

## Minutes - Livingston Township Council Conference Meeting—July 25, 2022

**Present:** Mayor Meinhardt, Deputy Mayor Vieira, Councilmember Klein, Councilmember Anthony, Councilmember Fernandez, Township Manager Lewis, Deputy Township Manager Jones, Assistant Township Manager Loehner, Township Attorney Kantor, Township CFO Ann 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 faxed to the *West Essex Tribune and the Star Ledger* on January 6, 2022. 48-Hour notice was emailed to the West Essex Tribune and Star Ledger on July 19, 2022.

### Quorum Roll Call

### Legal Fees

The Council approved the following:

- 1) Genova Burns (June 2022)
- 2) Murphy McKeon (June 2022)
- 3) McCarter & English (June 2022)

### New Business

Tom Cooney discussed the plans for the **100 Year Fire Department Celebration** on October 1, 2022, with a rain date of October 8, 2022. He stated it would be a very large event starting with a fire truck parade from Town Center to the Oval, and lots of games, food, and music throughout the day into the evening.

Lou Riccio, of HQM Properties in Denville, NJ, spoke to the Township Council about **Affordable Housing** and the challenges facing most municipalities today. He mentioned that Livingston had performed well in meeting their affordable housing requirement, and he felt Livingston had performed in the top 10% of municipalities. He stated that he had worked with municipalities to create 100% affordable housing developments, as opposed to developments which combined market rate with affordable rate units. He further stated that this strategy would be difficult to facilitate in the current market environment due to rising costs and lack of funds. Council members asked various questions regarding the 2025 obligation, and low income housing tax credits.

Jennifer Walker and Ron Barbella of Senior Youth and Leisure Services, and Chris Southworth, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, discussed the large number of requests from various groups and individuals expressing interest in using the **Gazebo/Oval location**. Councilmembers discussed various guidelines for using the Gazebo location and a form will be available on community pass for all requestors going forward.

Township Manager Lewis briefly explained the **Resolutions** for consideration on tonight’s July 25, 2022 Agenda.

Councilmember Fernandez raised concerns over **Ordinance 24-2022**, parking restrictions on Congressional Parkway, and the confusing language in the Ordinance.

A resident inquired about the Township placing **speed bumps on Amherst Place** and Township Manager Lewis responded that he would follow up with the Police Department.

At 7:40 p.m. the Conference meeting adjourned so the Council could attend the Regular meeting.

At 8:40 p.m., the Conference meeting resumed with everyone previously in attendance.

Township Councilmembers approved the request from **Turn The Towns Teal** for ribbons around the Oval for the month of September.

Mayor Meinhardt requested that the **Rutgers Grant** agenda item be moved to the August 8, 2022 Conference Agenda.

Councilmembers discussed upcoming dates of importance.

### Public Portion

There were none.

### Reports of Township Officials/ Professionals

Councilmembers inquired if a **tent sale or tent fee ordinance** was needed in the Township, and Mayor Meinhardt requested it to be on the August 8, 2022 Agenda. CFO Cucci mentioned that the **Township budget** is under state review because the sewer utility was not self liquidating.

At 9:00 p.m. the following Resolution was considered.

### RESOLUTION 22-206 — 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) Plymouth Drive (Attorney Client Privilege)
- 2) Fair Share Housing / Affordable Housing (Attorney Client Privilege)
- 3) Future Meeting Proceedings (Attorney Client Privilege)
- 4) Northfield and S Livingston Property Development (Contract Negotiations)
- 5) Habitat for Humanity (Contract Negotiations)
- 6) DS-2 Zoning (Attorney Client Privilege)

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 10:10 p.m., the Closed Session ended.

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

EDWARD MEINHARDT, Mayor

CAROLYN MAZZUCCO, RMC, Township Clerk