

MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2009

A Work Session Meeting of the Mount Laurel Township Council was held on Monday, February 9, 2009. Closed Session was held in Conference room A of the Mount Laurel Municipal Building and open session items were held in the Courtroom.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Keenan at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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.

The Clerk Read Resolution 09-R-59, authorizing Mount Laurel Township Council to go into closed session for Personnel Matters. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Deputy Mayor McCaffrey to adopt the resolution. All were in favor and Council went into Closed Session at 7:05 p.m.

Council moved to the Courtroom at 7:30 p.m. for open session items.

Clothing Bin Ordinance

Mr. Norman is preparing and will have to Council shortly.

Safety Report

The Manager reported that the Burlington County Joint Insurance Fund has moved our rating from bronze to silver for getting employees back to work faster. The employees take advantage of the training provided and have toolbox talks.

2009 Special Events Calendar

The Manager reviewed the special events planned for 2009. She indicated that Earth Day was previously done by the MUA but residents were losing interest. The Township will try to do a coordinated event on April 25th with the MUA and the schools. Council asked that the Manager reach out to Mount Laurel School Superintendent, Toni Rath and ask them to tell us what they can do to be involved with the event.

Ms. Fourre indicated that the Memorial Day observation would be held on the official Memorial Day, Saturday, May 30th. Council asked that she check with the sports organizations concerning their use of Laurel Acres Park that day.

Take your Child to Work Day will be on Thursday, April 23rd and Ms. Fourre indicated that it will be an organized event like was held last year.

Ms. Fourre indicated that the Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, September 26th and planning will need to start shortly. Council asked that the Manager send letters to the sponsors.

The Manager stated that she is working with Ralph Giangiulio, Parks & Recreation Director on a schedule of concerts. Two were held last year.

The Manager will post the information of the special events on the website.

02-09-09

Township Shared Services

Ms. Fourre stated that she has spoken with the Mayor about meeting with the MUA, schools and Fire District to discuss what services can be shared. She will also meet with the Department Heads. Council indicated that she needs to dialogue with other agencies.

County Shared Services Forum

The Manager reported that the Township has joined the County shared services forum each year and there is no cost involved. A resolution will need to be adopted for our participation. Council was in agreement.

Federal Appropriations Request

The Mayor reported that he had received a letter from Congressman John Adler, thanking him for meeting.

The Manager stated that the Federal Appropriations requests are more specific than the economic stimulus package and are generally for amounts ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000. She indicated that there are three potential projects for funding; the Pennsauken Creek Stream Cleaning, the Rancocas Woods Sewer and Affordable Housing.

Council was in agreement for the Manager to put these projects on the application.

Municipal Agreement – Mosquito Control

The Manager indicated that a resolution is needed if the township wishes to participate in the County Mosquito Control Program which may include aerial spraying for larval/adult mosquito control activities.

Council was in agreement to participate in the program.

Home Foreclosure Outreach

The Manager stated that Gerry Bucci, Housing Officer, has two websites that people can access for information regarding foreclosure. She indicated that Karen Trommelen from the County had commented at the CDBG meeting that each municipality will get a list of those homes in their municipality that are going into foreclosure. The Township could give these residents information but would need special training if they were to dialogue with them.

Council would like the Manager to put the descriptions of the programs and the links on the township website and also have literature put at the library.

Council felt that the information should also be shared with the homeowners associations. Councilman Smith indicated that he would be willing to head that program. Council was in agreement.

Quality of Life Initiative

Ms. Fourre provided Council with a draft program to resolve some of the issues being identified by the public including disrespectful children, graffiti, home disrepair, gangs etc.

Council members felt that the township needs to come up with a more comprehensive program to stop these things from happening. The police and the schools need to be incorporated into any plan. Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Township employees, Council and even the postal service could all be involved in providing information. Council members thought that the police should identify any gangs in the township and have a seminar to tell people what they can do to protect themselves.

Council felt that the police need to update their website and put information about what is happening in town on it. Council also asked that the Manager identify if we need to change any ordinances. Ms. Fourre reported that the staff has talked about a boat/RV ordinance to control these vehicles being left parked on the street for years. Also a rental

02-09-09

registration program could be considered which would require an annual registration and inspection at a certificate of occupancy change.

The Manager reported that the police are dealing with concerns at the Marriott hotel due to parties held there because of the water park. Council felt that the police should notify the Marriott headquarters of the situation.

The Municipal Clerk reported that she had received a request for Council approval to move a construction trailer for Block 1204 from lot 7 to lot 5, adjacent to the renovation of the Super 8 Motel. The Zoning Board of Adjustment has recommended approval subject to site plan conditions being complied with.

Council had no objections and approved, subject to the conditions of the Zoning Board.

Public Comment

Gary Cogan – Thanked Council for his appointment to the Planning Board.

Lisa Conte – 126 Calderwood Lane - Reported that the County can get a Homeland Security Grant for reverse 911 for the top two municipalities in the County. She felt Mount Laurel has a large number of employees and can host a job fair at the community center. She thought that next year the township could hold a special Alice Paul event next year in March for Women's History Month. She also suggested that HDTV be contacted about the repairs to the Cuzzimano property.

Fred Braun – 104 Haines Road – Thanked Council for his appointment. It will take him several months to acclimate. He questioned when the County is going to remove the 3 orange barrels at Ramblewood Parkway. He believed that years ago the township had an ordinance that did not allow parking on the street at night. He also stated that he has been looking at the mess behind his home for 3 years now and feels something should be done.

Closed Session

The Clerk read resolution 09-R-60, authorizing Mount Laurel Township Council to go into closed session for Personnel Matters and Litigation Matters. A motion was made by Councilwoman Bobo and seconded by Councilman Smith. All were in favor and Council went into to Closed Session at 8:45 p.m.

Return to Open Session

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor McCaffrey and seconded by Councilwoman Bobo to return to open session. All were in favor and Council returned to open session at 9:17 p.m.

Miscellaneous Matters

Softball fields – Councilman Smith agreed to replace John Drinkard on the committee to move forward with the planning for softball fields with the softball organization. The Mayor will reach out to ERI for the plans that were given to them. The Manager reported that there is no funding in the budget for the fields.

Affordable Housing – Councilwoman Bobo questioned if we can take foreclosed homes and make them into affordable housing. Mr. Norman indicated that we would need to purchase the properties. Council requested that the manager look at homes that are currently for sale or in foreclosure.

POD Ordinance – Councilwoman Bobo questioned if the new POD ordinance applies to new construction and are we communicating with the homeowners. It was indicated that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to know what permits are needed.

Councilwoman Bobo requested that the Manager provide her with a copy of last years budget. Councilman Smith would like to receive a copy also.

02-09-09

Councilwoman Bobo requested the status of the Rancocas Woods letter. The Manager indicated that she is still drafting it and it is difficult to communicate the information.

Council requested that a discussion of board appointments be put on the next work session agenda.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Deputy Mayor McCaffrey to return to open session and to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and Council adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Halbe, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Transcribed by
Patricia Halbe