

## **Minutes - Livingston Township Council Conference Meeting #16—September 16, 2019**

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

**Absent:** None

The Conference meeting commenced at 7:05 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.

The Council approved the **Conference and Closed Minutes** of the August 26, 2019 meetings.

The Council approved the **Legal Fees** of Murphy McKeon (August 2019), Genova Burns (August 2019).

Sonal Batra and Nilesh Mhatre gave a presentation on behalf of Sanskriti of NJ, and their proposed **Diwali Fireworks** celebration on Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 7pm at the Oval. They stated that last year’s celebration was a huge success, but they wanted to improve on public safety this year. After speaking with the Police Chief Marshuetz and Assistant Fire Chief Francione, new plans were developed to enhance safety issues, including having the auxiliary police in attendance. Batra and Mhatre thanked the Township for their support and embracing this event.

Bob Solomon, 1207 Town Center Way, spoke about loud pulsating noises coming through his floorboards at 6am from the new barre dance studio below his bedroom. He mentioned that the studio installed insulation in the roof, but it doesn’t work to eliminate the noise or the vibration. Township Manager Lewis will follow up to see if there is a noise violation.

Dennis Gottschalk, 50 Oakwood Ave, mentioned he was biking past what he thought was an abandoned piece of property at 50 Passaic Ave and found crates **of 1-eyed cats** in the backyard. The Police Department responded and an investigation is ongoing.

Township Attorney Weiner explained that there was a typo on the Resolution on the **Sale of 12 Affordable Rental Units**, listed on this evening’s Regular Agenda for a vote.

At 7:42 p.m., the Conference meeting adjourned so the Council could attend the Regular meeting.

At 8:55 p.m., the Conference meeting resumed with everyone previously in attendance present.

The Council discussed a letter from Barry Goldberg of the **Livingston Transportation Advisory Committee**, recommending the Township request NJ DOT to perform a **feasibility study for proposed sidewalks** along Highway Route 10 between Okner Parkway and Livingston Circle. Councilmembers commented that prior requests to NJ DOT were unresponsive. Councilmembers agreed that the Ordinance on sidewalk maintenance needs to be revisited, and Township Manager Lewis mentioned he’d talk to Township Engineer Harduby for input. Several suggestions were raised including finding out how other Townships handle sidewalk repair and maintenance, new technologies available for laying asphalt sidewalks, and the implementation of a sidewalk crew within Department of Public Works.

Township Manager Lewis stated that MegaBite had asked to hold an **Oktoberfest** event at the Livingston Mall on October 12, 2019 between noon and 8pm. It will include food trucks and a beer and wine garden. The Council approved the event.

Township Manager Lewis discussed **the PSE & G streetlight upgrade program** with new, energy-efficient LED lights for municipalities. Councilmember Klein inquired if it would be the Sepia LED lights, and Township Manager Lewis said he would clarify the type of LED lighting before proceeding any further.

Township Mayor Anthony outlined the **landscape plans** submitted by a NJ DOT landscape designer for the **Livingston Circle**. Councilmembers agreed with Township Superintendent of Public Works Annello’s recommendation of choosing Plan 1. NJDOT agreed to continue to mow the lawn areas at the Circle but requested that the Township adopt a **maintenance plan** for the Circle. Councilmembers discussed adding a **“Welcome to Livingston” sign**, which they felt could also be added to various entry ways into the Township. Councilmember Klein suggested adding a second removable sign that could pay tribute to various individuals and organizations.

The Council discussed a letter from a resident about **40 West Northfield Road**.

The Council discussed invitations to events and other **dates of importance**.

The Council discussed **2019 Essex County Autumn Events**.

The Council discussed the minutes of the **Livingston Transportation Advisory Committee** meetings in July and August 2019.

Township Attorney Weiner stated that there is a house on the **Straham property** that could be used by the Township. Various ideas were suggested, and Councilmembers ultimately decided a committee should be formed to decide how the building could best be repurposed.

Councilmember Klein suggested the Township of Livingston follow in Governor Murphy's footsteps and adopt a resolution on **gun safety principles** by gun manufacturers and retailers.

Councilmember Fernandez commented that the **Orchard Hill Development Committee** plans to attend a future Township Council meeting to discuss their ideas. He also inquired about the progress on updating the Township ordinance on **drive-thrus**.

Resolution Authorizing Closed Session - Open Space Acquisition (Strahman Update); Open Space Acquisition (Licari Update); Open Space Acquisition; Redevelopment Study Update

At 9:45 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 16th day of September, 2019, that the Township Council of the Township of Livingston will go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Open Space Acquisition (Strahman Update); Open Space Acquisition (Licari Update); Open Space Acquisition; Redevelopment Study Update 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 10:45 p.m., the Closed Session ended.

At 10:45 p.m., the Conference meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted,

CAROLYN S MAZZUCCO  
Deputy Township Clerk