addressed Mr. Borek's concerns. He noted that the crosswalk has to remain where it currently is and advised that he would have the "No Parking" suggestion reviewed. Chief Pica spoke of working with the Township Engineering Office and the County to see if a pedestrian crosswalk light could be installed.

Mr. Borek advised that the County has received stimulus funds that could possibly be used for the improvements to the area.

Ms. Geevers suggested that Mr. Hary see if there are additional stimulus funds for recessed lighting in the roadway at Sherbrooke Drive and Route 571.

Mr. Hary advised that he will contact the County to see if there are funds available for improvements or installation of pedestrian crosswalks.

President Ciccone suggested that the police give tickets to those individuals who continually do not stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

Chief Pica advised that he will address the matter with Sergeant Tarr who has just returned from attending a program regarding crosswalk safety.

President Ciccone suggested that the Chief come back and give an update at a future Council meeting.

Mr. Morgan inquired what the process is to have these areas addressed.

Chief Pica noted that the Police Division addresses items as they are brought to their attention. He advised that there is a process whereby the Police Division works with Engineering and Public Works on these items.

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, asked what percentage of the fine goes to the vendor to pay for the installation of the cameras.

Chief Pica addressed Mr. Church's concerns.

ORDER OF AGENDA AMENDED

DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE 2010-18

Mr. John Mauder, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, outlined the details of the multi-purpose ordinance and advised that the useful life of items is determined by New Jersey State Statute 40A:2-2.

Members of Council asked several questions of Mr. Mauder regarding the multi-purpose Bond Ordinance.

Mr. Mauder addressed Council's concerns.

President Ciccone inquired if there is a consensus of Council to move Ordinance 2010-18 to the September 20, 2010 Business Session for the continuation of the public hearing.

Members of Council agreed to move Ordinance 2010-18 to the September 20, 2010 Business Session.

ORDER OF AGENDA RESUMED

TRANSFERRING OF THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO THE COUNTY OF MERCER

Mr. Hary advised that back in the late 1990s there was a provision in the law approved providing for the transfer of the general assistance clients to the County. He noted that one of the opportunities he saw in reviewing the Senior Center operations was to restructure the department due to retirements. Mr. Hary advised that he is currently proposing to reduce the staff to three full-time employees. He noted that Ms. Thornton advised that currently the program caseload consists of seven clients. Mr. Hary advised that he would like to have this transfer happen by the end of 2010.

Members of Council explained their concerns regarding the transferring of these services to the County.

Mr. Hary addressed Council's concerns and noted that the level of service to the clients will remain the same.

President Ciccone requested more clarity on the matter prior to the September 20th meeting.

Mr. Hary advised that the staff will absorb the other duties previously performed at the Senior Center by this individual.

President Ciccone inquired if once or twice a month the County could arrange to have someone come to the Senior Center as a convenience for clients.

UPDATE ON THE ELLSWORTH PROPERTY

Mr. Herbert advised that letters have previously been sent to the property owner and that he will provide an update to Council at the next meeting.

President Ciccone voiced her concerns regarding the property.

Mr. Herbert advised that the Township could move forward with condemnation proceedings, but noted it is a costly process. He reviewed several options with Council regarding the property.

Discussion ensued regarding the property.

Mr. Hary advised that staff continually inspects the property on a routine basis and that if violation notices are issued the property owner has been quick to fix the problems. He noted that from a health and safety standpoint the structure is sound and there are currently no public health issues.

Discussion ensued again regarding the process and how the Township could move forward with having the property maintained.

Mr. Herbert requested additional time to work with the property owner.

Mr. Morgan inquired if this could not be done by the Mayor's Office instead of the Attorney. He suggested that that Mayor address a letter to the property owner outlining the Township's concerns.

Mr. Hary advised that both the Mayor and Ms. Ward continually contact the owners and that currently there are no health and safety violations.

Mr. Herbert advised it is a public nuisance and that he will speak with the Mayor regarding the matter and report back to Council.

COUNCIL MEMBER/CLERK

CABLE TELEVISION ORDINANCE REVISIONS

Mr. Morgan spoke about the issues that need to be addressed by the Council regarding the ordinance and advised that currently there are two groups established in the Township Code, the Cable TV Advisory Board and the Government Channel Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding the roles and responsibilities of these two groups.

