

The minutes of the Special Public Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook held on August 25, 2021 at 4:00 PM at the Municipal Building, 93 Market Street, Saddle Brook, NJ.

Council President D'Arminio called the meeting to order.

The Township Clerk called the roll:

Councilman Cimiluca – present
Councilwoman Mazzer – absent
Councilman Gierak – present
Councilman Accomando – present
Council President D'Arminio – present

Mayor White – present
Anthony Suarez, Twp. Attorney – present

Council President D'Arminio asked everyone to please rise for the salute to the flag.

Council President D'Arminio announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been sent to all Council members by police messenger and to all legal newspapers in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

The Township Clerk announced that the public is hereby advised that any statements made during the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook may not be privileged or protected and that persons or entities who take issue with such comments or are offended by same, may, and have in the past, sought legal redress through the courts.

Any member of the public who addresses the Council speaks for themselves and not for the Council.

Council President D'Arminio asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca Second: Councilman Gierak

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilman Gierak – yes
Councilman Accomando – yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - absent
Council President D'Arminio – yes

Ms. Jennifer Pennafiel of Hickory Avenue said it was just brought to our attention, but I know it was out for a couple of months now, maybe even longer.

Council President D'Arminio said you're talking about the affordable housing?

Ms. Pennafiel said yes, that's what today is for, the affordable housing, and a lot of the moms were concerned. A lot can't be here obviously because of their kids and work and what not. We just wanted to know, especially kids going to Long School, because that school will kind of be affected, if there's a lot of kids that are going to be coming into the school, is there a certain percentage or ratio that we know that the housing unit is going to be? Is it going to be just for families of low income? Is it going to be elderly people? Is it going to be veterans? Do we have any sort of breakdown of that yet?

Council President D'Arminio asked Mr. Lo Dico if we have that. She then asked Mr. Suarez if he would have that.

Mr. Suarez said off the top of my head I don't know the specifics. I know there's an attorney here. I don't mean to put you on the spot. Do you know the exact breakdowns of the bedrooms? I can tell you this right off hand, it is an all-affordable site. It is not an over 55 development. I know what you're talking about when you say veterans, you get

certain bonuses for veterans. There's no specifically reserved veterans units. And just to fill you in on some of this, because again, it has been going on for a while. You may not know some of the preceding information. This site, in order for the Township to fulfill and settle a case that was brought against it involving affordable housing, I don't know if you've seen it in the papers. This effectively assists us to satisfy essentially our obligations. I think there's like 58 total units.

Council President D'Arminio said yes there is.

Ms. Pennafiel said I think it was like 11 three-bedrooms, 17 two-bedroom and then the rest one-bedroom, around those numbers. So our concern is, say if those 17 three-bedrooms are all big families, and that influx of kids are now going to go to Long School, do we have the teachers available? What capacity are we at already? Are certain kids that already go to Long School are going to have to switch now to go to Smith School? Have you guys discussed this with the new Superintendent? I know she just started, it hasn't even been a week yet, but are we ready to take all of that? Do we have that capacity to do that?

Mr. Suarez said just to let you know, I know the new Superintendent came in. At this point in time, this has been going on for over a year. The case has been going on for several years. If we weren't able to resolve this and settle this in the way that we did, the Township could have been subject to hundreds of more units. We can't restrict by law. This is something every community has to have, the affordable housing component of their community, and the judge, and there's an appointed planner from the judge who oversaw this, assisted the Township against the other party who was seeking to get more units, and it was deemed to be a fair and equitable solution to the affordable housing issue in the Township. So all I can tell you is that the matter, when it was settled, we negotiated as best we could for as little units in the Township as we could, and the Mayor and Council was concerned, of course, as all towns are, about the influx of families and kids and all that. All I can tell you is that the number of units that are here is the minimum that we were able to get in to be able to kind of cross over the border line there so that we kept the town immune from any future lawsuits that will come out of the woodwork. In fact we're fighting another one right now. We won, thankfully, at the Supreme Court. We won at the Superior Court and the Appellate division level, and now it's in the NJ Supreme Court where someone is trying to get even additional units in the Township, and we effectively, because of this case and the settlement of the case, we have kept that where the judge dismissed it, the Appellate Division dismissed it, and in my opinion the Supreme Court is going to affirm the lower court decision. I hope that answers your question. It's just that this has been going on for so long, and we have brought about the resolution of the affordable housing case in the matter where we tried to minimize the amount of units. We took into complete consideration the infrastructure of the Township. The planners who were involved in this were also looking at that. I guess, obviously going into the future, we can't tell the future as to how many families and students are going to move in there, but I would assume that the Township or the Board of Ed would work with the Mayor and Council to do what you guys need to do in order to accommodate that.

