

OXFORD TOWNSHIP MEETING
July 15, 2020

The meeting of the Township Committee of Oxford Township was held on August 5, 2020 in the Oxford Township Municipal Building, 11 Green Street, Oxford, NJ and by calling the toll-free number: (877) 853-5247 and entering the Meeting ID:

Adequate Notice of this meeting was properly advertised in The Express Times/NJ Zone Edition, Express Times, the Township website (www.oxfordtwpnj.org) and Township Facebook page in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975.

In attendance was Robert Nyland, Gerald Norton, Georgette Miller, Township Committee, Rich Wenner, Attorney, Matthew Hall, Administrator, Michael Finelli, Engineer and Sheila Oberly, Municipal Clerk.

Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Minutes

Robert Nyland moved to accept the Meeting Minutes and Executive Session minutes from the May 6, May 20 and June 3, 2020 meetings. Seconded by Georgette Miller. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0. Motion passed.

New Business

Blue Light Permit-Damian Corleto - Robert Nyland moved to approve the Blue Light Permit for Damian Corleto. Seconded by Gerald Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Mansfield Shared Court – Gerald Norton moved to take from the table the Mansfield Shared Court agreement. Seconded by Mayor Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Mayor Nyland moved to accept the Mansfield Shared Court agreement. Seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

DPW Part time Laborer – Mayor Nyland moved to increase Billins’ salary by \$1.00 per hour and allow Willie to hire a part time laborer from the existing list of applicants. Seconded by Gerald Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Township Committee Reports and Correspondence

Mayor Nyland had submitted specific locations to Finelli Engineering of trees in rights of way. Mike Finelli stated inspectors are going to get together with the DPW Supervisor to inspect the locations.

Georgette Miller’s comments on Food Truck were inaudible.

Georgette Miller stated the Oxford Central Re-Opening Committee is working on good ideas to bring the children back to school and coordinate virtual learning. The committee has received lots of compliments from the public.

Georgette Miller stated the Oxford flags were hung downtown today. Mayor Nyland said he would like the banner flags to stay up. They are beautiful and a great addition to our town. He thanked everyone who has contributed to downtown.

Township Engineer:

The application for the 2021 DOT Grant to pave Minehill Road was submitted. They are waiting for the results of the paved detection on Kaufman and will get a postponement until the results are in.

Attorney's Report:

Rich Wenner has an item for Executive Session.

Motion To Pay Bills:

Gerald Norton stated 5 vouchers for Furnace Lake totaling \$4,490.70 are to be added to the bill list. Mayor Nyland noted the correction to the EMS bill.

Gerald Norton moved to pay all bills presented to and approved by the Committee, including the additional 5 vouchers and the correction to the EMS bill. Seconded by Mayor Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Public Comment:

Mayor Nyland stated the recent incident at the Lake does not reflect what the committee or people of the Township stand for. "We don't identify with hate, or scare or treat any residents differently. We stick together and help each other when in need." He has spoken with the Lewis Family who agree that this town meeting is not the platform or place to make an awareness like this possible. They are working together to set up a better platform. Mayor Nyland reserved the first 5 minutes of Public Comment for Mr. Tony Lewis to address the subject and will allow 15 minutes of discussion time on this topic. Mr. Lewis addressed the committee and a lengthy commentary ensued. Austin Lewis stated he appreciates the support he has received. Mr. Nicholas Prageser, 8 Valley View Estates, stated his daughter was the victim of the racial slur referenced in Mr. Tony Lewis' comments. Mayor Nyland apologized to Mr. Prageser for what his daughter experienced. Mr. Robert Mitroke (via Zoom) asked for an exact account of what happened at the Lake. Austin Lewis explained three incidents that occurred this summer. Carey Kiplin, an employee at Furnace Lake, stated that incidents and comments like these send a dark and disturbing message to people from other towns and the town should make it clear people who express these comments are not representative of Oxford.

Mayor Nyland closed comments on this topic.

Bob Magnuson, Superintendent, Oxford Central School stated the School Reopening Committee's plan will be reviewed at the Board of Education meeting Thursday night.

Mayor Nyland stated the school has helped educate children about acceptance and bullying and thanked Mr. Magnuson for their programs. Mr. Magnuson stated Oxford Central has received state and national recognition as a School of Character because of their Character Program.

End of Public Comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist. The public shall be excluded from the discussion of any action upon the hereinafter-specific subject matter.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is contractual matters regarding the Cambridge West redevelopment.

It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will not be made public at the conclusion of the session.

Mayor Nyland moved to enter Executive Session at 7:44 PM, seconded by Georgette Miller and passed unanimously on roll call vote. Ayes: 3, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0.

Susan Turner, Deputy Clerk

*Minutes transcribed and reflected as best as possible from
audio of previous Township Clerk.*