

Minutes Special Meeting of Mayor and Council  
Held March 11, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall Council Chambers, 100 Central Avenue

**Agendas & Minutes can be viewed at [www.townofhammonton.org](http://www.townofhammonton.org)**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Councilpersons:

Bachalis - Present

Carpo - Present

Esposito - Present

Furgione - Present

Pullia - Present

Rodio - Present

Mayor DiDonato - Present

PRESENT ALSO

Brian Howell, Town Solicitor

Bob Vettese of ARH, Town Engineer

Jerry Barberio, PWM/Business Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of this meeting has been posted and given to official newspapers. Please familiarize yourselves with the fire exits to the right and rear of the Council Chambers. Please do not proceed beyond the front benches without invitation from the Mayor to do so.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC HEARD FOR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

No one desired to be heard.

HEARING GRAPE, PACKARD AND SECOND STREETS RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Presentation – Grape, Packard and Second Streets Project

Mr. Vettese introduced himself as a representative of the Town Engineer's office as well as a resident of Grape Street. Mr. Vettese advised that the Town has been attempting to ascertain NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust funding to offset project costs. Mr. Vettese described the project as including utility replacement, curb replacement, repaving of roadway and drainage upgrades. Mr. Vettese advised that sidewalks will be replaced selectively and may need to be moved 1' to 2' onto the town's "right of way" to allow for safe passage of roadway while retaining the sidewalk itself. He further advised on the details of proposed upgrades to each roadway, Grape, Packard and Second, individually.

Marion O'Neil – 400 Grape Street

Ms. O'Neil questioned if the existing trees will be evaluated by a professional and removed if diseased before project begins?

Mr. Vettese responded that he has already notified Mr. Robert Reitmeyer, Environmental Commission Chairperson, who will be evaluating trees for possible removal. Mr. Vettese requested the residents to contact

Mr. Jerry Barberio, PWM/BA, if they feel they have a diseased tree on their property by dialing (609) 567-4300 ext 101 so that the tree may be evaluated.

Diane Fucetola - 410 Grape Street

Ms. Fucetola questioned parking?

Mayor DiDonato advised the residents one of the reasons for the public hearing this evening is to ascertain their opinion as follows:

Grape Street remains a "two-way" traffic roadway with parking allowed along one side only.

or

Grape Street becomes a "one-way" traffic roadway with parking allowed along both sides of the roadway.

Ms. Hall questioned will the roadwork disturb the residents properties?

Mr. Vettese responded yes, however, anything disturbed will be replaced and repaired.

Sondra Vaccarella – 508 Grape Street

Ms. Vaccarella stated she strongly opposes the "one-way" traffic on Grape Street and would rather have "two-way" traffic with parking on one side only.

Mayor DiDonato advised the residents that it does not make a difference to him, however, he wants the residents to realize that if they have parking on one side of Grape Street only, it will limit available parking and visitors who park on the roadway may have to walk a distance to their destination.

Steven Crescenzo – 449 Grape Street

Mr. Crescenzo stated his property is located at the low point of Grape Street where the crack or depression exists and stated his concern is that he does not want to take on the entire neighborhoods rain water.

Mr. Vettese advised how the drainage will be handled in the area.

Dawn Snell – 615 Grape Street

Ms. Snell questioned traffic during construction itself?

Mr. Vettese described the anticipated progression of the project in relation to how it will affect traffic flow.

Mayor DiDonato stated there will be times when residents will not be able to access their driveway.

Ms. Snell questioned alternate parking during these times?

Councilman Rodio stated in his experience the contractors are very good at communicating restricted parking times and alternate parking locations to the affected residents who will most likely be parking on an alternate roadway nearby their home that is not under construction.

John Oliva – 663 Grape Street

Mr. Oliva advised, in his experience with road work, when the contractor begins digging, he will most likely encounter tree roots that will need to be dug out. This can cause the tree to become weak and increase the chance that it will fall.

Linda Esposito – 302 Central Avenue

Mrs. Esposito suggested changes to traffic patterns in the area to possibly increase safety.

Paul Raffa – 347 Grape Street

Mr. Raffa stated Grape Street has always been a “two-way” traffic roadway with parking on both sides allowed and questioned what has occurred to bring council to consider changing this?

Mayor DiDonato re-iterated what the Town Engineer had advised earlier this evening in his presentation in that Grape Streets width falls below the average roadway width and the proposed changes will aid in safety and traffic flow.

Marcella Dougherty – 559 Grape Street

Ms. Dougherty questioned when will project take place?

Mr. Vettese responded, we are not certain of the actual date the project will begin.

Ms. Dougherty then questioned busing for children if the project occurs during school season?

Councilman Furgione responded the school will contact households to advise where the bus will be picking up their children.

Ms. Dougherty stated that she believes the most narrow area of Grape Street is located in front of her property and questioned if there is a chance that this will become more narrow because of the reconstruction project?

Mr. Vettese agreed that area is quite narrow and for this reason he does not believe they would be able to make it more narrow.

Adam Shimborski - 543 Grape Street

Mr. Shimborski stated he is concerned that traffic speed will increase with finished roadway and questioned how the town can control that?

Mayor DiDonato advised that because Grape Street intersects with a County Roadway, the Town does not have control over traffic conditions in this area, however, the police can patrol more often and set up the sign advising drivers of their speed.

