

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION MEETING OF  
THE TEANECK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING CHAMBERS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012

MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by Resolution 28-12, setting the 2012 meeting dates, sending a copy to THE RECORD and THE JEWISH STANDARD, filing a copy in the Township Clerk’s Office and posting it on the Municipal Building bulletin board, and the Mayor hereby directs that this statement be included in the minutes.

ROLL CALL

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution #34-12 - Authorize Council to enter Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Hameeduddin called the Open Session Meeting of the Teaneck Township Council to order at 8:00 p.m. and asked all those present to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: C. Parker, C. Stern, DM. Gussen, C. Honis, Mayor Hameeduddin.

Absent: C. Toffler.

Also Present: S. Turitz– Ferrara, Turitz, Harraka & Goldberg Esqs.; W. Broughton, Township Manager; J. Evelina, RMC, Township Clerk; I. Abbasi, Executive Assistant.

MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by Resolution 28-12, setting the 2012 meeting dates, sending a copy to THE RECORD and THE JEWISH STANDARD, filing a copy in the Township Clerk’s Office and posting it on the Municipal Building bulletin board, and the Mayor hereby directs that this statement be included in the minutes.

Acknowledged the Superintendent Barbara Pinsak and Assistant Superintendent Vincent McHale were also in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Certificates of Appreciation – 5-Year Anniversaries.

- a. Deputy Mayor Adam Gussen.

Deputy Mayor Gussen was commended on his five years of service. Did not want to speak on this topic, but all present applauded for his years of service.

- b. Councilwoman Lizette P. Parker.

Councilwoman Parker was commended on her five years of service to the Township. She also did not want to speak on the topic, but was applauded for her years of service.

2. Certificates of Commendation – TVAC.

- a. President Angelae Wilkerson.

Angelae Wilkerson gave a detailed description of an event that had taken place on a September morning when TVAC’s captain received a call from a family member of a “member of service”

who needed to be transported from Syracuse, New York, to the St. Barnabus burn unit. A full crew was assembled which included Eli Weingast, Brian Groschel and Angelae Wilkerson, who were presented with certificates for “going above and beyond the call of duty.”

Mr. Challener, a Port of Authority Police Officer, who was the injured party, spoke of his appreciation for the quick response and tireless effort provided by the Teaneck Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Teaneck Township in his time of need. He presented TVAC with a check in the amount of \$500.00 which was donated by the PBA.

3. Proclamation – Read Across America/108<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel. (“Dr. Seuss”).

Councilmember Stern read a Proclamation which was presented to the members of the Board of Education and the staff members of the Teaneck School system who were present. The Proclamation called on the citizens of Teaneck to assure that every child is in a safe place reading together with a caring adult on March 2, 2012. C. Stern thanked the Teaneck school system staff on behalf of the Council for all of the hard work they put into teaching the children of America to become the best readers in the world. Also encouraged anyone interested to come to any of the Teaneck Schools and take part in the celebration by reading to the students of Teaneck.

Barbara Pinsak, School Superintendent introduced the school principals who were present and went on to thank the Council for the Proclamation and stated that Council is always welcomed to come and read to the students of Teaneck Township.

Mayor Hameeduddin made a public announcement stating that TVAC Second Annual Fund Raising Gala will be held next Saturday at the Glenpointe Marriott. Anyone interested may contact Angelae Wilkerson for information.

#### PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

Ms. Evelina to read the following Ordinance by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 4249 – AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 36-28.5 TO DIVISION 3, OF ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 36 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK RELATING TO TIME LIMITED PARKING ALONG A PORTION OF CHADWICK ROAD.

Mayor Hameeduddin inquired whether any member of the Council had any comments respecting this ordinance prior to opening the public hearing.

No one came forward.

Mayor Hameeduddin declared that the public hearing on the above ordinance was now open. Any members of the public wishing to be heard on this ordinance or to ask questions concerning said ordinance may come forward and state their name for the record. Comments or questions shall be limited to five minutes per person.

No one came forward.

There being no further persons wishing to speak concerning said ordinances, Mayor Hameeduddin declared that the public hearing on this ordinance was now closed.

DM. Gussen moved to pass Ordinance 4249 on second and final reading and adopt. The Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to advertise same according to law. Seconded by Councilmember Katz.

#### Roll Call:

In Favor: C. Parker, C. Stern, DM. Gussen, C. Honis, C. Katz, Mayor Hameeduddin.

Opposed: None.

Absent: C. Toffler.

Recused: None.

Abstained: None.

Mayor Hameeduddin declared that said ordinance was duly adopted.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR GOOD AND WELFARE OR PUBLIC INPUT ON ANY MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA

Mayor Hameeduddin inquired whether any member of the Council had any comments prior to opening the meeting to any comments from the public.

No one came forward.

