

MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2009

A Work Session Meeting of the Mount Laurel Township Council was held on Monday, January 12, 2009 in Conference room A of the Mount Laurel Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Keenan at 7 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.

WALTON AVENUE

Mr. Norman reported that he has not heard back from Mr. McAndrews, attorney for Hovnanian, regarding the LOI. Council asked the Manager to write a follow up letter to Peter Hovnanian and let him know what we want to do to relieve traffic on Walton Avenue.

SPRING VALLEY ESTATES

The Manager indicated that township Engineer, Mr. Long, has given a price proposal of \$54,000 to install the sidewalks in Spring Valley Estates. A letter is ready to go out to the residents. Mr. Long is also looking into a proposal for the other walkways that are not to be asphalted. Council members were concerned that mulch type of materials will wash into the Creek. The Manager will provide Councilwoman Bobo and Councilman Smith a copy of the plans. She reported that there are funds in a trust fund to pay for the walkways. Council members expressed concern as to whether we have equipment to plow the walkways if it snows and about repairs or future maintenance. Council agreed to revisit the issue. The Manager stated that the basin there is our responsibility to maintain. Council indicated that they want warning signs up before Friday.

TIMBERCREST/PARKERS CREEK

Mr. Norman indicated that the noise readings had come back and had very few readings that exceeded the noise level. The residents would like the readings to be duplicated at the same hours as previously to show consistency. Council asked that the Manager contact the County and ask them to repeat the test and that a copy of the original results be sent with the letter. The Manager indicated that she still has received no response from the Turnpike but she has found that the forestry service receives funds each time the Turnpike does a project.

MOUNT LAUREL ROAD/PHEASANTMERE/MULTISPORT TRAFFIC

Ms. Fourre indicated that she had provided a memo to Council on December 13th and had copied Council again on Friday. She indicated that the police traffic officer recommends that they name the driveway to the turf field complex and put up 15 MPH speed limit signs into the complex. He is also recommending speed humps. Mr. Norman stated that the township would have to designate the driveway as a street in order to enforce a speed limit. Council members were not in agreement with speed humps. Council was in agreement with the recommendation to make one-way traffic flow for the parking lot. Officer Shepherd had also recommended contacting PSE&G for a lighting design for the entranceway. The Manager indicated that she had told the residents that there would be no lighting along the entranceway. Council agreed that there should be no lights along the driveway at this time. Officer Shepherd's report also recommends elimination of the passing zones and that we should ask the County for a traffic light study. The Manager will send a letter to Tom Jaggard requesting these items and also for a reduction of the speed limits based on the recommendations of the traffic officer.

01-12-09

The Manager reported that the traffic count on Pheasant Drive showed that the average speed was under the speed limit. Council requested that another count be done while the sports complex is closed. Council requested that the residents of Pheasantmere be provided a copy of the report. The Manager will send a letter to the residents and attach the information.

RANCOCAS WOODS SEWER MAIN EXTENSION

Council asked the Manager if there was any progress on the letter she is composing to send to the residents. Ms. Fourre responded that she is doing background on it with the grant specialist regarding USDA grants and she has not started putting together the letter. Council indicated that she should start putting together the letter as soon as possible and that we had this in another area and the same information should be used as we sent those residents. It should also indicated if there are any loans available from the MUA.

SCENIC BYWAY APPLICATION

Ms. Fourre stated that Jennifer Blumenthal, Bill Long and Al Litwornia worked on designating Route 295 as a scenic byway and a resolution needs to be adopted this evening.

MARNE HIGHWAY PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Ms. Fourre indicated that the ordinance being introduced this evening was requested by the residents and supported by the Police Department.

LOT SUITABILITY ORDINANCE

Mayor Keenan stated that Lot suitability had been looked at by the Planning Board since there were concerns raised and the Fire Department also had concerns about access. The Planner had made recommendations to change the ordinance and the planning board had approved the recommendations.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Riley and seconded by Councilwoman Bobo to adjourn the meeting to go into the regular meeting and to reconvene afterward. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:17 p.m.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROJECTS

Ms. Fourre reported that she had prepared a list of economic stimulus projects that could be submitted for funding. They include flooding on Union Mill Road, the Rancocas Woods Sewer Study and Millstream pipe. Council indicated that Union Mill Road should be filed both as an economic stimulus project and as a mitigation plan project. Council felt that the Pennsauken Creek stream cleaning and Ramblewood underdrains should be included. The Manager was also asked to add all developments that back up to Route 295 for Noise/Sound barriers. Council requested that the Manager contact Cherry Hill and Maple Shade to ask that they also include the Pennsauken Creek cleaning

GPS

The Manager reported that she had been asked to look into the status of the GPS system for vehicle tracking and plan for the remainder of the vehicles to have GPS installed. The pricing is still about the same as 2005 and there is an annual servicing fee and a monthly fee per vehicle. There are 44 vehicles left to have GPS installed. Council requested that the Manager provide a report on who takes vehicles home and how they are used.

TIME TRACKING

The Manager stated that Council had asked if there was a written policy about time tracking. She indicated that the employees clock in and out and the information is fed

01-12-09

into the payroll system. She provided a copy of the policy which had been distributed by the prior manager several years ago. She will redistribute the policy to the employees. Ms. Fourre indicated that all employees but her are using the time tracking system. Council will review the policy and discuss the matter again on January 26th.

BUDGET PROCESS

Ms. Fourre indicated that she had attended a DCA seminar regarding user-friendly budgets and it was indicated that the budget deadlines to the State will be extended by three weeks. There is no promise of when we will receive state aid numbers. There is an allowance of deferral of some pension costs for the Police and Fire Retirement System. Council requested a ranking of each department by who is in charge and who is second in command in their absence. A monthly report of professional costs and court revenue breakdown was also requested as well as a quarterly report from Chief Lehmann on the operation of the department with the new work schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Stewart – 11 Camelia Lane – Stated that his leaves have been picked up.

Fred Braun – 104 Haines Road – Wants to have work sessions conducted in the courtroom, fences around retention basins, overdrains put in Ramblewood and the township should sell the naming rights to fields.

Lisa Conte – 126 Calderwood Lane – Questioned if the Township has talked to the MUA about economic stimulus projects.

Deputy Manager, Jennifer Blumenthal, responded that the township has been working with Pam Carolyn, MUA Director.

Reverend Dennis – 166 Ramblewood Terrace – Stated that he has gone out with Public Works employees to look at problems. The MUA is receptive to a joint meeting and the plans need to be integrated. He has talked to residents about an upper drain system and they would be receptive up to \$5000 but some have concerns due to economic climate. There was no input from the Ramblewood Country Club and he feels we need a commitment from them to clean up. He will write up a memo of what he observed. He feels that the more effort and diligence we can show, it will be helpful in applying for grants.

Council members thanked him for his efforts.

Gary Cogan – 112 Yorktown Drive – Indicated he would like to see the cost for replacing the seating in the courtroom.

Rob Golieb – Questioned if the GPS prices are from the same vendor used previously.

The Manager responded that it was but they are getting quotes.

Closed Session

The Clerk read resolution 09-R-31, authorizing Mount Laurel Township Council to go into closed session for personnel matters, negotiation matters and litigation matters. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Riley. All were in favor and Council went into closed session at 9:31 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Councilwoman Riley and seconded by Councilman Smith to return to open session. All were in favor and Council returned to open session at 11 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

01-12-09

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Halbe, RMC
Municipal Clerk

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