

Minutes - Livingston Township Council Conference Meeting—April 4, 2022

Present: Mayor Meinhardt, Deputy Mayor Vieira, Councilmember Anthony, Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Klein, Township Manager Lewis, Deputy Township Manager Jones, Township Attorney Kantor, Deputy 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) Antonelli Kantor (February 2022)
- 2) Antonelli Kantor (February 2022 – Fair Share Housing Services)

New Business

Councilmembers discussed the construction of the new gazebo, expected to be completed in approximately one month or less, and the **gazebo plaque** that the Beck family would like to install in memory of Doris Beck. Councilmember Klein agreed to follow up with the Beck family about size and verbiage for the plaque and also possible dates for a dedication ceremony.

A request from **World Falun Dafa Day** for a proclamation was discussed.

Permission for **Earth Day** at the Oval on April 23rd at 12-3pm was considered and accepted, pending no conflicts at the Oval that day.

Trial Blazers for Kids requested to have an outdoor yoga event at the gazebo on Sunday, June 5th from 1pm-4pm in honor of Jake Kestler.

Township Manager Lewis recommended the award of contract to M2 Associates for **well evaluation and rehabilitation** of Wells 14 and 15 in Dorsa Ave., and stated that there is a resolution on tonight’s Agenda for consideration.

Deputy Manager Jones discussed his recommendation of the award of the **curbside recycling collection** contract to Waste Industries, LLC, the lowest bidder, for an initial three (3) year contract, with a two (2) year option to extend the contract at the end of the initial three (3) year term. He stated that a resolution is on tonight’s Agenda for consideration.

The **LHS Key Club** reached out to the Township Council for ideas on improving their involvement within the community. The Council discussed reaching out to the Trails and Greenways committee, assisting with picking up trash in the community, helping senior citizens with shoveling, and also contacting Livingston Neighbors Helping Neighbors (LNHN), for food pantry assistance.

Gittel Grossbaum, read a letter to Councilmembers, about the lack of **sidewalks along Route 10**, west of the circle. She mentioned that she had spoken to the Council three (3) years ago, and although a few sidewalks and been added during construction, there are still many areas without, and it is very dangerous when walking during Sabbath. Councilmembers thanked her for raising awareness to this issue, and have mentioned that their pleas to the State have gone unanswered. Councilmember Fernandez mentioned that the Planning Board is requiring sidewalk placement for any new approvals. Councilmember Vieira suggested a letter from the Township Council to the State Commissioner with the inclusion of Gittel’s letter.

Public Portion

At 7:34 the Conference meeting adjourned so the Council could attend the Regular meeting.

At 9:18 p.m., the Conference meeting resumed with everyone previously in attendance present.

Reports of Township Officials / Professionals

Township Manager Lewis mentioned that he is finalizing the RFP for the new DPW garage. He discussed that he is still working with the pool committee and cannabis committee on ideas for moving forward. He added that PSE&G contacted him and the lighting change at the Oval is expected to occur in four (4) months.

Mayor Meinhardt mentioned that the "Five on Five", with the Township's Board of Education, will take place on Monday, April 11, 2022 at Heritage Middle School. He also discussed that he's been working with Ron Barbella on the installation of four(4) new pickleball courts at Northland, and will monitor the pickleball situation over the summer.

Deputy Mayor Vieira stated that the 4th of July committee met and they are expecting a great event this year. He added that the audio system in the court room needs to be addressed, and council members concurred.

Councilmember Anthony inquired about a resident's interest to join the Livingston TV Executive Board.

Councilmember Fernandez inquired about budget meetings, and stated that the cannabis committee is going to start drafting ordinances for consideration.

Councilmember Klein mentioned that the grant writing resolution on tonight's agenda had been withdrawn over a payment clarification. He also inquired about two new electric car superchargers.

At 9:52 p.m., the following Resolution was considered:

RESOLUTION 22-136—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 Litigation Update (Attorney Client Privilege and Contract Negotiations)
- 2) Redevelopment Opportunities (Attorney Client Privilege and Contract Negotiations)
- 3) Cedar Street Commons (Attorney Client Privilege and Contract Negotiations)
- 4) St. Barnabas Tax Appeal (Attorney Client Privilege)
- 5) PFAS (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 10:28 p.m., the Closed Session ended.

EDWARD MEINHARDT, Mayor

CAROLYN MAZZUCCO, Deputy Township Clerk