

APPROVED: March 18, 2013

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
BUSINESS SESSION
February 4, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: President Borek called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 8, 2013.

ATTENDEES: President: Borek; Vice President: Samonte; Council Members: Geevers, Khanna, Maher; Mayor: Hsueh; Business Administrator: Schmid; Township Attorney: Herbert; Landscape Architect: Dobromilsky (left at 8:45 p.m.); Township Engineer: Guzik (left at 9:20 p.m.); Township Clerk: Young

CEREMONIAL MATTERS AND/OR TOPIC FOR PRIORITY CONSIDERATION

Presentation by Dan Dobromilsky on the Princeton Junction Pocket Park

Mr. Dobromilsky gave a thorough presentation on the Princeton Junction Pocket Park. He explained that the site was originally set aside for the Princeton Junction Firehouse but the parcel was not large enough for the firehouse. Mr. Dobromilsky advised that the owners of the Valero gas station who purchased the property dedicated a portion of the property next to the service station to the Township for berming.

Mr. Dobromilsky explained that an analysis was done and a concept plan was created in 2003. He advised that a sustainability plan for the parcel was created in 2009 and a suggestion emerged to create a cultural garden with a sponsor or garden club to operate and maintain the property. He commented that an intern from Rutgers University assisted with the design of the garden. Mr. Dobromilsky noted that Friends of West Windsor Open Space (FOWWOS), a 501(c)3 organization, have assisted with the collection of donations for the park.

Mr. Maher advised that he was against having an ethnic theme for a public park. He noted that other parks may have ethnic themes but they were built on private property. Mr. Maher suggested that the theme be toned down and the park be made more of a part of the Township.

Mr. Khanna confirmed that the theme of the park is only a concept.

Ms. Geever asked if the donations were being accepted because of the park theme that was chosen. She inquired about parking, lighting and security.

Ms. Alison Miller, 41 Windsor Drive, President of Friends of West Windsor Open Space, explained that FOWWOS is accepting donations from individuals who are only interested in having a park in that location.

Mr. Dobromilsky advised that the concept plan is to get a conversation started with the intention of creating a garden group.

Ms. Samonte suggested that Council should keep their concerns to the process and plan.

President Borek inquired about the amount of money raised and stated it could take a few years until the park comes to fruition. He addressed several other questions about the concept and creation of the park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Andrew Kulley, 6 Jill Drive, FOWWOS Trustee, commented on it being time to start developing the park. He noted that he is not offended by the theme and advised that the park is consistent with historical voters of the Township.

Ms. Debbie Hepler, 10 Dean Court, spoke about the Grover House Investigation Report. She also reported on a Public Works employee who was accused of committing grand theft.

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, addressed the fire hydrant fee that the Township pays and spoke about the restoration of the Grover Farmstead.

Mr. Pete Weale, 144 Fisher Place, addressed several issues of concern regarding the pocket park, Grover House, Ellsworth property, and the debris along Washington Road.

Mr. David Siegel, 17 Berrien Avenue, advised that he lives near the proposed pocket park and does not take offense to the theme. He urged Administration to develop the park.

Ms. Mary Ann McKiernan, 7 Dinsmore Lane, commented on the park being a great idea. She noted that additional parking and children's playground equipment will not be required.

Mr. Andy Bromberg, 24 Providence Drive, addressed questions and concerns regarding the pocket park.

Mr. Alvin Lerner, 67 Rainflower Lane, listed many of the attributes of the Township which make the community appealing.

Mr. James Solloway, 5 Monroe Drive, suggested that a business plan and budget should be established for the pocket park before moving forward with a concept plan.

Ms. Janet Lerner, 67 Rainflower Lane, agreed that a pocket park is a great idea.

Mr. Ted Grover, 360 Village Road East, addressed several issues about the Grover House Investigation Report.

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Mayor Hsueh inquired about the Public Works employee because he was unaware of the issue.

Mr. Herbert advised that there was litigation associated with this case and should not be discussed in public. He noted that he would review the case and discuss the parameters with Council.

Mr. Maher noted that he was surprised that the Mayor was not aware of the situation in Public Works and asked for a full investigation. He advised of his concerns with the development of the old American Cyanamid property. Mr. Maher informed Administration that more ratables are needed and less costs associated with additional school-aged children.

Mr. Khanna pointed out that no tax dollars are involved for the development of the pocket park. He inquired about the completion of the Grover Farm Restoration Committee report and a date to present the report.

President Borek noted that the Grover Farm Restoration Committee is not ready to give their report and suggests that the Committee wait until after the adoption of the Township budget to give their presentation.

Mr. Pete Weale, 144 Fisher Place, Vice-Chair to the Grover Farm Restoration Committee, advised that the Committee does not have a specific date reserved for the presentation of the report.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Geevers noted she was anxious for the Grover Farm Restoration Committee report to be presented. She spoke about the presentation by the Howard Hughes Corporation on the property they had acquired. Mr. Geevers asked Administration about preparing a report pertaining to the zoning and ratables for the property.

President Borek advised that the discussion of ratables and zoning for the property is premature. He noted that the Council will have this discussion when there is a better understanding of what will be presented for the property.

Ms. Samonte pointed out that it would be "jumping the gun" to begin preparing reports, and the information presented by the company should be taken at face value until they can come back and give a more comprehensive plan.

Mayor Hsueh commented that assumptions should not be made without the facts being presented.

Mr. Herbert emphasized that a change in zoning is a complex process involving a lot of public hearings.

