

WILLINGBORO TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 2015

2:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

FLAG SALUTE

STATEMENT

ROLL CALL

RES. 2015—130

EXECUTIVE SESSION (AS PER N.J.S.A. 10:4-12B (8))

PUBLIC COMMENT

COUNCIL COUMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

**Willingboro Township Council Special Meeting of October 12, 2015, held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Complex One Rev. Dr. M. L. King, Jr. Willingboro, New Jersey.**

The meeting was called to order at 7PM.

Flag Salute

The Required statement was read.

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, this is to announce that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the following manner.

On January 1, 2015, advanced written notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Complex.

On January 1, 2015, advance written notice of this meeting was mailed to the Burlington County Times, Willingboro, the Trenton Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Courier Post.

On January 1, 2015, advance written notice of this meeting was filed with the Township Clerk. The Clerk is directed to enter into the minutes of this meeting this public announcement.

Sarah Wooding: If you were to look on the back of your agenda you will see the advertisement that was done for today's meeting.

Roll Call: Councilman Holley Absent (arrived at 7:11PM)

(For the record, Councilman Holley notified Council to inform them that he would be late to today's meeting)

Councilwoman Jennings	Present
Councilman Walker	Present
Deputy Mayor Anderson	Present
Mayor Campbell	Present

Also: Joanne Diggs, Township Manager; Cristal Bowie, Township Solicitor;

**Resolution 2015-130 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Deputy Mayor Anderson  
Seconded by Councilwoman Jennings

Sarah Wooding: Okay, this is for executive session as per N.J.S.A statute (inaudible). If you will look at your agenda at the statute, number 9 on your resolution states what that statute is.

On Motion by Deputy Mayor Anderson

Seconded by Councilwoman Jennings

Roll Call:	Councilman Holley	Yes
	Councilwoman Jennings	Yes
	Councilman Walker	Yes
	Deputy Mayor Anderson	Yes
	Mayor Campbell	Yes

Motion carried. Resolution 130 approved.

Mayor Campbell: This executive session of the Council is called for the purpose of discussing a method or means of hiring a new Township Manager. We will go through the procedure and the material that we have which directs us as to how and what we will do in order to hire a Township Manager. We are fortunate at this time to have people on board in our organization that is capable of stepping up to Township Manager. That is not what we are going to do. If we do not find what we are looking for we will use those people. If you will notice the last time we hired a manager, which was Joanne, we went out for a search for a manager. That particular person cost the taxpayers \$15,000.00 and we hired a person from inside. So we want to this time go out in the way that we did the last time and have that person do a nationwide search. That is our procedure, that is what was used the last time, was a nationwide search. Some of the people that were found on the nationwide search did not measure up to what the Council expected. So, therefore, we dismissed the person and paid them and we went for another search inside the Township; especially within our working force in the township, and there is where we found our manager. Now, this time we are hoping that a manager will be found on the outside and that we will not be wasting our money. We do not know whether it will or not. I believe that Council has requested that we do that. Am I right Council?

Council: Yes.

Mayor Campbell: Now, to discuss what we are going to do, where are we going to start, and that is all we are going to cover today. If you came expecting something else you will not get it. When we are finished with the meeting in regards to hiring a Township Manager, the meeting will be closed. Who wants to tell us what you have planned for the day? Do you have anything Councilman Walker?

Councilwoman Jennings: No, I thought we had one other item. I am not sure. I thought we had the energy audit also.

Mayor Campbell: No. We announced one item in the newspaper and that is it.

Councilwoman Jennings: Okay. Then I do not have anything else.

Mayor Campbell: Sir? (Deputy Mayor)

Deputy Mayor Anderson: No. Just to discuss this matter at hand.

Mayor Campbell: Okay. Maybe I did not ask the question right. The floor is open to discuss the hiring of a manager. Does everyone get that by that? I am not asking for the public, I am asking for the Council. We do not have to go into executive session to tell the people what we are going to do. We do not need a public session for that.

Councilman Walker: Do we not have to go through, because it is a public meeting, do we not have to go through public comment, you still have to do those things?

Mayor Campbell: That is not pertinent to have a meeting to elect a manager. It is not pertinent.

Councilman Walker: We are not...

Mayor Campbell: If we ask the public to make comments, we can do that right now. The public have anything they want to say?

Councilman Walker: Wait, excuse me one second. As a form of protocol...

Public:

Shelly Miller: Yes I have one. What are your qualifications, what qualification do you demand of a manager. I want to know the educational background that the manager will have and how much experience does he have in management. So I would like to have one of you to respond as to what your qualifications are.

Mayor Campbell: That will be discussed in the executive session which I am being urged to go to executive session now.

