

MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2009

A Work Session Meeting of the Mount Laurel Township Council was held on Monday, February 23, 2009 in the Courtroom of the Mount Laurel Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Keenan at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The members of Council present were Mayor Keenan, Deputy Mayor McCaffrey, Councilwomen Bobo and Riley and Councilman Smith. Also present were Patricia Halbe, Municipal Clerk; Debra Fourre, Township Manager; and Christopher Norman, Esq., Township Solicitor.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Announcement, which is required by the "Open Public Meetings Act" of the State of New Jersey and read at every meeting of the Township Council was read by the Municipal Clerk.

Sports Fields Allocations

Ralph Giangiulio, Parks & Recreation Director was present for discussion of sports fields allocations. There was a concern raised due to a newspaper ad regarding travel teams. Mr. Giangiulio explained that the top teams have a number of outsiders playing and normally tryouts are held at this time of the year, although he was not aware of these tryouts. The organization has been in compliance with what we have asked. Council requested that Mr. Giangiulio advise the Manager if there are any problems.

Mr. Giangiulio indicated that the Lacrosse League will be using the field at Conrow seven days a week for their program. He will be meeting with Eric Endlein to go over hours and light settings for practices and games.

Mr. Giangiulio stated that written policies and procedures are in place and given to each organization. Each sport provides rosters and certificates of insurance.

POD Ordinance

The Manager stated that the POD ordinance was reviewed by the Planning Board and have provided a draft resolution of recommendations. The Municipal Clerk advised that a copy of the ordinance had been sent to the County Planning Board but we have not heard back from them. Mr. Norman will send the County a clarification letter.

2009 Budget

The Manager reviewed her proposed 2009 Budget recommendations with Council. Council would like time to review the recommendations. If the Township applies for extraordinary aid, the budget must be introduced by March 17th and the application must be filed by March 20th.

LOSAP

The Manager indicated that a resolution needs to be adopted to accept the LOSAP 2008 program. Any additional funds allocated get cancelled and are made available in our revenues.

Quality of Life Initiative

Ms. Fourre stated that she had received a proposal from Mayor Keenan with all departments included. The sole purpose is to address community concerns. The police can train departments such as Public Works and Parks & Recreation and they can inform the Manager if they spot problems. It was requested that the Manager reach out to the postal service to see if they could be involved also. Councilwoman Riley requested that Chief Lehmann get a copy of the FBI report on gangs from Mr. Bernardi with the statistical tracking information.

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2002 Economic Development Initiative

Pat Halbe, Municipal Clerk, informed Council that this is the HUD grant that was previously awarded to Mount Laurel for \$140,000 but was not accepted due to the requirement of a social security number of a township official. The grant is still open and Ms. Halbe indicated that although reluctant to use her social security number, she would do so in order to insure that the township acquired the grant funds.

Website

Council was in agreement for the minutes beginning January 2009 to be placed on the website for the public. It was also suggested that an online form page for all forms be created. The Manager should discuss with the police department about the press releases being placed on the police website. Council requested that the Manager see that the website is updated by the various departments. Council members will contact the Manager when they see changes that are needed.

Route 38

Mayor Keenan indicated that he, Duty Mayor McCaffrey, Mr. Holshue and the Manager had meet with the County regarding the Smart Growth for the Route 38 corridor. They indicated that the township does not want traffic to back up in Mount Laurel and that the I295 northbound ramp is built. Some design work was done and approvals given as part of the Centerton Square approval. The County indicated that the State currently has no plans on the books or funding for the Route295 full access. The County is recommending cross-access easements and curb cuts be required as part of approvals. The Township has requested a copy of what is filed with the State by the County so that when we have a board application, we can attach the plan. Council requested that the Manager get a copy of the plan when filed.

Municipal Alliance

The Manager reported that the County has received a letter from Peter Nelson, County Solicitor. It was determined that this matter should be discussed in closed session in order not to waive the attorney/client privilege.

Walton Avenue

Ms. Fourre reported that she and Mr. Litwornia had met with Peter Hovnanian & his traffic engineer on February 18th concerning diverting traffic from Walton Avenue. Mr. Hovnanian is concerned as to whether it would prohibit him from building on the land. He has directed his traffic engineer to look into the matter.

Planning Board Escrow Replenishment

Mr. Norman stated that when the original escrows are depleted, the statute provides a process for the CFO to notify the applicant that the escrow needs to be replenished. The Board solicitors are recommending that the Planning and Zoning Board secretaries provide notice to the CFO regarding replenishment so that the professionals can get paid. A letter is forthcoming from Peter Lange about this.

