

Minutes - Livingston Township Council Conference Meeting #10—May 22, 2019

Present: Mayor Anthony; Councilmembers Fernandez, Klein, Meinhardt, Vieira; Township Manager Lewis; Deputy Township Manager Jones; Township Attorney Weiner; Township Clerk Turtletaub, Deputy Township Clerk Mazzucco

The Conference meeting commenced at 7:30 p.m. The Mayor stated that all the requirements of the “Open Public Meetings Law” had been met. “Annual Notice” was faxed to the *West Essex Tribune and the Star Ledger* on January 2, 2019. “48-hr. Notice” was faxed to these same publications on May 17, 2019.

At 8:05 p.m., the Conference meeting adjourned so the Council could attend the Regular meeting.

At 9:40 p.m., the Conference meeting resumed with everyone previously in attendance present.

The Council approved the Conference and Closed Session **Minutes** of May 6, 2019.

Bob Patton and Hugh Mahon, on behalf of the Arts Council and CALA, presented to the Council in support of their request for establishment of a **Performing Arts Center** in town. They discussed their efforts since 1995 to bring a performing arts theatre to town, stating that there is a “need and desire” for such a Center. Mr. Mahon recounted past suggestions, including using the old Rec Building, and gave a history of discussions held in an attempt to find a suitable location. Mr. Mahon noted that the old spaces no longer work, and they are trying to find a creative solution to the need for space. Councilmember Fernandez asked “what do you need” and Councilmember Meinhardt asked whether there is anything the Council and Board of Education can do now in the interim, while a new site is being obtained. Councilmember Vieira suggested doing something at the Mall, and suggested that the Council should find out what the Board of Education’s concerns were/are, and why had not worked in the past.

The Council discussed possible designs of a new **Township Seal**, and selected an option that included the date of establishment of the Township.

The Council discussed and approved the request of Keystone Novelties, LLC/Keystone Fireworks for permission to hold a **tent sale at the Livingston Mall** parking lot, from June 24, 2019 through July 6, 2019.

Ajith Bodepudi, 17 Maplewood Ave., and Shubhankar Peshin, 10 Torrance Drive, addressed the Council in support of an ordinance banning **single use plastic bags and styrofoam**. Councilmember Meinhardt responded, pointing out the need to have local businesses on board, and asking what would be the “game plan” to achieve this. Mayor Anthony said the Council will look for a recommendation from the Livingston Environmental Commission, and suggested that BID and Chamber Director Beth Lippman speak with businesses in town to get their “buy-in”. Councilmember Fernandez suggested asking stakeholders “how such litigation might affect them,” so as to learn of “unintended consequences”, Township Manager Lewis suggested that if the men can do research regarding “baby steps” which could be taken, and Councilmember Vieira will get in touch with Livingston Environmental Chair Walter LeVine.

Township Attorney Weiner discussed the letter she had submitted on behalf of the Township, concerning the **hospital tax appeal**. She noted the bill was currently being held, and that the Hospital Association was working hard to get it passed.

The Council agreed to issue a congratulatory letter to two Township residents who were receiving Gold Medals of Achievement from the **Royal Rangers**.

Councilmember Vieira suggested the Council recognize and honor Matthew Smith, who had participated in the **MasterChef Jr.** competition on television.

Councilmember Meinhardt discussed the “Israel At 71” event and upcoming events including Youth Appreciation Week. He suggested that the Council recognize **Department of Public Works and Livingston Police** for their efforts in making such events safe, and that the Township should recognize them for all they do.

The Council agreed to recognize **LPD officer Kevin Mullaney** and he will be honored at an upcoming Regular Meeting.

Councilmember Fernandez asked for an update from ASI regarding the **Township Revaluation** process, including what has been done, when can we expect the meetings with homeowners to be held, etc.

Inquiry was made over what requirements, if any, governed use of the **cooking grills** at the Township Oval, and Township Clerk Turtletaub will look into the matter.

Billy Fine, on behalf of the Diversity Committee, followed up on his prior discussion concerning the Committee’s proposal that the Council recognize and celebrate **Women’s Veterans Day**. As the Council had requested, Mr. Fine said he discussed his proposal with various groups, and he advised the Council of their responses. He noted that each group had supported the proposal, that he had received “generally positive feedback,” and that his group would like to hold the ceremony at the War Memorial. Veteran Fred Friedman suggested that women in the military organizations “should get involved” in existing organizations. Mr. Fine noted that “hopefully, this will help promote it.” Mr. Fine also clarified that the group

would not be promoting the National organization, and that the event would be held on June 12.

RESOLUTION—Authorizing Closed Session: Zoning

At 9:50 p.m., the following Resolution was considered:

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 22nd day of May, 2019, that the Township Council of the Township of Livingston will go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Zoning 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 10:15 p.m., the Closed Session ended.

At 10:15 p.m., the Conference meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

GLENN R. TURTLETAUB
Township Clerk