

APPROVED: June 13, 2011

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
BUSINESS SESSION
May 9, 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 and on May 2, 2011 a notice to change the meeting from an Agenda Session to a Business Session was filed with the Princeton Packet, The Times and the Municipal Clerk and posted in the West Windsor Township Municipal Building.

ATTENDEES: President: Khanna; Vice President: Ciccone; Council: Borek, Geevers, Morgan; Mayor: Hsueh (left at 7:50 p.m.); Business Administrator: Hary; Township Attorney: Herbert; Deputy Township Clerk: Huber

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Huber led the salute to the flag.

AMEND THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

Motion to amend the order of the agenda to move Public Comment after the Ceremonial Matters and/or Topic For Priority Consideration: Borek
Second: Ciccone
VV: All approved

CEREMONIAL MATTERS AND/OR TOPIC FOR PRIORITY CONSIDERATION

Emergency Medical Services Week May 15 through May 21, 2011

Mayor Hsueh presented a Proclamation to representatives from the Twin W First Aid Squad proclaiming Emergency Medical Services Week May 15th through May 21st.

Chief Kevin Friis announced that Twin W will be hosting an Open House on May 18th between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the squad house located at 21 Everett Drive.

Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Award

Mayor Hsueh announced that Ms. Ingrid Ma, a student of West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District, was one of three winners of the Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition. He presented her with a check in the amount of \$1,000 and a certificate from the New Jersey League of Municipalities. Mayor Hsueh also announced the following West Windsor-Plainsboro students who were finalists and presented a certificate to each: Christian Balevski, Laura Bortnick, Sari Frankel, Jesse Yu and Jeffrey Yu.

PRESENTATION BY THE WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO BOARD OF EDUCATION -
Defeated School Budget

President Khanna reviewed the process that will be followed for this evening's presentation on the defeated school budget. He introduced Mr. Robert Johnson, Vice President of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education.

Mr. Johnson advised that both the Township Council of West Windsor and the Township Committee of Plainsboro agreed to hold separate meetings regarding the defeated budget. He introduced Ms. Victoria Kniewel, Superintendent of Schools.

Ms. Kniewel introduced members of the Board and staff in the audience. Ms. Kniewel conducted the review of the Board's budget and presented \$503,000 in reductions the Board recommends can be done without affecting the students' education.

Mr. Pete Weale, 144 Fisher Place, noted he is looking to reduce the budget by ten million not \$503,000. He advised that the three plus percent increases received by the staff is still too high and suggested areas that could be reduced that would not impact the students' education.

Ms. Rebecca Esmi, 69 Woodmere Way, spoke of the need to reduce the school budget further and noted that she is glad to hear the commitment by the Board not to affect the quality of education.

Mr. Shapoor Vali, 550 Village Road West, noted he is an educator and reviewed changes made in his district that West Windsor School Board might want to consider.

Ms. Susan Roy, 2 Strathmore Place, voiced her support for the school budget and requested Council not to make any reductions.

Mr. Reza Alipour, 2 Garnet Lane, advised that he moved to West Windsor because of the school district and supports the school budget as proposed.

Mr. Ahmad Eshraghi, 3 Keystone Way, noted that he does not feel the school district has a direct connection to property values and suggested that the School Board review areas that can be reduced.

Mr. Douglas Larkin, 7 Penn Lyle Road, voiced his support of the budget without any additional reductions.

Ms. Ayse Akincigil, 4 Berrien Avenue, spoke in support of the School Board budget.

Mr. Ed O'Mara, 28 Grande Blvd, noted that he supports reducing the School Budget.

Mr. Jessie Yu, 41 Zaitz Farm Road, voiced his support for the teachers and administrators and noted that he is completely against cutting the benefits to teachers, and he supports the current budget.

Mr. Jeffrey Yu, 41 Zaitz Farm Road, advised that he had sent an e-mail to Council members noting his support of the budget. He stated that it is about the future of the children and that students should be put first.

Mr. Robert Murray, 20 Lorrie Lane, advised that the budget was defeated and "like it or not" it was Council's job to reduce the budget. He noted that many people have not received pay increases this year, and that in surrounding townships the budgets did not increase as significantly as West Windsor. He advised that the budget should be brought in line with surrounding townships and it was Council's job to make the necessary reductions.

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, noted he supports Mr. Murray's comments.

Mr. James, 16 Darvel Drive, advised he is an employee of the School District and that the information circulating about employees not contributing to their benefits is incorrect.

Mr. Morgan thanked everyone for coming this evening and noted that in his 12 years on Council this is the first defeated school budget. He asked several questions regarding various sections of the school budget.

Ms. Kniewel and Mr. Larry Shanok, Assistant Superintendent for Finance/Board Secretary answered Mr. Morgan's questions.

Mr. Borek thanked both the public and the School Board for being present this evening. He advised that this is not easy for anyone but that he supports the School Board's recommendation of \$503,000 in reductions for the budget.

Ms. Geevers advised that the school district will continue to strive for excellence and noted she has received many e-mails from residents both for and against the school budget. She noted that reductions should be made that do not impact the students. Ms. Geevers suggested reducing professional services contracts by 5% and advised that a review of the final budget costs versus actual costs should be conducted.

Ms. Ciccone thanked the public for the e-mails she had received and noted it is important to hear from everyone. She asked several questions regarding the budget and the effect of the reductions on the students.