Mr. Maher predicted that the developer is going to sell residential to make a profit on the property. He suggested that the Township begin to look into the process so that it does not become another bad decision.

Ms. Geevers asked for an update pertaining to the wooded area behind Windsor Plaza.

Mayor Hsueh informed Council that he compiled information to present to the residents and will be talking to individuals to inform them of the process.

CHAIR/CLERK COMMENTS

President Borek thanked the residents and the Mayor for addressing the concerns about the woods behind Windsor Plaza. He advised that the Township will be following the Prosecutor's guidelines with regard to the Grover House Investigation Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

2013-R041 Authorizing the Appointment of Corinna Bisgaier as a member to the Human Relations Council with a Term to Expire on December 31, 2014

2013-R042 Authorizing the Reappointment of Victor Stein as a member to the Human Relations Council with a Term to Expire on December 31, 2014

2013-R043 Authorizing the Reappointment of Savin Roman as a member to the Human Relations Council with a Term to Expire on December 31, 2014

2013-R044 Authorizing the Reappointment of Firoozeh Vali as a member to the Human Relations Council with a Term to Expire on December 31, 2014

2013-R045 Authorizing the Reappointment of Ted Begun as Resident Representative to the Site Plan Review Advisory Board with a Term to Expire December 31, 2015

2013-R046 Authorizing the Appointment of George Thompson as Resident Representative to the Affordable Housing Committee with a Term to Expire December 31, 2015

2013-R047 Refund of Overpaid Property Taxes

MINUTES

December 17, 2012 - Business Session
January 7, 2013 - Reorganization Meeting
January 7, 2013 - Closed Session

BILLS & CLAIMS

Motion to approve consent agenda: Samonte

Second: Khanna

RCV: aye Geevers

aye Khanna

aye Maher

aye Samonte

aye Borek

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL/CLERK

2013-R048 Supporting the Mayors Request for Intervention of New Jersey Rate Council in Jersey Central Power & Light's Petition to the State of New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for Review and Approval of Increases in and other Adjustments to its Rates and Charges for Electrical Service

2013-R049 Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Vital Communications, Inc. for Support and Maintenance of Proprietary Computer Hardware and Software-\$17,220.00

Motion to approve Resolutions 2013-R048 and 2013-R049: Samonte

Second: Khanna

RCV: aye Geevers

aye Khanna

aye Maher

aye Samonte

aye Borek

2013-R050 Authorizing Reimbursement to Elements at West Windsor Homeowners' Association for Snow Removal for 2011-\$3,726.23

Motion to approve: Maher

Second: Samonte

RCV: aye Geevers

aye Khanna

aye Maher

aye Samonte

Borek, abstain

2013-R051 Endorsing the Design of the Clarksville-Grovers Mill Road and Princeton-Hightstown Road Intersection to Minimize the Width of Clarksville-Grovers Mill Road and Subsequent Right-of-Way Impact on Residential Properties

Mr. Guzik, Township Engineer, presented PowerPoint slides outlining the various changes that have been proposed for this intersection based upon potential traffic volume increase. He reviewed the recommended plan for the intersection.

Mr. Maher asked who is paying for the various drawings and plans proposed for this intersection. He noted he favored the plan that had the least impact on the residents.

Mr. Guzik explained that the County paid for the scoping phase and then secured additional funding for the concept plan.

Ms. Geevers asked if Planning Board needed to review the plan again.

Mr. Guzik advised that it was not necessary to have the Township Planning Board review the plans because the plans are in line with the Board's recommendations to improve traffic flow and have the more concentrated changes on Route 571.

Motion to approve: Khanna

Second: Geevers

RCV: aye Geevers

aye Khanna

aye Maher

aye Samonte

aye Borek

2013-R052 Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute a Shared Services Agreement to Provide Public Health Services to Robbinsville Township for the Period of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2015

Mr. Maher asked if Administration considered outsourcing this position with another Township providing the service. He commented that West Windsor Township should not be responsible for paying the long-term benefits and pension for all of the permanent employees.

Motion to approve: Samonte

Second: Khanna

RCV: aye Geevers

aye Khanna

aye Maher

aye Samonte

aye Borek

2013-R053 Urging the New Jersey Legislature to Reject A-1196 the "Thomas P. Canzanella Twenty First Century First Responders Protection Act"

Motion to approve: Maher

Second: Samonte

RCV: aye Geevers

aye Khanna

aye Maher

aye Samonte

Borek, abstain

COUNCIL REPORTS

Ms. Geevers advised that the School Board voted in favor of moving the School Board Election to November. She also spoke about ongoing discussions for improving school safety.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Alvin Lerner, 67 Rainflower Lane, spoke about the Howard Hughes presentation for the land that they purchased. He suggested forming an ad-hoc committee to work with the new land owners on the development of the parcel.

Ms. Alison Miller, 41 Windsor Drive, advised that the Township had to wait on the approvals for the Valero Gas Station before the pocket park concept plan could be created. She spoke about the details of the plan and FOWWOS raising funds for the park.

Mr. David Siegel, 17 Berrien Avenue, made comments about the pocket park and the Howard Hughes presentation.

Mr. Allen Marx, 101 Claridge Court, suggested that Council devote more time promoting the positive attributes of West Windsor Township.

Ms. Debbie Hepler, 10 Dean Court, inquired about the business plans for the pocket park, spoke about Schenck Farmstead costs, and the increase of property taxes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Samonte
Second: Khanna
VV: All approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Sharon L. Young
Township Clerk
West Windsor Township