

## March 24, 2015 – REGULAR SESSION

President Keyes-Maloney called the meeting to order at 7:56 p.m. and read the Open Public Meetings Statement:

Almighty God who holds the fate of Man and Nation, we most humbly beseech thee to bless these deliberations, and these thy servants, that they may act with wisdom and understanding for the good of our community and thy greater glory. Amen.

### Flag Salute

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 2nd day of January, 2015.

**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

- |                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ▪ Mr. Baxter – Present              | Jim McManimon, Administrator |
| ▪ Mr. Schroth – Present             | Joanna Mustafa, CFO          |
| ▪ Ms. Steward – Present             | Maeve Cannon, Attorney       |
| ▪ Ms. Wollert – Excused             | Kim Macellaro, Clerk         |
| ▪ President Keyes-Maloney – Present |                              |

The Clerk stated for the record that Ms. Wollert is excused for this evening.

### STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Joe Mirabella (52 Windybush Way) stated that he will wait until the Public Hearing on the salary ordinance.

Faye Ball (47 Somerset Street) said that at the last meeting, Council passed sewer rates for April and October. Ms. Ball remarked that she was not aware that Council had to pass those rates and then asked if sewer is now considered a tax instead of a bill.

The Attorney replied that the sewer bill is separate from the tax bill; the Township was required to separate the two. The Attorney then added that Council is required to set the sewer rate based on an assessment by ELSA.

Ms. Ball then asked if you do not pay your utilities, does your property go under the tax sale.

The Attorney replied yes, because the law allows municipal assessments to be added to a tax bill.

Ms. Ball remarked that other public utilities do not endanger your property.

The Attorney replied that those, such as from PSE&G, are not Township assessments.

Ms. Ball asked if she lived in Trenton would she get a sewer bill from ELSA.

President Keyes-Maloney replied no, not from ELSA and then added that Ms. Ball should check with Trenton regarding how sewer and water is handled there.

Ms. Ball remarked that she has this argument all the time, how a utility can endanger a property.

Ms. Ball then asked if the sewer rate was increased.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that there was a small increase of about seven to eight dollars for the typical property based on the ELSA assessment.

Ms. Ball, President Keyes-Maloney, the Administrator and the Attorney then discussed the upcoming reevaluation.

Ms. Ball stated that many of her friends were not aware of the reevaluation and said that last time her property went up fifty percent. Ms. Ball then remarked that it was the poor areas that went up and the rich areas that went down. Ms. Ball said that the people in her neighborhood cannot afford any more increases and then said that if Council does not "hold the line", Council will drive people out of the Township.

Robert Byron (30 Winthrop Avenue) said that he invested very heavily in the Township many years ago. Mr. Byron then said that he came to the meeting tonight because he heard that salaries are going to be tripled.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that we are doing a phase-in over a period of three years. We had a robust conversation at the last meeting in terms of whether or not we should increase the Mayor's salary in order to facilitate it becoming a full-time position.

Mr. Byron then said that he pays about \$40,000 a year in taxes, and knows that the upcoming reevaluation is going to "kill" him; it will run him out of business. Mr. Byron then said that he understands that there are about 500 empty houses in Ewing. There is something fundamentally wrong here in Ewing. Mr. Byron then mentioned the economic development at the GM site and asked why are we going to build more rental units when there are already 500 empty houses. Mr. Byron also said that these rental units will have a negative impact on the school system.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that the GM site development is mixed-use. The residential stock is different from what is already in the Township. It could also be deemed a transit village because of the train station and it will increase the rateables. President Keyes-Maloney replied that the School Board has researched this and has said that there will be an impact, but it will not outweigh the dwindling population of children in other areas of the Township.

Mr. Byron then mentioned that the Developer is in financial difficulty and yet is given free reign - the Developer is not going to pay for any of the upgrades to Parkway Avenue but the Township will have to pay for the development of Silvia Street. Mr. Byron stated that the Developer is going to make money, and then leave a mess behind; the taxpayer will have to fund the clean-up.

President Keyes-Maloney responded that the Redevelopment Agency has not yet approved the Developer's plan and remarked that it would not be appropriate for her to discuss the Developer's financial status and then added that she is not aware of any financial difficulties. Ms. Keyes-Maloney remarked that the Developer has had significant projects throughout the State.

