

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
September 12, 2022

The Township Committee Meeting of the Township of Cranbury was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Town Hall Answering present to roll call were Township Committee members: Eman El-Badawi, Michael Ferrante, Michael Scott, Evelyn Spann, and Mayor Barbara Rogers. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/CFO and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Mayor Rogers led in the salute to the flag, and Ms. Rubin read the following Open Public Meetings Act statement:

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, it is hereby announced and shall be entered into the minutes of this meeting that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided:

Posted on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Office at 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey and remains posted at that location.

Communicated to the Cranbury Press, Home News Tribune and Trenton Times on January 5, 2022 and August 12, 2022.

Filed on January 5, 2022 and August 12, 2022 at the Cranbury Municipal Office, 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey, posted on the Township's web site and remains on file for public inspection.

Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Rogers asked if any members of the Township Committee would like to address changes or amendments to the following minutes. Hearing none, Mayor Rogers asked for a motion to adopt the following minutes:

-- Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes August 22, 2022;

On a motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Ferrante, along with the following roll call vote of the members of the Township Committee;

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Ferrante
(Scott
(Spann
(Rogers

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2022 were unanimously adopted.

Reports and Communications

Presentation – Scout Project

Mr. Tyler Censi of Troop 52B presented his Tour de Cranbury Eagle Scout Project. He discussed two different routes, one longer and for more experienced riders and the second for less experienced riders within the Township. His project is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2023 and will be considered a 325th Anniversary event.

Several members of Township Committee commended his idea. Mr. Scott encouraged Mr. Censi to utilize EDAC for advertising purposes and consider making this an annual event. Ms. Spann requested a more solidified date and bike route. Mr. Ferrante motioned the Township Committee to vote on the approval of the project and along with the following roll call vote of the members of the Township Committee;

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Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Ferrante
(Scott
(Rogers

Abstain: (Spann
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

The majority of the Township Committee voted in the affirmative to approve the Tour de Cranbury Eagle Scout Project.

Members of Committee

- Mrs. El-Badawi – Mrs. El-Badawi reported on her attendance at the Shade Tree Commission and EDAC meetings. She provided an update to the kiosk project and the spotted lantern fly.
- Mr. Ferrante – Mr. Ferrante reported on his attendance at the Board of Education, Library Board of Trustees and Planning Board meetings. Mr. Ferrante provided an update to the auxiliary gym and library construction projects.
- Mr. Scott – Mr. Scott reported on his attendance at the Historic Preservation Committee meeting. He stated that the Historic Preservation Committee is interested in presenting their signage project to the Township Committee at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Scott reported that the volleyball and basketball court projects in Village Park have been completed.
- Mrs. Spann – Mrs. Spann reported on her attendance at the Development Review Committee, Traffic and Safety Committee, Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings. She also reported that Municipal Alliance held their orientation for incoming Princeton High School students. Mrs. Spann commended Cranbury Business Association for a successful Cranbury Day.

Mayor

Mayor Rogers – The following items were covered under the Mayor's Updates and Upcoming Events;

Reports & Communications:

- **Cranbury Day** – Mayor Rogers reported on the successful Cranbury Day event held by Cranbury Business Association. She also commented how well attended the Helene Cody Foundation 5k walk/run was. Many residents signed the greetings ledger for the Time Capsule.
- **Middlesex County Agricultural Board** – Mayor Rogers reported the Agricultural Board passed an updated version of the Farmland Preservation element of the County Master Plan.
- **Cranbury Bike Network Plan** – Mayor Rogers and Ms. Marabello met with the County to discuss a bike network plan in Cranbury Township and how to incorporate into the County's bike network plan.
- **Sustainable Jersey** – Mayor Rogers submitted the necessary documentation. She reported that she is waiting on results regarding silver status.
- **Senior Center** – The next Senior Center lunch is scheduled for September 23rd. There will be upcoming lunches scheduled for the remainder of the year. Registration is required.
- **Recreation** - Mayor Rogers reported on upcoming Tai Chi dates for active Seniors as well as the upcoming basketball program with US Sports for children.
- **Mayors Wellness Committee** – The Committee is interested in procuring a mobile van that will provide medical resources to the public.

