

## June 24, 2014 – AGENDA SESSION

President Baxter called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.

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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 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

- |                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ▪ Ms. Keyes-Maloney – 6:32 p.m. | Jim McManimon, Administrator |
| ▪ Mr. Schroth – Present         | Joanna Mustafa, CFO          |
| ▪ Ms. Steward – Present         | Maeve Cannon, Attorney       |
| ▪ Ms. Wollert – Present         | Susan Bate, Deputy Clerk     |
| ▪ President Baxter – Present    |                              |

President Baxter stated for the record that Ms. Keyes-Maloney will be here, she is running a little late.

### PRESENTATION

1. Lt. Ronald Lunetta (Officer in Charge) – Quarterly Report for the Ewing Township Police Department

The Administrator remarked that this will be Officer-in-Charge Lunetta’s last public duty as he will be retiring.

President Baxter thanked Lt. Lunetta for coming before Council tonight.

Lt. Lunetta presented the UCR statistics for March, April and May 2014. Lt.

Lunetta said that in March burglary was up and there was a slight uptick in simple assault; in April, there was a slight bump up in burglary and simple assault, thefts went up and there was one arson and in May, there was also a bump up in burglary and thefts but no arson. The Officer-in-Charge then commented that other municipalities have had similar problems with burglary and then stated that the detective bureau is making inroads into this issue. Lt. Lunetta stated that, regarding the crime statistics, we are doing okay as we approach the midyear.

President Baxter asked Lt. Lunetta to define simple assault.

Lt. Lunetta replied that simple assault can be a number of things but it includes someone pushing, kicking, or striking somebody.

President Baxter then asked if burglary and theft usually increase during the summer months.

Lt. Stemler replied yes, especially with motor vehicles. People forget and leave car windows down.

President Baxter then asked if there has been an increase in the number of noise complaint calls.

**Lt. Lunetta replied that he did not think there were more. Lt. Lunetta then remarked that he does not see many complaints that are about the same address.**

**Lt. Stemler gave a report on motor vehicle summonses.**

**Vice President Keyes-Maloney asked if any specific motor vehicle trends are being seen.**

**Lt. Stemler replied no, it is across the board - a lot involved accidents. Lt. Stemler added that there number of speeding tickets are moderate; we were without some radar equipment during this period.**

**Vice President Keyes-Maloney stated that in the past we have had problems with juveniles and then asked if this is still a problem.**

**Lt. Lunetta answered that he is not aware of any trend; the report shows juvenile arrests are down.**

**Vice President Keyes-Maloney then asked if the Department is noticing any issues with fireworks as we are approaching the Fourth of July.**

**Lt. Stemler replied that it is normal.**

**Lt. Lunetta added that it is a common trend, we expect it and are used to it around the 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Administrator said that there was one noise issue concerning the language of one DJ at a College of New Jersey sponsored graduation party. The Administration spoke with representatives of the College about this.**

**President Baxter asked if any police cars responded to this particular incident.**

**The Administrator replied no; residents called Administration, not the police.**

**President Baxter asked what is the procedure for noise complaint summonses.**

**Lt. Lunetta replied that the answer depends on the nature of the complaint; what the circumstances are once the Police arrive.**

**President Baxter then asked what justifies the writing of a report.**

**Lt. Lunetta answered that if there is something in particular that you are interested in, we can get you that report. Lt. Lunetta then said that he did not want to give an answer without knowing the particular circumstances of a case.**

**Councilman Schroth asked if the burglaries and/or thefts are concentrated in a particular area during the past three months.**

**Lt. Stemler said that burglary is spread out throughout the Township. It is a problem throughout Mercer and Bucks County. Lt. Stemler then added that vehicle burglary is a crime of opportunity – groups going around checking for unlocked car doors.**

**There were no further questions from Council.**

**President Baxter thanked Lt. Lunetta for coming before Council tonight and then thanked him for all the work he has done for the Department.**

**Vice President Keyes-Maloney thanked Lt. Lunetta for his service to the community and then said that his service is greatly appreciated and he will be missed.**

