

APPROVED: October 6, 2014

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

WORK SESSION

September 8, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: President Maher called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m. after the close of the adequately noticed Business Session.

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 August 27, 2014.

ATTENDEES: President: Maher; Vice President: Geevers; Council: Borek, Mendonez, Samonte; Business Administrator: Schmid; Township Attorney: Herbert; Township Clerk: Young; Director of Public Works: Drummond (8:09 p.m.-8:24 p.m.); Landscape Architect: Dobromilsky (9:10 p.m.-9:35 p.m.); Director of Community Development: Ward (9:10 p.m.-9:35 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, spoke about the issue of carbon emissions being more prominent overseas. He recommended West Windsor not participate in the RGGI program.

FOR DISCUSSION:

Council Member/Clerk

Further Review of the Yard Waste Ordinance

President Maher expressed his two biggest concerns with the Township's current yard debris policy where debris is being placed out too early prior to pickup, and the elimination of large branches and tree trunks in the debris pile.

Mr. Borek advised that there were 247 violations cited recently. He noted that educating the residents is a key component to reining in the problems.

Ms. Samonte explained that the volume of debris collected is the issue because that is how the Township is charged by the vendor. She noted her satisfaction with the wording of the ordinance before them.

Mr. Herbert affirmed that the ordinance needs to have a definite size of the debris pile for violations to be imposed.

Ms. Geevers noted that the cost for the disposal of yard debris keeps escalating.

Discussion ensued over the volume of yard debris versus the weight of the debris.

President Maher and the Council Members agreed to have the ordinance ready for introduction at the September 22nd Business Session.

Discussion of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

Mr. Mike Hornsby, Chair of the West Windsor Township Environmental Commission, commented on climate change being a clear and present danger. He outlined the reasons for supporting the reinstatement of New Jersey's participation in the RGGI Program. Mr. Hornsby spoke about the economic benefits and imposing a tax on carbon emissions. He reviewed the four economic studies that support the benefits of the program.

Christine Bator, Esq. and Adjunct Professor, Rutgers and Seton Hall Law Schools, advised that RGGI is a financial mechanism to assist in achieving goals for power plants to reduce emissions. She spoke about the standards that New Jersey already follows and suggested imposing and adhering to global warning statutes throughout the country. Ms. Bator commented that only six states produce lower gas emissions than New Jersey. She affirmed that New Jersey meets or exceeds EPA requirements.

Council addressed questions and concerns. Council responded that additional information is needed to be more educated on the topic.

Proposed Electric Procurement Program for Municipal-Owned Facilities

Mr. Dobromilsky spoke about third party energy purchasing and the possibility of the Township pursuing options to reduce costs for power through a third party supplier. He recommended hiring an energy agent professional to prepare bid packets that will allow the Township to go out to bid for the purchase which could result in ten to fifteen percent savings.

President Maher asked what the total electric costs are for all the Township-owned buildings.

Ms. Samonte inquired about the possibility of the costs coming in higher. She asked what the downside of the program is.

Mr. Dobromilsky noted that there is no obligation and no downside to the program. He told Council that he would prepare a report showing the Township's electrical costs.

President Maher informed Administration that he would need the data prior to the contract coming before Council. He asked that the report be available within the next week.

Mr. Dobromilsky explained that West Windsor would like to join the cooperative bid that will go out June of 2015 but wanted to first go out to bid in November to compare the rates. He informed Council that larger cooperatives get better rates.

Ms. Ward advised that the Administration wanted to test the program to allow time for consideration on what is best financially for the Township.

Mr. John Church, 11 Princeton Place, spoke about the co2 problem, and recommended that decisions be made on an economic basis.

Mr. Mike Hornsby, Chair of the West Windsor Township Environmental Commission, advised that there needs to be a balance between energy savings and "green" energy savings. He noted that reducing emissions is helpful for the Township's Climate Action Plan.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to go into closed session at 9:40 p.m.: Borek

Second: Mendonez

RCV: aye Borek

aye Geevers

aye Mendonez

aye Samonte

aye Maher

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 contract negotiations.

Meeting reconvened at 10:09 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Mendonez
Second: Borek
VV: All approved

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Sharon L. Young
Township Clerk
West Windsor Township