

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

SPECIAL PUBLIC /CLOSED SESSION

October 6, 2016 Thursday

The Township Council held a Special Public Portion/Closed Session in the Municipal Building, 350 Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Council President Michael Ullman, with the Clerk leading a salute to the flag. Members present: Robert Bruno, Peter Calamari, Steve Cascio, Tom Sears. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Mary Anne Groh, Business Administrator.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act a 48 Hour Notice was given in The Bergen Record, forwarded to the local newspapers, posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board, the Township website and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Sears, to open the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilmen Bruno, Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman.
Nays: None.

Toni Plantamura, 808 Robinwood Road – Ms. Plantamura addressed Mr. Twomey's comments during a previous Council meeting, in which he spoke of turf fields in New Milford. She stated upon doing research she found out Mr. Twomey was speaking of New Milford, Connecticut, not New Jersey. She questioned the Town Day permit which was issued to Tim Ritter on behalf of the "Friends of Memorial Field" and her understanding that political events are not to take place on borough owned property. She spoke of the Facebook post by the "Friends of Memorial Field" which shows a photo of Senator Cardinale and Assemblyman Auth posing/showing support for artificial turf, which has been taken down but is still posted on the personal Facebook page of Alison Haynes Twomey. She did call up Senator Cardinale's office to give him the information. She spoke of not understanding the figures that Mr. Spezial and Mr. Twomey came up with, that is it would cost 81 cents per taxpayer. In doing the calculations it just doesn't add up. She also requested that the electronic board indicate that Council meetings are being broadcasted on cable television.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Sears, to close the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilmen Bruno, Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman.
Nays: None.

A conversation followed on the permit application process and the fee collected, in particular the permit which was issued to Tim Ritter, who signed on behalf of the "Friends of Memorial Field." Councilman Cascio suggested guidelines for the next Town Day.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Sears to approve Resolution No. 16 – 284.

Ayes: Councilmen Bruno, Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman
Nays: None.

Resolution No. 16-284
Closed Session

WHEREAS, the public is invited to attend all Meetings (whether denoted public or conference sessions) of the Township Council in accordance with its general practice and the Open Public Meetings Act; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of New Jersey declared that the public has a right to attend all meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon in any way except as set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), which provides for the exclusion of the public from the portion of a meeting at which certain enumerated matters are to be discussed; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined that, because of the nature of the subject matter to be discussed, the public should not be present at that portion of the meeting of the Township Council at which certain specific matters encompassed by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 are to be discussed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that, pursuant to the express provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, the public be excluded from the meeting or portion of the meeting (denoted as an "executive" or "closed" session) in which the following matters are to be discussed:

1. Any matter which, by express provision of federal law or State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from the provision of subsection a. of this section.

2. Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the Government of the United States.

3. Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendation, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance, and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.

4. Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of the terms and conditions thereof with employees or representatives of employees of the public body.

5. Any matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds, where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.

6. Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law.

7. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than in subsection b. (4) herein in which the public body is, or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer. **PERSONNEL**

8. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.

9. Any deliberations of a public body occurring after a public

hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act or omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is not possible as yet to fix the time when or the circumstances under which the discussion conducted in Closed Session can be disclosed to the public. It is anticipated that the subject matter under discussion will be made public when finalized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice is hereby given that the Township Council may find it necessary to take action at the conclusion of the executive/closed session; that such action if taken, will occur in open session; that you are invited to stay in the Municipal Building during the executive/closed session; that the doors to the Council chambers will be opened and an announcement will be made if the Township Council will be going into open session; and you may be present during such open session.

 The Township Council anticipates that an open session will be necessary. -
 X The Township Council anticipates that an open session will not be necessary.

Motion		Seconded		Ayes	Nays	Abst.	Absent
Bruno		Bruno		X			
Calamari		Calamari		X			
Cascio	X	Cascio		X			
Sears		Sears	X	X			
Ullman		Ullman		X			

Time Noted: 7:17 p.m.



Cornelia Lisa
Acting Township Clerk



Michael Ullman
Council President

Approved: August 21, 2017