

Minutes - Livingston Township Council Conference Meeting—February 27, 2023

Present: Mayor Vieira, Deputy Mayor Anthony, Councilmember Bagolie, Councilmember Klein, Councilmember Meinhardt, Township Manager Lewis, Deputy Township Manager Jones, Assistant Township Manager Loehner, Township Attorney Kantor, Township Attorney Cooke, Township CFO Cucci, and Township Clerk Mazzucco.

The Conference meeting commenced at 6:30 p.m. The Mayor stated that all the requirements of the “Open Public Meetings Law” had been met. “Annual Notice” was emailed to the *West Essex Tribune and the Star Ledger* on January 27, 2023 and 48-Hour Notice was emailed to the West Essex Tribune and Star Ledger on February 16, 2023.

Quorum Roll Call

A quorum roll call was held with all Council members present.

Legal Fees

There were no legal fees on the Agenda. Mayor Vieira inquired about Township Manager Lewis’ letter to Murphy McKeon P.C., and Township Attorney Kantor confirmed that the transfer to his firm had been completed. Council members requested that the Murphy McKeon January 2023 bill, reviewed at the February 13, 2023 Conference meeting, be added to the March 13, 2023 Conference Agenda.

New Business

Township Manager Lewis explained that Township Engineer Harduby is recommending an award of contract to Shauger Property Services for emergency **repairs of the sanitary sewer system** and that a Resolution is on tonight’s February 27, 2023 Regular Agenda for the Township Council’s consideration.

Township Manager Lewis stated that the Resolution to **extend the curbside solid waste collection contract** for two more years is on tonight’s February 27, 2023 Regular Agenda for the Township Council’s consideration. Council member Bagolie stated that many of the residents are unhappy with this provider’s service and that they are very sloppy when picking up her garbage. Deputy Manager Jones explained that garbage contracts are now 50 – 150% higher and there is a narrowing market of solid waste collectors. Council members discussed opportunities in shared services and /or looking into arm trucks, which would require a specific receptacle for collection.

Township Manager Lewis stated that the Arthur Smith Post **VFW** on West Mt Pleasant Ave had previously leased out a part of their building, which made the leased portion assessed as taxable. As the lease has expired, the Veteran’s Organization is able to revert to being fully tax-exempt. There is a Resolution is on tonight’s February 27, 2023 Regular Agenda for the Township Council’s consideration to exempt them from property taxes in entirety.

Township Manager Lewis stated that the **Brightview Redevelopment Resolution** on tonight’s February 27, 2023 Regular Agenda is being pulled off the Agenda.

Council members discussed ending the **littering at the Senior Community Center (SCC) Recycling Area**, as there is no culpability. Adding cameras and imposing fines for littering were discussed. Assistant Township Manager Loehner explained that due to bandwidth challenges, there has been a delay in setting up a high quality cameras, and that a cheaper solution might not hold up in court. Township CFO Cucci added that cameras and license plate readers are included in the bond ordinance being introduced at tonight’s February 27, 2023 Regular Agenda for Township capital projects. Council member Klein inquired if game cameras that are motion activated would be sufficient in the interim. Mayor Vieira added that signs should be posted warning of penalties for littering.

Nishna Makala, a Livingston HS student, explained that she had submitted a community pass facility use form for a **rally for women’s rights** (sponsored by the League of Women Voter’s) for Sunday, March 26, 2023 from 1 – 3pm. After explaining that she would only need a podium and microphone, and approximately 20 chairs, the Township Council approved her event.

Mayor Vieira mentioned that a request by the HS for **signs around the Oval** regarding an upcoming musical that ends March 13th. The Council discussed the sign proposal of eight 24" X 18" standing signs, and approved their request.

The Mayor and Council members discussed **calendar invites** and upcoming dates of importance.

Councilmember Klein inquired about the progress of the **street art**, and Township Kantor mentioned it would be perpetual, as opposed to seasonal, and that the art would have to be brought inside the retail establishment nightly. He added that an Ordinance would be submitted to the Township Council for approval.

Mayor Vieira requested that the **Cannabis Sub-committee recommendations** be added to the March 13, 2023 Conference Agenda.

At 7:30 p.m. the Conference meeting adjourned so the Council could attend the Regular meeting.

At 8:38 p.m. the Conference meeting resumed with everyone previously in attendance present.

At 8:38 p.m. the following Resolution was considered.

RESOLUTION 23-104 — Authorizing Closed Session

WHEREAS: the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS: the Township Council is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS: the Township Council wishes to discuss:

- 1) 19 S Livingston Ave (Contract Negotiations/Attorney-Client Privilege)
- 2) Fair Share Housing (Attorney-Client Privilege)
- 3) Brightview Redevelopment (Contract Negotiations)
- 4) Personnel (Contract Negotiations)

WHEREAS: minutes will be kept, and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires confidentiality, the minutes can be made public.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Livingston that the public be excluded from this meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, and roll call vote, all members present voted YES.

At 9:30 p.m., the Closed Session ended.

At 9:30 p.m., the Conference meeting ended.

MICHAEL VIEIRA, Mayor

CAROLYN MAZZUCCO, Township Clerk