Mr. Byron remarked that it looks like to him that the developer came in here and is greasing the wheels.

Both Council and the Administrator said that that remark is inappropriate.

Mr. Byron then said that he is very disappointed with everything that is going on in this Town and then remarked that if he had a choice he would never have invested in Ewing.

Vera {inaudible} (15 State Police Drive) asked why the salary ordinance was not put up for a referendum.

President Keyes-Maloney answered that even if you wanted to contemplate a referendum, Council would still need to pass the salary ordinance. It is the responsibility of this Body to take Public input and then act upon it. Ms. Keyes-Maloney said that she believes that this is the proper forum because it allows for the free exchange of ideas; in comparison to a referendum, where there may be conversations which provides details that a voter may not necessarily have.

The Resident then asked why the Budget is not balanced.

President Keyes-Maloney said that within the next month, we will be deliberating the 2015 Budget. The salary ordinances are a separate discussion that can easily proceed a conversation on the Budget. In terms of the sewer, we are required to base sewer rates on usage. We had a wet summer which led to significantly less water usage which in turn led to a slight increase of seven to eight dollars for the typical property.

The Resident then asked why is there a need for a salary increase.

President Keyes-Maloney said that there will be a Public Hearing later this evening; we had a vigorous conversation about this at our last meeting. We believe that a full-time Mayor is needed in the Township as we grow and evolve. In terms of the salary increase, we looked at the salaries in the surrounding municipalities.

The Resident responded that the other municipalities have nothing to do with us. Council needs to consider what the taxpayer can afford.

Joe Murphy (9 Malaga Drive) remarked that there seems to be a need for a civics lesson. The GM site falls under the authority of ETRA, not Council or the Mayor. Mr. Murphy remarked that what is wrong with Ewing, is people speaking without knowing the facts.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Public.

### **BILLS LIST**

1. The Clerk read (**Resolution #15R-70**) A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Pay Bills in the Amount of \$6,264,010.46 and to Pay Supplemental Bills per Resolution #15R-27 in the Amount of \$4,266.45

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. Mr. Baxter then moved the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Steward. President Keyes-Maloney asked for a roll call.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Steward	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
President Keyes-Maloney	YES

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Clerk read the Consent Agenda: (**Resolution #15R-71**)

*All items listed under Item H, Consent Agenda, are considered routine by the Township Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will not be separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. There will be one motion for all items listed.*

1. Approval of Minutes of the Meetings of March 25, 2014 (Agenda), and March 25, 2014 (Regular)
2. A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of a Bingo Sponsored by West Trenton Vol Fire Co.
3. A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of an Off-Premise 50/50 Cash Raffle Sponsored by West Trenton Vol Fire Co.
4. A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of an On Premise 50/50 Cash Raffle Sponsored by Meals on Wheels of Trenton/Ewing Inc.
5. A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of an On Premise 50/50 Cash Raffle Sponsored by VFW Post 7298 Ladies Auxiliary
6. A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of a Tricky Tray Sponsored by West Trenton Vol Fire Co.
7. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Township Construction Official, for Overpayment, in the Amount of \$52.00 to Daniel Bernoski, 134 Palmer Lane, Ewing, NJ 08628 for Permit at 28 Farrell Ave., Ewing, NJ 08628.

8. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Township Construction Official, for Overpayment, in the Amount of \$86.00 to Suzanne Heath, 17 Glen Stewart Dr., Ewing, NJ 08628 for Permit #20150139 at 17 Glen Stewart Dr., Ewing, NJ 08628.
9. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Township Construction Official, for Overpayment, in the Amount of \$25.00 to Anntarie Sims, 1275 Lower Ferry Rd., Ewing, NJ 08628 for Permit #20141131 at 1275 Lower Ferry Rd., Ewing, NJ 08628.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

George Steward (30 Gilmore Road) asked the Council President to clarify that the minutes Council is approving tonight is from March 25, 2014. President Keyes-Maloney responded that that is correct.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Public. Mr. Baxter then moved the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Steward. President Keyes-Maloney asked for a roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Steward	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
President Keyes-Maloney	YES

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

**(None for this Meeting)**

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

President Keyes-Maloney explained that the first three Ordinances cannot be heard this evening because the newspaper did not publish the advertisement as requested. All three will be considered at our next Council meeting.

