

MINUTES FOR BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP CONFERENCE MEETING

Monday, March 16, 2020

7:00 PM – Mayor’s Conference Room, 1 Municipal Plaza, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building



I. Sunshine Compliance Statement

Mayor Venezia called the meeting to Order at 7:02 p.m.

Notice of the time, date, location and agenda of this meeting, to the extent then known was provided at least forty-eight

(48) hours prior to the commencement of this meeting in the following manner pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Law of 1975 (The Open Public Meeting Act).

1. By posting such notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, and
2. By email notification generated by IQM2 software to the offices of the Independent Press, Bloomfield Life, the Star Ledger, Patch, Baristanet and TAPinto Bloomfield

II. Pledge of Allegiance

This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Roll call showed the following:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jenny Mundell	First Ward Councilwoman	Present	
Nicholas Joanow	Second Ward Councilman	Present	
Sarah Cruz	Third Ward Councilwoman	Present	
Wartyna Davis	Councilwoman	Present	
Ted Gamble	Councilman	Present	
Richard Rockwell	Councilman	Present	
Michael J. Venezia	Mayor	Present	

B. Also Present: Louise Palagano, Municipal Clerk; Michael Parlavecchio, Township Attorney; Jean-guy Lauture, IT Director; Kim Duva, Personnel Director; Karen Lore, Health Director; Mike Fitzpatrick, Health Officer

IV. Presentation

1. Update on Township's Response to the Coronavirus

Health Director Karen Lore provided an update on how COVID-19 is impacting the township and how residents should proceed in the days going forward. Ms. Lore also explained the testing protocol and Health Department’s response in more detail. She also explained the difference between isolation and self-quarantine. Township Administrator Matt Watkins explained how the Municipal Building is closed to the public, a lock box was established for residents to pay, the implementation of staggered shifts among Township employees and that the Township is sending out daily updates.

Mr. Watkins also discussed the various shuttle services around the Township and how they are being impacted.

V. Public Comment

Mayor Venezia then asked for any public comments that may have been submitted. Municipal Clerk Louise Palagano summarized the comments that were emailed and also given to the Mayor and Council.

Norm Sutaria, Bloomfield, New Jersey, emailed various questions about COVID-19; pedestrian crossing, the new asphalt machine for the DPW, Greener by Design.

Robert Hamilton, Bloomfield, New Jersey, emailed various questions about assessments, personnel and the user friendly budget.

VI. TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR:

2. Discussion of Reversed Angle Parking Pilot Project on Broad Street

Township Administrator Matt Watkins explained why the Township would like to implement this pilot project in a small section in the downtown area. It could potentially double the parking capacity in that area and reduce accidents. Engineer John Jahr shared more details and the learning curve associated with the project. He warned that the first month or two would be a challenge. He discussed the specific signage that would be put up to inform drivers on what to do and how to navigate. This project would ultimately lead to improvements in safety, if successful. Mr. Jahr recommended a six month to one -year pilot and would have the Police Department weigh in on that suggestion. .

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Richard Rockwell, Councilman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

3. Discussion of Traffic Calming at Washington St. and Thomas

Mayor Venezia and Councilman Gamble asked Township Administrator Matt Watkins and Engineer John Jahr to take a look at this section and determine how to fix the traffic situation. Mr. Jahr, working with the Police Department, shared his suggestions with the Council including creating a four-way stop, pedestrian flashers and a ten minute parking around the area where the daycare is located.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

4. Update on Pedestrian Crossing Signalization at Various Intersections in Bloomfield

Mayor Venezia explained that he asked Township Administrator Matt Watkins to look into giving pedestrians more time into crossing streets at various intersections. Engineer John Jar explained they have their data collection but they need to follow the federal rules regarding traffic lights. The one traffic light that the Township owns will probably have some sort of change that will require a resolution. Mr. Watkins and Mr. Jahr also talked about the signalization for midblock crosswalks.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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5. CME Engineering Study on the Intersection Between Bloomfield Ave and JFK N and JFK S

Township Administrator Matt Watkins suggested that CME Engineering conduct a full study of this intersection to fix some of the issues that present themselves there. Action taken at the end of the meeting.

6. NJ Historic Grant Application for the Collins House

Township Administrator Matt Watkins talked about the grant application for Collins House.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Richard Rockwell, Councilman	
SECONDER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

7. Request for Authorization to Purchase New Asphalt Machine (DPW)

Township Administrator Matt Watkins Recommended the purchase of a new asphalt machine for the DPW. Action taken at the end of the meeting.

8. Award of Contract - Greener by Design to Develop Power Purchase Agreement for Solar Panels

Township Administrator Matt Watkins talked about allowing Greener By Design to put together a power purchase agreement for the Township.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

9. Vehicle Auction - GovDeals.com

Township Administrator Matt Watkins talked about the authorization for an online auction of vehicles from the town on GovDeals.com

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

10. Handicapped Parking Request (275 Franklin Street & 377 Watsessing Avenue)

Township Administrator Matt Watkins talked about the addition of two handicapped spots on 275 Franklin Street and 377 Watsessing Avenue.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

11. Reimbursement - 2 Electric Vehicles

Township Administrator Matt Watkins talked about a grant application for reimbursement for two electric vehicles.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

VII. TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY:

1. Revising the Zoning Map to Modify Community Commercial (“CC”) Zone

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio talked about the proposed expansion of the Brookdale Shoprite. Earlier in the year, Shoprite revised the area and their building size so Mr. Parlavecchio is recommending the Township revise the zoning map to modify the “CC Zone.”