Mayor Hameeduddin declared than any members of the public wishing to be heard at this time should come forward and state their names and addresses for the record. Comments shall be limited to five minutes per person.

Ruth Brauer, Teaneck resident – spoke of the Red Swamp Maple Tree outside of her residence stating that she has been submitting extensive information to the Township reflecting the damage that has been caused by the tree; suggested that the Township Manager has the authority to have the tree removed; went on to say that there are rules and regulations in place within the Township pertaining to other situations and therefore, regulations should be in place for a tree that has caused so much damage within the Township.

Gwen Acree, Teaneck resident – stated that since Mrs. Brauer has been speaking of this particular tree for such a long time, there must be an issue that should be rectified; if she had to choose between a tree or her home, she would choose her home; does not feel that Mrs. Brauer would not come to Council meetings time after time if the situation was not in need of immediate attention; feels the Township should not wait until such time as a major catastrophe, an injury or even death occurs; hopes for Ms. Brauer's sake, Council will reconsider the removal of the tree; discussed the problem with so many homes in foreclosure status within the Township; suggested making the owners responsible so they will secure the homes from the inside instead of having them boarded from the outside, which she feels makes Teaneck unattractive.

David Spielman, Teaneck resident – discussed Resolution 35-12; wondered why Teaneck is not a part of it; spoke on the snowstorm of October and questioned why the utility lines are not buried when road replacement takes place.

Genevieve Maiberger, Teaneck resident – addressed Ruth Brauer's tree situation, suggesting Council should go and inspect the residence and the problem; spoke of viewing a Council meeting and suggested Council's behavior during meetings is disrespectful to the residents; indicated some Council Members do not come to the Council Meetings dressed appropriately.

Leslie McKeon, Teaneck resident – reiterated on statements made on behalf of Ruth Brauer and the problem with the tree; spoke about the issue of contamination at Votee Park expressing her concern that Council should act with caution and knowledge by obtaining the broadest possible expert opinion prior to proceeding with the project; it is important to obtain more than one opinion regarding this problem; feels that GZA's presentation was confusing, rambling and uninformative; further stated that the community is fortunate to have Charles Powers as a resident in that he has worked professionally in this field for decades and has offered his services; feels the Township should proceed with knowledge and wisdom not undue speed.

Mildred Tucker, Teaneck resident – echoed Mrs. Maiberger's comments on the behavior of Council; spoke on Mrs. Brauer's tree incident indicating that the unfairness has gone on far too long; although she feels it is a nice gesture on the part of Council in their concern for the Township school system, residents will not forget that Council voted six million down on the budget.

Henry Pruitt, Teaneck resident – came to express his concern regarding Votee Park; offered the opportunity for collaboration between the Board of Education, the Township Council and the Superintendent of Recreation to come together with the Superintendent of Schools in order to keep programs intact for the summer.

Alan Sohn, Teaneck resident – echoed Mr. Spielman’s comments on burying lines on major streets such as Teaneck Road and Queen Anne Road, both of which have telephone poles that have an effect on vehicles; spoke about Winthrop Road and the severity of the loss of trees after the storms; spoke about Mrs. Brauer’s tree and indicated that the tree is a problem to her property and should be rectified immediately; spoke on the self-insurance fund and that the numbers should be reconcilable; referred to the bill list and indicated that it is difficult to decipher; questioned the tax reserve appeals, does not understand from where the money is coming.

DeAnne Ipp, Teaneck resident – spoke on the Green Acre Grant; gave an in-depth description of historic sites within the Township; in favor of preserving the historic sites.

Charles Powers, Teaneck resident – discussed the situation with Votee Park signifying that Council should take some time to acquire a better understanding of what is actually taking place regarding this matter prior to moving forward with their decision; spoke briefly about the Township’s pay-to-play program as well as the non-fair and open professional service contracts; requested clarification on these two topics regarding Teaneck; questioned what the budget increase in BCUA charge to the Township will be this year.

Daniel Schoenberg, Teaneck resident – acknowledged the Read Across America Resolution and placed emphasis on the fact that today is Charles Dickens’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday as well.

Scott Pleasants, Teaneck resident – with the possibility of bad weather approaching, spoke on the tree situation within the Township, suggesting Council notify the residents in some capacity as to what to do or not to do regarding the trees; also spoke on repaving inquiring as to the Township’s responsibility when PSE&G comes in to complete work and does not make the necessary repairs to roadwork; acknowledged the YAB members who were honored for five years of dedicated service.

Naomi Cramer, Teaneck resident – spoke on the topic of shared services, which had been discussed during a prior meeting, requesting specific details as to the Township’s in regard to this program; would like this information in writing, not a discussion at a Council Meeting; although we are a Council/Manager form of government, seems as though it is a Manager/Council form of government; questions when Council directs the Manager as far as agenda items are concerned; feels one workshop per month should be held to discuss important topics.