- \*\*1. 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)**
- \*\*2. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, TO AMEND CHAPTER 225, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE II: PARKING, ADDING NEW SECTION 10.4 FIRE LANES**
- \*\*3. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, TO AMEND CHAPTER 97, ANIMALS, ARTICLE I: DOGS, ADDING NEW SECTION 7, FAILURE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY CARE IN INSTANCES OF EXTREME COLD OR HEAT**
- \*\* Due to the fact that the newspaper failed to print items #1, #2, #3 on time (seven days prior to the public hearing), these Ordinances will be held until the meeting of April 14<sup>th</sup> at which time a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, public hearing and final adoption will take place.**
- 4. The Clerk read (Ordinance #15-03) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE EWING TOWNSHIP SALARY ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Ewing that the Salary Ordinance establishing compensation of Officers and Employees of the Township of Ewing is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. The following phased Salary increase is hereby established for the compensation of Members of the Township Council and Council President:

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>Prior Salary</u>		<u>New Salary</u>
President of Council for year 2015	\$7,556.00	\$	\$9,370.66
President of Council for year 2016	\$9,370.66		\$11,185.33
President of Council for year 2017	\$11,185.33		\$13,000.00
Vice President of Council for year 2015	\$6,296.00		\$8,364.00
Vice President of Council for year 2016	\$8,364.00		\$10,432.00
Vice President of Council for year 2017	\$10,432.00		\$12,500.00
Member of Council for year 2015	\$6,296.00		\$8,197.33
Member of Council for year 2016	\$8,197.33		\$10,098.66
Member of Council for year 2017	\$10,098.66		\$12,000.00

Section 2. The following phased Salary increase is hereby established for the compensation of the Mayor/Director of Public Safety:

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>Prior Salary</u>		<u>New Salary</u>
Mayor/Director of Public Safety for year 2015	\$17,850.00		\$28,566.66
Mayor/Director of Public Safety for year 2016	\$28,566.66		\$39,283.33
Mayor/Director of Public Safety for year 2017	\$39,283.33		\$50,000.00

Section 3. This Ordinance shall be retroactive to January 1, 2015, and shall become operative in 20 days after publication according to law pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-165.

#### STATEMENT

This Ordinance amends the Salary Ordinance of the Township of Ewing for the positions of Member of Council, Council President, and Mayor.

**Mr. Baxter made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Schroth. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote.**

**Faye Ball (47 Somerset Street) asked that the Ordinance be read as no copies are available to the Public.**

**President Keyes-Maloney replied that copies of the Ordinance have been placed at the back of the room at Mr. Tighue's request. President Keyes-Maloney then read the Ordinance.**

Thomas Tighue (10 Boleyn Court) gave the salary history during the Committee form of government. In 1989, it was raised for the last time to \$7,500. With the change to the Mayor-Council form of government, Council received \$5,000 and the Mayor received \$12,500. Mr. Tighue then said that it is not true that there have not been any raises, but there have been - the current Council and Mayor make more than \$5,000 and \$12,500. Council receives the same raise as the CWA. Mr. Tighue presented and then discussed a study by the Business Administrator of Princeton. Mr. Tighue strongly suggested that this issue be put to a referendum to ask the people if they want a full-time mayor and said that it is an abuse of power to increase your own salary and then added that he never saw a salary increase be spread over three years. Mr. Tighue added that he believed Council is going to regret this decision.

Don Apai (2181 Pennington Road) said that he was elected under the new strong Mayor/Council form of government. Mr. Apai then said that he has to correct his friend, Mr. Tighue. The issue of salaries was never discussed in public and it was never set in advance. Council voted to set the salary after the new Council was elected. Council decided to keep it the same - \$5,000 for Council and \$12,500 for the Mayor. Council never decided that the salary was for a full-time mayor. After a couple of years, Council did accept the increases granted to the bargaining units which is how the salary got to be \$6,100. Council has not had a salary increase for nine years.

Ron Dykas (170 Upper Ferry Road) remarked that since 2007, the average take home pay has decreased by \$8,000. Mr. Dykas mentioned that Mr. Schroth cited the salaries of Princeton and Lawrence and then said that he could respect Council's decision if Council had just stood up and said that Council wanted the raise and had not used Princeton and Lawrence to justify their decision. Mr. Dykas said that Council has to be accountable for its actions. Mr. Dykas stated that Mr. Schroth said that this will not cost the taxpayers anything. Mr. Dykas said that everything costs the taxpayers money. Mr. Dykas stated that Mr. Baxter mentioned that the raise will attract the best and the brightest. Mr. Dykas then said that he does not want someone who is just looking for money, but rather he wants someone who wants to help the residents of Ewing. Mr. Dykas added that Council is looking out for itself; Council has lost its way.

Richard Suth (330 Ewingville Road) said that he worked in law enforcement for three decades and owned his home for forty-five years. Mr. Suth then explained how Civil Defense was set-up in the Township. Mr. Suth remarked that the salary was not important; what was important was getting equipment and training for the volunteers. Mr. Suth then mentioned that the Township no longer has a Civil Defense force.

President Keyes-Maloney stated that we have an Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Suth said that nothing stays level – everything is going sky high. We are all in the same boat.

Robert Byron (30 Winthrop Avenue) asked what are the hours that Council puts in during a week.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that it will vary by the week. It is not, as news reports indicated, a two or four hour job by any stretch of the imagination.

Mr. Byron mentioned that his wife is on a board; she does not make a nickel, it actually costs them money. The original intent of a Town Council was public service; that is why the salary was low. People are upset about their taxes being raised and then Council is asking for a raise when it seems that the current salary is enough for the hours spent. Mr. Byron added that the main concern here tonight is with the Mayor's salary increase.

President Keyes-Maloney said that as a Body, we cannot regulate how many hours someone sits in a chair. We can set compensation, and then encourage this person to do the role full-time. Ms. Keyes-Maloney said that the needs of the Town have grown exponentially. We need someone in the building full-time. We want to encourage the next person that this is their primary function. If that person is not here full-time, then that person can be voted out of office.

Mr. Byron asked if this salary increase is approved, will the next mayor be full-time. President Keyes-Maloney replied that if the next person is not here full-time, then that person can be voted out of office.

Mr. Byron replied that he tried that, it does not work.

President Keyes-Maloney responded that Hamilton is a perfect example.

Mr. Byron stated that he wanted to talk about Hopewell, not Hamilton.

President Keyes-Maloney answered that Hopewell does not compare to Ewing as it only has 17,000 people, does not provide all the services that this Township provides on a regular basis and has a committee form of government.

Mr. Byron remarked that he is paying \$6,000 a year for a one bathroom 4 bedroom cape. Mr. Byron said that he should not be paying that much in taxes and now Council is asking for more money. People are tired of their taxes being raised because somebody thinks we need this service or that service. Mr. Byron said that he would gladly pay a mayor \$50,000 if that person, along with Council, will slash the budget. Mr. Byron added that he knows that his taxes are going to be raised with the reevaluation and then said that he tried selling his home, no one wants it or if they do, they offer a penny on the dollar.

Lynn Robbins (619 Concord Circle) said that her impression from reading the Ewing Observer was that the salary increases were something that were being considered; not that it would be happening so quickly. Ms. Robbins suggested that Council postpone making a decision or put it to a referendum. Ms. Robbins said that it is Council's opinion that a higher salary would attract more qualified people; it could be that someone would be in it just for the money. Ms. Robbins then said that regarding the comparison to Lawrence, she did not know all the facts, but does know for a fact that Lawrence has had budget issues the past few years.

Joseph Mirabella (52 Windybush Way) said that he supports the salary increases as mostly we are just adjusting for inflation. Mr. Mirabella said that he looked at the numbers and it comes out to about a penny a day per resident; it will not break the bank. The raise is reasonable and it is also a matter of respect to the people that we elected. Giving them salary increases that are similar to neighboring communities is a fair and reasonable thing to do.

Janet Coleman (199 West Upper Ferry Road) suggested that we should have two garbage collections a week at least during the summer months as the smell is so bad. The Township should hire college kids. There are a lot of Seniors in Ewing who cannot physically bring their garbage to the dump. That is also doing someone else's job. Ms. Coleman suggested that Council take the money that will be used for the salary increase and fix the Municipal Building as it is in need of repair. Ms. Coleman said that there are people on fixed income who cannot afford the \$100 that Council mentioned – that \$100 may be their grocery money for two weeks. Ms. Coleman asked Council to bring some services back.

Mark Fetter ( 327 Concord Avenue) mentioned that he has lived in Ewing for fifty-six years and said that the audience tonight is making a lot of good points. Mr. Fetter said that Township Officials used to serve the people in a different manner. They were not making a lot of money but were dedicated to their job. Mr. Fetter added that the personality of Ewing is changing. Mr. Fetter then asked if Council will also become full-time with the salary increase.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that Council will remain part-time employees. This is being done to address that there has not been an increase for a long time and to stabilize the rate based on surrounding municipalities.

Mr. Fetter said that you are not going to promise more hours for the money that you will be getting.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that, speaking for herself, she puts in a lot of hours and will continue to do so.

Mr. Fetter said that the current Mayor has cut a number of committees.

President Keyes-Maloney encouraged people to submit their resumes if they are interested in serving on Township Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Fetter then asked if someone applies for a committee, and is not selected, can the reasons why that person was not selected be made public because it seems that no Republicans or Independents are selected to be on these Boards.

President Keyes-Maloney said these Boards are looking for people.

Sandra Favilla (41 Sunset Avenue) said that it is not out of respect that Council should get a raise; rather it is a matter of principle. In what world does someone get a double or triple pay increase; how is that justified. Ms. Favilla said that she understands the increase in the Mayor's salary with the switch from part-time to full-time, but does not understand the salary increase for Council. Ms. Favilla asked if Council will be doubling their workload.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that we will be phasing in the salary increase over a number of years and the work has exponentially increased over the years for everyone sitting up here.

Ms. Favilla then asked Council to justify the increase based on the work Council is actually doing, not based on what other towns are doing.

President Keyes-Maloney said that anyone can tail us on a weekly basis.

Ms. Favilla said that all of you up there have recently been elected and then asked if the work has exponentially increased since you first took the job.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that it has increased but could not speak to the point as to whether the workload has doubled. The salary increase is being phased in over three years.

Joe Murphy (9 Malaga Drive) said that he supports the salary raise for both Council and the Mayor. Mr. Murphy then discussed the budget deficit of some \$7.1 million, left by the previous Administration, and then said that over a period of four years the current Mayor got the Township out of that hole. Mr. Murphy then listed the issues with the Budget under the previous administration. Mr. Murphy said that if the Mayor is at Town Hall for forty hours then that is a short week and added that he knew for a fact that the Mayor put 9,000 miles on his own vehicle doing Township work. Mr. Murphy then said that based on the cost of living and social security, the \$5,000 salary in 1995 would be \$23,000 today. The \$6,000 salary would be \$27,000 and the \$11,000 salary would be \$53,000. Mr. Murphy then added that the Times got the same figures as he did.

Lynn Robbins (619 Concord Circle) said that regardless of the time Mayor Steinmann puts in, there is no guarantee that the next mayor will work full-time. If that person decides to only work part-time, taxpayers are stuck paying the \$50,000 salary. Ms. Robbins added that the budget "hole" did not start with the previous Mayor, it was recognized by the prior Administration.

Don Apai (2181 Pennington Road) said that a lot of people tonight are talking about the total taxes that they pay. Mr. Apai said that when he served on Council, he would have loved to have just the Township Budget go out as the tax bill instead of being forced by the State to include the school and county tax on that bill. Mr. Apai added that if only the Municipal Budget was on the tax bill, no one would be complaining as it is the school tax that is the majority of the tax bill. The Township has almost nothing to do with the School Budget. The County bill is also higher than the Municipal bill. Mr. Apai also mentioned that Ewing residents do not have to pay a fire tax as is the case in many municipalities.

Thomas Tighue (10 Boleyn Court) mentioned that during the last reevaluation which was started in 1991 when he was Mayor, he did not find that one-third went up, one-third went down and one-third stayed the same. Instead, he found that, in certain areas where people lived on a fixed income, residents were going to have to sell their homes because their tax bill went higher than what their mortgage had been. Mr. Tighue commented to Mr. Apai that even though there is not a fire tax, we do pay indirectly – the Township buys their equipment and pays their salary.

Lou Ischinger (2191 Pennington Road) stated that he had a number of questions. Mr. Ischinger first asked if, historically, the position of mayor, has been part-time.

President Keyes-Maloney replied – correct.

Mr. Ischinger added that our government was set-up with a full-time Administrator. Now, we have a Mayor who is here full-time and we are discussing whether or not to raise the mayor's salary to \$50,000 in anticipation that the next mayor will also be at Town Hall full-time.

President Keyes-Maloney explained that the expectation is that by raising the salary, the next mayor will be here full-time.

Mr. Ischinger commented that this decision to have a full-time mayor is being made by Council decree and not by the people.

President Keyes-Maloney responded that if the people do not like how we vote, they do not have to reelect us.

Mr. Ischinger responded that he understands that. At the last election only a couple of months ago, no one mentioned that part of the platform was to make the mayor's position full-time.

President Keyes-Maloney said that since being on Council, she has seen the benefit of having a full-time mayor, particularly concerning economic development.

Mr. Ischinger said that he knows no one who is buying this argument for a full-time mayor. Many people here tonight believe that the taxpayer should decide this issue.

President Keyes-Maloney said that if residents do not like this, there is redress – the referendum process. Ms. Keyes-Maloney stated that she believes that this is the right process to handle this, not a referendum, as it allows us to explore the issue.

Mr. Ischinger commented that he has not been convinced of the need for a full-time mayor – that is why we have an administrator. The government was set-up with a part-time mayor and a full-time business administrator. Mr. Ischinger then asked if we are going to make the business administrator part-time, if the mayor becomes full-time.

President Keyes-Maloney said that the Town has seen economic growth because we have had a full-time mayor focusing on that along with ensuring that we have valuable services for the residents.

Mr. Ischinger replied that economic growth to him means that his property values are increasing and his taxes are going down. Mr. Ischinger said that he has lived here all of his life and has not seen it yet.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that the tax bill is a composite of three different things. The ability to hold firm and not increase taxes exponentially, is a win considering the increase in the cost of services. The last several budgets have been well constructed; taxes were only raised minimally when we could have exploded it based on the two percent property tax cap.

Mr. Ischinger made the point that even though the next mayor will have a \$50,000 salary, there is nothing stating that it is a full-time position.

President Keyes-Maloney said that the law does not allow us to set the hours, or the number of vacation and sick days.

Mr. Ischinger then mentioned if there was a referendum.

President Keyes-Maloney responded that even with a referendum, we would not have the ability to do that.

Mr. Ischinger said that earlier, a resident said that a mayor cannot also serve as Director of Public Safety. Mr. Ischinger asked if that was true.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that she believed that that was incorrect, that Title 40 allows it. It is a choice that municipalities make.

Robert Byron (30 Winthrop Avenue) asked why the Mayor is not here.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that he was here earlier and said that she cannot speak to why he is not here now.

Mr. Byron commented that if he is full-time, is this not part of his job and then asked what are the other perks the Mayor receives.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that there is no healthcare component and as the Public Safety Director, there is a vehicle he can use.

Mr. Byron then asked what is the cost of that vehicle.

President Keyes-Maloney replied that she does not know the specific cost, but the vehicle has other uses within the Township and will be used by the next person in that position.

Mr. Byron then asked if it had municipal plates, because he had heard that the Mayor was driving around in a very expensive vehicle.

Mr. Byron said that Council was voted in to protect the people, so how can Council allow a mayor take a full-time salary, but not put something in place to make sure that the next mayor is here full-time.

President Keyes-Maloney said that even if there is a referendum, we cannot dictate the hours of an elected official. No municipality can.

Mr. Byron and the Council President then had a discussion on raising costs and the impact on the Budget.

Mr. Byron said that there should be some sort of documentation as to what Council is doing concerning the Budget and then he and the Council President discussed the GM site and the impact on the school system along with the retail aspect of that site. The Council President and Mr. Byron then discussed home vacancy in Ewing.

**Ron Dykas (170 W. Upper Ferry Road) commented that the numbers given by Mr. Murphy earlier in the evening are incorrect. Mr. Dykas then briefly discussed the housing issue and the effect on the schools. Mr. Dykas mentioned the closure of Incarnation School.**

**President Keyes-Maloney replied that there will be some exposure to the Ewing schools but it will not be a problem. Some students may not live in Ewing and others may choose to continue in another Catholic school.**

**Mr. Dykas then stated that the Mayor knew before the election his hours and his salary. Why did he run for reelection if the salary was not enough. Mr. Dykas said that if this salary increase had been brought up prior to the election, those standing for election this past November would not be here now. Others would have been voted in instead.**

**Ron Prykanowski (16 Thurston Avenue) said that there was a fire tax for District 2 and it was eliminated because spending got out of hand. Mr. Prykanowski said that the statute spells out the duties of the Mayor; however, there is no mention of time. The Mayor chooses his own hours. Mr. Prykanowski then said that if people are unhappy with this, the Faulkner Act allows for the Initiative and Referendum. Mr. Prykanowski said that the salary increase should not be done over three years as it would commit future Councils. Salaries are budget dependent; Council cannot know if the money will be there in future budgets.**

**President Keyes-Maloney replied that if there is an issue with future budgets we will deal with it at that time.**

**Faye Ball (47 Somerset Street) remarked that the Council President keeps making the point that Council cannot mandate how many hours a mayor works during a week. Ms. Ball said that that is also true of Council. Council may decide tomorrow not to show up except for the two meetings a month and would still get a salary raise. Ms. Ball then said that the Mayor, on the front page of the Trentonian the Monday before the last Council meeting, publically said that this Ordinance was going to pass. Ms. Ball commented that this is not how it is supposed to work. Council is supposed to be independent of and co-equal to the Mayor.**

**President Keyes-Maloney replied that the Ordinance was amended to phase-in the salary increase out of respect for the concerns of the community.**

**Mike Coryell (24 Lochatong Road) said that Council is doing a good job trying to explain everything tonight. Mr. Coryell commented that Mayor Steinmann is doing a great job. We cannot expect that someone will come in, get part-time money and do the job full-time. It is also silly to think that someone will come in, take the money and then only work part-time.**

**Louis Ischinger (8 Glen Mawr Avenue) said that he wanted to comment on what seems to be a loss of pride in the Township. Mr. Ischinger mentioned that he started the Robotics program; it took a lot of his time and effort. Mr. Ischinger said that he understands the pressure of doing volunteer work. Mr. Ischinger then said that he never once considered that he needed to be compensated for this work. Mr. Ischinger said that Council should consider their pride in their job prior to the vote. Salary increases are fair, but the way this is being done needs to be taken into consideration.**

**George Steward (30 Gilmore Road) remarked that he believes that it was wrong to bundle both salary increases from two different branches of government into one Ordinance. The Mayor has a Business Administrator, a professional Planner, a Redevelopment Agency, a Planning Board. In February, a new position was created – Director of Economic Development. The Mayor has professionals to help him – he should use these professionals. Mr. Steward asked the Public to come to the Budget hearings. Mr. Steward said that twenty years ago, the school tax was about two-thirds of the tax bill; the percentage gap between the school tax and the municipal tax is shrinking.**

**President Keyes-Maloney replied that the school tax is still about two-thirds of the municipal tax bill. It being two-thirds should not matter as schools are a fundamental function of government – to educate our youth.**

**Mr. Steward replied that he will bring Council the information about the percentage gap shrinking.**

There were no additional questions or comments from members of the Public. Mr. Baxter made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Schroth. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Baxter then moved the Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Schroth.

President Keyes-Maloney first stated the history of this conversation with the Public concerning the salary issue, and then reiterated her position. Ms. Keyes-Maloney added that she would love to see this kind of passion on other issues that come before Council. Ms. Keyes-Maloney stated that she will vote in support of this Ordinance.

Councilman Baxter thanked the Public for coming to these meetings and said that we can disagree respectfully. Mr. Baxter then commented that he takes offense to those who commented that Council is taking bribes or that Council does not have pride in Ewing or threatened that Council will be sorry. Mr. Baxter said that the reevaluation is something that we have to deal with but no one is offering solutions. Mr. Baxter mentioned that he would like to know what the former Mayor did during the last reevaluation so as to help us with this one. Councilman Baxter said that we would all like to have lower taxes, but costs are going up. Council is holding the line and will watch every penny. Mr. Baxter stated that he will go through the budget line by line. Mr. Baxter then implored the Public to come out and speak about other items that will be before Council, particularly the Budget, and not just come out when an issue has been sensationalized in a newspaper. Mr. Baxter stated that he will support this Ordinance.

