

TOWNSHIP OF LOPATCONG
COUNCIL MEETING

March 30, 2015

The Special Meeting of the Council Meeting of the Lopatcong Township Council was called to order approximately 7:00 pm by Mayor McKay. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building located at 232 S. Third St., Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865.

A moment of silence was offered followed by the Oath of Allegiance.

Mayor McKay stated “adequate notice of this meeting has been provided indicating the time and place of the meeting in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 by advertising a Notice in The Star Gazette and The Express-Times and by posting a copy on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.”

Present – Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman McCabe, Councilwoman Schneider, Council President Ciesla, Mayor McKay.

Public Comment – Motion by Councilwoman McCabe, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. All in favor.

Marla Endick – 10 Byron Drive – Requested information on the content for the notice to the newspaper for this special meeting. Also asked if there was a statute, resolution, ordinance, etc., where it states the mayor was to request permission to access the surveillance equipment.

Robert Rinaldi – 516 Rugby Road – Understood a need for security system in the building and didn't understand how monitoring the system falls under the duties of the mayor.

Juniper Leifer – 32 Jade Lane – Who is authorized to view the surveillance system?

Martin Swim – 4 Byron Drive – Thought that the mayor has the right to access the surveillance system because the mayor supervises Beth Dilts.

Bill Wright – 173 Stonehenge Drive – Thanked Councilwoman Ciesla for speaking up.

Olschewski – Highlands Way - Asked why we spent thousands of dollars to hold this meeting today instead of waiting until the regular council meeting. Mayor McKay is the public safety officer and noted the video is considered a public document.

Juniper Leifer – A sign outside the municipal building should indicate a surveillance system is in place.

Lee Rozycki – 56 Puddingstone Way – Comment with regard to the article in the paper that is was an unfair perception in the newspaper.

Andy Horun – 13 Windsor Lane – Asked if the mayor felt threatened at all and about how many times he left after hours.

Robert Larsen – 26 Browning Court – Thought the mayor went about accessing the surveillance system was wrong.

Mayor McKay asked for a motion to close the public comment. Motion by Council President Ciesla, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. All in favor.

Mayor McKay noted this meeting was unusual and never saw one like this since he has been attending meetings. He thought the meeting unfortunate and could have been addressed in another way; a phone call, an email or other manner. Council President Ciesla indicated she called the meeting because Mayor McKay called Fox Brothers to install on his desktop computer private access to the cameras that are installed in and around the municipal building on Friday the April 13th. No notification was given to council. A discussion ensued with each council person providing their opinions and concerns. Attorney Moscagiuri stated that there is a split

council and there will be a vote on what they believe the procedure should be and after that his law firm would come in and look at this. He could not opine on things that might be confidential and move forward tonight before knowing everything. It is not so much a law he thought but a procedure of what council has to approve and what council does not have to approve. Mayor McKay made a motion to appoint a committee to consist of Councilwoman Schneider and Council President Ciesla to write a policy for council's consideration, seconded by Council President Ciesla. Roll call vote:

AYES: Councilman Belcaro, Councilwoman McCabe, Councilwoman Schneider, Council President Ciesla, Mayor McKay.

NAYS: None

Mayor McKay asked for a motion to open the floor for public comment, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. All in favor.

Public Comment:

Video Positon: 1:05:12

Bill Wright – 173 Stonehenge Drive – Questioned the ability for anyone to go onto the computer to access the surveillance system.

Olschewski – Highlands Way – What the question is, is what the legislative branch thinks the mayor can or cannot do.

Rob Larsen – 26 Browning Court – Has anyone checked with Mr. Clancy if he has noticed some concerns regarding safety.

Juniper Leifer – 32 Jade Lane – Commended Tom for the trying to navigate the field with regard to what is going on in the building.

Joseph Imhoff – 240 Aurora Street – The mayor cannot be expected to know everything that has to be done to operate the office correctly when he was not provided transition.

Marla Endick – 10 Byron Drive – Asked the attorney what his bill would be and how much the advertising cost for this meeting.

Andy Horun – 13 Windsor Lane – Was the service that was done to the computer under the service contract.

Kathy Devos – 2 Sundance Way – Commented to council on stating that Mr. Imhoff owed Council President Ciesla an apology for something he said regarding her son.

Martin Swim – 4 Byron Drive – Thought agenda could have read differently.

Mayor McKay made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Schneider. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Dilts, CMC
Clerk/Administrator

Thomas M. McKay
Mayor