Mayor White said, let me just say that I know that the Superintendent is aware. Out of those 58 units, the three-bedroom, the two-bedroom, they're limited to how many people could be in that apartment, so that's one thing. It's also not just going to affect Long School. You're going to have a certain amount that are going to go to the Middle School, the High School. I believe that Long is a big enough school. You have to remember that years ago graduating classes – I graduated in 1978. My class, we had 300 students. Now a big class is 150. So we're a much smaller school. So I know they expect more, and they do need more room than they used to because of all the requirements, but I don't believe – there's certainly going to be more kids going to Long School, I grant you that, but I don't think it's going to be a situation where they're not going to be able to accommodate them. That's my opinion. I'm sure the affordable housing people can make a prediction. They can make a prediction on how many cars – we had a long discussion with the Planning Board on how many vehicles. I'm sure we can come up with some idea how many children are going to be there. The one bedrooms, there may be no children.

Council President D'Arminio said I just want to say one thing. A couple of years ago we did the units on Mayhill, and that was one of the biggest fears that it was going to impact

the traffic and the school system, and it didn't happen. So of course this is a much smaller thing, and taking into everything that we've looked at, I, as the Mayor said, I don't think it's going to be a huge impact on the school system.

Councilman Cimiluca said there's always a fear whenever you have it, and I remember when 140 Mayhill, the apartments and people came and everyone was scared, and I believe that would be going to Smith... would that be Smith School?

Mr. Lo Dico said yes.

Councilman Cimiluca said so there was a big fear from Smith parents – you're obviously Long School parents - that it would be overrun by people, and some of it's low income. People hear low income, and they think the worst, which is not really fair to people that just haven't been able to make the income that some of us others in town have. But it was totally – I don't want to say unfounded. It didn't come to fruition. People are saying – do you remember, Pete, how many?

Mr. Lo Dico said 158 units.

Councilman Cimiluca said so it's three times as big, and everyone said oh, my god, Smith School – my kid is going to be shoved in a corner, and they have eight kids. It was crazy. You never know. I live not far from you. I live on Hayes, so when my kids were growing up, I'm 60 now, but I moved there when I was 25. When my kids were growing up, I have three kids, my neighbor across the street had two, the other one had three, so just within four or five houses we had 15 kids. Everyone has moved out. There's no kids anymore in the school system, and what's going to happen is when I get older or die, somebody else is going to go in there, and they're going to have three kids, and it will just cycle. So we used to have 25 cars, and no everybody moved out, so now you've got four or five cars. You get a lot more traffic, you get a lot more parking issues, and then it ebbs and flows. I understand what you're talking about, but it generally happens in almost all these developments, and I think that it's the same thing with - I think the ones on Midland Avenue would be Franklin school. So the Franklin parents are afraid that all those new – you've seen the new apartments on Midland Avenue where Bob Ski's used to be, that they're going to be overrun, but almost always, and again there's always the outlier, but almost always, it's not as bad as you might think because, like the Mayor said, there might be kids, but let's say there's 20 new kids, and I'm just making that up, but maybe five are in the Middle School, five are in the High School, and ten are in Long, and there's six grades in Long and kindergarten, so it's like two people per classroom that they increase. So I understand your concern, and I was the same way when they're building stuff. I would be concerned also, but almost always, whenever we do these things, the projections from the experts that see this are much less than the concerns of the parents and the experts, they're basing it on decades of research of how many people are going to be in the school system, and it really has a very minimal impact. Obviously if we're wrong and there's an outlier and every single three-bedroom there's – like the Mayor said, there are limits. You can't have seven kids in a three bedroom. You're not going to do that. The one-bedrooms, almost nobody, and even the two-bedrooms a lot of times the two-bedrooms have no school age children either. The three-bedrooms we can expect there to be children and school age children but again, that's spread apart, if you want to do it, they're spread apart three different schools, Long, Middle and High School, and I don't think it's going to be a real issue. If it becomes an issue, obviously the schools, it ebbs and flows, and there's nothing we can do. If you buy my house, and you've got five kids, and I've got none living at home, that are school age, and they're all going to go to Long, it's like jeez, Long's got five more kids than they had before, but you can't stop people from doing that, and what ends up happening is the five-kid house, they grow up and they move. So there might be a house there that the person moves out, and they sell it to a couple with no children, and now you've got five less kids in Long School, so it seems to somehow work out pretty much almost all the time. I appreciate your concern, and that's the same concern of all. All my kids went to Long School, and it's a great school. We're the Long School side of the town, and it is a great school. I don't think it's going to be the issue that you might be fearful of because it just doesn't seem like it ever happens.