**Councilman Schroth thanked Lt. Lunetta and then congratulated him on his retirement.**

**Councilwoman Wollert said that the Lieutenant has been a great help over the years and then said that the Police Department will miss his service and his guidance.**

**Councilwoman Steward thanked Lt. Lunetta for being a great representative of the Police Department to the community.**

**President Baxter then thanked Lt. Lunetta for expanding the Police Department by hiring new officers that reflect the make-up of the Township.**

**Lt. Lunetta replied that he did try to do that.**

**Lt. Lunetta added that the Mayor has appointed Lt. Stemler as the Officer-in-Charge. Lt. Lunetta said that that is the right decision; Lt. Stemler has the right management tools to continue on in the Department.**

**There was then a round of applause for Lt. Lunetta.**

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) EMERGENCY EQUIPPED CHEVROLET TAHOE SSV 4 X 4 FOR USE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OFFICE FROM DAY CHEVROLET and MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT ENTERPRISES AS PER STATE CONTRACTS**

The CFO explained that this vehicle is similar to one Construction purchased in 2013. The CFO added that Construction is passing a vehicle down to Administration.

The Administrator said that one vehicle had already been passed down to the Captain of the Fire Department. This will be a replacement. The Administrator then said that during the winter, when a four wheel drive is necessary, he will use it. President Baxter asked if it was being paid for out of the Construction Trust. The CFO replied yes.

President Baxter then asked if this has already been vetted as it is a state contract. The CFO replied that it is two state contracts, one for the vehicle and another for the emergency equipment upgrade.

Councilman Schroth asked for clarification of this being a dual use vehicle.

The Administrator replied that this vehicle is for the Construction Department but that he will take it home during winter weather and also at night in case he has to respond to a call. The Mayor may also use it under similar circumstances.

Councilman Schroth then asked if that is why emergency equipment has been added.

The Administrator replied, yes, but the emergency equipment is also used by the Construction Department when they are called out on emergencies.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council.

### **2. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ACCELERATED TAX LIEN SALE FOR CY2014 PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 54:5-19**

The Attorney explained that this allows the Township to hold a tax lien sale within the year that the taxes are due so that the Township does not have to carry uncollected tax for a year in the budget. The Attorney explained that the Township started to do this about ten years ago at the request of the State because the Township had been carrying over two million dollars a year as a reserve for uncollected taxes.

The CFO added that there still will be a slight amount in the budget for unsold liens. There was then a brief discussion as to when the actual day of the accelerated tax lien sale could be held.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

### **3. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TEN (10) TO-16 MODEL G-2 E-NET, BIO-METRIC TIME CLOCKS AND ALL APPLICABLE SOFTWARE AND INSTALLATION FROM TEMPO SYSTEMS AS PER STATE CONTRACT T-0200**

President Baxter stated that this has been up for bid several times as the specifications had to be restructured.

The CFO explained that these biometric clocks are more sturdy than time clocks from other vendors.

President Baxter asked what is the purpose of these clocks.

The CFO responded that these clocks will be able to update to our time off system; we will have a current record of who did not show up to work, what time they clocked-in.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney asked (inaudible).

The Administrator replied that the time clocks will be in all buildings where employees work.

Councilwoman Wollert asked if all employees, including department heads and administration, will use the system, not only as a time clock, but also as a way to keep track of who is in the building.

The CFO responded that everyone will use it with the exception of the Police, Dispatch, the Mayor and the Administrator.

Councilwoman Wollert then said that she did not mean it as a way to track the hours of Administration but rather more as a safety issue – to know if someone is in the building or not.

The Administrator said that the scheduled hours of the employees will be programmed into it.

Councilwoman Wollert asked how lunch and fifteen minute breaks will be tracked.

The Administrator, the CFO and Councilwoman Wollert then discussed how this will be handled, especially, if someone is not in a location with a time clock.

The CFO added that at first it will only be used to start and to end the day.

President Baxter asked if these clocks are universal – can you punch in at Public Works and punch out at the Municipal Building.

The CFO answered yes.

President Baxter asked if the clocks will be placed at the firehouses as well.

The CFO responded – yes.

President Baxter then asked about how the fingerprints work.

