

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
February 26, 2024

The Township Committee Meeting of the Township of Cranbury was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Town Hall. Answering present to roll call were Township Committee members: Michael Ferrante, Lisa Knierim, Dr. Barbara Rogers, Matthew Scott, and Mayor Eman El-Badawi. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/CFO, Michael Owens, Chief of Police and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Mayor El-Badawi led in the salute to the flag, and Ms. Rubin read the following Open Public Meetings Act statement:

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, it is hereby announced and shall be entered into the minutes of this meeting that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided:

Posted on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Office at 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey and remains posted at that location.

Communicated to the Cranbury Press, Home News Tribune, and Trenton Times on January 5, 2024.

Filed on January 5, 2024 at the Cranbury Municipal Office, 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey, posted on the Township's web site and remains on file for public inspection.

Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

Cranbury Township Resolution #R 02-24-038 – In Appreciation of Kathleen Warnebold: Mayor El-Badawi read the following ordinance in its entirety and presented a fully executed resolution to Ms. Warnebold:

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 02-24-038
A RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION OF KATHLEEN WARNEBOLD**

WHEREAS, Kathleen Warnebold (“Kathy”) has decided to retire from her position as Technical Assistant to the Construction Official of Cranbury Township; and

WHEREAS, Kathy began her service at Cranbury Township on November 17, 2004, serving with dedication and distinction; and

WHEREAS, during those years, Kathy personified the highest ideals of public service, and earned the admiration and respect of her peers, and countless residents; and

WHEREAS, Kathy was instrumental in keeping the construction department organized during the busiest of times in Cranbury; and

WHEREAS, Kathy was also influential in guiding the Municipal Alliance Commission while serving as their Board Secretary; and

WHEREAS, Kathy has given of her time, knowledge, experience, intelligence, integrity, and loyalty to the Township of Cranbury.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury expresses its appreciation and thanks to Kathy for her many years of service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township of Cranbury hereby extends heartfelt wishes to Kathy for good health, happiness, and prosperity in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this Resolution be presented to Kathy Warnebold with sincere thanks.

Ms. Warnebold thanked the Township Committee and added comments regarding her tenure with the township. The members congratulated her again on a well-deserved retirement.

Proclamation – Honoring Lunar New Year 2024: Mayor Eman El-Badawi read the following proclamation in its entirety:

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Proclamation Honoring Lunar New Year 2024

Whereas; Lunar New Year is one of the most important celebrations of the year among East and Southeast Asian cultures, including Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean communities, among others.

Whereas; February 10, 2024 marked the Lunar New Year, which is the festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar.

Whereas; this year is the year of the Dragon, symbolizing power, nobility, honor, luck, and success.

Whereas; festive celebrations usher out the old year and bring forth the luck and prosperity of the new one. As part of the celebrations, participants wear red clothing, decorate their homes in red, enjoy fireworks, feast on traditional food, visit family members and honor relatives who have passed. Young people are gifted money in colorful red envelopes and festivities usually include a dragon dance and the lunar new year typically ends with a lantern festival.

Whereas; Cranbury Township is home to a vibrant and active Chinese American population that contribute to the diversity and prosperity of the town.

Whereas; Cranbury's Chinese American population are high-achieving professionals, entrepreneurs, farmers, artists, and athletes.

Whereas; in 2014, 2015 and 2016, members of Cranbury's Chinese American community hosted Chinese New Year celebrations and raised over \$20,000 for the building of Cranbury's new library.

Whereas; this generous donation gave rise to "The New Books Area," gifted by Cranbury Chinese Community.

Whereas; after a hiatus, the Chinese New Year celebration returned to the new Cranbury Public Library in 2023.

Whereas; the Lunar New Year celebration brings our community together in joy and mutual respect.

