

The Regular and Conference Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Livingston was held via Livestream from Facebook @facebook.com/LivingstonTownshipNJ on the above date at 7:00 p.m. The Mayor stated that notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Law", and that Annual Notice was faxed to the West Essex Tribune and the Star Ledger on January 2, 2020, and that "48-hr. notice" was faxed and emailed to these same publications and posted on the Livingston Township website (livingstonnj.org) on April 3, 2020.

Present (via Livestream): Mayor Fernandez, Deputy Mayor Klein, Councilmember Anthony, Councilmember Meinhardt, Councilmember Vieira, Township Manager Lewis, Deputy Township Manager Jones, Township Clerk Turtleaub, Deputy Township Clerk Mazzucco, Police Chief Marshuetz, Fire Chief Mullin, Health Officer Anello

Absent: None

Mayor Fernandez asked everyone to stand for a Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Fernandez reviewed recent Township events, including last evening's Livingston Sings Fundraiser presented by Livingston Helping Neighbors. and the Township's acquisition of the Licari horse farm as Open Space property. Councilmember Anthony offered kudos to the Open Space Committee.

New Business—Coronavirus/COVID 19

Mayor Fernandez provided an update on actions taken by the Township in response to the Coronavirus/COVID 19.

Township Manager Lewis gave an update of the Township's response to the Coronavirus pandemic, noting that another two weeks closure of Township offices was needed, and that the second day of the Saint Barnabas Blood Drive had been canceled. Addressing the question of whether the Township would be affording relief on property taxes, Mr. Lewis pointed out that any such relief would require the cooperation of the County and the Board of Education, as otherwise the Township would still be liable to pay the full share of taxes to those entities.

Township Health Officer Lou Anello thanked his staff, presented the latest Township and County statistics.

Fire Chief and head of OEM Chris Mullin thanked his staff, explained how he has been in contact with the County OEM, and with Saint Barnabas and Inglemoor regarding supplies, and noted that the county has been making sure that they have sufficient PPEs.

Police Chief Marshuetz thanked his staff and officers. He said that for the first time he had heard about plateauing could be occurring in the near future. Mr. Anello said he believed that to be premature at this point, and that we need to remain vigilant.

Chief Marshuetz stated that crime was still down, and that an increase in fraud and domestic violence cases had not materialized. He reported that the State had extended by two months the time to renew Drivers Licenses, Registrations and Inspection Stickers. Councilmember Vieira asked about groupings now that the first day of Spring break had arrived. Chief Marshuetz noted the Police had received some calls concerning borderline compliance with the Social Distancing Orders but that while there had been smaller, questionable groups, that generally no problem with non-compliance, and that he did not believe it was a huge problem.

Councilmember Meinhardt asked about the enforcement of social distancing requirements among construction workers, notwithstanding they were permitted to work.

Mayor Fernandez asked whether group homes had been experiencing issues due to not enough PPEs. Chief Mullin noted they had been provided with facemasks and hand sanitizers, and that Chief Mullin said he was unaware of any staffing issues.

Deputy Township Manager Jones announced that the Electronics Recycling Day scheduled for April 18 had been cancelled, and that the next one would be held on June 14.

Township Clerk Turtletaub and Deputy Clerk Mazzucco read questions received via email from Township residents directed to the Council, and each was responded to by the Council and Township officials.

Monte Ehrenkrantz on behalf of the Livingston chamber of Commerce advised that the Livingston Chamber of Commerce was hosting a multichamber Zoom meeting on Wednesday with Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill who would discuss what is going on with the crisis, and that a representative from the NJEDA would speak about what assistance is available to small business. He added that Dr. Eric Handler from Saint Barnabas would discuss what they are going through and what we can do to help them and ourselves.

Township Manager Lewis added that the Business Improvement District was sending emails to gather information from local businesses. Mayor Fernandez added that state and federal grants have also been available.

A questioner who wished to remain anonymous asked what is the town's policy on dealing with hate crime, pointing out that there were some racial hate crime comments posted on one of the local FB group, and asked whether the town or police could do something about it. Chief Marshuetz responded that such hate crime comments were taken very seriously, and that the Asian and Chinese communities in particular have even among the biggest supporters of police efforts.

Resolution Authorizing Closed Session—Attorney Client privilege; Personnel

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 Governing Body of the Township of Livingston has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the public; and
WHEREAS, the Conference meeting of the Governing Body will reconvene, and

BE IT RESOLVED that this 6th day of April, 2020, that the Township Council of the Township of Livingston will go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Attorney-Client privilege, Personnel, and such matters as may come before the council and that are exempted from the public as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in closed session will be made public upon disposition.

On motion duly made and seconded, and by voice vote, all members present voted Yes.

At 7:42 p.m., the Closed Session ended.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

RUFINO FERNANDEZ, Jr. Mayor
GLENN R. TURTLETAUB, Township Clerk