The CFO responded that the fingerprint of each employee will be stored in the system.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney asked if reports from the time clock will upload to the payroll system.

The CFO replied – yes and then discussed the various reports that are available.

The CFO added that for right now only she will be keeping the reports; if there is an issue then the CFO stated that she will inform the Department Head.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council.

**4. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW JERSEY STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM ACT OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR SHBP DENTAL PLAN COVERAGE**

The CFO explained that currently, as per union contracts, the Township offers a self-reimbursement plan or Eastern Dental. The amount varies but each employee plus dependents get about a \$1500 benefit each year with a \$100 deductible. The CFO then discussed the State plan. The CFO explained that the premium to cover a family, for the most expensive State plan, is \$1200 per year. The benefits of the State plan are far superior as the State plan is unlimited and has low or zero co-pays on a lot of the basic dentistry. The CFO said that the Township will stay with Eastern Dental, and eliminate self-reimbursement and Delta.

President Baxter said that he understood that as this is a benefit it does not have to be renegotiated with the unions. However, the Resolution will allow us to go into the program when we renegotiate with the unions.

The CFO responded that we will go into the program on January 1 of next year. It is the State that requires that we pass a resolution to join their program. The CFO then stated that as the benefit is equal to or greater than the current benefit, there is no change with the contract.

Councilwoman Wollert said that under the State plan there are six plans that could be utilized.

The CFO replied that there are six or seven plans; many tied into the medical plans. The Administrator added that we did check and there are about 500 dentists in the area for our employees.

The CFO added that it avoids the employee from having to pay out of pocket and then getting reimbursed. The CFO said that right now we will be picking up one hundred percent of the premiums, but that could change with a new contract.

President Baxter stated that our personnel director will be the administrator of this plan.

The CFO responded yes, she does the medical enrollment so it makes sense.

President Baxter added that this is a good plan and will make sense for everyone.

There were no further questions or comments from Council.

**5. A RESOLUTION AWARDED THE DOOR ACCESS SECURITY SYSTEM CONTRACT AT THE EWING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING TO MAIN ACCESS SYSTEMS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$90,489.00**

The Attorney explained that this is a rebid as last time the three low bids were rejected as being non-responsive. There was also a desire to revamp the bid specifications. The Attorney then discussed the results of this bid. The Attorney

stated that she wanted to point out that this Resolution is to award a contract for \$79,989.00. There are options for years two, three and four, If exercised on an annual basis, the total would then be \$90,489.00. The Attorney added that the Resolution is otherwise, correct.

President Baxter asked for confirmation that this Resolution is for \$79,989.00.

The Attorney responded yes.

The Administrator added that this will allow us to get rid of keys and also allow us to program access to each office.

President Baxter asked if we are changing all the locks.

The Administrator replied that some already have them, but we are going to have a key file to track when employees are going in and out of offices.

Councilman Schroth asked if we have had any problems that we have to do this.

The CFO replied that it is part of the 2012 building upgrades. There has not been a particular issue, but it is in line with what other municipalities are doing regarding security.

The Administrator said that there has not been a particular incident and added that it is upgrading from keys to cards; it has been getting harder for us to give new employees keys.

Councilwoman Wollert asked what actually is this “key” going to be.

The Administrator showed Councilwoman Wollert his access card and then said that if someone leaves the Township we do not have to get the key back, we just remove access.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council.

**6. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL FOR RENEWAL OF 2014-2015 EWING MUNICIPAL LIQUOR LICENSES**

The Attorney explained that this is the annual liquor license renewals. These establishments have had to satisfy a number of conditions prior to their license being renewed such as receiving tax clearance from the State and paying the fee.

President Baxter added that both the Police Department and Code Enforcement check that these establishments are not violating any laws prior to their license being renewed.

President Baxter stated that there are a couple establishments that have not received their tax clearance from the State.

The Attorney added that an Alcoholic Control Board is not permitted to renew a liquor license to any establishment that has not received tax clearance. There are four establishments, as of tonight, that do not have their tax clearance. These establishments will have to apply for an ad interim license from the State in order to remain open until their liquor license is renewed.