Reminders:

- **September 24** - Lion's Club 90th Anniversary Celebration at Cranbury Inn. All are welcome. Details on the Lion's Club website
- **October 12** – International Walk to School Day. Students and parents are encouraged to meet at the firehouse to walk to school with Mayor Rogers.
- **November 19** – Upcoming Library Grand Opening a day filled with events and speakers

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325 Anniversary Events:

- **September:** Gourgau Gallery – Exhibit of residents of Cranbury who have passed away and contributed to the Township
- **Shade Tree** - September 17th tree identification walk through Heritage Park
- **Arts in the Park** – September 18 1pm-3pm at Heritage Park

Fire Company:

Chief Charles Smith gave the monthly Fire Company report. Chief Smith reported on July and August responses: 56 total calls, 23 alarms, 9 assists to NJ Turnpike, 7 vehicle fires, 6 tractor trailer crashes, 1 double-decker bus crash, 2 rescues, 3 gas leaks, 6 mulch fires, 2 wires down, 11 mutual aid assistance. Year to date totals are 725 calls, 520 during the day, 205 at night and 113 first aid calls. The average response time is 7 minutes and 45 seconds which includes mutual aid. Chief Smith reported the County average is 13 minutes. Chief Smith confirmed the number of calls is on par with last year's calls.

Additionally, Chief Smith requested the Township Committee to budget for improvements to the firehouse for next year. Mayor Rogers and Chief Smith agreed to communicate and begin a preliminary list of requested improvements. (Chief Smith left the meeting at 7:56 p.m.)

Agenda Additions/Changes – None

Boards and Commissions –

Mayoral Appointments: None

Vacancies:

- Environmental Commission - 1st Alternate, term expiring 12/31/24
- Municipal Alliance – There are three vacancies:
 - Member, term expiring 12/31/23
 - Member, term expiring 12/31/22
 - 2nd Alternate, term expiring 12/31/22

Ordinances –

First Reading – None

Second Reading –

– Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk read the following ordinance by title only:

ORDINANCE # 08-22-08

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY,
APPROVING THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR STATION ROAD AND HIGHTSTOWN-
CRANBURY STATION ROAD**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury, Middlesex County, New Jersey, finds it in the interest of public safety to install a Traffic Signal at the intersection of Station Road and Hightstown-Cranbury Station Road; and

WHEREAS, the County of Middlesex, the Township of Cranbury and Cranbury Brickyard, LLC entered into a Tri-Party Agreement on March 28, 2016, and recorded with the Middlesex County Clerk on June 7, 2016, concerning the Traffic Signal and setting forth each parties' duties and obligations with regard to the Traffic Signal; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has submitted and certified all of the legislative requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:4 and N.J.A.C. 16:27; and

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury, Middlesex County, New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the intersection of Station Road and Hightstown-Cranbury Station Road shall be controlled by a Traffic Signal in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement entered into on March 28, 2016, and recorded on June 7, 2016, and the As-Built Traffic Signal Plan last revised May 1, 2020 and Timing Directive dated January 15, 2018, both prepared by Langan Engineering; and

2. That the Traffic Control Signal shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Title 39 of the Revised Statutes and the New Jersey Administrative Code, and shall be operated in conformance with the designated plans; and

3. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance hereby declared severable; and

4. All other ordinances in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior ordinance of the Township, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern. All other parts, portions and provisions of the ordinances of the Township are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms hereof.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon second reading, final passage and publication as require by law.

Mayor Rogers opened for township committee members comment on the ordinance only. Mrs. Spann reiterated that this ordinance is a part of the process for the traffic signal improvements. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rogers closed the township committee comment on the ordinance.

-- Mayor Rogers opened for public comment on the ordinance only. Hearing none, Mayor Rogers closed the public comment on the ordinance.

Mr. Ferrante made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Mrs. Spann seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted unanimously.