Therefore; I, Eman El-Badawi, Mayor of the Township of Cranbury along with the Township Committee members Proclaim February 10, 2024 as Lunar New Year and joyfully wish all individuals in the community who observe this holiday a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Presentation – De-Mystifying Local Government:

Mr. Ferrante provided a presentation for the public titled De-Mystifying Local Government. He instructed the public that the presentation was not a legal document and was meant for informational purposes only. Mr. Ferrante addressed a variety of topics along with common questions about Cranbury Township Municipal Government within the presentation. Members of the public were encouraged to ask questions regarding the presentation.

Agenda Additions/Changes: None

Approval of Minutes: Mayor El-Badawi asked if any members of the Township Committee would like to address changes or amendments to the following minutes. Hearing none, Mayor El-Badawi asked for a motion to adopt the following minutes:

-- Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes January 22, 2024

On a motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mrs. Knierim, along with the following roll call vote of the members of the Township Committee;

Ayes: (Knierim

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(Ferrante
(Rogers
(El-Badawi

Abstain: (Scott

Absent: (None

Nays: (None

the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2024 were adopted.

--Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes February 12,2024

On a motion for amendment by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Knierim, along with the following roll call vote of the members of the Township Committee;

Ayes: (Knierim
(Ferrante
(Rogers
(El-Badawi

Abstain: (Scott

Absent: (None

Nays: (None

the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2024 were adopted as amended.

Reports and Communications:

Department Heads –

Police Department:

Chief Michel Owens, Chief of Police, gave his January report which provided statistics to include January 2023 versus January 2024. Chief Owens additionally reported on speed signs to be deployed for use in March or beginning of April, weather permitting.

Members of Committee

- Dr. Rogers – She reported on the Parks and Environmental Commission meetings both being cancelled due to lack of quorums. The Traffic Subcommittee met and reported the Bike Network Plan and gateway signs were both discussed.
- Mrs. Knierim – Reported the EDAC presentation is scheduled for the next Township Committee meeting. She reported on her attendance at the HPC meeting and her anticipated attendance at the upcoming meetings of Preservation NJ, CHPS, Zoning Board and NJ Revolution.
- Mr. Ferrante – Reported on the recent Zoning Committee meeting where an interim ordinance was discussed and revised. He also attended the following events; Lunar New Year, Personnel Subcommittee, Board of Recreation meeting and Library retreat. He added his anticipated attendance to the following; DRC and Planning Board meetings. He will be excused absent from the upcoming Township Committee meeting.
- Mr. Scott – Reported on his attendance at the Board of Education meeting and announced the upcoming Craft Show dates.

Mayor

Mayor El-Badawi - Reported on her attendance at the Municipal Alliance meeting and anticipated attendance at the upcoming Planning Board meeting. She reported on her attendance at the Traffic Subcommittee meeting where the following was discussed; gateway signs, general road safety, crosswalk at Station Road and Evans Drive, proposed speed study on South Main Street and the lighted crosswalk on Old Trenton Road and Washington Drive. The personnel subcommittee met and discussed the possible

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merger of the Parks Commission and Board of Recreation Commissioners. She added the need for volunteers for the Mayor's Wellness Campaign and the upcoming Craft Show.

In Community News:

- March 2&3 (Saturday-Sunday)- Cranbury Education Foundation Craft Show.
- March 7-9 (Thursday-Saturday)- Cranbury School Musical... Little Mermaid, Jr.
- March 14-16 (Thursday-Saturday)- Beauty and the Beast spring musical at Princeton High School.
- April 27 (Saturday)- Library Foundation Accepting Book Donations to be sold at the Cranbury Garage Sale
- Kindergarten Registration

Boards: Mayor's Wellness Campaign - Laura Zurfluh presented a slideshow on the Mayor's Wellness Campaign.