President Ciccone inquired how Mr. Morgan wants to proceed with this item.

Mr. Morgan suggested that he and Mr. Herbert sit down and review the proposed changes together and come back to Council with a draft ordinance for review and discussion.

President Ciccone requested Mr. Herbert and Mr. Morgan to review together the draft ordinance and present a draft to Council at the October agenda session.

Mr. Herbert agreed to work with Mr. Morgan on the draft ordinance.

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO TAX REFORM AND THE "MUNICIPAL TOOL KIT"

Ms. Geevers explained that the resolution was a draft received from the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Mr. Hary advised that Administration endorses the draft resolution from the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

President Ciccone inquired if members of Council want this resolution placed on the September 20th Business Session.

Mr. Morgan advised that the Township is best served to address the unique situations that affect this community versus a generic version.

President Ciccone noted that the 2% cap does not address communities that are not at full build-out.

Mr. Borek noted that the schools have to show a percentage of growth to increase their budgets more than the 2%. He voiced his concerns on how the 2% cap will affect the redevelopment area.

Discussion continued regarding the "Municipal Tool Kit" resolution.

Mr. Herbert suggested that Council pass the League's version of the resolution and then submit supplemental resolutions to address the unique situations as they arise within the Township.

Mr. Borek noted that the Governor has been speaking with Mayors, Administrators, and Union officials and that the core items are being discussed and reforms are coming.

President Ciccone advised that this resolution will be placed on the October Agenda Session for further discussion.

BEST PRACTICE CHECKLIST

Mr. Hary noted that Administration is working on the checklist which is due by October 1st. He noted that once the document has been completed he will submit a copy to Council.

REDEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

There was no discussion on this item.

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Mr. Hary gave a brief description of the items for action at the September 20th Business Session. He advised that the Township has gone out for RFPs for a Health Care Consultant to review the Township's current health insurance and that the RFPs are due on September 15th. He noted that approval of this contract will be done at a future Council meeting.

Mr. Hary reported that the Township held a Memorial Service this past Friday in honor of all of those who lost their lives on 9/11. He thanked Councilman Borek for obtaining a piece of steel from the 9/11 site for the Township through the Jersey

City Fire Department. Mr. Hary advised that people have been leaving candles and flowers at the site all weekend.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Borek thanked Administration and the community for attending the 9/11 Memorial service. He noted it was his honor to obtain a piece of steel for the Memorial area. Mr. Borek thanked the volunteer fire companies, the girl scouts and residents for attending and noted it was a humbling experience.

Ms. Geevers noted she visited the 9/11 Memorial area over the weekend.

Ms. Geevers advised that on Saturday, October 2 the Township will sponsor a Dumpster Drop-off Day. She suggested that a work session be held to discuss the Cable TV Advisory Board ordinance.

Mr. Morgan noted he is still waiting to hear from Administration about the grant application for funds toward the Transit Village. He advised that it would be valuable for Administration to address health care costs prior to budget discussions and suggested that the health care provider be invited to attend a Council meeting.

Mr. Khanna noted he attended the 9/11 Memorial service and that it was very emotional.

President Ciccone thanked Mr. Borek for all he did for the 9/11 event. She noted that during October, Council will discuss Union contracts and have fruitful dialogue with Administration regarding Council's concerns. President Ciccone noted that Council is looking at ways to strike the balance between residents and employees.

Discussion ensued on whether Mr. Rudderman should attend the closed session regarding contract negotiations.

Ms. Young announced that at the October 4th Business Session the Clerk's Office will have a resolution to award a contract for the conversion of images to microfilm for the Construction Department's block and lot files.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Khanna gave an update on the efficiency study consultant selection process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, voiced his concerns on the Ellsworth Center problems.

Mr. Bob Akens, 32 Windsor Drive, noted his concern that there are more than two areas of bad traffic in the Township and would hope that the Township would review all areas to ensure that the proper signage and crosswalks are installed. He also inquired whether the red light cameras could do face recognition as well.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Sharon L. Young
Township Clerk
West Windsor Township