

## **December 12, 2017 – AGENDA SESSION**

President Steward called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Statement:

The notice requirements provided for in the “Open Public Meetings Act” have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given in a notice which was transmitted to the Times of Trenton and the Trentonian, filed with the Clerk of the Township of Ewing and posted in the Ewing Township Municipal Complex, all on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.

**THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL DURING THE “STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC” SEGMENT OF THE MEETING. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN IN ON THE SHEET PROVIDED IN THE FRONT OF THE ROOM. ALL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, WHEN ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL, PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME AND YOUR ADDRESS.**

**THE COUNCIL INVITES AND ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC IN ITS MEETINGS, HOWEVER A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC MAY UTILIZE FIVE MINUTES OF TIME FOR REMARKS AND QUESTIONS, UNLESS OTHERWISE ENGAGED IN A DIALOGUE WITH A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL. ANY FURTHER REMARKS OR QUESTIONS BEYOND THE TIME LIMIT MUST BE AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.**

### **ROLL CALL**

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Mr. Baxter – Present        | Bert Steinmann, Mayor          |
| ▪ Ms. Keyes-Maloney – Present | Jim McManimon, Administrator   |
| ▪ Mr. Schroth – Present       | Maeve Cannon, Attorney         |
| ▪ Ms. Wollert – Present       | Kim Macellaro, Municipal Clerk |
| ▪ President Steward – Present |                                |

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CY2017 BUDGET TRANSFERS**

President Steward said that this is customary in the last two months of the year. The CFO has compiled this list of transfers.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

#### **2. A RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION NJS 40A:4-87**

The Council President said that this is a \$5,500.00 grant for the Labor Day “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

#### **3. A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO EXTEND THE 2% CAP ON POLICE AND FIRE ARBITRATION CONTRACT AWARDS**

The Council President said that this was brought to Council by the Administration. The Attorney explained that the League of Municipalities has requested all municipalities in New Jersey to adopt this resolution as the State Legislature has not yet acted with respect to this two percent cap. It has proven to have been a very effective tool in contract negotiations and in helping to keep costs down as municipalities, themselves, are subject to a two percent cap. If this goes away and towns are still subject to a two percent cap, there could be a problem.

The Mayor said that, hopefully, Council will support this. It has worked with contract negotiations. It kept things in check. If the State Legislature wants to make a change then they need to come up with a newer method than what they had in the

past. There needs to be something in between so it does not go from one extreme to another.

Councilman Baxter asked if there is a reason that the Resolution is just Police and Fire.

The Council President said that the State law applies to Police and Fire.

The Administrator added that Ewing applies it across the board to all bargaining units.

The Attorney added that, traditionally, larger arbitration awards were made to Police and Fire so that is where the cap has been most effective.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney, the Mayor and the Administrator discussed the two different caps – the property tax levy and the two percent cap on interest arbitration awards - and how they operate differently. They also discussed how contracts were negotiated under the old “either/or” system and how under that system the only way to recoup revenue was through taxation. The result was massive layoffs.

Vice President Wollert stated that even though she understands why the League wants municipalities to encourage the Legislature to act, it is premature to bring this before Council now because it has not been fully reviewed by the State Legislature. Vice President Wollert said that caps are artificial. For instance, regarding the two percent property tax levy cap, whether an expense is considered in cap or out of cap has changed over the years depending on the economic situation. Also, imposing a cap at this point in time has a chilling effect on negotiations which a union employee has the right to expect. Vice President Wollert said that she understands that there is a need to balance that against the responsible spending of money and there are ways to do that without addressing this at this time. Vice President Wollert stated that she is not in favor of the Resolution right now.

Councilman Baxter said that he has discussed with the Administration other ways Ewing police officers can supplement their income. One way is for Township Police to monitor traffic during road projects. Mr. Baxter said that he understood PSE&G is no longer a vendor of the Township and then asked what can the Township do to incentivize these vendors to use Ewing police officers.

The Mayor responded that nobody is stopping PSE&G or any other contractor from using off-duty Ewing Police Officers. The reason why PSE&G does not use Township officers is because they do not want to supply the Township with another liability policy and to share in the cost if someone gets hurt while they are doing on off-duty job. Other contractors have complied. Unfortunately, PSE&G is doing a lot of work in the Town so a lot of it is going to the State Police. The Sheriff's department is also requiring some sort of liability insurance. Verizon also said that they will not provide it as they do so much work throughout the State and they do not provide that for anyone. The Mayor said that he had even waived the escrow fees for these companies as that was the first point of contention.

Councilman Baxter said that he did not say that the Township does not allow it but rather asked what the Township can do to incentivize these vendors to use Township police officers.

The Mayor responded – other than waiving the insurance – nothing.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney said that the concern she has with the Resolution is that it does not ultimately get to what everyone wants the Legislature to do, which is to address the way interest arbitration used to work. This Resolution elongates an existing cap that as Councilwoman Wollert indicated is somewhat arbitrary. Council also does not have the official record. Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney said that she would prefer to have more information to make an informed decision. It is an important conversation to have with State legislators that the existing process does not work but this Resolution is not the best mechanism and may not be as precise as it should be. Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney asked that it be held.

The Council President said that instead a letter can be crafted which indicates Council's support for a solution that does not take us back to how it used to be done. Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney added that she understands why the League did what they did but this Resolution has been out there awhile and is not creating the effect that they even hoped which is getting to a solution. The League sees a middle ground by continuing the current cap but it also chills negotiations as Councilwoman Wollert indicated. A long term solution is needed for everybody.

Councilman Schroth concurred with Vice President Wollert and Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney.

President Steward said Council will work together on drafting a letter to the State legislators.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. There were no questions or comments from the Public.

**4. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING AND THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON FOR COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT OF TAXI AND LIMOUSINE LICENSEES OPERATING WITHIN THE JURISDICTIONAL LIMITS OF HAMILTON AND EWING**

The Attorney said that this preserves the concept of a shared services but disentangles the Township from the monetary aspect of it. Each town will now collect its own fees and issue its own licenses but will still coordinate ordinances and enforcement so that Hamilton licensees can come to Ewing and Ewing licensees can go to Hamilton.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney added that each entity will now be responsible for its own work in terms of the licensing component but will benefit from being able to recognize each other's taxicabs.

Councilman Baxter and the Administrator discussed enforcement of this legislation and the challenge Uber and Lyft present to the taxicab business.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. There were no questions or comments from the Public.

Items One, Two and Four were approved for Action.

**BILLS LIST**

1. A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Pay Bills in the Amount of \$235,997.69 and to Pay Supplemental Bills per Resolution #17R-14 in the Amount of \$143,080.35

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney asked if bill number number 738541507 – Alarm Registration Stickers – is for Code Enforcement.

The Administrator replied – yes.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. There were no questions or comments from the Public.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Director of EMS for Overpayment in the amount of \$70.25 for overpayment of transport service on November 14, 2016 for patient Sheree Fleming to Horizon NJ Health, P.O. Box 24077, Newark, New Jersey 07101-0406.
2. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Director of EMS for Overpayment in the amount of \$65.00 for overpayment of transport service on February 25, 2016 for patient Ernest Jackson to Horizon NJ Health, P.O. Box 24077, Newark, New Jersey 07101-0406.
3. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Director of EMS for Overpayment in the amount of \$84.68 for overpayment of transport service on July 21, 2017 for patient Calvin Leish to WPS Tricare for Life, P.O. Box 7928, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7928.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

**ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION**

**(None for this Meeting)**

**ORDINANCE(S) FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION**

1. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, AMENDING AND REVISING § 225-64, SCHEDULE XVII: BUS STOPS, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 39:4-8(e)

President Steward said this involves the relocation of some bus stops on Pennington Road near Incarnation School.

The Administrator said that a resident raised concerns about where the bus stops are located. It did not make any sense as to where NJ Transit was dropping off and picking up the charter school students. It did not correspond to the flashing lights across from the Catholic Church. The Clerk reached out to NJ Transit. After conducting a study, NJ Transit agreed to reposition the bus stops for the safety of the children going to the Charter School.

President Steward said that this will also add stops along Charles Ewing Boulevard.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

2. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, TO AMEND CHAPTER 342. TAXICABS AND LIMOUSINES, ARTICLE I. TAXICABS

The Attorney said that this is more of a clean-up of the existing Ordinance.

President Steward added that it addresses Councilman Baxter's earlier concern as it brings parity with respect to taxi and limousine drivers regarding background checks.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

3. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING TO AMEND FIRE INSPECTION PERMIT FEES; SPECIFICALLY, CHAPTER 172-11, OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION, AS SET FORTH ON THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY SCHEDULE, N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.9

President Steward said that this amends the Township's fire inspection permit fees to bring them into accordance with the State fee schedule.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public.

All three Items were approved for Action.

**COMMISSION & COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney announced that on Wednesday a reception is being held at Hollowbrook from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to honor those who serve on the Township's boards and commissions or volunteer at the Animal Shelter or at the fire companies. That same evening, there will also be a "Featured Artist" reception at the Municipal Building from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The Student Art Show at the Elks is scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Baxter stated that he was unable to attend last night's Recreation meeting, however, he did attend the Pearl Harbor Day event at the High School. The program was well received by the students.

President Steward said that the major project at last week's Planning Board meeting involved a building on Ingham Avenue that recently housed the Township's animal shelter. It is moving forward in the process to become a staffed and monitored self-storage facility.

Vice President Wollert said that she does not have anything to report about the Seniors, however, she did attend a Green Team gathering where the Green Team went over the accomplishments of the past year and also looked forward to the upcoming year. Vice President Wollert briefly described some of the activities the Green Team has been involved in and then mentioned that they are developing a township-wide guide.

The Vice President also mentioned that students from the High School's Environmental Club were there and engaged. They were particularly interested in the Township's recycling efforts.

Councilman Schroth added that there will be a Green Team meeting on December 27<sup>th</sup> at the ESCC from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and their Retreat will be on January 13<sup>th</sup>. The Environmental Commission meeting will be on December 19<sup>th</sup> at the ESCC. The Public is welcome to attend.

Councilman Baxter added that this is that time of year - Santa is riding through the neighborhoods.

There were no additional reports or announcements.

## NEW BUSINESS

(None for this Meeting)

## STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Ron Prykanowski (16 Thurston Avenue) first said, regarding Councilman Baxter's earlier point, that the City of Newark did sue Uber which resulted in a ten million dollar over ten years licensing fee for Uber to be able to pick up and drop off at Newark airport. Mr. Prykanowski asked Council to request that the Planning Board take a look at two issues – group homes and marijuana. Mr. Prykanowski mentioned that residents from Heritage Crossing came before Council two weeks ago concerned about some new neighbors that had moved in and said that when he was on the Planning Board years ago, group homes were considered a conditional use within a residential area. One condition was that group homes could not be within 1500 feet of one another. Mr. Prykanowski suggested that the Planning Board again consider making group homes in residential areas a conditional use so as to avoid the cluster effect and spread them out much like is done with affordable housing. Group homes have every right to be there; but the Public has the right to safety, security and supervision. Mr. Prykanowski said that marijuana is coming, if not this year, next year and the Town should make decisions concerning it now and not after the fact as had happened with tattoo parlors, pawn shops and adult entertainment. Any ordinance can be amended to be in compliance with any future State statute.

Robert Britton (98 West Upper Ferry Road) said that he has questions about two matters that he would like to bring up during the Regular Session.

The Council President told Mr. Britton that he is welcome to do so now as Council will be going into Closed Session which may take ten or fifteen minutes but he is welcome to stay.

Kara Forsythe (12 Metekunk Drive) came before Council to speak about a situation at 10 Metekunk Drive. It is a non-occupied house. In the last fourteen months, there has been at least three attempts of people trying to move in. It is not a squatter situation. The house is maintained by Keypoint Realty. Ms. Forsythe stated that the Police and Code Enforcement have been wonderful and she is grateful to the Administration for listening to her concerns but she does have direct concerns as to how the Township handles this type of situation. Ms. Forsythe stated that she realizes that this is going on all over the Township, but she is here tonight to expose what is going on and to ask everyone involved to come up with proactive solutions. Ms. Forsythe suggested that perhaps changes need to be made with the process this particular realtor must follow – perhaps he should not be allowed to use lockboxes. Ms. Forsythe said the realtor told her that he is also a victim and that it is not his responsibility to clean-up what was left outside. Ms. Forsythe asked why does this realtor not need to follow the same rules as everyone else. He represents the bank that owns the property. If she had left a dresser on her property, she would be fined. Ms. Forsythe said that she is not here to point fingers, but she is here to get accountability. She is not sure where the ownership is, but it is not with the Police or with her having to always ask the Mayor or Code Enforcement to respond. This realtor is not from around here so he has no skin in the game, but it is not acceptable behavior for anyone - taxpayer or not. It is time to hold these people accountable.

The Administrator responded that this is not the first time Ms. Forsythe has reached out to the Administration. We spoke with the Attorney about this as the Town has had other Craig's List advertisements where people move into homes realtors have listed. The Town has had them removed when we have caught them although sometimes it is not as easy as them moving out in the middle of the night. Ms. Forsythe has filed a complaint in Municipal Court against the realtor. The Administrator said that he does not know if that will hold up but it is worth the challenge.

Banks are the biggest at fault because they just list the house and do not maintain them. Any time the Town has to spend money, a lien is filed against the property. The Administrator said that he will attempt to sit down with this particular realtor. The Administrator added that in the past the Town has boarded up homes, but they still attempt to break-in so now the Town has to work with the utilities to turn off the water so no one can live in the house because it is now a health issue. But, if the bank is paying the water bill, the water can not be turned off. Attempting to go after the realtor is a new direction, the Town will wait until it makes its way through the Court. The Town is open to ideas.

President Steward asked if most of these are bank owned or bank owned and listed.

The Administrator replied that these are listed by fake realtors. People buy the homes, move in and realize that the realtor does not exist.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney said that this is not just a Ewing problem but has been happening all over the County and added that she has had a similar experience in her neighborhood. Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney said that she is curious as to what will happen in Court with the realtor and then said that she thinks that the owner is responsible.

Ms. Forsythe added that in this particular situation, the house has not had a resident in it for several years. But, sometime in the last six to twelve months, the house had been renovated. It is a beautiful looking home with full electric and a well. Somebody paid for those renovations. Someone has to be held accountable.

Michael Rhodes (9 Metekunk Drive) said that that property has been vacant for some time and added that all of those renovations were done illegally. The contractors doing the work were not listed on the permits. Each time, before the property is inhabited, someone removes the lockbox and pulls down the stickers and the people move in at midnight. People do not move into homes at midnight so how can it be a Craig's List scam. Mr. Rhodes then said that his son is becoming fearful to live across the street from this property. We pay a good amount of taxes and should not have to be subject to this. Mr. Rhodes said that he knows it is not only a Ewing problem; that it is rampant in Mercer. Mr. Rhodes urged Council to speak with the County Prosecutor and added that the County is looking to amend the ordinance regarding squatters' rights. Keypoint Realty specializes in REOs and has a number of listings in Ewing and the owner's plans for each of these properties is the same.

At the request of Councilman Baxter, the Mayor discussed the press conference he attended and how neighboring municipalities are working together to find solutions for this problem. The Mayor explained that the Town did take action on vacant properties; requiring banks to register them. It worked initially, however, the banks got "smart" and began to transfer the properties to other banks before they would have to pay the second year registration fee of \$1500.00 so everything would have to start all over again. The Mayor added that the State Legislators need to become involved and then encouraged everyone, if they see this going on, to contact the Police.

The Attorney then briefly explained how a "No CO" sticker makes it easier as the Police can then immediately evict since it is illegal to live in an uninhabitable property. A more difficult situation is when the owners have left the property and the bank is in the process of foreclosure.

Bertha Scott (Municipal Prosecutor) thanked Council for the trust they have placed in her. Law enforcement has made great strides here in Ewing Township under the leadership of Chief Stemler. Cooperation is excellent between her Office and his Office. The interaction with Code Enforcement has also been stellar. Ms. Scott said that she looks forward to serving again in the future.

Joe Murphy (9 Malaga Drive) stated that he came before Council two months ago and asked Council to adopt a resolution urging the other two municipalities to put in a traffic signal at Bull Run Road and Federal City Road. A light is needed. Mr. Murphy asked Council to give him the resolution and he will take it to Hopewell and Lawrence.

Doug Brower (President & Deputy Chief, Prospect Heights Fire Company with Mike Anderson – Deputy Chief, West Trenton and Ralf Brandmaier – Chief, West Trenton) first thanked Council for being allowed to speak tonight. During the past eighteen months, there has been a lot going on related to the fire services in Ewing; including the changing role of Pennington Road, the new FMBA contract and the new hires from the SAFER grant. It is time for the volunteer firemen of Prospect Heights and West Trenton to get on the record. Mr. Brower said that the volunteers of Prospect Heights and West Trenton pledge their support to the Pennington Road Fire Company as their role changes.

Pennington Road served the Township admirably over the years and both companies open their doors to Pennington Road members so they can continue to serve the Township. Simply put, Prospect Heights and West Trenton, want to make this work. There are concerns. Ewing Township will not have the only combined career / volunteer fire department in the County or the State. Mr. Brower said that these combined fire departments succeed when there is both communication and respect. If either is taken away, that fire department is damned to failure. West Trenton and Prospect Heights pledge to make sure that from their end these two components are always there. Career firefighters should, if they want to, come back to fight fires. The volunteers encourage it; seconds count in a fire. Communication is a three-way street here in Ewing (career, volunteers and the Administration). Right now, there is only two-way communication. The volunteers look forward to meeting the new firemen and welcome them as they join the ranks of the fire services in the Town. Existing walls need to come down; communication is the only way that that is going to happen. At times, we are going to agree to disagree and at other times we will just disagree. That is fine – as long as everyone is still talking. Many details still need to be worked out in the four to six weeks before the career firefighters begin to start engaging. There was a great meeting with the Administration yesterday to work some of this out. There will be a follow-up meeting. Mr. Brower thanked the Administration for the communication. There are still questions on the table. With this kind of transition, that is expected. But, there needs to be a transition plan. The volunteers of Prospect Heights and West Trenton pledge that they will do what is right and what is best for Ewing Township regarding the fire services and will do whatever is needed to make this work.

President Steward said that she appreciates the volunteers for coming tonight to express this publicly. It means a lot. Council knows how much all of the Township's emergency responders do for the Town; their dedication is amazing.

Stacy Hughes (337 Silvia Street) asked who does she call regarding a pipe that is sticking up after street construction in Heritage Court.

President Steward replied – the Administrator.

Alfred Pascucci (33 Esther Avenue) thanked Council for being able to address them this evening. Mr. Pascucci stated that he and his neighbors have recently become aware of the State's intent to construct a juvenile detention center in their front yards. The way the State is going about this is terrifying. It is a stealth maneuver; the neighbors do not know what is happening. Mr. Pascucci asked if Council or the Administration has any information on this as the State has not been forthcoming.

The Mayor said that Mr. Pascucci probably has as much information about this as does the Township. Three or four weeks ago, the State held a State Commission meeting where this topic came up. Ewing was not notified as to what the State wanted to do. Concerned that the State did not mention what it wanted to do, the Mayor sent the Administrator to that meeting to talk about the Town's reservations and to learn more about this project. At that meeting, the legislators tabled that discussion for a future meeting thinking that that future meeting was going to be held after the new Administration took office. Instead, the current governor called for a new Panel; replacing the original legislators with new people. The Town found out a day or so before. Unable to attend, the Mayor asked a council member, who is a lobbyist, to intervene on the Township's behalf. The Commission thanked her, noted the Township's concerns but said that the project is still going to move forward. The Town will again petition the State to have a dialogue about the particulars of this project. The Town even gave them the option of the facility on Parkside Avenue where there is an existing detention center. The State said that that can not be used as it is outdated and does not meet today's standards. The Mayor stated that the Town is concerned. It is not just about the detention center itself, but also about all of the services that the Town has to supply. Hopefully, the Town will get cooperation from the new administration.

The Administrator said that he spoke with Senator Turner's office today. Our legislators understand this was sprung on Ewing. It is a new model system. They are building three in the State and knocking down the old facility on a large parcel of State land in Jamesburg. They want to have a more friendly model to deal with juveniles. The Town understands what they are trying to do; our issue is that the Town already has the Charter School, the Katzenbach School, the Department of Transportation, and Trenton Psychiatric and do not get anything for that land. The Administrator said that, at the request of the Mayor, he found out what other towns in Mercer County are getting from the State. The Town can not stop this if it is going to happen; but, the Town should be compensated. Ewing has been "stale" with regards to State aid for the past two governorships. Other towns get a lot more money because of where they are located. The Administrator added that this is part of a bargaining mechanism by the current Governor. It is tied in with the funding of three new office buildings in Trenton which the City of Trenton had no say in either.

The State did meet with the County regarding the facility on Parkside Avenue, however, that facility does not meet the new model set by the Juvenile Justice Commission. The Township has not seen these new guidelines. Construction will not begin for eighteen months. At some point, the State has to make a presentation, not ask for approval, before the Planning Board. The Governor changed the representation on the Panel. It was voted down 4-3 a few weeks ago and then adopted 5-2 this time. The Administrator added that any comments he receives, he is forwarding on to Senator Turner's office, to both Assemblypersons and to County officials.

Jenn Nolan (35 Esther Avenue) said that the sticking point for her is that the current facility is located on 900 acres. Why is the State not using that land instead of moving it into our neighborhood. Ms. Nolan mentioned that while walking her dog, she is already finding heroin needles, bags of heroin and syringes. She is concerned. Trenton is already creeping into the neighborhood. Traffic will also impact this quiet street. Ms. Nolan asked Council and the Administration to strongly advocate on the neighborhood's behalf. Ms. Nolan said that as a nurse involved with psychiatry she understands what the State is trying to do with regards to the new facility model; however, there is adequate land in Jamesburg.

Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney stated that this specific argument in terms of the land the State has in Jamesburg as well as the notice aspect was raised at both meetings. The discussion is not over given that a new administration is coming in. Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney said that everyone here will do their part but it will help if citizens become involved and reach out to the Governor's Office and to the Governor-Elect. Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney added that there was no interest in stalling the project as of a discussion held this past Thursday.

Regina Pascucci (33 Esther Avenue) first thanked the Mayor and Council and said that it is good to know that the neighborhood's concerns are being heard. Ms. Pascucci said that she is starting a grassroots to action and then mentioned that if Council needs a citizen advocate, she is willing.

Erin Clark (11 Preston Avenue) stated that this area floods all the time and then asked what does the environmental impact report show. Ms. Clark suggested that the State utilize unused buildings at Trenton Psychiatric.

Stephanie Kammer (15 Preston Avenue) reiterated Ms. Clark's suggestion – vacant State buildings should be utilized. Ms. Kammer mentioned that she is also concerned about home values.

Regina Pascucci (33 Esther Avenue) mentioned the wetlands in the area and the pipeline that runs through the field and said that she will contact the DEP tomorrow. The Administrator suggested that she contact the D&R Canal Commission which deals with wetland issues.

Jenn Nolan (35 Esther Avenue) said that, in her profession, she deals with this population. These kids are missing parental guidance. This aspect needs to be brought into this conversation.

Kathy Sweeney (220 Hazelhurst Avenue) asked if Council can adopt an Ordinance regarding junk cars on public streets. Ms. Sweeney said that a neighbor, it is a rental property, insists on parking his vehicle in front of her home and not in his driveway. The vehicle has been towed twice. It just sits there. The Police said that as long as it is registered, it is allowed to stay there. Ms. Sweeney added that, as she is considering selling her house, the vehicle is an immediate "turn-off" for potential buyers. President Steward said Council will take a look and see what the options are.

There were no additional statements or comments from members of the Public.

**CLOSED SESSION** – The Attorney read (**Resolution #17R-233**) A Resolution to Enter into Closed Session for Contract Negotiations – FMBA

At 8:04 p.m., the Attorney read the Resolution to enter into a Closed Executive Session pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 at seq. The purpose of entering into Closed Executive Session is for union discussions, specifically, the FMBA contract. Minutes will be made available to the Public, if and when appropriate, after the subject matter is concluded.

**At 8:05 p.m., Councilwoman Keyes-Maloney made a motion to enter into Closed Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Schroth. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote.**

**At 8:56 p.m., Councilman Schroth made a motion to close the Closed Executive Session, seconded by Councilwoman Wollert. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote.**

**At 8:57 p.m., Councilman Baxter made a motion to enter back into Open Session, seconded by Councilwoman Wollert. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business, President Steward asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Wollert so moved seconded by Mr. Baxter. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.**

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**Kathleen Wollert, Council President**

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**Kim J. Macellaro, Municipal Clerk**