

**WORK SESSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**April 26, 2022
DELRAN, NJ**

Sunshine Statement: Be advised that proper notice has been given by the Township Council in accordance with the sunshine law in the following manner. Notice advertised in the Burlington County Times and Camden Courier Post on March 1, 2022 and posted on the bulletin board on the same date.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Smith, Mr. Jeney, Ms. Parejo, Mr. Lyon and Mr. Burrell were present.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Catrambone, Mayor, Mark Tabakin, Solicitor, Mr. Bellina, Interim Administrator and Ms. Eggers, Township Clerk.

COMCAST – CABLE FRANCHISE RENEWAL PRESENTATION

Fred DeAndrea, Sr. Director of Government Affairs for Comcast NJ, spoke about Delran Township's franchise agreement. This is the license to provide service throughout the township. The license is issued by The NJ Board of Public Utilities but requires the municipal consent of the township. Ordinance 2008-13 authorized a 15-year contract which expired on April 11, 2022. There was a provision for an automatic renewal for 10 years. Comcast will be filing a petition with The NJ Board of Public Utilities and nothing is required from Delran Township.

Mr. DeAndrea discussed increased speed for customers and also *Internet Essentials* which is a reduced fee program for the income constrained. He stated that during the pandemic, Comcast opened up all of the Xfinity hotspots to the public. A program called *Rise* was also launched for small businesses owned by people of color and women.

Mr. Burrell asked if Mr. DeAndrea would provided information for the various Comcast programs that could then be passed on to the residents of Delran Township.

In response to a question posed by Mr. Smith, Mr. DeAndrea will follow up on the ERA program which assists renters who get behind in their utility programs.

DELRAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mal Anderson, President of the Delran Historical Society explained the society began in 2009 and has been looking for a home base. They have taken all the necessary steps to be registered as a nonprofit. He then introduced Kim Custer, trustee.

Ms. Custer spoke about the planned, municipal building, lobby display which will be ever changing. They will offer student tours and public events. A research/storage room would be extremely helpful to facilitate activities.

Renee Brizzi outlined the lobby plans which would include pictures, artifacts, banners, etc. It would create a learning environment for residents. The framed flag that is currently in the lobby would be moved into the courtroom and framed photos would be displayed above the doors to the

courtroom.

Charlie Silvestri discussed the need for storage since all of the artifacts are currently being housed in an attic. Cabinets placed in the lobby would safely display some of the collection. Pictures and banners would make the entrance more appealing. The total anticipated cost for the project is \$8,849.50. Mr. Silvestri asked for guidance in terms of how to purchase the items needed and what the timeline would look like in terms of starting the project.

Mr. Burrell stated that the mayor and council all think that it's a good idea. The administration team will be able to sit down and discuss the process.

Mr. Jeney stated that The Green Team has also expressed an interest in obtaining more space in the lobby.

Mr. Bellina stated he will sit down with everyone after the budget is passed and discuss how to best accomplish all of the goals.

2022 SEWER BILL CLAIMS

Sewer bill claims were reviewed. Mr. Burrell suggested that Council approve the recommendations of the Tax Collector. Mr. Catrambone stated that even a small leak can cause a significant increase in a sewer bill. Ms. Eggers explained that there will be a resolution on the public meeting confirming the adjustments.

REQUEST FOR STOP SIGNS

Mr. Bellina stated that there are seven intersections in the Township that need yield signs replaced with stop signs. This was suggested by the chief of police and confirmed by the municipal engineer. An ordinance would have to be adopted.

MEMORIAL TREE ORDINANCE

The Green Team had questioned whether they can raise money for memorial trees. A donation would be accepted to cover the cost of a new tree or a plaque that would honor someone who has passed away. This would require a Dedication by Rider.

REPORTS

Mr. Bellina – Mr. Bellina gave examples of many NJ municipalities whose trash contracts either increased or who only received one bid when they went out to bid for a new contract.

Ms. Eggers – No report

Mr. Catrambone – Public Works held another successful Clean Up Event. An enormous number of items were collected and those items were recycled as opposed to being thrown in the trash. He thanked the Delran Public Works employees for their hard work.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he has noticed areas in Delran Township that need to be cleaned up. As soon as he has a definitive list, it will be posted on the township website along with dates and times when people can come out to help. It's a great opportunity for volunteer service hours and Public Works supplies rakes, bags, etc.

