

A Special Meeting of the North Brunswick Township Council was held on Thursday, June 5, 2014, at 6:35 P.M. at 740 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Womack.

Roll call:

Present: Ms. Nicola, Messrs. Andrews, Corbin, Davis and Socio
Absent: Ms. Narra and Mr. Andrews

Also present: Business Administrator, Robert Lombard, Township Planner, Tom Vigna, Members of the Housing Corporation, Representatives from the PRC Group, Detective William Lovas, Detective Robert Powell, Public Information Officer, Craig Yetsko, Police Chief Joe Battaglia and Deputy Clerk, Milvi Weiner.

Ms. Weiner announced that the notice requirements of the law have been satisfied. Notices were faxed on Monday, June 2, 2014 to the following:

a) The Home News & Tribune b) Star Ledger c) North Brunswick Sentinel

Notice receipts are on file in the Township Clerk's office. Also, notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Complex and filed in the Clerk's office on June 2, 2014.

Mayor Womack began the meeting with the question "Why are we here?" Crime allegations and what we can say about them.

Detective Powell: it is an on-going investigation – 3 arrests were made; but no one was found guilty. Heroin was being sold in the parking lot and in an apartment upstairs on the third floor. Search of the apartment found heroin and heroin was found on the individuals. The Police Department only became aware of this situation less than a month ago.

Daughter of a resident: concerned with the way background checks are being done. There are good people that live in this building. There is security Monday through Friday during the day. Security needed at night and on weekends. Security guard needed to be looking at a camera and there should be 24-7 security in the building. There are three people in prison right now – has the tenant been evicted? They have not been bailed out yet. People follow in with people with pass codes.

Reverend McGrath: deeply concerned – what can be done? – still trying to come up with a plan that something like this should not happen again. Resident has been arrested but not proven guilty – not permitted to take action presuming that person is guilty. Can you refuse to not renew lease? Conditions put on bail. Councilman Corbin to make calls tomorrow. Pass code for tenant involved has been changed. Tenant may not want to come back – short termination of lease. Cameras magnify images down the hallways.

Mayor Womack reported that from research that was done last Friday that there is a trend toward more criminal activities. This something to be aware of in all meetings. If you suspect something go across the street and see Chief Battaglia. Selling heroin is a bad crime. Guarding against non-violent crime.

Councilwoman Narra arrive to the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Reverend McGrath: security at night and weekends – physical presence. How is the drugs getting in – UPS or Fed Ex? Background check – no criminal background check done. What offenses would not allow you to live here?

Mayor Womack leaves room at 7:18 pm and returns at 7:22 pm.

Councilman Corbin explained to the residents what expungement and "Pre-Trial Intervention" mean.

Reverend McGrath: Better grasp of who is allowed to come into the building.

Mayor Womack announced that the Park Rangers will work the front desk until this issue can be resolved.

Resident: give everyone an individual swipe card with fines.

Mayor Womack: "See something, say something" – cannot be evicted for being a troublemaker only if someone is not paying rent.

Residents in fear of being followed to their doors and pushed into their apartments and raped. Another resident comes home late and there people sleeping outside the building or teens loitering around the building and they are scared to come into the building.

Councilwoman Narra: if you do not want to be an alarmist call a council person, leave a voice mail or e-mail them.

Reverend McGrath: will look at state laws – background check on tenants. Tenant cannot be evicted but her pass code has been changed.

Resident: is there a limit on how long someone can visit? Suggested having meetings quarterly and asked if there are cameras in stairwells? And if a phone can be put in the lobby for emergencies?

Reverend McGrath called for a motion to adjourn the Housing Corporation Meeting.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. So moved by Ms. Nicola, second by Ms. Narra.

Roll call:

Ayes: Ms. Narra, Ms. Nicola, Messrs. Andrews, Corbin, Davis and Socio

Nays: none

Absent: Mr. Andrews

Mayor Womack called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. So moved by Ms. Nicola, second by Ms. Narra.

Roll call:

Ayes: Ms. Narra, Ms. Nicola, Messrs. Andrews, Corbin, Davis and Socio

Nays: none

Absent: Mr. Andrews

Adjourn at 7:45 PM

**Milvi Weiner
Deputy Clerk**

