

October 28, 2014

AGENDA

**Regular Meeting** of the Hazlet Township Committee held at 8:00 p.m.

**Salute** to the flag and moment of silent prayer called by Mayor.

**Mayor's Statement** – Open Public Meetings Act & Emergency Fire Exits.

In Compliance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting of the Township Committee was provided in the following manner:

- (A) On October 14, 2014, advance written notice of this meeting was posted at:  
1766 Union Avenue, Hazlet, New Jersey
- (B) On October 14, 2014, advance written notice of this meeting was forwarded to the Independent and published in the Asbury Park Press on October 17, 2014.
- (C) On October 14, 2014, copies of advance written notice of this meeting were mailed to all persons who requested and paid for such notices on or before January 1, 2014.

FIRE EXITS are located in the directions I am indicating:

Farther down at the end of the room, through the doors and down the stairs, directly out the front door.

To my right is the door, make a right down the hallway which leads to the stairs and directly out the rear of the building.

If you are alerted for fire, please move in a calm and orderly manner to the nearest exit. Finally, let the record reflect that the minutes of this meeting will accurately reflect the topics addressed during this meeting but will not be a verbatim transcript of tonight's proceedings. Thank you. I direct the Municipal Clerk to enter into the minutes of this meeting these announcements.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Committeeman Aagre	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Committeewoman Ronchetti	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Committeeman Sachs	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Deputy Mayor Belasco	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
Mayor DiNardo	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>





Committeeman Sachs- The next resolution on here is authorizing the purchasing playground equipment for Evergreen Park, HYAL Field and Brookside Park. It was brought to my attention last week, I was unbeknown to the fact that they were constructing a park at Brookside Avenue which is the old site of the Sewerage Authority building. Also, I do not understand why we are buying playground equipment for the HYAL Fields. There was no authorization to purchase this equipment no form or vote of action taken to construct or purchase this equipment. The equipment has already been purchased and is sitting in the yard at Department of Public Works. I have a problem with that and I also have a problem with the fact that I would assume being five people on the board we would all be made aware of the fact that we were going to construct a park and the park they are planning on to construct is nothing but dirt. There is no grass, no landscape and no trees, there is absolutely nothing. There was no plan set forth. That is why my vote will be what it will be when this is ready.

Committeeman Ronchetti- We discussed this as part of our grant application at our meetings. The money is there is completely funded by capital improvements, Green Meadows Fund and by the Recreation Trust Account. There is no greater sound in this world then the laughter of children and the fun they have in the park. I live by the HYAL football field and I love hearing them play on Saturday. Their screams and their parents cheering.

319. Authorizing the purchase of playground equipment for Evergreen Park, HYAL Field and Brookside Park.

Offered Mayor DiNardo

2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Mayor Belasco

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre No

Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes

Committeeman Sachs No

Deputy Mayor Belasco Yes

Mayor DiNardo Yes

320. Authorizing the Mayor and Municipal Administrator to execute a Mutual Release and Settlement Agreement with AMC Industries for the Beers Street Sidewalk Extension Project.

Offered Committeewoman Ronchetti

2<sup>nd</sup> Mayor DiNardo

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes

Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes

Committeeman Sachs Yes

Deputy Mayor Belasco Yes

Mayor DiNardo Yes

321. Award of Bid to Northeast Roof Replacement for the repair and replacement of the roof at the Department of Public Works.

Offered Mayor DiNardo

2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Sachs

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes                      Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes  
                    Committeeman Sachs Yes                      Deputy Mayor Belasco Yes  
                    Mayor DiNardo Yes

322. Award of bid to Capital Benefits, LLC to be the broker for the township's health insurance.

Offered Committeewoman Ronchetti                      2<sup>nd</sup> Mayor DiNardo

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre No                      Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes  
                    Committeeman Sachs Yes                      Deputy Mayor Belasco Yes  
                    Mayor DiNardo Yes

323. Adopting the 2014 Update of the Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. (to identify hazards that threaten the County and ways to reduce future damage).