Councilman Accomando said I moved here in 2002. My son started kindergarten in 2007. We weren't aware that the Long side of town had an influx of so my kids, but that kindergarten class was the biggest class since the early '80s. They had to

accommodate three classrooms for the amount of kids on the Long side. Just to fill you in, the school system really worked with the residents to make sure every kid in the Long district went to Long School. So we were happy about it because we had, you have little kids that become friends, you have a rapport, so just to put it in perspective, the school district did work with all the parents. We had three first grades, three second grades, three third grades, three fourth grades, three fifth and three sixth; they all accommodated all those kids for all six years to make sure that no kid had to go to another district.

Ms. Pennafiel said okay, and that's what a lot of families are worried about. Like are they going to have to kick over to go to Smith? All the schools in our district are actually wonderful schools. So when people move to a certain area of town because they want their kids to go to Long School and stuff like that, so they're just afraid that, like you said, it might not be a lot of kids or it might be a good amount of kids, we just want to make sure that you guys are ready to handle that and to not kick people to go to the other school or not put our classes at capacity for the teacher / student ratio and that you guys are going to have a plan for that.

Councilman Cimiluca said that's more of the Board of Ed. In terms of what we did here, like Anthony said, it could have been a lot worse, and not to say well the means of less resistance, but we've seen people like Englewood Cliffs resisted just what we did, and this is a year in the making. It was going back and forth forever, but Englewood Cliffs resisted that, and they got banged by this – literally thousands of units which is going to really, really impact them. So we have a minimal addition of people here, and I've been on the council for 14 years. I think in the beginning, it's got to be a decade ago where we did put that area and named it for affordable housing, so it's been there for, like I said, a decade, and just now, we've been kind of holding off and holding off as much as we possibly can, but at this point the potential of hundreds, several hundred units coming in because we didn't do this, kind of forced our hand, and these guys did a really great job between the administration and our legal staff working with the courts and working with Fair Housing to make it something that is minimal. I don't know if you care about what it's going to look like, but it's not going to be a slum. People aren't going to say that's the slum area of town. It's not, and I don't believe that. There's low income, there's very low income, and I don't think – well I know that they're not going to do that because I know they did this in certain places where they have a big development and there's like 70 places, and they stick the ten very low incomes in like the corner next to the sewer disposal place, and everybody else is in better places. They're not going to discriminate against them, so no one's going to know unless people go around at the barbeque pit and start talking about how much money they make, but no one is going to know which unit is which. We're expecting, based on the plans that they submitted, that it's going to be a nice looking place, and like you said, you brought your kids here to raise them in Saddle Brook, which is a great place and to go to Long School. You may have picked it because of Long School. I don't know if the people moving in there are picking it because of the school, but they're picking Saddle Brook not only because it's affordable but because it's a nice town. My friends make fun of me because I'm like cheerleader for Saddle Brook. I love this town. I didn't grow up here, but some people here did. I love the town. I think it's a great town to raise the kids, and my kids did spectacularly well with Long School, and they all went to Saddle Brook High School, and they're going great. We appreciate you and appreciate the families, and hopefully these families will be more than welcome to join and become the fabric of Saddle Brook because we're all one.

Ms. Pennafiel said, one more thing to touch on. I know you mentioned it's very low income to low income to moderate to low, I believe that's what was listed. There is a shortage, would you say, on the police staffing. So I know a lot of other towns in Bergen County that got the affordable housing, crime has gone up, so are we looking to hire more police officers just in case or what's that going to look like?

Mayor White said I don't think this project is going to have an impact on it, but to answer your question, we are a bit shorthanded. We just hired – we have two – we hired one transfer who is already working. We have two in the police academy, and we're looking to hire at least another two in January. So we're getting back up to the optimum amount that we should get. It should not be a problem.

Council President D'Arminio said I just want to mention, going back to Mayhill, a portion of those apartments are affordable also, so like Andrew said, you don't really know, and I think it was a total of 8 students that came out. So like we said, we did as much as we could do to keep it as low as we can.

Ms. Pennafiel asked with this new housing, are we at our capacity – our percentage for affordable housing? Are we going to be looking to do more?

Mr. Suarez said right now, we're still in the final process of putting the final touches on the settlement agreement. This will carry us until 2025, and then at that point we have to see what the court says and what the rules are. That's what we're doing; we're following what the court says. The way this is designed, which is being all affordable, if we didn't do it that way, you're supposed to do one for five – so we would have had to put in 290 units. So we were able to concentrate it and cut it down to 58, and as I think Councilman Cimiluca said, the company that the Mayor and Council chose is Ingerman, and she's the attorney, and they did a whole process. They didn't just pick anyone out of the air. They looked and solicited and saw who was the best one, and in fact the Special Master, which was the planner appointed by the court, was highly favorable because they are reputable, and you can see the work they did on a project in River Edge that was very nice, and it looks like – it's not going to be a project that doesn't look good. It's going to look very nice in the town from what we saw in the plans.