Mr. Catrambone reported that he has received many complaints regarding the bathrooms at the Delran Community Park. The bathrooms were closed due to a plumbing issue but the problem was fixed and they are back up and running.

Mr. Catrambone congratulated the Green Team after receiving their Tree City USA designation. Flags and signs will be posted throughout the town and there will be a commemoration at the June public meeting. He also suggested that maybe Harran Williams, who was a great part of Delran, could be the first person honored with a memorial tree.

Mr. Catrambone announced that April 30th is the DEA National Drug Take Back Day. Residents can drop off medications at the police station from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Liquids and syringes cannot be accepted.

Mr. Tabakin – Mr. Tabakin thanked Mr. Bellina and Ms. Eggers for onboarding him. He looks forward to working with everyone.

Ms. Parejo – Ms. Parejo reported that she and Mr. Jeney joined members of The Green Team for an Arbor Day celebration in Friendship Park. Two trees were planted and more will be planted in the near future in different areas around town. She thanked The Green Team and asked that they keep planting trees.

Mr. Smith – Mr. Smith stated that April is National Volunteer Month. There are plenty of areas in town that could use a little TLC. He encouraged residents to get out in the nicer weather and help clean up the town.

Mr. Jeney – Mr. Jeney reported that there are currently four Tree City USA signs that need to be posted around town. The Green Team is asking Council to discuss potential areas for placement of the signs. He also explained that The Green Team has created a six foot by four foot plaque in the shape of a tree. The Delran High School Technology Group put together green tags which will have the names of donors who have contributed funds for trees around town. The Green Team has asked for space in the lobby to display the tree.

Mr. Jeney also encouraged Council to dedicate some parking spaces in township lots for veterans. Township businesses, who responded on their 2022 mercantile applications that they were open to providing parking spaces for veterans, will also be contacted.

Mr. Lyon – Mr. Lyon stated that he brought lunch to Public Works on Saturday during the Clean Up Day and they were very busy. He also congratulated The Green Team on their accomplishments and is looking forward to contributing to the memorial tree program. Mr. Lyon stated that The Delran Historical Society gave a great presentation. He mentioned the Cherry Hill Town Hall whose hallways are filled with history and he feels like the plans of our historical society are a

great start for our building.

Mr. Burrell – Mr. Burrell echoed the sentiments of his colleagues. He also sadly reported the passing of former resident, Alicia Stilley who was tragically murdered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Lyon made a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. All were in favor, motion approved.

Barb Littleton, Delran resident thanked The Green Team and Council for planting trees.

She reported that the Delran Township Municipal Facebook page still lists Jeff Hatcher as the administrator. Mr. Catrambone stated that will be changed quickly.

Ms. Littleton announced that she prefers Verizon Fios to Comcast. Mr. Burrell explained that Verizon is not investing anymore in Fios. Once their next generation of technology is developed, Delran will be able to have some options.

Ms. Littleton asked about the settlement agreement. Mr. Tabakin explained that it was a personnel matter.

Ms. Littleton asked about an ordinance that the mayor mentioned previously that allows him to hire a personal secretary. Ms. Littleton asked if the ordinance could be sent to her for reference.

Ms. Littleton questioned the mayor as to whether he received a response from the state regarding his investigation. He responded that he did not but it can take some time.

Ms. Littleton also asked when the Carli Lloyd video would be available. Mr. Catrambone explained they are currently working on improving the audio and the video should be released shortly.

Ms. Littleton questioned who oversees the EMS. Mr. Burrell stated that Delran Township has a contract with them but they are a private entity. Ms. Littleton advised that she would be asking for some documentation. Mr. Burrell explained that since they are a private entity, the township doesn't have much documentation pertaining to them. although the township does have oversight. Mr. Catrambone also mentioned Chuck McSweeney who has the service that oversees the operation of the emergency squad. Mr. Burrell informed Ms. Littleton that the state is also involved.

Ms. Littleton asked about boom parties. Mr. Catrambone explained that they are beyond our police department's jurisdiction. He advised calling the non-emergency police number when the parties are occurring not after the fact. The Philadelphia Police Department will be notified but it is difficult to track down the people throwing the boom parties because they move often. Mr. Jeney suggested that Council draft a letter to the Philadelphia Police Department regarding the noise.

Mr. Jeney made a motion to close the public comment, seconded by Mr. Smith. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Mr. Lyon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Jeney. All were in favor; the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted,

Jamey Eggers
Municipal Clerk