

APPROVED: June 13, 2011

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
AGENDA SESSION
April 4, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: President Khanna called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 January 7, 2011. Special Notice was given on March 28, 2011 to change the format of the meeting from a Business Meeting to an Agenda Session.

ATTENDEES: President: Khanna; Vice President: Ciccone; Council: Borek (left at 9:00 p.m.), Geever, Morgan; Business Administrator: Hary; Township Attorney: Herbert; Chief Financial Officer: Louth (arrived at 8:15 p.m.); Manager of Land Use: Surtees (arrived at 7:30 p.m. and left at 8:35 p.m.); Township Clerk: Young

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Young led the salute to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Sandra McGraw, CWA Local 1032 Representative, offered support for Ms. Roed and asked Council to reconsider the shared services agreement with East Windsor.

Ms. Ellen Scanlon, 79 Conover Road, expressed her concern that the Township Animal Control Officer position is being eliminated.

Mr. Guy Pierson, 241 Fisher Place, inquired about the closure of various intersections along Route 1, and asked questions about trash removal and the Arts Center

Mr. Pete Weale, 144 Fisher Place, inquired about the absence of the Mayor from the meeting this evening.

William T. Sutphin Esq., Attorney for Dr. and Mrs. Akselrad, spoke about the Notice of Default with the Settlement Agreement between the Akselrads and the Township.

Ms. Margo Salem, 12 Banff Drive, advised that Ms. Roed is a loyal Township employee and asked that the shared services agreement with East Windsor be reconsidered.

Ms. MaryAnn Pedee-Siegel, 17 Berrien Avenue, spoke in favor of keeping the ACO position and outlined her reasons for her support.

Ms. Kim White, 54 Montgomery Street, noted her distress about the outcome at the March 7, 2011 meeting with the elimination of Ms. Bettina Roed's position.

Ms. Nancy Bennett, 29 Fieldston Road, noted that she met with the Mayor and Administrator to discuss the ACO matter. She outlined some of the discussions.

Ms. Young advised that the Animal Control Officer was on the agenda for discussion.

Motion to add Council Comments to this portion of the agenda:

Morgan

Second: Khanna

RCV: aye Borek

aye Ciccone

aye Geevers

aye Morgan

aye Khanna

President Khanna outlined the details of the meeting held with several residents, the Mayor, and the Administrator. He advised that Administration went through the proper process for the approval of the shared services agreement.

Mr. Borek advised that Council's powers are limited, and the Council is not responsible for hiring and firing. He noted that Administration may come forward with another alternative.

Mr. Morgan spoke about the misinformation that has been circulating in the public regarding the Animal Control position and the shared services agreement with East Windsor.

Ms. Geevers asked Mr. Hary for a full report on the potential savings the shared services agreement would provide at the end of the first year of the agreement.

Ms. Ciccone's position on the topic has not changed because she advised she was not convinced that this is the best choice for the Township.

FOR ACTION

Consent Agenda:

Resolutions:

2011-R078 Refund of Veteran's Deduction for the Tax Year 2010

2011-R079 Refund of Property Tax Overpayments

2011-R080 Authorizing the Municipal Endorsement of the
Application of Mr. Morris R. Daniels for Membership
in the New Jersey State Firemen's Association

Minutes:

February 14, 2011 - Agenda Session

February 28, 2011 - Budget Work Session #1

March 14, 2011 - Closed Session

Bills and Claims

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda: Ciccone

Second: Borek

RCV: aye Borek

aye Ciccone

aye Geevers

aye Morgan

aye Khanna

FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor/Administrator

Animal Control Officer

Mr. Hary spoke about the notice given to Ms. Roed and the reason it was handled the way it was. He also reviewed the process for handling the shared services agreement.

Ms. Ciccone also spoke about the process that led to a vote on the shared services agreement.

Mr. Morgan outlined some of the details and concerns which led to the vote for the shared services agreement.

Mr. Hary spoke about the number of service calls received based on the history provided from the dispatcher's log.

Mr. Morgan asked to review the dispatcher's log and the number of animal control calls received over the past five years.

President Khanna advised that Administration followed the proper procedures which led to the decision of utilizing a shared service agreement. He also advised that a contract should never be broken once the Township enters into it because vendors may not want to work with West Windsor in the future.

Review of Farm Lease Agreements

Mr. Surtees reviewed the status of the five farmland leases. He noted that the agreements are made with the same farmers who currently farm the property. Mr. Surtees explained that agreements include a 20% increase in rents, and the farmers are responsible for their own maintenance costs. He spoke about the structure for determining the lease costs and reviewed the additional changes made to the farmland leases.

Council addressed questions pertaining to the farmland and the respective leases.

Mr. Surtees addressed the issue of hunting on the woodlands surrounding the farmland and advised that "no hunting" signs have been posted. He explained that only "hunt clubs" are allowed to hunt on the property with the consent of the farmer to assist in the reduction of the deer population.

COUNCIL MEMBER/CLERK

Continued Budget Discussions

Mr. Hary outlined the reductions made to the 2011 Municipal Budget, and discussed the increases to the tax levy and tax rate. He explained all the effort taken into the consideration to keep the budget within the 2% cap.