Mr. Shanok and Ms. Kniewel responded to Ms. Ciccone's questions.

President Khanna thanked everyone for attending and noted that the proposed reductions will not come without pain. He asked several questions of the School Board.

Mr. Fleres and Mr. Johnson, both members of the School Board, responded to President Khanna's questions.

President Khanna advised that he supports the budget "as is"; however, he can endorse the proposed reductions. He noted that economic conditions are not getting better and going forward new goals should be set and every department be reviewed by the School District. President Khanna advised that the number one goal is to produce good students.

Discussion ensued with members of Council and the School Board regarding various budget items.

Motion to add resolution 2011-R102 to the agenda: Ciccone

Second: Borek

RCV: aye Borek

aye Ciccone

aye Geevers

NAY Morgan

aye Khanna

2011-R102 Certifying Tax Levy for the West Windsor-Plainsboro
Regional School District

Motion to approve 2011-R102: Borek

Second: Ciccone

RCV: aye Borek

aye Ciccone

aye Geevers

NAY Morgan

aye Khanna

President Khanna requested a five-minute break at 9:15 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:27 p.m.

ORDER OF AGENDA RESUMED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, updated Council and Mr. Hary on his comparison of West Windsor's Municipal Budget with East Windsor and Plainsboro Townships. He noted that the Burkholder Study conducted last year does not go far enough. Mr. Church advised that he will present a draft of his findings to Administration and Council.

Mr. Pete Weale, 144 Fisher Place, noted that more information should be provided regarding the farm leases on the agenda for approval this evening and inquired as to why the Township is adding additional parking lots at Community Park. He noted his displeasure with Council only reducing the school budget by \$503,000 on a \$60,000,000 budget.

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Mr. Hary gave an update on the various sidewalk projects currently underway throughout the Township and noted that the County has completed their overlays of Clarksville Road and Route 571.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Morgan inquired about the status of the sub-committee on signage and suggested that the committee be revitalized.

President Khanna advised that there was a sub-committee working on signage; however, several members of the committee had stopped attending meetings leaving only two members. He encouraged Mr. Morgan to have the business owners contact the Clerk's Office so that the committee can be reactivated.

Mr. Morgan suggested using the bullet point approach to find out what the business owners want and then send it to the Planning Board for review.

Discussion ensued. It was decided that Mr. Morgan and Ms. Geevers would provide a draft for Administration to review.

Mr. Borek advised that at the last Affordable Housing Committee meeting there was discussion regarding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the use of these funds being taken by the State if not utilized by the Township.

Ms. Geevers thanked all the emergency services workers throughout the Township for their service. She gave an update on the April 13th Planning Board meeting.

Ms. Ciccone announced that on Wednesday, May 19th at 7:00 p.m. the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance will sponsor a Ride for Silence to honor cyclists who have been killed or injured on public roadways. She advised that the ride will start at the Municipal Complex. Ms. Ciccone inquired about how outside organizations can have events placed on the new electronic sign at the Ron Rogers Arboretum.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

2011-R097 Authorizing the Release of Escrow Balances in Completed Development Projects

MINUTES

April 4, 2011 - Closed Session
April 11, 2011 - Closed Session

BILLS & CLAIMS

Motion to approve consent agenda: Borek

Second: Ciccone

RCV: aye Borek
aye Ciccone
aye Geevers
aye Morgan
aye Khanna

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Morgan requested that Resolution 2011-R098 be pulled for further discussion.

Ms. Ciccone requested that Resolution 2011-R100 be pulled for further discussion.

2011-R099 Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute a Contract with JWT Excavating, Inc. for the South Post Road Wastewater Pumping Station Rehabilitation-\$213,275

2011-R101 Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute a Contract with Orchard Holdings, LLC for the 2010 Pedestrian Safety Improvements-\$68,771

Motion to approve resolutions 2011-R099 and 2011-R101:

Second:

RCV: aye Borek
aye Ciccone
aye Geevers
aye Morgan
aye Khanna

2011-R098 Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute Farm Lease Agreements with Farmers Currently Leasing Subject Parcels

Mr. Morgan requested that a copy of the map be included with the official resolution.

Motion to approve: Morgan

Second: Ciccone

RCV: aye Borek
aye Ciccone
aye Geevers
aye Morgan
aye Khanna

2011-R100 Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute a Contract
with Halecon, Inc. for the Community Park Parking Lot
Expansion-\$398,934.44

Ms. Ciccone inquired if anyone looked into using something other than blacktop for this project.

Mr. Hary advised that the contract is for the installation of blacktop.

Motion to approve: Geevers

Second: Borek

RCV: aye Borek

NAY Ciccone

aye Geevers

NAY Morgan

aye Khanna

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Geevers asked that Mr. Morgan and Mayor Hsueh try to resolve their differences without adding additional financial burdens to the taxpayers of the Township.

ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

HEALTH CARE COST DISCUSSION

Mr. Hary requested that this discussion be deferred to the June agenda session.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pete Weale, 144 Fisher Place, voiced his frustration about the School Board's presentation and recommendation for reduction of their budget and the Mayor's lack of attendance at Council meetings.

President Khanna requested holding a meeting on May 31st.

Council agreed to schedule a short meeting for May 31st for the approval of Bills and Claims.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Ciccone
Second: Geevers
VV: All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Sharon L. Young
Township Clerk
West Windsor Township