President Baxter then stated that the Clerk has made several calls to these establishments informing them that the State has not received their tax clearance certificate.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney asked what is a “shunt”; one of the requirements listed on the Code Enforcement form.

The Attorney responded that it is not required in all cases. A bar that has music; if the lights go up, the music must go down.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council.

**7. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL FOR RENEWAL OF 2013-2014 EWING MUNICIPAL LIQUOR LICENSE FOR AMPHORA RESTAURANT, LLC t/a ERINI'S RESTAURANT WITH CONDITIONS**

The Attorney explained that these are conditions that were imposed on this establishment several years ago in response to neighbors' complaints. This Resolution renews their license subject to these same conditions. The Attorney then listed the conditions.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

**8. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO RETIRE LIQUOR LICENSE NO. 1102-36-037-001 (HOTEL EXCEPTION/POCKET) HERSHA HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT, L.P.**

The Attorney explained that this a license for the Element Hotel. The Element has two licenses – one is a traditional license and the other is a hotel license. It is the hotel license that is being allowed to lapse. The Attorney then explained that the number of liquor licenses allowed within a municipality is based on population. Ewing has more then allowed. If one of these traditional licenses lapsed, it would just be lost. This particular license does not fall in the traditional category; as it is a hotel license it can be used again in the future.

President Baxter asked if it is correct that the only way that this particular license can be used again is by another hotel.

The Attorney responded – yes, another hotel.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council.

**9. A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE MEETING DATES OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL FOR 2014.**

President Baxter explained that during our construction period we went to double meetings and then said that Council is going to keep the double meetings for the rest of the year.

The Attorney added that this is a Resolution to amend the meeting dates that were set and advertised at the beginning of the year.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

**10. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, ADDING ADDITIONAL BUS STOPS ALONG MUNICIPAL ROADWAYS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 39:4-8(e)**

The Administrator explained that NJ Transit requested that for safety concerns we change the bus stop along Princeton Avenue in the area of Spruce.

President Baxter asked if this was right in front of the KFC on Princeton Avenue.

The Administrator responded yes, the bus stop was across the street in Lawrence; NJ Transit studied it and thought it would be safer for the bus stop to be right in front of the KFC.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council.

President Baxter then stated that there are two walk-on resolutions.

**11. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS AT THE ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION**

President Baxter asked if it is necessary to pass a Resolution to set off fireworks.

The Administrator responded that this year the State is requiring a Resolution. The Administrator explained that the Township already has the necessary permits along with permission from the College of New Jersey to be on their property. The fireworks will be on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney asked when will the festivities begin.

The Administrator said that the festivities will start with music at 5 p.m. There will be a DJ and a band. The fireworks will start when it is appropriately dark. The Administrator added that the Township got three proposals for the fireworks. For July 4<sup>th</sup>, the cost is \$15,000 , on July 5<sup>th</sup> it is \$10,000 and on July 3<sup>rd</sup> it is \$7,500 which is the amount we paid last year.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council.

**12. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$1,790,000 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES OF 2014 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY**

The CFO explained that this is a short term borrowing based on our revenue; taxes which are due August 1<sup>st</sup>. Tax anticipation notes are generally used when cash flow is low and there are obligatory payments to the schools.

President Baxter asked how much will it cost the Township.

The CFO answered that the interest rate will be one percent; it will be about \$2,600.00 in interest and the note will mature on August 15, 2014.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President Baxter presented the Consent Agenda for review.

1. A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Pay Bills in the Amount of \$1,713,303.20 and to Pay Supplemental Bills per Resolution #14R-44 in the Amount of \$10,532.10
2. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Construction Official, for Rental Registration and Fire Prevention Fees in the Amount of \$150.00 to Stephen Arkuszewski, 77078 Easton Road, Pipersville, PA 18947 for property located at 339 Green Lane, Ewing, NJ 08638.
3. A Resolution authorizing a performance bond release for The Gardens at Birmingham, 1460 Parkway Avenue (Block 365/Lot 9) – Ewing Engineers Remington, Vernick & Arango RV&A #1102-I-035
4. A Resolution authorizing a maintenance guarantee release for Solar Energy Corporation, 129 Walters Avenue (Block 194/Lot 44) – Ewing Engineers Remington, Vernick & Arango RV&A #1102-I-047

Councilwoman Wollert asked what exactly are we paying for regarding the bill from Mitchell Humphrey concerning Fast Track.

The CFO responded that she will look into it and get back to Councilwoman Wollert.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney asked who is (inaudible).

The CFO replied that they are the hosts of our email.

President Baxter asked how are the clothing allowances tied into the contracts.

The CFO responded that this is related to the IBEW and CWA contracts which begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It is their clothing allowance for the 2014-2015 contractual year. It is on this Bills List but will not be given out until July.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney asked about MRA International.

The CFO said that she will look up exactly who they are but it has to do with the technology upgrades and is part of our capital plan.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council and the Consent Agenda was approved for action.

**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, TO AMEND CHAPTER 342 TAXICABS AND LIMOUSINES TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL TAXICAB LICENSING CRITERIA (2014)

The Attorney said that this will add additional criteria by which taxi license applicants can be judged with respect to motor vehicle background history. Currently, for a taxi application to be rejected, the driver's license would have had to been suspended in the past two years. The Attorney explained that this would add additional criteria that would allow a licensee to be rejected if the applicant has had a long bad driving history, but no suspension. It also allows the Chief of Police to review the history and give a recommendation to the Clerk as to whether the applicant should be licensed. The Attorney added that an applicant can appeal to Council.

President Baxter said that this is looking at driving history for the safety of those using this service.

The Attorney said that the current criteria was too limiting. It was felt that there are additional items in a driving record that would make the applicant unsuitable to be licensed.

There were no additional comments or questions from Council.

**2. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, TO AMEND CHAPTER 172 FEES (2014)**

The Attorney said that this is a clean-up to bring our current Ordinance in line with State statute. Right now the Township charges a flat fee of \$35 for kennel registration. Instead the fee should be based on the number of dogs housed. This will change the fee to be ten dollars for ten dogs or less, twenty-five dollars for more than ten dogs and ten dollars for a pet shop.

There were no comments or questions from Council.

**NEW BUSINESS**

(None for this Meeting)

**STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Mildred Russell (119 King Avenue) stated that Arden Avenue had two hour parking for some twenty years. The last two hour parking sign "disappeared" in January of 2013. Mrs. Russell then said that over sixty percent of the residents have signed a petition to bring back two hour parking on Arden Avenue. Mrs. Russell then said that there has been no response from Administration for over a year; those who asked me to come here tonight just want to know what is going to happen.

The Administrator responded that the Administration is aware of the situation. The Administrator said that these signs were there; however, we never had an Ordinance stating that there should be two hour parking on Arden so the last sign was removed at the Administration's request. The Administrator then explained that a petition was delivered to the Administration; a former member of Council, along with the Mayor, did survey the neighborhood for verification and found that sixty percent of the neighbors did not sign the petition. The Administrator then said that the Administration will look into the issue again and will report back to the Council president.

Mrs. Russell then asked the Administrator if it was correct that when the Mayor's party went out to Arden Avenue, they found that sixty percent of the residents did not sign the petition.

The Administrator answered that that is what he was told.

Mrs. King then asked where is the original petition.

The Administrator responded that it is in his office.

Mrs. Russell then said that, as she recalled, every house on that street, except for two, signed the petition.

The Administrator responded – correct.

Mrs. Russell then asked how did they come up with the sixty percent.

The Administrator and Mrs. Russell then discussed the residents and if and how often the residents complain about the parking situation and speeding tickets along Arden Avenue.

**Juan Arce (11 Lincoln Court, Floor Two, Hamilton) said that Council should leave the taxi ordinance as is. Mr. Arce stated that adding more restrictions would impede businesses from hiring more drivers and would hurt individuals who are trying to change their lives. Mr. Arce then asked where does the decision stand as far as the cap on the number of taxi owner licenses.**

**President Baxter responded to Mr. Arce's first point and said that suspension is in the current Ordinance and added that looking at someone's driving record is a safety issue.**

**President Baxter and Mr. Arce then discussed whether or not an insurance company would stop someone with a bad driving record from driving sooner than the Township would be able to do so.**

**Councilwoman Steward added that this will give the Chief of Police discretion.**

**The Attorney stated that the Chief of Police would be able to put a driving record into context and said that reckless parking most likely would not cause a taxi license to be denied but repeated reckless driving would be cause to deny a license. The Attorney added that there is also an appeal to this Body if a license was denied.**

**President Baxter said that there has not been any changes regarding the cap on the number of taxi licenses.**

**Mr. Arce then said that there has not been any decision made after months of discussion on this issue.**

**The Administrator replied that we are working with Hamilton on this issue and then explained that Hamilton does not want to put a cap on the number of taxi licenses as Hamilton does have a larger population. The Administrator said that right now there are forty taxi licenses, each license can have up to fifteen vehicles for a total of 600. The Administrator stated that he believes that is enough and said that he has asked the Clerk to not issue any more taxi licenses until the end of the renewal period when it is known if any have failed to renew. The Administrator then described the number of steps he has taken regarding this issue.**

**Mr. Arce then said that he is concerned about enforcement as there are a large number of private cars acting as taxis that cause licensed taxis to lose business. Mr. Arce also mentioned that there are issues with some charging less than what a meter would show for the same route. Mr. Arce stated that he supports a cap on the number of taxi licenses issued as there is barely any business as it stands now.**

**Mr. Arce then asked why the Township is charging a seventy-five dollar inspection fee when the State inspects for free. Mr. Arce said that this fee is a hindrance to taxi owners who should not have to pay it as the State inspects for free and State authority supersedes municipal authority.**

**The Attorney replied that the State inspection only covers emissions; the municipal inspection checks to see if the vehicle is road worthy.**

**Mr. Arce answered that during a municipal inspection, the vehicle is only given a quick glance; it is not a thorough check of the vehicle.**

**President Baxter added that the State only checks emissions, the State does not even check windshield wipers anymore. President Baxter said that we do what we need to do for the safety of our residents.**

**Mr. Arce then said that Council is telling me that there is not enough money to stop these private vehicles from acting as a "taxi" but there are funds to put in a biometric time clock in municipal buildings. Mr. Arce added that private vehicles are a greater danger to the public then the point Council just made about municipal inspection being necessary to protect the public.**

**President Baxter thanked Mr. Arce for his comments and said that he is over his five minute time limit.**

**Mr. Arce stated that he sees where this is going and then said that he has adopted the assistance of the Teamsters Union Local #469 and that he will be considering legal action.**

**George Steward (30 Gilmore Road) asked if it was possible for the public to ask questions of the Officer in Charge while he is before Council. Mr. Steward then stated that the Police used to publish on their website a comprehensive year-end report and then asked that the 2012 and 2013 reports be published to the website. Mr. Steward then asked Council to reconsider changing its Council meetings for the rest of year to the same night. Mr. Steward said that multiple meeting nights allow the Public to comment on and Council time to research an issue.**

Mark Fetter (327 Concord Avenue) stated that some residents are questioning how hiring is done at the Township; he has heard rumblings that it is political. Mr. Fetter suggested that Council announce job postings during their Council meetings.

Mr. Fetter stated that he is seeing a disturbing trend of non-residents being hired for Township positions instead of residents. Mr. Fetter added that this is also happening within the school district. Mr. Fetter said that he believes Ewing residents should have first shot at these good jobs.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney replied that our Ordinance, just passed a couple of weeks ago, requires first preference to Ewing residents.

The Attorney added that it requires new hires to be a resident of Ewing and not move out for five years after being hired. There is an exception for Police and Fire.

Mr. Fetter replied that Council should announce the job postings.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney said that it will be taken into consideration and then mentioned that job openings are posted on the Township website.

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

**CLOSED SESSION** – A Resolution to enter into Closed Executive Session

The Closed Session was held during the Regular Meeting instead of during the Agenda Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Baxter asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Wollert so moved seconded by Mr. Schroth. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, President

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Susan Bate, Deputy Municipal Clerk