Mayor White said they also state that they own the buildings, and they will maintain it. They have some staff, maintenance and security there full time.

Ms. Pennafiel said lastly, I don't know if this even applies – so you mentioned they would maintain and do everything. If something was to go wrong, say Midland started flooding so badly, do we have some kind escrow account where there will be funds in there to pay this or will the taxpayers' taxes going to raise to try to cover those things that happen infrastructure wise?

Mr. Suarez said those issues are covered at the Planning Board level, and in terms of the engineers, they looked at it and saw what the capacity was, and that was part of what was needed in order to certify the project could be put onto that site. So who knows, the way the weather is now, going into the future – something unexpected could happen, but right now the way it's being designed and approved, the engineers have said that the capacity of what we have here is fine, and whatever is going to be upgraded, they're paying for any necessary improvements that need to be done; that's part of it. So in terms of what's there now, we know now it should be sufficient in terms of your infrastructure.

Ms. Angela Gjorgoski of Evans Place thanked everyone for their feedback regarding the affordable housing units. She said it's not so much that we're here to oppose it, it's really to learn more because we are raising our kids here. I will just ask that the transparency continue as best as possible. Whatever you can share with the public would be fantastic. I would say that the public's concern right now is – it's definitely there. We're not in an optimal level as far as confidence, but hopefully in the next couple of weeks you'll be able to share more details like you have. We talked a little bit about projections. I don't know what that's going to look like. I don't know if that will be shared out to the public, but that would be much appreciated. And just continue to keep us in the loop. Some things are very vague, and it could be for legal purposes that it is, but just because we don't show up doesn't mean that we don't care, and the few of us that are here left work today to be here at 4 o'clock, which is also not an optimal time for an important meeting like this. As best as you can to spread the information, we are reading, we are talking; many of us are talking, and we're watching. So I just wanted to say that.

Councilman Cimiluca said in terms of the Planning Board, the Planning Board minutes, this was talked about for hours at the Planning Board, so if you have access to Planning Board minutes.

Ms. Gjorgoski said yes, I watched the videos. I do watch them. We're raising kids, and so we are trying to keep up with it. Sometimes we are up to speed, and then there will be special meetings kind of thrown in between, and so I would be watching the YouTube videos for days and days going on and on. Many of us use the Facebook platform,

we follow the Township page, so thank you for what you add there, but there is room for more transparency and more information. We're learning alongside all of your experience, and we love this town. We love being here; we've invested in it. We just want to continue feeling confident, and this definitely had many, many questions that were unanswered. So whatever comes about from this point on, please just be transparent with us. Give us numbers if you can. If you can build that confidence with more information because it's tough when you're reading something and trying to decipher what the message is. So it's causing panic, and if I were sitting in your seats, I'd want to limit that panic in town. That's kind of what's happening when these articles come out. I know that they're planned in advance. Some people see them, some people don't, some people see when the meetings are, some people don't, and then there's just like widespread panic for days and weeks at a time. It's just really uncomfortable. Whatever you can share to make us feel...

Councilman Cimiluca said hopefully you will share it. You're on Saddle Brook Moms?

Ms. Gjorgoski said yes, sir.

Councilman Cimiluca said so hopefully you will share with Saddle Brook Moms that we may not have answered all your questions, it may not alleviate all your fears, but that we did kind of know what we're talking about in that we answered some of your questions at least, and that my next question was, the presentation from Ingermann, there's no minutes on that?

Mr. Lo Dico said Jayne does minutes and she posts them on the Planning Board website.

Councilman Cimiluca said no, when they came to us.

Council President D'Arminio said at the work session.

Ms. Gjorgoski said not everything is posted, just to be clear. There are certain meetings that are missing that we are all looking for, so not everything is posted.

Councilman Cimiluca said public meetings are posted.

Ms. Gjorgoski said the August meeting from two weeks ago was a public meeting right?

Mr. Lo Dico said it's not until September when the board approves the minutes.

Ms. Gjorgoski said right and so forgive me, but that also makes it difficult because now we're a month behind, right? So as we're all trying to catch up, in this day and age, I guess the assumption would be that if you're having a meeting on August 16th then we would be able to see what happened at that meeting we couldn't attend shortly after. Not a month after. That's just a recommendation.

Mr. Lo Dico said we have to wait, even with the Council until the board or the Council approves the minutes then they become public and they're posted.

Councilman Cimiluca said that's the law.

Ms. Gjorgoski said right, but you can understand what I mean, right? We're always a month behind. So as we're trying to get up to speed, it's kind of like all you're doing is it's hearsay, and that's when –

Councilman Cimiluca said right, which is dangerous.

Ms. Gjorgoski said and speculation is dangerous, assumptions are dangerous, and I'll thank you again for sharing what you could today, but much of it was assumptions, so all we ask is that if you can share any concrete information with the public, it would be much appreciated. Whatever it is. Even if it's a small amount.

Councilman Cimiluca said the plans that Ingerman has, like your conceptual plans, are those –

Mr. Lo Dico said I have a set here, and there's a set at Coolidge School.

Councilman Cimiluca said can we somehow get that on the website?

Mr. Lo Dico said it's big.

Councilman Cimiluca said can you get it in in .pdf form or something like that?

Mr. Lo Dico said I couldn't do it. If you can send it to me?

Ms. Gjorgoski said this is what we want. We just want to be able to talk to our members and be able to get the information that we seek.

Councilman Cimiluca said, so get the .pdf. This will be the conceptual plans. We'll get them to Pete, we'll put them on the website, so be on the lookout for that.

Council President D'Arminio said and also we're all accessible via email. Email is on the website now, so at any time, or you can call and ...

Mr. Lo Dico said feel free to call Town Hall, we'd be happy to accommodate anybody that wants to see...

Council President D'Arminio said so you're not left...

Mayor White said I think it's better to have more information than less, I do believe that. It's sometimes the way it's presented, you've got to figure out the best platform to use. As you know, you see what happens sometimes on Facebook. Right now with all the big projects we have going on, the municipal complex, we have a section on the website that we're putting everything biweekly – bi-monthly, twice a month we'll post something on there, pictures and give an update on what's going on, so we're trying to keep the public – maybe we can do that with this as well.

Ms. Gjorgoski said easy updates, bullet points, it doesn't have to be paragraphs. Bullet points to say here are the topics, especially because the videos which I watch and he watches because he's right next to me at home and then I send them to my friends here but especially because they're a month behind, right? So it would be great that right after a meeting somebody was responsible for really just recapping it and sending it out there to be like hey, here are the great things that are happening, or hey guys just put it out there. It's not always going to be great news, right? But just share the news because a lot of people are in panic right now. I don't know what the number is, but I'm telling you a lot of people are in panic right now. It's not because it's affordable housing, it's for all the other things that Jen mentioned regarding all of the schools. We're talking about kids in the library in the basement. It's like – that shouldn't be. It shouldn't be.

Mayor White said sometimes...

Ms. Gjorgoski said I know things get embellished.

Mayor White said sometimes when you post things, that's why I mentioned the best way to do it, because sometimes, I preface this by saying it's better to have more information. I do believe that, but at the same time sometimes you put information out there and it gets twisted, you know what I mean? By other people and then...

Ms. Gjorgoski said there's a diplomatic way of doing it to show the town that here are the things that we're working on. Those are matter-of-fact things. It's not your opinion or your opinion. Those are matter-of-fact things. This is what's happening.

Mayor White said and another thing we can do is we can have a town hall type meeting about it if there's enough concern. We can get the Board of Ed here as well, and the superintendent.

Ms. Gjorgoski said I usually don't leave work. I left work today because there's a lot of people who called me with questions. There are many questions. This isn't an affordable versus non affordable. This is how many people are we talking about, and the police, things are going on about understaffing. Thank you, you commented on that

so I feel like you touched upon many of the questions, but there's more color that probably could be added to the comments.

Mayor White said when we get those numbers we'll share them with you.

Councilman Cimiluca said 58 units is not, as developments go, it's not a lot.

Ms. Gjorgoski said so you're teaching us because we don't know. We don't know what percentage that is.

Councilman Cimiluca said 58 is small. Actually with the developer, it's one of the smaller ones – because they've got to make money.

Ms. Gjorgoski said we all know somebody is making money.

Councilman Cimiluca said they're not going to be in it unless it's profitable for them. But the worst part, like Anthony said, on a lot of these things it's – if it's a five for one ratio, and we've got to fulfil 50 spaces, then we have to have 250, so now it's a 30-unit – now that's going to impact. Three hundred something units is going to have an impact. Fifty is not a very large development. One thing I saw on Facebook today, and I couldn't respond. I saw that the name of your company is Saddle Brook Urban Renewal, and I think the words 'Urban Renewal' it's like it's one of those phrases that scares the crap out of everyone. I'm from Lodi.

Someone said that's probably just for tax breaks. A lot of developers do that because then they get a tax break because it's developing an area that's not developed.

Councilman Cimiluca said that's not this. This is not a blighted area. This is zoned – I know exactly what you're talking about. They declare something a blighted area and then they can build it, but growing up on Lodi across the street from me was - I lived in a beautiful neighborhood. It was great, and then they said we're going to have urban renewal and what they did was they bulldozed, first what they did was they said we're going to have urban renewal. They kicked everybody out, so all of our neighbors that we grew up with had to leave. They were forced to leave. They didn't do anything. So what they did was they put in transients there. Now I had a neighborhood – it became a crap hole. Then they kicked those people out and they knocked everything down. And they didn't rebuild, and they just kept it like rubble for years across the street from my house. It was pretty gross. Then they built that whole mall and Kmart and everything, but those were all houses there, and we grew up in a nice – it was a great neighborhood, everybody knew each other, and they killed the whole neighborhood feel. So when I saw 'urban renewal' too I didn't even know that was the name of it. I said this isn't good because it just brings up the thought process of it's a blighted area, and it's not going to be good for Saddle Brook, but they chose to name it that way. It could be a for a tax break like the gentleman said. He may be correct, but it's going to be a nice project, and it's going to be – you're going to be proud of it at the end.

Ms. Gjorgoski said we hope so. We hope the integrity of the town is kept up.

Councilman Cimiluca said sure, I still live here. We all live here.

Councilman Gierak said I live on Ash.

Councilman Accomando said he got an email last night and he responded but his email didn't go through.

Council President D'Arminio said I responded also. I got it too.

Councilman Accomando said I didn't want anyone to think I wasn't getting back to them, I sent it but it got kicked back.

Mayor White said you mentioned about the police department being short-handed. There's this misconception out there, and it can very easily happen, like you said, that an incident happens on your block and people get concerned and obviously they should, it's human nature when something happens, especially if it's something that's out of the ordinary, and it's something violent or something – a break in or something

like that. It's a concern, an alarm, but what happens a lot of times in this town, and I was a police officer in Saddle Brook for 33 years, so a lot of times that panic makes people obviously – of course it starts out small, and it gets big, but trust me, and you can go to a site – if you google FBI crime rates you will see that Saddle Brook is an extremely safe town and crime is not up. It's not up in town. It really isn't. If anything it's down, it's gone down from the '90s – 2000s - that time period to this, it's down. There's reasons for that. We don't have any more bars in town.

Ms. Gjorkoski said that's a great statistic, and that's what I mean. There's ways that you can control the angst amongst the public by sharing just simple bullet points like that.

Mayor White said unless you just jump right on it, and the police department is responsible for that as far as if there's a major incident, they have to get the information out there; they have to decrease the quell if they can. But sometimes it's – I'm going to bring this up because we've been getting a lot of complaints about speed, speed bumps. You know what – it's difficult. You're a mom, you're parents, and I've said this a million times, and I can't tell you how many times I've talked to parents about speeding when I was with the police department. And still now. If you're standing out on your front lawn and your 3 or 4 year old child is with you and is running around and you see some car go whizzing by, in your mind you're going to think you may have a speeding problem. You may have one kid that lives down the block that just decides that he's going to drive that way, but in your mind psychologically you think you have a speeding problem. I'm not going to convince you that you don't have a speeding problem because your child and maybe if your child is close to the street or god forbid maybe is in the street or even is close to being struck by that car, it's going to be embedded in your heart; you're not going to forget it. So it's kind of like that with crime too because you get nervous, and you're nervous, you talk to your neighbor, and then it just gets crazy. So it's hard, believe me, it's difficult, but like I said regarding crime reports maybe we can get that out there. We have to get the facts. Like you said here, you didn't get many facts, but you will get them. And I think the facts will bear out there's not going to be a huge impact. Just like with crime. I believe if you check – you could have crime, but it doesn't mean that crime is widespread, it just means you happen to be the unlucky person that was the victim of that crime.

Ms. Maria Penafiel-Tutulic of Fairlawn Parkway said I live where actually the incident happened and Damon is my husband. I know he's been here many times regarding the speed bump situation.

Mayor White said I wasn't referring to you per se.

Ms. Penafiel-Tutulic said it's okay. We're fighting for what we think is important. I do have a 5 year-old and an 8 year-old, and we live on a really busy street. We own the house, we love it, we talk about moving because there's a lot of issues that unfortunately we're not happy with. I appreciate very much – this morning I went out for a run at 7 o'clock, there was a cop sitting in CVS. I came back around 7:45, there was a cop on my street. I appreciate that. I feel safer now. But I'm going to tell you a couple of months ago it was not that. I did not see a cop around, and I'm walking in the morning all the time, I'm with my kids so I can tell you my experience and mine alone. Fortunately, you guys live on a street that's more secluded, again I live on a main street, but my experience has not been that it has decreased. I grew up – I've been here for 30 years, and I never saw anything, and I can tell you within the past year I have seen at least three people walking around my street that are highly intoxicated. That's scary. And I call every time, and I understand mental health is up, addiction is up, it's something that you guys cannot control, right? I cannot control it, you cannot control it. I feel bad for those people. I wish they would get help, but the only thing we can do is create a safe environment, right? I was a working mom. I have little kids at home, but I'm making an effort to be here and tell you how I feel because I don't want to leave. I love this town. Let's work together, let's do something. I appreciate it again, but I do see a police force now and we feel safer.

Council President D'Arminio said you called the police when you saw the person?

Ms. Penafiel-Tutulic said I have to say they were there within a minute. And I appreciate it, and I told your police force, I thank you. I don't know if it's because the person that came to my house was already from Evans and there were calls before mine, but they

were there on time, but within a minute someone was there. That was great. I feel very thankful that you guys were there to help me and help my daughter.

Mayor White said I spoke to your husband about that. Just so you know, Fairlawn Parkway is going to get a speed bump. Possibly two. That's going to happen, and it's going to happen soon. I told your husband we're waiting, we're paving Wilson sometime hopefully in the fall.

Ms. Penafiel-Tutulic said and I appreciate that. And the only thing is I don't want it to just go away. My husband and I immediately came to the police, and we wanted to file a report, and I want to make sure it doesn't happen again. And I understand that the person is being charged, hopefully we're waiting for a letter, but that hasn't come our way. I just want to make sure that this just doesn't go away. I feel that the person although needs help on another level hopefully by something happening to this person he can get a wake-up call and say I have to get my act together. Either I get help or I don't go around here anymore. I think it will be helpful.

Mayor White said I understand. Just so you know too, and I mentioned this to your husband, that I think it's not so much a manpower problem because and people don't know this, but there is a minimum manpower that the police have to have. There's three sections of town, so there has to always be at least three and then a dispatcher, which we have dispatchers that are full time that rotate with the patrols, so there should always be a dispatcher and at least three. If one of them calls out sick, we have to call someone on overtime. It's mandatory. So we don't leave it short. We don't say oh we can do with two. We have an overtime situation, and because we are somewhat short staffed, and it's the summer, there are a lot of vacations. In a two-week period we spend an awful lot on overtime. We need to. We have to have police out there patrolling and protecting the public. And we will do that. I promise you we're not going to leave anyone short, it's not good for the public, it's not good for them to be shorthanded. I think it's more – and I talk to our officer in charge, Captain Galbo about it, and we've had a lot of discussions with the command staff. I think it's more we have to concentrate, like you said, if Fairlawn Parkway is a problem area with speeding, and there's more people that are loitering around and not from the area, we need to make sure that area gets more patrol than other areas that don't have the same problems. So it's a matter of concentrating. Directed patrol and they are doing it. They're really doing a super job. They have been.

Ms. Ms. Penafiel-Tutulic said they have. I can say that I've seen them and I appreciate that.

Councilman Cimiluca said and just so this doesn't get transmogrified into something else. We have a lot of times more than three cops, it's not just those three sections and it's only three cops.

Mayor White said that's the minimum amount. And usually we have more than that. In the summer with the vacations, and during the day shift you have administrative staff there, detectives, there's a lot.

Councilman Cimiluca said with the speed bumps, we had someone come to the last meeting who wants a speed bump taken away because it makes too much noise, and his house is shaking and his house is falling apart. And then we have the lady on Floral Lane who wants it to be raised two more inches so anyone who goes over 50 miles an hour gets their whole exhaust system taken out. Then you've got people that want it on their street even though they live on a cul-de-sac, that they're speeding on the cul-de-sac. We put two speed bumps on Franklin, and there are three stop signs on Franklin, and she says, you've got to do something. In between the stop signs and the speed bumps, they're speeding. Other than heavy snipers, I don't know what else to do. Again, perception is reality, but we are going to try. We tried that to quell it. I think it helped. It didn't solve it, and it's not going to solve it. You're going to have people flying over those speed bumps no matter what we do, so there's always going to be the idiot out there. The world has no shortage of idiots, and this town is not exempt from having idiots driving around. We had 60 tickets issued in two weeks on your street, and almost everybody lived in town. And almost everybody lived in town right near where you live. They're doing that. I don't get it, but we're trying our best.

