

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
October 9, 2023

The Township Committee Meeting of the Township of Cranbury was held at 7:02 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Town Hall. Answering present to roll call were Township Committee members: Eman El-Badawi, Matthew Scott and Mayor Michael Ferrante. Lisa Knierim and Dr. Barbara Rogers were excused and absent. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/CFO and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Mayor Ferrante 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 6, 2023.

Filed on January 6, 2023 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.

Agenda Additions/Changes: None

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

-- Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes September 26, 2023

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

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Scott
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None
Absent: (Knierim
(Rogers

Nays: (None

the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023 were adopted unanimously by the members present.

Reports and Communications:

Members of Committee

- Ms. El-Badawi – Ms. El-Badawi reported on her attendance at the Zoning Board and Planning Board meetings.
- Mr. Scott – Mr. Scott reported that none of the board/commission meetings he is liaison to met during this time.
- Ms. Knierim – Ms. Knierim was excused absent.
- Dr. Rogers – Dr. Rogers was excused absent.

Mayor

Mayor Ferrante – Mayor Ferrante reported on his attendance at the Planning Board meeting.

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Reminders:

- **October 10th** – Candidates Night
- **October 14th** – Fire Company Open House at the Firehouse
- **October 18th** – Mayor's Health Free Vaccines and Screenings
- **November 4th** – St. David's Episcopal Church Annual Auction
- **Free Narcan Training every month**

Department Heads:

Administrator/Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Marabello reviewed the "Best Practices Check List" for 2023 with the Township Committee. After reviewed, it will be certified and submitted to the State of New Jersey before the November deadline.

Follow-up Items: None.

Boards: Parks Commission

Sally O'Grady, Chair, was present to discuss chess tables on a concrete slab procurement and installation at Heritage Park. Mr. Scott summarized the history of the project for Township Committee and members of the public. Ms. O'Grady discussed the approval of the location amongst Parks Commission members and that the chess tables selected match the aesthetic of the benches currently located at Heritage Park. Ms. El-Badawi stated that she is in favor of the project, however, not the Heritage Park location and suggested the Parks Commission utilize a different park. Mayor Ferrante read aloud the following input on the chess table project from Ms. Knierim and Dr. Rogers':

On behalf of Ms. Knierim:

As we all know conversations with people on committees happens outside of scheduled meetings so citing that seem irrelevant.

As many of our volunteers find the time to align and discuss things when they can't make a meeting I am in the same position this evening. I'm concerned about 2 things budget and consistency with the most recent aesthetic of benches. If both are met than I support this initiative.

I am so confused on why adding such a small passive form of recreation is creating such an uproar amongst us. Let's remember what we are here to do

We were elected to represent a real live game of SimCity...listen to the majority, support things that benefit our community and create a general feeling of well-being for our residents. How does this contradict that?

Happy to support this initiative and please feel free to read this aloud during "public comment" this evening.

On behalf of Dr. Rogers:

As a volunteer for Cranbury for over 20 years, I have been involved in many open space projects. Ideas are always welcome but these need to be considered in the long term and holistically. I have always felt there needs to be a long term plan for projects that well-intentioned volunteers suggest for the public's enjoyment.

Unfortunately, the current plans have not been shared in advance for me to make comments. I have a few suggestions when reviewing projects now and in the future. Please consider the following:

- Long term sustainability and maintenance.
- Environmental impact (impermeable structures impact on trees and flood resiliency).
- Will there be interest in the future when current volunteers retire?

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- Impact on neighbors and already understaffed and overburdened DPW.
- Detailed project plans should be made available to the TC members well before it is time for them to consider the projects at a meeting.

New projects do require maintenance and eventually become old. With regards to Heritage Park, it is a wonderful place because it is an uncluttered and contemplative space for walkers, bikers and all visitors.
(End of comment)

Ms. Marabello instructed Ms. O'Grady and the Parks Commission to obtain three different bids for the chess tables with concrete slabs and provide them to the Finance Department. She additionally reminded Ms. O'Grady of the project cap amount.

Ms. Marabello discussed a matching amount for the inclusive playground grant which Recreation will be submitting. All members present agreed to a \$100,000.00 match from the township.

Boards and Commissions – Mayoral Appointments/Vacancies

Mayoral Appointments: None.

Vacancies:

- Municipal Alliance
 - Member, expiring 12/31/23
- Parks Commission
 - 2nd Alternate, expiring 12/31/23
- Recreation Commission
 - Member, expiring 12/31/25

Ordinances:

First Reading – None.

Second Reading – None.

Resolutions – Consent

Mayor Ferrante asked the Committee if there were any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, Mayor Ferrante asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda resolution(s). On motion by Ms. El-Badawi, seconded by Mr. Scott, the following Consent Resolution(s) were adopted unanimously by the following vote:

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Scott
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None
Absent: (Knierim
(Rogers

Nays: (None

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 10-23-091

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

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CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 10-23-092

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE EAST WINDSOR MUNICIPAL UTILITY AUTHORITY FOR REGULAR AND EMERGENCY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR CRANBURY TOWNSHIP'S SANITARY SEWER SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranbury and the East Windsor Municipal Utility Authority entered into a shared services agreement for the regular and emergency operation and maintenance of Cranbury's sanitary sewer; and

WHEREAS, the East Windsor Utility Authority has agreed to continue said Agreement for 2024 and 2025 as set forth in the attached agreement with a two year extension; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there will and shall be sufficient funds for these services; and

WHEREAS, such agreements are authorized pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et. seq.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury, in the County of Middlesex, as follows: 1. Said Agreement is hereby authorized for a period commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025 with a two-year extension option. 2. A copy of the Agreement shall be available for public inspection in the Township Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 10-23-093

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Cranbury Township desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for \$300,000 to carry out a project to install an inclusive playground in one of the Township parks;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the Township Committee of Cranbury Township does hereby authorize Mayor Michael J. Ferrante to make application for such a grant, and;
2. Recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize Mayor Michael J. Ferrante to execute any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee of Cranbury Township does further authorize Mayor Ferrante to authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between the Cranbury Township and the new Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 10-23-094

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, NJ

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF EXTRA DUTY ESCROW

WHEREAS, CCG has outstanding credits of \$3080.00 in their Extra Duty escrow account previously posted with the Township.

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WHEREAS, the Police Department has no outstanding bills.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury that the Township of Cranbury release outstanding credits in CCG's extra duty escrow account.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution, certified by the Township Clerk to be a true copy forwarded to each of the following:

- (a) Township Director of Finance
- (b) CCG

Public Comment

Mayor Ferrante reminded the public of the three (3) minute time limit for public comment. Mayor Ferrante then opened the meeting to public comment.

- Diane Tucholski – Ms. Tucholski requested the Township Committee consider the installation of a Memorial Bench on Main Street at Brainerd Lake.
- Bud Jackson – Mr. Jackson requested an amendment to his public statement from the September 11, 2023 Township Committee meeting. He clarified that Plainsboro Township contacted the County regarding safety concerns at Petty and Dey Roads.

Hearing and seeing no one else, Mayor Ferrante closed public comment.

Mayor Ferrante addressed Ms. Tucholski's request for the memorial bench location. He advised her to work with the Parks Commission regarding the location of the bench prior to Township Committee final approval.

Action Items –

- Ms. Marabello will submit a matching amount of \$100,000 for the Inclusive Playground Grant Application that Township Committee unanimously approved by members present

Adjourn

Mayor Ferrante requested a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Ms. El-Badawi and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Debra A. Rubin
Debra A. Rubin, RMC
Municipal Clerk