Christopher Bova - 236 Grape Street

Mr. Bova questioned if anything can be done to deter heavy trucks from entering Grape Street?

Mayor DiDonato stated that residents may have seen heavy trucks on Grape Street during a temporary detour, however, under normal circumstances heavy trucks would not purposely enter the roadway because of it being so narrow and the overhanging limbs. Mayor DiDonato believes if a resident sees a heavy truck on the roadway it is in error and they should contact Hammonton Police Department with the tag number.

Kay Silipena - 435 Grape Street

Ms. Silipena stated she is opposed to Grape Street becoming a “one-way” roadway.

Thelma Friia – 679 Grape Street

Ms. Friia stated she is opposed to Grape Street becoming a “one-way” roadway and does agree on one side parking.

Ken Cirillo - 513 Grape Street

Mr. Cirillo stated he agrees with “two-way” travel and one side parking. Mr. Cirillo questioned apartment parking and the possibility of Mayor and Council enacting an ordinance that would require apartment owners to provide off-street parking for their tenants.

Mr. Vettese advised for new apartment applicants and remodeled apartment applicants there is an “off-street” parking space requirement, however, it would be hard to regulate this for apartment owners that existed prior to the enactment of the law.

Elliott Denick - Hammonton Baptist church

Mr. Denick stated he is concerned with drainage.

Anthony Gatta – 227 Central Avenue

Mr. Gatta questioned if the County has inspected Central Avenue per his previous complaint?

Mr. Vettese stated that the County did not see any evidence of a dip in the roadway in that area.

Mr. Gatta questioned why can't the town make the intersection in question a four way stop?

Mayor DiDonato advised that the County has jurisdiction over this particular intersection.

Kathy Volpi – 532 Grape Street

Mrs. Volpi commented that one side parking would eliminate those who are excessively parking.

Josephine Romeo – 401 Grape Street

Ms. Romeo stated with a “one-way” street, residents will have to drive around to get to their homes using more gas which is not environmentally friendly. She stated she is for the “two-way” street option.

Mike Hitman – 22 S. Packard Street

Mr. Hitman stated he also has a serious flooding problem on his property and questioned if there will be remediation to the drainage in this area?

Mr. Vettese responded correcting the drainage problem in this area will be attempted but he cannot make any promises due to the low lying area being where the water must drain away from.

Consensus

Mayor DiDonato asked for a showing of hands of those residents in support of each of the following options:

Grape Street remains a "two-way" traffic roadway with parking allowed along one side only.  
or  
Grape Street becomes a "one-way" traffic roadway with parking allowed along both sides of the roadway.

Mayor DiDonato announced that a large majority of residents responded to Grape Street remaining a "two-way" traffic roadway with parking allowed along one side only. Therefore, the Town will proceed accordingly. Mayor DiDonato thanked the residents for their attendance and input and advised the hearing is closed.

Authorize Letter - Atlantic County

Motion by Councilperson Bachalis, seconded by Councilperson Esposito, authorize a letter from Mayor DiDonato to Atlantic County asking for consideration for the concerns and requests that residents made this evening that pertain to the portions of roadway that fall under Atlantic County's jurisdiction.

ROLL CALL

Councilpersons:

Bachalis - Yes

Carpo - Yes

Esposito - Yes

Furgione - Yes

Pullia - Yes

Rodio - Yes

Mayor DiDonato - Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

Five Minute Recess

HEARING POSSIBLE RE-ZONING WITH HAMMONTON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Presentation-Zoning of Properties Adjacent to Hammonton Municipal Airport

Mr. Brian Howell, Town Solicitor, advised that legislation requires the Hammonton Municipal Airport to remain the same size. However, the N.J. Pinelands Commission has advised the Town of Hammonton that they would consider expansion of the Hammonton Municipal Airport if the Town would consider re-zoning certain areas of land surrounding the airport. Mr. Howell advised the impact to existing land owners will be minimal. Mr. Howell advised he received a question concerning property taxes which he believes should not increase due to re-zoning. Mr. Howell advised the change is not radical and property owners will be notified prior to re-zoning.

William Di Meo Jr. - Columbia Fruit Farms

Mr. Di Meo posed questions concerning the potential re-zoning to which the Town Solicitor responded. Mr. Di Meo further stated he was here when the zoning was previously changed which had no adverse affects on the properties and now it will be changing back to the former designation.

Liz Palmieri and Debbie Palmieri - Middle Road

Ms. Liz and Debbie Palmieri posed questions concerning re-zoning to which the Town Solicitor and Mayor and Council responded.

Mayor DiDonato thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their input and announced the hearing is now closed.

APPOINT MECHANICS HELPER/TRUCK DRIVER

Motion by Councilperson Rodio, seconded by Councilperson Pullia, appoint Steven Taylor to the title of Mechanics Helper/Truck Driver with a \$2000 annual salary increase per contract effective 3/11/13.

A discussion was held concerning the need for the position which will allow the Town to perform much of the vehicle repairs and maintenance "in-house" as a cost savings.

ROLL CALL

Councilpersons:

Bachalis - Yes

Carpo - Yes

Esposito - Yes

Furgione - Yes

Pullia - Yes

Rodio - Yes

Mayor DiDonato - Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARD

No one desired to be heard.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Motion by Councilperson Furgione, seconded by Councilperson Carpo, the meeting is adjourned.  
Motion carried.

April Boyer Maimone, Municipal Clerk