The Manager indicated that there are issues on both sides. She will review the matter when the letter is received.

Shared Services – PARIS Grant Application

The Municipal Clerk stated that she has been involved in a County Shared Services project with a County-hired vendor which analyzed our records inventory and made recommendations. The County now will be moving to file a shared services application for funding to assist each municipality with the records purging process and to provide a draft Policies and Procedures manual, which can be modified to fit our needs. The Burlington County Bridge Commission has agreed to fund the development of the manual. In order to participate as part of the County's shared service application for a PARIS grant, a resolution needs to be adopted. There are no matching funds required, other than in-kind staff services, which Ms. Halbe will assume. Although the Municipal

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Clerk would have referred that the copying of old historical records be made more of a priority, the majority of other municipalities are not at that point yet.

Council was in agreement to proceed with the resolution.

Affordable Housing – Review of draft Amended Developer’s Fee Ordinance and Escrow Agreement

Mr. Norman reported that COAH requires that municipalities adopt an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and he has drafted an escrow agreement and ordinance since the ones provided are not applicable to Mount Laurel since we are under court jurisdiction. We are not waiving our rights to challenge the regulations. Mr. Norman indicated that he had sent a letter to COAH explaining our unique situation and they are aware that we are working on it.

Council will review the Ordinance and Agreement and advise him of any concerns prior to further discussion next week.

Safe & Secure Grant

Ms. Blumenthal indicated that this grant funds two police officers. A resolution is needed in order to apply for the grant. Council was in agreement to have a resolution placed on the agenda.

Safe Corridors Grant

Ms. Blumenthal reported that this grant would reimburse for two police vehicles with LED lightbars and lighting. The total cost of the items is \$53,727.64 and the township is requesting reimbursement of \$48,000 permitted through the grant. A resolution is required in order to apply for the grant. Council was in agreement to have a resolution placed on the agenda.

Towing Ordinance

The Manager stated that Police Chief Lehmann and Pat Halbe have put a lot of work into an amendment of our towing ordinance. Ms. Halbe indicated that State law has changed several times over the years regarding towing and this new ordinance will bring us into compliance with the law. She asked that the draft ordinance be reviewed by the solicitor. Council was in agreement.

Councilwoman Bobo questioned who cleans up debris at the scene if the tow company does not come up. The Manager will find out the answer to the question.

Other Matters

Councilwoman Riley questioned the removal of signs for the fire district election. The Manager indicated that the signs were handled the same way as the November election signs. It was questioned whether we want to expand our ordinance to allow for fire and school board elections. Councilman Smith asked that the Manager provide a copy of the sign ordinance to the school board.

Public Comment

Paige Salvatore – 16 Richland Drive – Stated that as a parent of two Lenape students she wants to see a school/community connection particularly in light of two recent incidents, one drug-related and the other involving a loss of life.

Mayor Keenan responded that our police have indicated that the School Resource Officers at Lenape provide constant information to our police department and there is good communication between the two police departments. The township is looking into having our EMS respond to the high school since they are all Mount Laurel children and as such would not be charged for EMS services. He asked that the Manager have links to the schools placed on our website.

Fred Braun – 104 Haines Road – Stated he is still trying to get neighbor to clean up the property behind his house after three years. The Township has decided that the condition

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existed prior to our zoning laws. He was told that the berm was being cleaned up and a dumpster has now been sitting there for eight months.

Mayor Keenan asked that the Manager bring closure to this problem and to find out approvals given and the buffer requirements. It is a quality of life issue.

Mr. Norman stated that the burden is on the property owner to demonstrate that they are a non-conforming use.

Closed Session

The Municipal Clerk read resolution 09-R-61, authorizing Mount Laurel Township Council to go into closed session for discussion of Personnel Matters, Litigation Matters and Land Negotiation Matters. A motion was made by Councilwoman Riley and seconded by Deputy Mayor McCaffrey to adopt the resolution. All were in favor and Council went into closed session at 9:40 p.m.

Return to Open Session

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McCaffrey and seconded by Councilman Smith to return to open session. All were in favor and Council returned to open session at 11:27 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilwoman Riley and seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 11:27. p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Halbe, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Transcribed by
Patricia Halbe

The minutes of this meeting are summary minutes. A copy of the tape recording of this meeting will be available in the office of the Municipal Clerk for four years.

