

Minutes - Livingston Township Council Conference Meeting—January 9, 2023

Present: Mayor Vieira, Deputy Mayor Anthony, Councilmember Bagolie, Councilmember Klein, Councilmember Meinhardt, Township Manager Lewis, Deputy Township Manager Jones, Township Attorney Kantor, Township Attorney Cooke, 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 emailed to the *West Essex Tribune and the Star Ledger* on January 3, 2023.

Quorum Roll Call

Council member Klein arrived at 7:02pm due to a medical emergency.

Legal Fees

The Council approved the following:

- 1) Antonelli Kantor Rivera (December 2022)

New Business

Jen Walker, Director of Senior Youth and Leisure Services (SYLS), and Ron Barbella, Township Field Supervisor, and Chris Southworth, Department of Public Works Director, discussed the urgency of the **pool situation**. Specifically, that Northland pool needs a new electrical panel that would probably cost around \$70,000 and also that there are significant cracks in the infrastructure which would probably be \$50,000 or more to repair. Alan Karpas, of Vision 20/20 and members of the committee also echoed concerns about maintaining two pools. Due to the immediate need for SYLS to commence summer camp registration, Township Council members agreed that for now they would keep Northland closed so that SYLS can begin the summer camp registration as well as swim lesson and swim team scheduling.

At 7:43 p.m. the Conference meeting adjourned so the Council could attend the Regular meeting.

At 8:56 p.m. the Conference meeting resumed with everyone previously in attendance present.

Mayor Vieira continued the **pool discussion** and mentioned holding a public community forum for resident feedback about closing one pool. Township Manager Lewis stated that the BOE should be included in the discussion due to their need for expansion and their close proximity to Haines pool. Council members discussed their various opinions and agreed that if a public forum is held, that renderings of what a new pool complex would be significantly helpful. Council members will have further discussions about whether to spend the \$70,000 to replace the electrical panel to keep the water running through the pipes at Northland pool.

Mayor Vieira mentioned **BID's (Business Improvement District) inquiry for business art** along the main corridors in the Township. Township Attorney Kantor stated that it could be interpreted as advertising which the current Township ordinance does not allow. Mayor Vieira asked for it to be added to the January 23, 2023 Conference Agenda.

Mayor Vieira mentioned that Resolution 23-060, regarding alcoholic beverages in public places, was pulled from tonight's January 9, 2023 Regular Agenda because the Rotary club would like to include margaritas at **Summerfest**, currently scheduled for June 4, 2023. Township Attorney Kantor stated he didn't think hard alcohol could be included. Deputy Mayor Anthony requested a 1pm start time due to 12pm mass at St. Phil's (next door to the gazebo area).

Mayor Vieira proposed a **new meeting format for Township Council meetings** moving forward, with Closed (Executive) session commencing at 6:30 pm, followed by a conference meeting from 7pm to 7:45pm, and then having the Regular meeting start at 7:45pm instead of 7:30pm. Township Council discussed the modifications. Township Clerk Mazzucco was instructed to notice the time and format changes.

Township Manager Lewis discussed a resident's email regarding **Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR)** of the stray cat

population. He added he was in touch with someone who could assist with this matter within the Township and would follow up accordingly.

Mayor Vieira stated he wanted to plan at least two to three **Five-on-Five's with the Board of Education (BOE)** this year, and inquired if monthly meetings were occurring between a Township Council representative and the BOE. It was agreed that Council members Meinhardt and Bagolie would initiate this process.

Council member Klein inquired about various updates on Township matters to Township Manager Lewis.

Council members discussed **Upcoming Council Calendar Invitations**, and adding all upcoming invites to a shared google calendar.

Public Portion on Any Subject

There were no public comments.

At 9:51 p.m. the following Resolution was considered.

RESOLUTION 23-064 — 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) Fair Share Housing (Attorney Client Privilege)
- 2) Michele Meade Litigation Update (Attorney Client Privilege)
- 3) Open Space (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 10:35 p.m., the Closed Session ended.

At 10:35 p.m., the Conference meeting ended.

MICHAEL VIEIRA, Mayor

CAROLYN MAZZUCCO, Township Clerk