Alex Rashin, Teaneck resident – discussed the foreclosures and high taxes within the Township, requested a zero increase in taxes; spoke of the lawsuit between C. Toffler and Township, requesting the Manager seek reimbursement of the taxpayers’ dollars regarding this issue; suggested analyzing every number and cutting costs wherever possible in order to obtain a zero increase in taxes.

There being no further persons wishing to speak at this time (or the time limit of one hour having expired), Mayor Hameeduddin declared that the public comment portion of the meeting was now closed.

Mayor Hameeduddin inquired whether any member of the Council or the Manager wished to respond to the public comments or whether a member of the Council wished to remove any item from the Consent Agenda and have a separate discussion thereon.

Mayor Hameeduddin addressed Mr. Sohn’s concern regarding the tax appeals indicating the Township is in good shape regarding 2012 tax appeals; questioned the Township Attorney regarding the boarding up of the foreclosed homes.

S. Turitz stated the property maintenance code should be reviewed in order to determine whether or not any adjustments can be made; requested the assistance of the Manager and Council; the Manager and Council concurred.

Mr. Broughton indicated there are instances where an owner cannot be located.

DM. Gussen stated that the Township has the opportunity to place a tax lien on a home when an owner is unable to be located; when the property changes hands, the Township would then have the opportunity to clean it up and be reimbursed.

Mayor Hameeduddin addressed Mr. Spielman's concerns with burying the telephone lines, as it is regulated through the BPU.

Council had a discussion, at length, concluding that the BPU would be contacted via the Manager to find out their position regarding the burying of the lines.

Mayor Hameeduddin addressed Ms. Brauer's concern with the tree and requested the Township evaluate the problem; discussed changing the ordinance and asked residents to be patient, as Council tries to rectify the problem; the Mayor discussed the situation at Votee Park and GZA stating that although they thought the problem required an easy fix, it turns out that this is not the case; they are not making any hasty decisions, they are exploring the best possible remedy for this project.

Mr. Broughton interjected that the public is welcomed to attend the meeting regarding this project listing all who will attend the meeting; at that time, they will give a detailed report of the findings and will answer any questions the residents may have.

C. Katz thanked Dr. Pruitt for offering the support of the Board of Education; would like to see that the bid for this project does not allow the same person who does the testing complete the remediation.

C. Parker in response to Mr. Sohn's statement requested a report on the discrepancies with self-insurance fund.

Mr. Broughton requested that Mr. Sohn e-mail or call the office and he would be happy to supply the information, however there is no discrepancy.

C. Parker inquired as to when the discussion concerning reassessments would take place.

The Township Manager stated that the discussion would take place whenever Council was ready.

C. Parker inquired as to when a shared service report would be discussed; feels Council should revisit workshop meetings.

C. Katz suggested the reassessment be placed on the next meeting under Old Business and the Assessor be requested to attend.

Council concurred.

DM. Gussen apologized to Ms. Maiberger for his posture during Council meetings, as he had a fractured vertebrae; explained the form of government, as defined by New Jersey State Law is "strong manager, weak council with mayor"; gave an in-depth description of regular meetings vs. workshop meetings; thanked Dr. Pruitt for his offer; questioned the attorney regarding non-fair, non-open contracts and professional service contracts.

S. Turitz indicated he was not prepared to answer this question without performing research first.

Mr. Broughton discussed the Riverside Cooperative indicating that at this time, we pay less in paving than the cooperative; stated that PSE&G is notified when a road is going to be paved, the only time they will open a road after it has been paved is in the event of an emergency.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed below are considered to be routine in nature by Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by

Council, that particular item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

RAFFLES

All subject to approval and conditions applicable with the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission and pursuant to State Statute.

- RA#1313 – Holy Name Health Care Foundation – Off-Premise 50-50 Raffle - \$20.00.
- RA#1314 – Holy Name Health Care Foundation – Off-Premise Merchandise Draw Raffle - \$20.00.
- RA#1315 – Congregation Netivot Shalom – Off-Premise Merchandise Draw Raffle - \$40.00.
- RA#1316 – Congregation Netivot Shalom – Off-Premise Merchandise Draw Raffle - \$60.00.
- RA#1317 – Congregation Beth Sholom – Off-Premise 50-50 Raffle - \$20.00.

MINUTES

None.

