

Minutes - Livingston Township Council Conference Meeting—July 11, 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 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, PC (May 2022 – Various)
- 2) Antonelli Kantor, PC (May 2022 – Tax Appeals)
- 3) Antonelli Kantor, PC (June 2022)

New Business

Alan Karpas, Chair of **Youth Appreciation Week**, and Monte Ehrenkranz, Chair of **Summerfest** discussed their upcoming events in September, and stated that Summerfest will occur on Saturday, September 10th, and Youth Appreciation week will commence on Monday, September 12th, with family fun day occurring on Saturday, September 17th. The Bike Livingston event on September 18th will be the culmination of the event.

Neeta Juvekar of Sanskriti explained that **IndiaFest** needs to move their date to Saturday, August 13th (originally scheduled for Sunday, August 14th). Councilmembers mentioned that there was a 5pm mass on Saturday, so it was agreed that they would start at 5pm and not start playing music until 6pm. Ms. Juvekar also inquired about a **Garba dance event** for either Saturday September 23rd or Sunday, September 24th, and councilmembers agreed that since it was a very popular event requiring advance sign up, that this event could be moved to Heritage school due to the conflict with HS sport at the Oval.

Township Manager stated that the **two-inch mill and pave of Sycamore Ave**, change order #1 and final, would result in approximately \$56,000 of savings for the Township, and that a resolution is on tonight’s July 11, 2022 agenda for the Councilmembers consideration.

Township Manager stated that the a resolution is on tonight’s July 11, 2022 agenda for the Councilmembers consideration regarding a **grant application** to the NJ Department of Transportation for the **milling and paving of West Oakwood Avenue**.

Township Manager stated that a resolution is required as part of the **American Rescue Plan Firefighters Grant** for self-contained breathing apparatus), and that a resolution is on tonight’s July 11, 2022 agenda for councilmember’s consideration.

Township Manager recommended the **one-year extension of the contract with Bayshore Recycling Corp for the marketing of recyclables** and that a resolution would be placed on tonight’s July 11, 2022 agenda for the councilmember’s consideration.

Township Manager explained that **Ferguson Enterprises** met all the bid requirements for the water and sewer system parts and that he seconded Nathan Kiracofe’s, Utility Engineer, recommendations to award them the contract. A resolution will be on tonight’s July 11, 2022 agenda for the councilmember’s consideration.

Township Manager explained that Township Engineer Jeannette Harduby recommended an additional **six month extension of the contract with Shauger Property Services Inc., Corp** with On-Call Sanitary Sewer Repairs, and that he concurs with her recommendation. A resolution will be on tonight’s July 11, 2022 agenda for the councilmember’s consideration.

Youjun Liu, Chair of the Livingston Chinese Association and his son, explained the tradition of the **Livingston Chinese New Year** and how the fireworks represent hope and dreams in their community. They mentioned that the fireworks are sparklers from Costco, and do not involve anything being fired off the ground. Councilmembers approved their dates of January 21, 2023 or January 22, 2023 for the event.

Annie Song, of 60 Congressional Parkway, kindly requested the Council to consider extending the **parking restrictions** on Congressional Parkway until November 1, 2022, and modify the ordinance. Councilmembers agreed to modify the current ordinance.

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

At 8:30 p.m., the Conference meeting resumed with everyone previously in attendance.

Township Attorney Kantor stated that the purpose of a **flag raising resolution and ordinance** is to minimize Township exposure, and that it would not limit the number of flag raisings permitted by the Township.

A request for a **family event at the Oval** was considered.

Township Manager Lewis mentioned that the **Paranormal Cirque** has received permission from the Livingston mall for a tent sale / circus event, and if councilmembers approve the event, Paranormal Cirque will pay the Township the required fee and receive approval from the Fire, Building and Health department.

Township Clerk Mazzucco indicated that Benjamin Gatman, who received permission from the Township Council to set up a bookcase at the library, has inquired about setting up **bookcases** at other locations in the Township. Councilmember Vieira graciously offered to sponsor a bookcase.

Councilmembers discussed upcoming **dates of importance**.

Public Portion

There were none.

Reports of Township Officials/ Professionals

Councilmembers discussed ideas for consideration with Township Manager Lewis ranging from tangible improvements like lights on the Oval and road striping, to coordinating dates for councilmembers to meet with affordable housing consultants.

Township Manager Lewis stated that he was extremely grateful to the Department of Public Works for their hard work and dedication to the Township, and councilmembers concurred.

At 9:35 p.m. the following Resolution was considered.

RESOLUTION 22-198 — 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) Livingston Mall Sales (Attorney Client Privilege)
- 2) Fair Share Housing (Attorney Client Privilege)
- 3) Westminster Hotel (Attorney Client Privilege)
- 4) Michelle Mead Litigation (Attorney Client Privilege)
- 5) Northfield & South Livingston (Attorney Client Privilege / Contract Negotiations)
- 6) Habitat for Humanity (Contract Negotiations)
- 7) YMCA (Attorney Client Privilege / 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.

EDWARD MEINHARDT, Mayor

CAROLYN MAZZUCCO, RMC, Township Clerk