

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
October 17, 2017 7:00 p.m.

This is a joint meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey and Independence Municipal Utilities Authority. This meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Giordano at 7:00 p.m. with the following announcement: "Adequate notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by providing a schedule of regular meetings to the Star Gazette and The Express Times, posting a copy thereof on the Township bulletin board and filing a copy thereof in the office of the Municipal Clerk." The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Mayor Giordano.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Robert Giordano, Deputy Mayor Cogle, Carmen Feula, Bonnie Kelsey, Mike Pennington, and Debi Hrebenak. IMUA: Bernard Re, Robert Pace, Jay Woodruff
Also present Attorney Leslie Parikh

Absent: Angelo Bolcato

Meeting turned over to IMUA Chairperson Bernard Re.

IMUA Minutes to be approved 9.27.2017

Mr. Pace made a motion to approve 9.27.2017 minutes as written. Mr. Re seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr., Re, Mr. Pace and Mr. Woodruff

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

Water operator report received from Dave Ester- Agra

Payment of Bills

IMUA BILLS: A motion was made by Mr. Pace to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Woodruff seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Re, Mr. Pace and Mr. Woodruff

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

Public Comments:

Suez Water gave a presentation about their company and the future of IMUA customers. Several questions were asked and answered by Suez and Chairman Re.

Mayor Giordano took the meeting over.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second reading of Ordinance 2017-10

Mr. Feula made a motion to open up discussion on this ordinance to the Public. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

As there were no comments, a motion was made by Mr. Feula to close the public hearing. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to adopt Ordinance 2017-10 as written. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Second reading of Ordinance 2017-11

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to open up discussion on this ordinance to the Public. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

Public Comment: Mr. Pace noted that the proceeds of the sale would go to the Township to pay off the debt services.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to close the public hearing. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to adopt Ordinance 2017-11 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Second Reading Ordinance 2017-12

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to open up discussion on this ordinance to the Public. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

Public Comments: Mr. Cullen thanked Suez Water for the presentation and also stated that he has his own well. He questioned the wording of the ordinance.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to close the public hearing. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to adopt Ordinance 2017-12 as written. Deputy Mayor Cougle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cougle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Feula stated that Ms. Hrebenak, Mr. Re and Mr. Parikh attended the meeting in Trenton, NJ. They were fully prepared for the meeting.

IMUA Members adjourned the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

The following Resolution was approved at 8:00 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Mayor Giordano, seconded by Mr. Feula and followed by a unanimous roll call. Mrs. Kelsey asked to abstain on this item, the committee agreed Mrs. Kelsey left meeting.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body believes such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, as follows:

Personnel

The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified matter.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

It is anticipated now that the above-stated matter will be made public when deemed appropriate.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cougle to come out of Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. and enter regular session. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mr. Cougle, Mr. Pennington and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Mayor Giordano stated that no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mayor Giordano to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. Deputy Mayor Cougle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cougle, Mr. Feula, Mr. Pennington and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator