

MINUTES
TOWNSHIP OF PENNSAUKEN
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE "SPECIAL" MEETING
MARCH 16, 2016 (4:30PM)

The Special Meeting of the Pennsauken Township Committee was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 in the Caucus Room at the Pennsauken Township Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. Pennsauken, NJ 08110.

The Meeting came to order at 4:35 PM by Mayor Kneib who called for the roll call which was recorded as such:

PRESENT: Committeewoman Betsy McBride, Deputy Mayor Rick Taylor and Mayor John Kneib
Committeeman Figueroa arrived at 4:57pm and Committeeman Killion arrived at 5:03 pm

Also present were Township Administrator Edward Grochowski, Municipal Attorney Michael Joyce, Township Clerk, Gene Padalino and Deputy Clerk Pamela Scott-Forman.

Roll call was followed by the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence.

Mayor Kneib announced that the Meeting was being held in compliance with the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act".

DISPENSE REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Motion made by Committeewoman McBride and seconded by Deputy Mayor Taylor
An affirmative voice vote was recorded 3/0

DISCUSSION OF VISION

Mayor Kneib explained the purpose of the meeting is to create an agenda/plan of what the Township is looking to accomplish. He commented that first and foremost securing the residential foreclosures and abandoned housing which the Committee has already begun and will continue to move forward. We're looking forward to welcome signs, a slogan for the Township and color scheme etc. How do we enhance the school district?

Mayor Kneib stated the committee welcomes some input but to consider there are budget constraints. The floor is open to the public; when called upon please state your name, address and comment.

The following are comments the Committee received from the member of the public who were in attendance:

Vince Scialabba – Browning Road questioned the length of time before a house goes to Sheriff sale and stated there are about 137 abandoned homes in town.

Gary McDowell – Colonial Avenue commented the Wachovia Bank on Haddonfield Road "blacked out" the plywood on the windows and it doesn't make the property look abandoned. He questioned if the same could happen for home so it doesn't look so bad when abandoned.

Linnie Monaco – Homestead Avenue commented the "elephant/gorilla" in the room was the school district and if something could be done with it all else would fall into place. He questioned if there was any plan to coordinate with the schools.

Janet Stevens – Rt. #130 spoke about the group of high schoolers who helped on the Harvest Fest and how helpful and organized they were and that not enough positive things get said about the students and schools.

Ben White – asked if there was any possibility of Township funding for after school programs

Marc Shock – commented that church involvement would be a great impact with more accountability from parents. He also commented that a meeting with realtors within the Township needs to be had; they do not represent the Township well when selling properties. A public relations person is needed to represent the Township and Schools with the only objective to present positive images of both.

Bernie Koefet – 49th Street commented on signage and if it would be professionals or someone in house? PMAC spoke to someone in the “Branding” business. Tax payers may need an increase and be shown the results; the resistance would be lower. We need to control our own destiny.

Frank Sinatra – Starr Road commented that New Jersey paid a consultant A LOT of money to come up with a “Slogan / Brand.” I believe we need to take the temperature of the residence, business owners, we won’t see the true picture without polling the people. Why people move in; why people come back or why people stay.

Vincent Scialabba – Browning Road questioned if the school board is a separate entity from the Township

??? – Royal Avenue commented the laws on foreclosure are very restrictive and now slowly changing

Lonnie Monaco – Homestead Avenue questioned if there are any plans or if the Township is actively seeking viable businesses for the commercial areas

A lot of discussion was had about cooperation between the Township and School administration. Mayor Kneib commented much of it is how the State collects scoring which is then relayed to the public. Special needs scores are added in and it’s usually 20% of the number and another 20% of that number comes from student who come from (ESL) english as a second language family.

Mayor Kneib commented that the good thing about Branding is that it doesn’t have to be just one slogan. The public gave the following:

- Big Town / Small Town feel
- Great Police Department
- Welcomed Diversity
- Location, Location, Location
- History patterned after America
- Train station
- Waterfront
- Good School system
- The people
- Great Golf Course
- Recreation

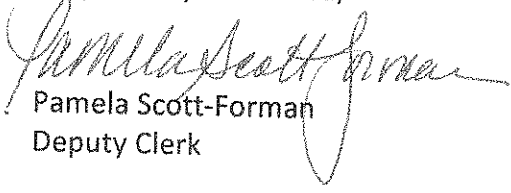
Mayor Kneib thanked everyone for their input and commented “we have to be proactive, we have to have a vision.”

Committeeman Killion moved a motion to close the floor to the public which was seconded by Committeewoman McBride and approved with a affirmative 5/0 voice vote.

Deputy Mayor Taylor moved a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Committeeman Killion and approved with an affirmative 5/0 voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm

Respectfully submitted,


Pamela Scott-Forman
Deputy Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED: APRIL 20, 2016