Offered Deputy Mayor Belasco                      2<sup>nd</sup> Mayor DiNardo

Roll Call: Committeeman Aagre Yes                      Committeewoman Ronchetti Yes  
                    Committeeman Sachs Yes                      Deputy Mayor Belasco Yes  
                    Mayor DiNardo Yes

**Citizens Hearing:**

Bertha Sumnick- I live 2 houses from the property on Brookside Avenue and I love this town and I have lived here for last 45 years. When I moved in the town was only 11 years built up with the developments and we had an active sewerage treatment plant that was on that property. If you can imagine what we went through especially when we had a summertime party and made believe we didn't smell anything. We no longer needed it as an active plant and the sewerage authority building was constructed on that property and it was very well maintained. I understand when the authority was disbanded and brought into the township and because of this beautiful building there was no longer a need for the use of that building. It sat there for a number of years and then became in disrepair and then it came to a point where the township needed to decide what was to become of that building. Many of my neighbors and I came and asked for the building to come down but to be left as open space and we were very grateful when that did occur. We were very happy when the building came down and zoning was not changed to make it a commercial property and it would become open space. We thought it was going to be grass and trees we didn't expect that it was going to be any more than that. I understand that the grant was acquired and the playground equipment but we were looking for it to be a passive recreational area and more of an open space. We would have been happy with grass and trees. We are very grateful that the property is getting all cleaned up. I am a little disappointed that there is going to be playground equipment there only because we back up to the school and the

school has playground equipment. I know it really was good intentions but it was not the thought we had in mind. It is so much nicer than the dilapidated building and we do appreciate that.

Mayor DiNardo – The playground equipment purchased is for small children, more for tots.

Michele Miller – I live directly across I live directly across from the vacant sewer property. I just wanted to echo what Ms. Sumick had said that we are very grateful the building came down. We did have more of an expectation of an open space concept and I know Committeewoman Ronchetti did mention the sound of the laughter and we do get that on a daily basis and we get that on the weekend. Not even 100 feet away from where you are proposing putting this is a baseball field and the children are there, they are playing and the playground for that school is also for younger children. I am just questioning, I heard the vote, I heard it is done and know it not open for debate. I am questioning the redundancy and I know this was funded by Green Acres but redundancy of putting additional playground equipment when you have, yards away playground equipment, basketball courts, baseball and softball fields. I do not understand that concept and I am not sure why that is the best place for this.

Mayor DiNardo- We looked at the property and when the building was in disarray which everyone knows. It is still going to be deemed open space and there will also be some park benches there. It is for the people of the neighborhood and the general vicinity. I know there is a school park but we wanted to do something for that neighborhood over there. We don't maintain what the school has over there we want to maintain something for the people in that area. We had the opportunity to leave it as open space and make it some form of recreational and also a spot for people to go and sit and have a conversation.

Ms. Miller- Is there anywhere we can see the plans, layout or designs? We have been living across from this watching the parking lot fill with water and now it is getting filled in slowly. We have seen that and now we would like to see the design. If you are planning for this depending on what is going to be there and from what I have been told and I do not know are you planning any additional parking. That is a congested corner.

Mayor DiNardo- It is for the people of the neighborhood. You will be getting all new curbs and sidewalk improvements and road improvements to the area. It is all part of the plan and it designed for you people there.

Ms. Miller- Is there a place where we can see these plans?

Administrator Pino-I have the plans and you can stop in tomorrow or email me or leave your address and I can email you a copy of them.

Ms. Miller-I will do that just again thank you and we do appreciate it and we do know you tried to do the right thing for the town but it just seemed a little redundant.

Committeeman Aagre- I would like a copy of those plans also Dennis if you can email them. Thank you.