RESOLUTIONS

- 35-12. Authorize Inter-Local Government Services Contract with New Milford – Design and Engineering of a Portion of New Bridge Road.
- 36-12. Refund 2011 Tax Overpayments – Chief Financial Officer – Various.
- 37-12. Refund 2011 Tax Overpayments – Chief Financial Officer – Various.
- 38-12. Refund 2011 Tax Overpayments – Chief Financial Officer – Various.
- 39-12. Refund 2009, 2010 and 2011 Taxes Pursuant to State Tax Court Decision – Chief Financial Officer – Various.
- 40-12. Approve 2011 Budget Account Transfers – Chief Financial Officer – Various.
- 41-12. Ratify Issuance of Purchase Order – Cargill, Inc. – Rock Salt.
- 42-12. Authorize Issuance of Purchase Order – Campbell Supply Company – Immediate Replacement of Hydraulic Generator.
- 43-12. Appoint Members to Affirmative Action Advisory Board.
- 44-12. Endorse NEA’s Read Across America and Read Across America – NJ.
- 45-12. Award Professional Services Contract – Schwanewede/Hals Engineering – 2012 Consulting Services.
- 46-12. Authorize Execution of Agreement – NJDEP Green Acres – Trail Restoration.

BILL LIST

Ms. Evelina read the amount of the Bill List into the record \$7,342,255.46.

Councilmember Stern, moved to approve the Consent Agenda, including Raffles, Minutes, Resolutions and the Bill List and to dispense with the reading of same inasmuch as it has been posted on the bulletin board all day.

Seconded by DM. Gussen.

Mayor Hameeduddin called on Ms. Evelina for a roll-call vote.

Roll Call.

- In Favor: C. Parker, C. Stern, DM. Gussen, C. Katz, Mayor Hameeduddin.
- Opposed: None.
- Absent: C. Toffler, C. Honis (at time of vote).
- Abstained: DM. Gussen (Bill List Item #165503); C. Katz (Bill List; Resolutions 36-12, 37-12, 38-12, 39-12, and 45-12).
- Recused: None.

Mayor Hameeduddin declared said items were passed.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

DM. Gussen moved that the Ordinances be introduced and passed on first reading and that the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish the required legal notice of the introduction thereof, together with a notice of the place, time, and date on which a public hearing will be held on said ordinances, and on which said ordinances will be considered for final adoption.

Ms. Evelina read the Ordinances by title only.

ORDINANCE #4250 - AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$44,000.00 AS A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FOR THE STREET IMPROVEMENT SYLVAN TERRACE. THIS PROJECT TO BE FINANCED ENTIRELY FROM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.

ORDINANCE #4251 - AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$77,825.00 AS A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FOR THE LOZIER PLACE SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT. THIS PROJECT TO BE FINANCED ENTIRELY FROM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.

ORDINANCE #4252 - AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$175,000.00 AS A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FOR THE STATE STREET IMPROVEMENTS. THIS PROJECT TO BE FINANCED ENTIRELY FROM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS.

Seconded by Councilmember Katz.

Mayor Hameeduddin inquired as to whether any Councilmember wished to comment upon the motion to introduce.

No one came forward.

There being no further comments, Mayor Hameeduddin called on Ms. Evelina for a roll-call vote.

Roll Call.

In Favor: C. Parker, C. Stern, DM. Gussen, C. Katz, Mayor Hameeduddin.

Opposed: None.

Absent: C. Toffler; C. Honis (at time of vote).

Abstained: None.

Recused: None.

Mayor Hameeduddin declared that said ordinances were duly introduced and passed on first reading.

MISCELLANEOUS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS - COUNCIL LIAISONS

Mayor Hameeduddin recognized the five members of the Youth Advisory Board who were honored over the weekend.

C. Parker congratulated Michael Pleasants, Patrick Edmonds, Ashley Edwards and Camille Parker on receiving Youth Awards on February 4, 2012.

## COUNCIL-LISTED ITEMS

None.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Website.

Mr. Broughton discussed the website indicating that the projected launch date will be April 3, 2012; further described the process for getting the website launched.

## TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Leaf Transfer Station.

Recently, there have been concerns with an odor emanating from the leaf transfer station; some of the leaves have been removed, hopefully this will rectify the problem.

2. FDU Account.

The balance in the account is \$30,000; used \$10,000 to go into the public assistance trust fund account.

3. I have probationally appointed Ms. Jacquelyn L. Marini to the position of Public Safety Telecommunicator with the Teaneck Police Department, effective January 16, 2012.
4. I have probationally appointed Mr. Anthony A. Massaro to the position of Public Safety Telecommunicator with the Teaneck Police Department, effective January 16, 2012.
5. I have probationally appointed Ms. Angela V. Cronin to the position of Keyboarding Clerk 1 with the Teaneck Recreation Department, effective January 17, 2012.

## TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Covered in Closed Session

## ADJOURNMENT

DM. Gussen moved to adjourn at 9:36 p.m.

Seconded by Councilmember Katz.

## Roll Call.

In Favor: C. Parker, C. Stern, DM. Gussen, C. Honis, C. Katz, Mayor Hameeduddin.

Opposed: None.

Absent: C. Toffler.

Abstained: None.

Recused: None.