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

2. Royal Parking Garage Construction Agreement Correction

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio talked about a correction to the Royal Parking Garage Construction Agreement. The cost was incorrectly stated and this correction would reflect the correct amount.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

3. Discharge of Residential Rehab Mortgage - 27 Rowe Street

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio talked about the discharge of the residential rehab mortgage for 27 Rowe Street because the loan terms have expired.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
SECONDER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

4. Discharge of Residential Rehab Mortgage - 17 Norwood Place

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio talked about the discharge of the residential rehab mortgage for 17 Norwood Place because the loan terms have expired.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
SECONDER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

5. Authorizing the Township Administrator to execute a Subordination Agreement in connection with the Township's Residential Rehab Program

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio talked about the subordination agreement and said the lien would still be in place but the owner is refinancing their mortgage.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
SECONDER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

6. Westinghouse Project - Five Year Tax Abatement

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio explained that Westinghouse submitted an application to the Tax Assessor's office for a 5-year tax abatement. Mr. Parlavecchio explained that this is a statutory position.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Ordinance. Vote showed the following

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

7. Discussion of Amendments to Community Cat Ordinance

Township Attorney Michael Parlavecchio explained some minor final amendments to the Cat Ordinance which is on for second reading at the March 30, 2020 Regular Township meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia

VIII. FINANCE DIRECTOR:

1. Matching Funds for Library Construction Grant

Township Administrator Matt Watkins explained the need for a resolution for the Township to match funds provided for the Library Construction Grant.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

IX. TOWNSHIP ENGINEER:**1. Award Of Contract - Speed Hump Installation**

Township Administrator Matt Watkins recommended an award of contract for speed hump installation.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

2. Award Of Contract - 2020 Street Sweeping

Township Administrator Matt Watkins recommended renewing the street sweeping contract for the township.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

X. TOWNSHIP CLERK

1. ABC Transfer - Forest Hill Field Club

Municipal Clerk Louise Palagano talked about a liquor license transfer at the Forest Hill Field Club location.

The recommendation was approved for the adoption of the appropriate Resolution. Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman	
SECONDER:	Rich Rockwell, Councilman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

XI. TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**1. Resolution for Pipeline and Compressor Safety Study (Joanow)**

Councilman Nick Joanow talked about a resolution to request a traffic study for pipeline and compressor safety.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/30/2020 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman	
SECONDER:	Sarah Cruz, Third Ward Councilwoman	
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia	

2. Liaison Reports

Councilman Rockwell said Troop 22 Scouts finished their community project at the Morris Canal Greenway behind Demarest School. Councilman Rockwell thanked Eagle Scout candidate Kevin McLaughlin, Recreation Director Mike Scurman, Freeholder Carlos Pomares and the DPW for their help with this project.

Councilman Joanow talked about the time change and location change for the Board of Education's adoption of the 2020-2021 school budget. It will be held on March 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the BHS Media Center.

Councilwoman Mundell briefly recapped the events held for Women's History Month including: a social media takeover, an appreciation breakfast for women who work for the Township and a networking event will be rescheduled for later in the year. Mayor Venezia would also like to extend the women's hygiene collection since some of the businesses were closed down due to COVID-19.

Councilwoman Davis talked about the collaboration with Human Services and Toni's Kitchen to provide food for those families who need help during this time. She also talked about the coordination to bring food and groceries to homebound residents. Councilwoman Davis thanked Councilwoman Mundell and Councilwoman Cruz for their help organizing Women's History Month events.

The Mayor and Council then discussed how they can proceed forward with virtual meetings and updates to residents during the COVID-19 restrictions that have been set in place by the state.

Mayor Venezia also urged residents to fill out the 2020 Census form.

Mayor Venezia asked for motion to go into Closed Session which was moved by Councilman Joanow, seconded by Councilman Gamble, and agreed to by all of the Councilmembers present. The Council moved into Closed Session at 7:43 PM

XII. CLOSED SESSION:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of Township of Bloomfield has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Governing Body will reconvene;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Bloomfield will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public;

Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

Any matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

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

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

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;

Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation 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;

Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, 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 individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting;

Any deliberation 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 of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility;

Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, disciplinary action unless individual in writing requests a public meeting;

Any deliberations of the public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of specific civil penalty.

Mayor Venezia asked for motion to go into Open Session which was moved by Councilwoman Cruz, seconded by Councilman Rockwell, and agreed to by all of the Councilmembers present. The Council moved into Open Session at 8:30 P.M.

XIII. Action Items

Upon returning from Open Session, Mayor Venezia called for the approval of the following action items.

- 1. 2020 ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD, COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 250 OF THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION**

Roll call showed the following:

RESULT:	ADOPT [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Wartyna Davis, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia

- 2. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING CME ASSOCIATES TO CONDUCT A TRAFFIC STUDY FOR VARIOUS INTERSECTIONS**

Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Nicholas Joanow, Second Ward Councilman
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia

- 3. RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman
SECONDER:	Richard Rockwell, Councilman
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia

4. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A PROJECT CLOSEOUT AGREEMENT WITH TRICON ENTERPRISES, INC.

Roll call showed the following:

RESULT:	ADOPTED [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	Richard Rockwell, Councilman
SECONDER:	Jenny Mundell, First Ward Councilwoman
AYES:	Mundell, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia
ABSTAIN:	Nicholas Joanow

5. TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD APPROVAL BILL LIST FOR MARCH 16, 2020

Vote showed the following:

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ted Gamble, Councilman
SECONDER:	Richard Rockwell, Councilman
AYES:	Mundell, Joanow, Cruz, Davis, Gamble, Rockwell, Venezia

XIV. Adjournment

Mayor Venezia asked for motion for adjournment which was moved by Councilwoman Mundell, seconded by Councilwoman Cruz, and agreed to by all of the Councilmembers present. The Council moved into Open Session at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise M. Palagano, Municipal Clerk