Follow-up Items: None

Boards and Commissions – Mayoral Appointments/Vacancies

Mayoral Appointments: None

Vacancies:

Board Vacancies are the following:

- **Recreation** – 1st Alternate (Expire 12/31/28) and 2nd Alternate (Expire 12/31/24) (Mayoral Appointment)
- **Environmental** – 1 Full Member (12/31/26) and 2nd Alternate (Expire 12/31/25) (Mayoral Appointment)
- **HPC** – 2nd Alternate Class C (Expire 12/31/25) (Mayoral Appointment)
- **Municipal Alliance** – 1 Full Member (12/31/26) (Township Committee Appointment)
- **Parks** – 1 Full Member (Expire 12/31/24) and 2nd Alternate (Expire 12/31/24) (Mayoral Appointment)

Works Session – Shade Tree – Tree Ordinance: Kathy Easton and Jackie Johnson were both present to discuss the changes needed in the upcoming completion of the revised tree ordinance. They reported the ordinance is required by the DEP and due May 1, 2024. Discussions ensued on their recommendations which included which properties were to be covered, permitting and fees, along with management and enforcement.

Ordinances:

First Reading – Ms. Rubin read the following ordinance by title only:

Mr. Ferrante made a motion to introduce the following ordinance. Ms. Knierim seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was introduced unanimously by those present. Second reading to be held March 11, 2024.

Ayes: (Knierim
(Ferrante
(Rogers
(Scott
(El-Badawi

Nays: (None

Abstain: (None

Absent: (None

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Cranbury Township Ordinance 02-24-03

An Ordinance of the Township of Cranbury Amending “An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries, Wages and Benefits for Various Officials and Employees of the Township of Cranbury Providing for the Manner of Payment Thereof, and Ratifying Salaries and Payments to Employees and Officials Previously Paid

Ms. Rubin read the following ordinance by title only:

Mr. Ferrante made a motion to introduce the following ordinance. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was introduced unanimously by those present. Second reading to be held March 11, 2024.

Ayes: (Knierim
(Ferrante
(Rogers
(Scott
(El-Badawi

Nays: (None

Abstain: (None

Absent: (None

Cranbury Township Ordinance No. 02-24-04

An Ordinance of the Township of Cranbury Amending and Supplementing the Site Plan and Subdivision Standards Contained in Article V of Chapter 150 Entitled “Land Development Ordinance of Cranbury Township” of the Code of the Township of Cranbury Relating to Sec. 150-61 Stormwater Management

Second Reading - None

Resolutions – Consent Resolutions

Mayor El-Badawi asked the Committee if there were any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, Mayor El-Badawi asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda resolution(s) On motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Dr. Rogers, the following Consent Resolution(s) were adopted unanimously by the following vote:

Ayes: (Ferrante
(Knierim
(Rogers
(Scott
(El-Badawi

Nays: (None

Abstain: (None

Absent: (None

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 02-24-039

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Cranbury that all bills and claims as audited and found to be correct be paid;

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION #R 02-24-040

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION TO THE

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NJ CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to ensure that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, Cranbury strives to assure clean land, air and water for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's Energy Master Plan: Pathway to 2050 ("EMP") established that community-level action is necessary to achieve the state's goal of 100% clean energy by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has created a Community Energy Plan Grant program for municipalities to develop a community energy plan to meet the goals of the state's Energy Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, Cranbury is invested in developing a community energy plan to help the state achieve the goal of 100% clean energy by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Community Energy Plan Grant program will help Cranbury to plan for and invest in renewable energy and to work towards a better environment for all residents by using the state's Energy Master Plan (EMP) as a guide to develop sustainable strategies that increase clean energy production, reduce energy use, and cut emissions.

THEREFORE, the Township Committee of Cranbury has determined that Cranbury should apply for the aforementioned Community Energy Planning Grant program; and

THEREFORE, Cranbury will commit to providing staff support for the duration of the Community Energy Planning process, including for gathering of relevant data and for convening at least one public meeting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Township Committee of Cranbury, the State of New Jersey, authorizes the submission of the aforementioned application to the NJBPU Community Energy Planning Grant program.

Public Comment

Mayor El-Badawi reminded the public of the three (3) minute time limit for public comment. Mayor El-Badawi then opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing none, Mayor El-Badawi closed public comment

Action Items – None

Adjourn

Mayor El-Badawi requested a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Ferrante and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Debra A. Rubin
Debra A. Rubin, RMC
Municipal Clerk