Bill Shewan- Coming forward as a citizen of Hazlet for many years and also with the support of the Hazlet Area Quality of Life. Anything I am going to discuss right now is not aimed at the current committee or past committee or the current mayor or past mayor. I am going to address the structure of the township. Our township is the form of municipal government where we have a committee and the mayor is not elected. What I am getting at is I don't think from the standpoint of citizens and from the standpoint of even politics it is not the form of government that is best for an area where you have 10,000 or more citizens in the Township of Hazlet. The form of government was originated in 1798 and that was when that type of committee was formed. There is the Borough form which is basically give you a weak mayor and a council. The one that I would support and I would propose that at least some discussion be made and some thinking be made from the current political parties. That would be the town form of municipal government. Under that structure it gives the mayor a two year term and it can be extended even further if you wish and it gives the Committee members a two year term. The mayor is voted on which is a big difference. A lot of the people in our township think the mayor is voted in and the mayor is not voted in. It also gives the mayor some power and it also gives more time to get done the policies they want to get done. I think it is a better approach. I am not an expert in this field. There is a different format on this as well. You create four wards within the township and the council is made up of eight people and there is two council members from each of the four that makes up the eight. This gives an opportunity for equal representation throughout the town. I think it is a fairer way of governing the town. There are municipalities that have that and it does require a charter change which most towns have not undertaken. I do think that we should at least think about it and consider if it is better for the town. I think it is and many people I talk to feel that it is. It eliminates a rotating, whether it be a republican or democrat who is the next Mayor. I think the equal representation throughout the town where you are not getting I am sure at this point, would be a much better format. I do think we should consider that and talk about it and I would probably come forward again after the new year just to see where we are on it. I do realize it requires a legal approach to it. It is something that would be good for our town.

Deputy Mayor Belasco- Bayonne had that and each section had a councilman and then there were wards 1,2, & 3 with 3 councilman and then they had At-Large and the Mayor. I do agree with you that is a monumental task to change the charter.

Committeewoman Ronchetti- I wholeheartedly agree with both of you.

Mr. Shewan- Also, another good point the Mayor has an opportunity to Veto what may be voted on within 10 days. It still can be over written by the councilman with a majority vote.

Attorney Cucchiaro- You are correct Mr. Shewan it would require a Charter Commission. A Charter Commission would have to be established that would review it and make a recommendation. Here in Monmouth County it was recently done in Asbury Park. They had a Charter Commission and actually voted to change their form of government. Next week will be the first time they are going to be having elections under their new form of Government. The Township form of government that you were talking about there wouldn't be two from each ward but there would be wards and At-Large people that are represented. There are a lot of municipalities that have form government that were indicative of a much different time when they were established. They have increased a number of neighborhoods and their populations. I think this government body no matter the political party they are always looking to see how to improve. I think we can certainly discuss if a Charter Commission is something they want to establish. It takes time there is a whole process behind it.

Mr. Shewan- Just keep in mind that you are under the jurisdiction of 1798 laws and I think it is time to look at it.

Committeewoman Ronchetti- I agree.

EricToth- More about what he was saying I think that is a good idea. How would they do that would the Committee vote on that or the Township?

Attorney Cucchiaro- The Committee would vote on establishing a Charter Commission. As Mr. Shewan was saying there are all sorts of different forms of government. There is a Faulkner Act and other acts and within each act there are different forms of government so the Charter Commission would analyze each form of government and would hold public hearings and make recommendations. This body would not vote on whether to change the form of government ultimately the people would.

Kim Newins- I am a resident of Hazlet Township since 1960. I remember when the sewerage authority was there and the history beyond that property a little bit differently but pretty much the same. I was here for the public hearing the night that went on the agenda and Mr. Gorman was the attorney then and there was some discussion of the people wanting the building to come down and the infrastructure that is on the ground and it not being cost effective thing to do. I was in favor and in agreement with that and because in order to renovate that property to remediate the soil was not a feasible thing. I live behind where the old town hall used to be and now people walk their dogs there next to the Middle Road School. Given that it was a sewerage treatment plant I think a stroller park is the proper name for the age group. I don't think the people who will be using it will not be utilizing it for 24 hours a day. The children are our future.

**Motion to close hearing:**

Offered Committeeman Sachs

2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Mayor Belasco

Voice Vote: Yes

**Motion to adjourn:**

Offered Committeeman Sachs

2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Mayor Belasco

Voice Vote: Yes

Time: 8:55PM