Council President D'Arminio said I just want to tell you we are committed to making sure Saddle Brook is safe and that we do have enough police. We are pro-police, and I think that needs to be said, and I just want you to know, please, come to the meetings. Once a month on a Tuesday is our work session. They start at 5:30, but we go and you can come and ask your questions and we're more than happy. You can come on Thursday at the Council meetings. So I just want you to know, we are definitely working to keep Saddle Brook because as Andrew said we all love it and we've been here a long time. Please feel free.

Hearing no one else, Council President D'Arminio asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - absent

Council President D'Arminio – yes

COMMENTS

Council President D'Arminio said I just want to say the picnic is Saturday and I'm praying it doesn't rain. We have tickets here. While you're here if you need to pick up your tickets, and I hope you come and join. We have the food trucks and the rides for the children. I'd like to see you all there.

Councilman Accomando said we're looking for volunteers.

Council President D'Arminio said the rain date is Sunday if need be.

RESOLUTIONS

TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 55:14K-1 ET SEQ. WITH SADDLE BROOK URBAN RENEWAL ASSOCIATES, LLC CONCERNING PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 1401, LOT 18 ON THE TOWNSHIP OF SADDLE BROOK TAX MAPS

CR# 821-160

WHEREAS, Saddle Brook Urban Renewal Associates, LLC (“Saddle Brook URA”) proposes to construct and operate fifty-eight units of affordable rental housing and other amenities (the “Project”) on property identified as Block 1401, Lot 18 on the Township of Saddle Brook Tax Maps (the “Property”) pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency Law of 1983, as amended (N.J.S.A. 55:14K-1 et seq.) (the “HMFA Law”);

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council adopted a Resolution of Need determining that the Project will meet an existing housing need within the Township and approved an Affordable Housing Agreement (as amended and modified) with Saddle Brook URA with respect to the Project:

WHEREAS, the Project will help satisfy the Township’s “Mt. Laurel” affordable housing obligation;

WHEREAS, the Project will be subject to the requirements of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (the "HMFA"), including mortgage and loan documents executed pursuant to the HMFA Law;

WHEREAS, the fifty-eight units of rental housing in the Project will qualify as low and moderate income units under the Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq. and the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls, N.J.A.C. 5:80-16.1 et seq.;

WHEREAS, the HMFA Law permits the governing body of a municipality in which a housing project financed by the HMFA is located to exempt such housing project from real property taxation if the housing project's sponsor enters into an agreement (a "PILOT Agreement") with the municipality for payments to the municipality in lieu of taxes for municipal services;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that entering into a PILOT Agreement with Saddle Brook URA is necessary to assure implementation of the Project and the construction of the affordable rental housing, and have negotiated a PILOT Agreement with Saddle Brook URA consistent with HMFA Law and protocols that obligates Saddle Brook URA to pay an annual service charge of 6.28% of its Project revenues to the Township for a period of thirty years;

WHEREAS, Saddle Brook URA has provided an estimate of Project revenues and payments in lieu of taxation to the Township, it being acknowledged that the actual Project revenues and corresponding payments in lieu of taxation cannot be determined until the Project has been implemented; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council deem it appropriate to authorize and enter into a PILOT Agreement with Saddle Brook URA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Saddle Brook as follows:

1. The preamble to this Resolution is hereby incorporated as if more fully set forth herein.

2. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Township an Agreement for Payments in Lieu of Taxes with Saddle Brook URA in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

3. This Resolution is hereby adopted with the intent and purpose that from the date of execution of a mortgage from the HMFA, the proposed Project, including both the land and improvements thereon, will be exempt from real property taxation as provided in the HMFA Requirements, provided that payments in lieu of taxes for municipal services supplied to the Project are made to the municipality in such amounts and manner as set forth in the attached Agreement for Payments in Lieu of Taxes.

4. The Mayor and Council do hereby adopt the within Resolution and make the determination and findings herein contained by virtue of, pursuant to, and in the conformity with the provisions of the HMFA Law with the intent and purpose that the Agency shall rely thereon in making a mortgage loan to the Sponsor, which shall construct, own and operate the Project.

Motion: Councilman Gierek

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes

Councilwoman Mazzer - absent

Councilman Gierek - yes

Councilman Accomando - yes

Council President D'Arminio - yes

Council President D'Arminio asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Councilman Cimiluca

Second: Councilman Gierek

Roll Call:

Councilman Cimiluca - yes
Councilwoman Mazzer - absent
Councilman Gierek - yes
Councilman Accomando - yes
Council President D'Arminio - yes

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lo Dico, R.M.C. CMC
Township Clerk

Karen D'Arminio
Council President

Approved: October 7, 2021