

Minutes - Livingston Township Council Conference Meeting—January 23, 2023

Present: Mayor Vieira, Deputy Mayor Anthony, Council member Bagolie, Council member Meinhardt, Township Manager Lewis, Deputy Township Manager Jones, Township Attorney Kantor, Township Attorney Cooke, Township CFO Cucci, and Township Clerk Mazzucco.

Absent: Council member Klein

The Conference meeting commenced at 7:08 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 and 48-Hour Notice was emailed to the *West Essex Tribune and the Star Ledger* on January 10, 2023.

Quorum Roll Call

Legal Fees

The Council approved the following, and Council member Meinhardt voted against approving the McCarter & English and Murphy McKeon legal bills.

- 1) McCarter & English (December 2022)
- 2) Murphy McKeon P.C. (December 2022)
- 3) Genova Burns (December 2022)
- 4) Antonelli Kantor Rivera (December 2022 – Tax Appeal Services)
- 5) Antonelli Kantor Rivera (December 2022)

New Business

Township Manager Lewis stated that there is a Resolution on tonight’s January 23, 2023 Regular Agenda for the Council’s consideration recommending an award of a **non-fair and open contract to Antonelli Kantor Rivera** who served as Township Attorney in 2022. Although already appointed by the Council, Antonelli Kantor Rivera has submitted all the required political disclosure forms required by law.

Township Manager Lewis stated that as a requirement of the “**Safe Route to School Grant**”, the Township must adopt a Resolution for Administration and Inspection Procedures, and that there is a Resolution on tonight’s January 23, 2023 Regular Agenda for the Council’s consideration.

Township Manager Lewis mentioned that there are **three vehicles delared to be surplus** and no longer needed for public use. There is a Resolution on tonight’s January 23, 2023 Regular Agenda for the Council’s consideration.

Township Manager Lewis stated that the subdivision at **Rosewood Court** is already completed, but in order to be accepted as a publicly dedicated right of way in the Township, a Resolution must be adopted, and therefore is on tonight’s January 23, 2023 Regular Agenda for the Council’s consideration.

Mayor Vieira mentioned that Pamela Chirls and Vineeta Khanna of the BOE were appointed as the **Board of Education’s liaisons** to the Welcome to Livingston Committee, and Lisa Marazzo and Vineeta Khana were appointed as the Board’s liaisons to the Transportation Committee.

Mayor Vieira and Council members discussed the **Franklin Street Abandoned Lot**, which Township Manager Lewis mentioned was on the ROSI (Recreation and Open Space Inventory). It was determined that the old basketball hoops and asphalt would be removed, and it was discussed that the boy scouts, or Eagle Scouts, could create a proposal for the space.

Township Attorney mentioned that he had a zoom call with Beth Lippman of the Business Improvement District and

Eleanor Cohen, and that although discussions are still ongoing, he plans to propose an ordinance in the near future on **art being placed outside of local businesses**. Mayor Vieira instructed Township Clerk Mazzucco to continue this discussion on the next Conference meeting Agenda.

Council members discussed the request from **Summerfest** to include margaritas and a rain date of September 10, 2023. All agreed that the Summerfest would only offer beer and wine, and that the rain date was confirmed. A Resolution will be considered at the February 13, 2023 Regular meeting.

Mayor Vieira reviewed the **letter from Livingston Environmental Commission (LEC)** chair Walter Levine regarding various concerns and directed Council member Anthony to look into a replacement for Bob Hunter, and for Council member Anthony and Township Manager Lewis to inquire about using money from the tree fund to plant trees in the right of way in the Township.

Township Attorney Kantor said he was creating an Ordinance for the Council's consideration at a future meeting to allow **non-voting student members to join the LEC**.

Alan Karpas mentioned that the **Livingston Robotics Club** would like to hold their event on Saturday, May 20, 2023, and that last year they had over 1,000 participants and that there are 17 teams formed. He added he would submit the required facility use form to community pass.

The **Israel Flag Raising for April 23, 2023** and the **Israel Celebration on April 26, 2023** was approved by the Mayor and Council members.

Rheema Hussain, owner of Rolls and Curries, expressed how the lack of physical advertising being allowed at her business location is negatively impacting her business. She added that she had a flag hanging for three days, which is not allowed per the Township's current Ordinance, and it dramatically increased her business. Township Manager Lewis was sympathetic to the challenge of sideways mall lots, but stated any modification would have to be done through Township Ordinance.

At 7:51 p.m. the Conference meeting adjourned so the Council could attend the Regular meeting.

At 9:11 p.m. the Conference meeting resumed with everyone previously in attendance present.

Mayor Vieira continued the **pool discussion** and stated that he felt the first decision should be whether there should be one or two pools in the Township and that he'd like to hear from the public through a community forum or survey. Council member Bagolie stated that the decision to spend approximately \$70,000 to keep the water flowing through the pipes at Northland needs to be determined. Possible pool locations with full recreation facilities were discussed. Council member Meinhardt stated that conversations should be reinitiated with the YMCA, as they are building a brand new facility with indoor pool, and perhaps some sharing of facilities would be practical. Township Manager Lewis emphasized that Northland Pool is on the ROSI and the pool utility is a self liquidating (self funding) entity, meaning that to continue to run two Township pools is not financially feasible. Mayor Vieira instructed Township Manager Lewis to identify any possible grants.

Council member Bagolie inquired about the google docs spreadsheet for updates to the Council members on various ongoing projects in the Township, and also inquired about the wall bar mitzvah project. Township Manager Lewis stated that the wall identified in the project was no longer feasible, and a new wall needs to be identified.

Upcoming Calendar Invites are all being shared on a google calendar.

Public Portion on Any Subject

Justin Alpert, 56 Amherst Place, stated that the Township can support two pools and summer camp programs. He added that Northland has lost a lot of membership due to its disrepair, and that other Town's should be canvassed to see how they are handling similar situations.

At 9:44 p.m., the Conference meeting ended.

MICHAEL VIEIRA, Mayor

CAROLYN MAZZUCCO, Township Clerk