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Ferrante
(Scott
(Spann
(Rogers

Abstain: (None

Absent: (None

Nays: (None

– Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk read the following ordinance by title only:

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 08-22-09

**ORDINANCE REAPPROPRIATING \$6,500.00 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR
THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN A CAPITAL ORDINANCE IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF
CRANBURY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY.**

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BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:2-39, it is hereby determined that the following proceeds of obligations originally made available pursuant to the bond ordinance listed below are no longer necessary for the following purpose:

Ordinance No.	Description	Amount to be reappropriated
04-17-11	Municipal/Library Parking Lot	\$6,500.00

Section 2. pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:2.39, it is hereby determined that \$6,500.00 of the proceeds of obligations referred to above are hereby reappropriated to provide \$6,500.00 for the Downtown Beautification Sidewalk Repair ordinance no. 08-22-09.

Section 3. The capital budget of the Township of Cranbury is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect 20 days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Mayor Rogers opened for township committee members comment on the ordinance only. There was discussion amongst Township Committee as to where the funds originated from. Ms. Marabello confirmed the monies are from a previously adopted capital ordinance and the current ordinance allows a portion of the monies to be reappropriated. Mrs. Spann noted that there is a process to follow when funds are reappropriated and disagreed with this particular reappropriation. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Rogers closed the township committee comment on the ordinance.

-- Mayor Rogers opened for public comment on the ordinance only.

- Richard Kallan – Mr. Kallan expressed his displeasure with the Committee for proposing this ordinance. He stated that the ordinance favors the downtown and ignores an already adopted ordinance which states that sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owners, not the Township.

Hearing no further comment, Mayor Rogers closed the public comment on the ordinance.

Mr. Ferrante made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was adopted by the majority vote by the following vote:

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Ferrante
(Scott
(Rogers

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None

Nays: (Spann

Resolutions – Consent

Mayor Rogers asked the Township Committee if there were any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda items. On a motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mrs. Spann the following Consent Agenda Resolution(s) were unanimously adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: (El-Badawi

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(Ferrante
(Scott
(Spann
(Rogers

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION #R 09-22-111

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Cranbury that all bills and claims as audited and found to be correct be paid;

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 09-22-112

WHEREAS, it is necessary to make the following appointment(s),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury that the following individual(s) are appointed to the positions and terms noted effective September 12, 2022:

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

NAME	APPOINTMENT	TERM ENDING
Denise Marabello	Housing & Community Dev. (Alternate)	12/31/22

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R-09-22-113

WHEREAS, The Tax Collector, Tanyika L. Johns has certified that the following taxpayers overpaid their taxes; and

WHEREAS, The Tax Collector is requesting that the overpaid taxes be refunded,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury that the following overpayment be refunded:

<u>Taxpayer</u>	<u>Refund</u>
OWNER: SHAHIDAIN, ABUNASAR	\$2,392.69

Make check payable to: Real Safe Title
111 Littleton Road, Suite 301
Parsippany New Jersey, 07054
LOCATION: 163 N MAIN STREET
BLOCK: 25 **LOT:** 87**QUALIFIER:**

Public Comment

Mayor Rogers advised the following comment(s) or general correspondence was submitted by the deadline to be addressed during public comment.

- Brian Barry – Mr. Barry expressed support and desire for an inclusive playground in Cranbury Township.

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- Richard Giarrusso – Mr. Giarrusso expressed his desire for traffic calming improvements including more gateway signage and speeding enforcement.

Mayor Rogers then opened the meeting to general public comment.

- Ms. Ruche – Ms. Ruche expressed her concern for traffic safety enforcement around the Birchwood Apartments. The residents have seen numerous illegal turns and traffic infringements from the Penske warehouse drivers and utilizing their lot to cut through to Route 130.
- Lisa Knierim – Ms. Knierim echoed Ms. Ruche's comments regarding traffic safety around Birchwood. She proposed closing the gap in the divider to prevent illegal turns from happening. She also brought to the Township Committee's attention speeding at Shady Brook Lane and George Davison Road. She additionally inquired as to whether there was a working elevator in Town Hall for access to the Senior Room which Township Committee and Ms. Marabello confirmed.

Mayor Rogers closed the public comment portion at 8:22 p.m.

Action Items:

- Traffic Subcommittee meeting will discuss the influx of traffic concerns within the Township.
- Mayor Rogers will coordinate with the Fire Company for a facilities list for capital budget, in order of priority.

Adjourn

Mayor Rogers requested a motion to adjourn. On motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mrs. Spann and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Debra A. Rubin, RMC
Municipal Clerk