Vice President Schroth thanked everyone for being here. It is the kind of debate that we should have more often and then encouraged everyone to continue to come out and speak at Council meetings. Mr. Schroth remarked that Mr. Tighue made our point when he said that twenty-six years ago, he was paid \$7,800 as a Councilman and today a Councilman is paid \$6,200. With regards to Council, by any calculation, the salary increase is a reasonable cost-of-living adjustment. We all have the desire to improve the Township. Mr. Schroth said that the Township has reaped great benefits for having a Mayor present at Town Hall and, hopefully, the salary increase for the mayor will be an incentive for future mayors to be present in Town Hall.

Councilwoman Steward said that the Public's input matters and said that she appreciates them coming out. Ms. Steward said that she believes deeply in the process that we are going through here. Ms. Steward said that we have muddled the issue of personal benefit and professional compensation for those who are elected. Everyone on Council is concerned with the compensation for the role, not compensation for their personal benefit. Ms. Steward added that she is uncomfortable voting for her own salary increase without an intervening election taking place and stated that she will vote no.

President Keyes-Maloney asked for a roll call.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Mr. Schroth	YES	
Mr. Baxter	YES	
Ms. Steward		NO
President Keyes-Maloney	YES	

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. The Clerk read (Resolution #15R-72) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CY2014 RESERVE BUDGET TRANSFERS

President Keyes-Maloney said that this allows us to make additional transfers as authorized under the current budget for purposes of balancing the books in light of some items that need to be funded verses other items that do not. It is the last opportunity.

The CFO added that it is for the reserve budget.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. Ms. Steward then moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Baxter. President Keyes-Maloney asked for a roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
President Keyes-Maloney	YES

2. The Clerk read (Resolution #15R-73) A RESOLUTION OF EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION

President Keyes-Maloney explained that this allows us to do an emergency appropriation to run us through the next month. It allows us to continue to pay the bills.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. Mr. Schroth then moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Baxter. President Keyes-Maloney called for a roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Keyes-Maloney	YES

3. The Clerk read (Resolution #15R-74) A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BROWN & BROWN METRO, INC. TO ADMINSTRATE RETIREE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

President Keyes-Maloney explained that this allows Brown & Brown to continue to serve in an integral role for our retirees. Recently, we have moved our retirees into the State Health Benefits Program. Brown & Brown helps us facilitate the process so the Township will not be in violation of HIPAA and the retirees are made whole with this change.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. Mr. Baxter then moved the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Steward. President Keyes-Maloney asked for a roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Steward	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
President Keyes-Maloney	YES

4. The Clerk read (Resolution #15R-75) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT

President Keyes-Maloney explained that this allows us to enter into a cooperative pricing agreement with the Township of Cranford.

Councilman Baxter asked the CFO if she had any information concerning the Mercer and Somerset cooperatives.

The CFO replied that she believes that there is a fee to join the Somerset cooperative.

The Administrator responded that Mercer is not exactly the same thing.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. There were no questions or comments from the Public. Mr. Schroth then moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Baxter. President Keyes-Maloney asked for a roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
President Keyes-Maloney	YES

5. The Clerk read (Resolution #15R-76) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING TO REDUCE THE PERFORMANCE BOND ESTIMATE OF 1101 PARKWAY AVENUE, LLC SITE PLAN (BLOCK 357, LOT 19) – EWING ENGINEER REMINGTON, VERNICK & ARANGO ENGINEERS RV&A #1102 I 055

President Keyes-Maloney explained that this is a regular occurrence when the majority of a project has been completed.

Councilman Baxter added that this is a reduction of \$4,710.55.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. There were no questions or comments from the Public. Mr. Baxter then moved the Resolution, seconded by Ms. Steward. President Keyes-Maloney asked for a roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Steward	YES
Mr. Baxter	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
President Keyes-Maloney	YES

6. The Clerk read (Resolution #15R-77) A RESOLUTION APPROVING KEEGAN J. SLATE AS A SENIOR FIREFIGHTER MEMBER OF THE PROSPECT HEIGHTS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

President Keyes-Maloney said that this is a wonderful thing that Council is doing.

There were no questions or comments from Council or the Public. Ms. Steward then moved the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Baxter. President Keyes-Maloney asked for a roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Baxter	YES
Ms. Steward	YES
Mr. Schroth	YES
President Keyes-Maloney	YES

**CLOSED SESSION**

(None for this Meeting)

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business President Keyes-Maloney called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Baxter so moved, seconded by Ms. Steward. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

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David P. Schroth, President

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Kim Macellaro, Municipal Clerk