Council addressed questions concerning Union negotiations, salary increases, improvements needed to reduce overtime, layoffs, furloughs, increase in medical costs and insurance, the Township's ability to reduce the health care costs, legislation affecting health care premiums, and reductions and changes to the Capital Budget.

Administration agreed to have health care costs discussed at the next agenda session.

President Khanna asked that Administration to reduce overtime by 5% for all non-emergency departments. He noted that with the reduction in overtime and the changes made to the Capital Budget, it will result in an additional \$35,000 savings to the budget.

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, asked why West Windsor's budget is twice as much as East Windsor. He outlined some of the information he had retrieved from both of the townships.

Mr. Hary advised that West Windsor has the third lowest tax rate in the County, and has shown consistency throughout the past ten years.

Ms. Nancy Bennett, 29 Fieldston Road, spoke about the decision regarding the ACO position. She noted that the public should have the right to influence a Council vote before it is taken.

Mr. Guy Pierson, 241 Fisher Place, advised that amenities should not be listed in the budget when so many residents are struggling with the economic situation.

Mr. Alvin Lerner, 67 Rainflower Lane, advised that the reduction in revenues has created further issues with the Township budget.

Mr. Pete Weale, 144 Fisher Place, advised that Council misunderstands their charge in this form of Government. He noted that Council should be telling Administration the percentage the budget should be reduced.

Ms. Jeanette Roed, South Brunswick, suggested that West Windsor become a centralized shelter for animals within the State. She noted that it would provide revenue to the Township.

Mr. Hary advised that regional and county-wide shelters have been discussed in the past but never came to fruition. He also asked for further clarification for budget reductions.

Motion to direct Administration to reduce all non-emergency overtime by 5%, and defer the Duck Pond Run improvements and the Municipal Building improvements: Ciccone

Second: Morgan

RCV: Borek - absent, left at 9:00 p.m.

aye Ciccone

NAY Geevers

NAY Morgan

NAY Khanna

Motion to eliminate the Business Administrator's position and make the Mayor's position full-time: Morgan

Second: Ciccone

RCV: Borek - absent, left at 9:00 p.m.

NAY Ciccone

NAY Geevers

aye Morgan

NAY Khanna

Motion for a zero percent increase to the 2011 Municipal Budget:

Morgan

Second: Ciccone

RCV: Borek - absent, left at 9:00 p.m.

NAY Ciccone

NAY Geevers

aye Morgan

NAY Khanna

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Mr. Hary reviewed the following:

- Sidewalk Program is currently on-going
- Public Works will begin pothole repairs
- DOT will begin closures of jug-handles along Route 1
- Sutphin: there are Green Acres issues with associated property and Ms. Cayci is working on
- West Windsor's form of government does not require that the Mayor attend Council meetings
- Alexander Road Circle is a State project
- Waste Management: 20% favorable rate and twice a week pickups during summer and once in the winter

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Geevers noted that flyers posted on the PSE&G telephone poles are illegal. She also advised that the School Board Election will be held April 27, 2011.

Ms. Ciccone spoke of the environmental cleanup that took place in West Windsor this past weekend. She recommended that the State review power plant safety issues to protect the residents of New Jersey.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, inquired about consultant fees for the Senior Center and the increase to pension costs.

Mr. Bob Akens, 34 Windsor Drive, spoke about the tax increase and addressed several questions regarding the redevelopment costs.

Mr. Al Lerner, 67 Rainflower Lane, spoke about redevelopment and the costs associated with the project.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to go into closed session at 10:43 p.m.: Morgan

Second: Ciccone

RCV: Borek - absent

aye Ciccone

aye Geevers

aye Morgan

aye Khanna

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 InterCap litigation and PBA Union Negotiations.

MEETING RECONVENED

The meeting reopened at 11:10 p.m.

Discussion ensued about budget reductions.

Motion to reduce overtime across the board by 5%: Geevers

Second: Ciccone

RCV: Borek - absent

NAY Ciccone

aye Geevers

NAY Morgan

NAY Khanna

Motion to reduce all non-emergency overtime by 5%: Ciccone

Second: Morgan

RCV: Borek - absent

aye Ciccone

aye Geevers

NAY Morgan

aye Khanna

Motion to extend the clock to 11:30 p.m.: Ciccone

Second: Geevers

VV: All ayes - Borek, absent

Motion to reduce and split the cost of the Duck Pond Park in the Capital Budget for 2011 and 2012 at \$150,000 per year: Ciccone

Second: Morgan

RCV: Borek - absent

aye Ciccone

aye Geevers

NAY Morgan

aye Khanna

Motion to reduce the cost of bike lanes in the Capital Budget by \$25,000: Geevers

Second: Ciccone

RCV: Borek - absent

NAY Ciccone

aye Geevers

NAY Morgan

aye Khanna

Motion did not carry.

Motion not to fill the vacant Police Division positions for

2011: Geever

Second: Ciccone

RCV: Borek - absent

NAY Ciccone

aye Geever

aye Morgan

NAY Khanna

Motion did not carry.

Motion to prepare the budget documents for introduction with the amendments that have been voted on previously: Ciccone

Second: Morgan

RCV: Borek - absent

aye Ciccone

aye Geever

aye Morgan

aye Khanna

The Budget introduction will be on April 11, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Ciccone

Second: Morgan

VV: All ayes, Borek - absent

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 p.m.

Sharon L. Young
Township Clerk
West Windsor Township