

APPROVED: April 25, 2011

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
AGENDA SESSION  
March 14, 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.

ATTENDEES: President: Khanna; Vice President: Ciccone; Council: Geevers, Morgan; Mayor: Hsueh (arrived at 9:03 p.m.); Business Administrator: Hary; Township Attorney: Herbert; Chief Financial Officer: Louth; Township Clerk: Young

ABSENT: Borek

President Khanna asked to defer the discussion of Farm Lease Agreements until the April Agenda Session and to table several discussion topics.

Motion to defer the discussion of the Farm Lease Agreements:  
Ciccone  
Second: Geevers  
VV: All approved, Borek-absent

Motion to table discussions for Proposed Amendments to the Township Code, and Policy for Retaining and Entering into Contracts with Professionals: Ciccone  
Second: Geevers  
RCV: Borek - absent  
aye Ciccone  
aye Geevers  
NAY Morgan - abstain  
aye Khanna

Mr. Morgan asked if Ms. Ciccone understood what she had just voted be removed from the agenda.

Ms. Ciccone asked that the discussion of Establishing a Policy for Retaining and Entering into Contracts with Professionals also be placed on the April Agenda Session.

Mr. Morgan asked that the proposed ordinance, which is an amendment to the Township Code, be added back onto the agenda for discussion.

Mr. Herbert advised that the ordinance is part of the litigation between Mr. Morgan and the Mayor and should not be considered at this time.

Mr. Morgan asked that the discussion of a resolution "Declaring the Membership of the West Windsor Township Team Determining Township Strategy for Conducting Settlement Negotiations with InterCap" be added to the agenda this evening

Motion to add the resolution to the agenda for discussion:

Morgan

Second: Ciccone

RCV: Borek - absent

aye Ciccone

aye Geevers

aye Morgan - abstain

aye Khanna

Mr. Herbert suggested discussing the resolution in closed session.

#### SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Young led the salute to the flag.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Franc Gambatese, 3 Lanark Drive, spoke about the signage approval for the marquee that was completed over a year ago. He asked what the delay is for having the monument sign placed in front of the Southfield Shopping Center. Mr. Gambatese noted several problems with getting approval for business signage.

Ms. Emily Epstein, President of Pet Rescue of Mercer, 42 Lake Shore Drive, spoke in favor of keeping the Animal Control Officer position.

Ms. Kristine Schmidt, 12 Scarsdale Ave., noted her concerns about the elimination of the Animal Control Officer position.

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. Anne Soden, a resident of East Windsor Township, spoke about the increase of response time for an emergency once the Animal Control Officer's position has been eliminated.

Ms. Jeanette Roed, South Brunswick, advised that Administration spoke about the reduction in staff was by attrition alone. She noted that the elimination of the ACO is in stark contrast to their previous comments. She urged Council to reconsider the elimination of the ACO position.

Mr. Morgan advised that the power to reinstate Ms. Bettina Roed's position lies with the Mayor and Administration.

Mr. Herbert noted that Council Members' responsibility in this matter is to approve or rescind the Interlocal Agreement voted on at the March 7, 2011 Business Session.

Mr. Morgan suggested that a petition to the Mayor be created for reinstating the Animal Control Officer position.

President Khanna advised that Ms. Roed did a great job and that Council will need to review Administration's position about the Interlocal Agreement with East Windsor and the reinstating of the job position.

Mr. Pat Chan, 118 N. Barrow Place, spoke in favor of keeping the ACO. He reviewed the value and the savings this position offered the Township.

Motion to allow public comment during the Redevelopment and  
Budget Discussions: Morgan  
Second: Ciccone  
All ayes - Borek absent

FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor/Administrator

Redevelopment Expense Update

Mr. Hary distributed an analysis of capital ordinance expenditures for the Redevelopment Plan as of March 1, 2011. He reviewed for Council the distribution of funds.

Council addressed questions.

Ms. Ciccone inquired about the expenditures for 2010 and asked Administration to provide more details.

Mr. Morgan asked Administration to produce an income statement and a balance sheet for the expenditures.

Mr. Hary advised that the compost facility costs will increase as the project moves forward.

Ms. Louth advised that the report can be done in another format but not as an income or financial statement.

Ms. Geever inquired about where Mr. Herbert's expenses were as they relate to redevelopment.

Mr. Herbert explained that his expenses are listed under litigation because litigation costs cannot be bonded.

Ms. Ciccone asked for a complete accounting of the redevelopment costs including the associated litigation.

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, suggested that Administration provide Council with a complete package of redevelopment information and costs.

Mr. Pete Weale, 144 Fisher Place, spoke about the format for the preparation of the financial report.

Mr. Bob Akens, 32 Windsor Drive, noted that profit and loss statements should include the attorney's fees for litigation. He advised that forms should be set up properly to add data when necessary.

Mr. Alvin Lerner, 67 Rainflower Lane, advised that the redevelopment project was to be tax neutral and noted that government and industry do not operate the same.

Mr. Morgan recommended that the expense report also include the allocation of employees' time to have an accurate picture of the costs.

#### COUNCIL MEMBER/CLERK

#### Continued Budget Discussions

President Khanna advised that Administration produced recommendations for a 5% decrease in the Municipal Budget.

Council reviewed the recommendations of the various modifications to achieve a 5% reduction in the 2011 Budget.

Discussion ensued about the elimination of refuse collection, reduction of street lighting, closing of the Arts Center, closing of the Senior Center and the elimination of their staff, reduction of the Environmental Commission budget, removal of the shared services agreement with the School Board for cable TV services, and elimination of flu vaccinations.

Mr. Ron Slinn, 17 Fieldston Road, reviewed the Senior Center's monthly report of activities and noted that the budget for the Senior Center costs is relatively small.

Mr. Hary offered alternative modifications by purging two employee positions in Public Works and Emergency Services.

President Khanna advised that recommendations were established by Administration and Department Heads to reduce the budget by 5% and if Council wants to make further recommendations, they can be given directly to Mr. Hary.

Ms. Geevers asked for a comparison of full-time staff versus part-time and per-diem staff for the Construction Division.

Ms. Louth reviewed a spreadsheet with appropriation increases and decreases along with the revenue numbers. She advised that the value of a penny is \$597,000 and the tax rate is .37 cents which is a 2.5% increase over last year. Ms. Louth noted that pension costs will increase 10.62% in 2012.

Ms. Ciccone inquired about the increase or decrease of assessment in a resident's home and how this affects the tax rate.

Mr. Hary noted that 20% or approximately 2,000 homes will have a higher or lower tax rate than the majority of the residents because of a change in the assessed value of their homes.

Ms. Geevers inquired about the costs for health care and pensions for employees.

Mr. Morgan clarified the difference between a "tax levy" and a "tax rate" to better inform the residents.

Mr. Hary outlined the topics that Council requested him to examine in more detail as potential reductions to the budget.

Ms. Geevers requested Administration to evaluate reducing the Municipal budget by one penny.

Motion to reduce the budget by one penny: Geevers

Second: Morgan

RCV: Borek - absent

NAY Ciccone

aye Geevers

aye Morgan

NAY Khanna

Motion did not carry.

Discussion ensued over further potential reductions.

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 10:20 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 ligation.

MEETING RECONVENED

The meeting reopened at 10:59 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Ciccone

Second: Geever

VV: All ayes, Borek - absent

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 p.m.

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Sharon L. Young  
Township Clerk  
West Windsor Township