

Minutes - Livingston Township Council Conference Meeting—October 3, 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 Cucci and Township Clerk Mazzucco.

The Conference meeting commenced at 7:00 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.

Quorum Roll Call

Legal Fees

The Council approved the following:

- 1) Genova Burns (August 2022)

New Business

Ron Barbella, senior field coordinator for the Township, explained that due to rising costs for maintaining the fields that the Township Council consider raising resident **youth participation fees** to \$20 from \$12. It was recommended to be discussed with the sports council before further consideration.

Diwali representatives, Neeta Juvekar and Nilesh Mahtre, inquired about holding **Diwali fireworks** at the Oval. Township Councilmembers agreed that they could hold their event on Sunday, October 23, 2022 at 7:30pm at the Oval.

Township Clerk Mazzucco shared a **draft 2023 Township Council meeting calendar**.

St. Phil's Aquinas Academy requested to hold a **5k at the Oval on December 10th**, between 7:30am and 1pm, and requested the Oval to be closed for the running/ walking event. Councilmembers approved the event.

Township Manager Lewis explained that loans from the **NJ I-Bank for water infrastructure improvements, because of PFAS**, will provide the Township very competitive rates as well as possible loan forgiveness. A Resolution will be placed on tonight's October 3, 2022 Regular Agenda for the Township Council's consideration.

Township Manager Lewis explained that the Township had to enter into an **emergency contract to repair storm water pipe damage** on Cornell Drive. A Resolution will be placed on tonight's October 3, 2022 Regular Agenda for the Township Council's consideration.

Township Manager Lewis stated that the **sanitary sewer improvements at 2020 Eisenhower Parkway** resulted in a change order and final with Underground Utilities Corp. for a net decrease of approximately \$13,000. A Resolution will be placed on tonight's October 3, 2022 Regular Agenda for the Township Council's consideration.

Council member Klein inquired about **Ordinance 29-2022**, a redevelopment plan for 321 S Livingston Ave (YMCA), and if more specific language could be included to hold builders accountable to build more “green”, like energy star roofs and solar panels. Township Manager Lewis stated he would create stronger language as a standard going forward

Public Portion

Mr. Bill O'Neil, 22 Amherst Pl, stated that the music at the Garba Dance event was too loud and very disruptive and that he and his neighbors complained to the police the night of the event. Township Manager Lewis concurred that the Township had also received some complaints.

At 7:35 p.m. the Conference meeting adjourned so the Council could attend the Regular meeting.

At 8:15 p.m. the Conference meeting resumed with everyone previously in attendance present.

Reports of Township Officials / Professionals

Assistant Township Manager Loehner discussed customer service concerns in the Township, and various options to beneficially assist the residents. He also created a mock new logo for the Township which was reviewed by Councilmembers.

Township CFO Cucci discussed the Resolution for I-Bank funding adopted on tonight's October 3, 2022 Regular Agenda and thanked the Council.

Council Reports

Councilmembers followed up with Township Manager Lewis on various Township updates including difference cards for Township employees, senior discount cards, bike lane on Sycamore Ave, and cannabis updates.

At 8:31 p.m. the following Resolution was considered.

RESOLUTION 22-247 — 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) Michele Mead Litigation (Attorney Client Privilege)
- 2) Fair Share Housing Litigation (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 9:05 p.m., the Closed Session ended.

At 9:05 p.m., the Conference meeting ended.

EDWARD MEINHARDT, Mayor

CAROLYN MAZZUCCO, RMC, Township Clerk