Mayor Campbell: When we get through with executive session we can tell you, if we have something that is different from what we have had in the past we will be able to tell you what that it.

Councilman Walker: Mr. Campbell, what I was saying is, I believe that being that this is an official meeting, there are certain things we have to do because it is an official meeting.

Mayor Campbell: Okay, tell me what they are.

Councilman Walker: One of those, we have to have public comment.

Mayor Campbell: We are going to have a public comment.

Councilman Walker: You just...

Councilwoman Jennings: Let us continue Mayor with the meeting.

Councilman Walker: No. You are not just going to dismiss me. What I am saying is we are moving it along but what he was saying is something else.

Mayor Campbell: I did not ask for a vote. I asked for some comments. Even after we finish our meeting today we will still ask the public what they think about it. If public wants to know what we are hiring and do we know how to hire them in the first place. I assume that is why you are here. If the Council is ready for executive session, let us do that. I know now what the public wants they just told us. So let us go into executive session.

Councilman Walker: Mr. Campbell, maybe if you explain it we might get it.

Mayor Campbell: I get it.

Councilman Walker: You did not have public comment.

Mayor Campbell: You will have public comments Mr. Councilperson, we will have comments.

Cristal Bowie: My understanding is that public comment will be after the executive session.

Councilman Walker: Oh. Okay.

Mayor Campbell: Do not go away. We will tell you what we decided to do as long as we can tell you. There are some things we will not discuss until the contract has been completed.

Executive session began at 2:15PM

Motion to return to public session was done by Deputy Mayor Anderson and seconded by Councilwoman Jennings. Executive Session ended at 3:18PM

Cristal Bowie: Council asked me to report out to you in terms of the executive session, and what Council discussed is that we want to have meetings with the potential individuals to conduct the executive search. We want that meeting to be public, so it will be advertised. Our plan is to have individuals from 5 firms to come and basically provide a proposal, answer any questions that residents and Council may have in terms of what service they would provide and how the process will work. We do not have a job description per se. In terms of the duties and responsibilities, powers, etc. of the Township Manager, all of that can be found in two places. One is in the Township ordinances which can be located at the Township's website. You just go to e-code and what you would be looking for, I can actually give you a website, that would be at the Township's website and Sarah will give you the website because I do not know what it specifically says I just google it and find it. But what you are looking for is in Chapter 3 Administration of Government. Under the Administration of Government, there is a section that has to do with the general duties of and powers of the Manager. So when you look at that, that is what we will probably, be developing the job description from. Because this is what we want them to be able to do. There is no particular requirement for a specific certification. Say for example with the Finance office, they have to have a certain kind of training, they have to have a certain kind of certification in order to fulfill that job. The same thing will go for a Tax Collector. So those people have specific criteria that they would have to meet. It is a little more open for the Township Manager, but I think that by looking at the general duties and powers because there are also responsibilities in terms of handling the H.R. for the Township, also for handling the budget. So obviously you want people to have that kind of background. They also are going to be the individual that all of the department heads report to. So you are going to really want somebody who is well vetted. That is the point of reaching out to these executive search firms to have them come in. To have them tell us what it is, what kind of service are they going to provide to the Township and what is it that we are looking for. So what our discussions were, was some of these firms, the information that we were able to collect about the firms, and what we are going to do is we are going to schedule a meeting, we are going to have them come and what we would also like the public to do is to provide any questions that they want us to ask these firms, to provide these questions to the clerk at least within a week of the meeting. We will make sure that the firms address those questions and we get your questions answered. I think that is everything we discussed. Thank you.

Mayor Campbell: At this time we are going to ask for a public comment. Will there be any public comments or questions?

Public Comment:

Jacqueline Mack:---70 Maplewood Lane.

I wanted to say before was this meeting seemed to be hastily planned and we were here Tuesday night and we were wondering why you did not let all of us know that there was going to be a meeting on Monday, a holiday, at that time. Because I think that you would have had more people out. But I am more happy that people found it and came out. Thank you. The other thing that I would ask is that in having another meeting can you please look at the schedule make sure that it is not on a night when there is either a school board meeting or a neighborhood watch or something that will not prevent the community from coming. We seem to run into that even with the freeholders and their bridge meetings. There is always something else and they just do not care I guess, I do not know. But there is one Wednesday night, so we will (inaudible) be there again. But I would ask that those two things be taken into consideration.

Pat Lindsey Harvey:

I think my question is: I know you are going to go out to search, but are you going to develop a criteria of what you are looking for or what you want them to look for? Like how many years of experience they have had as a Township Manager, those types of things. Are you going to develop the criteria to give to these people when they search for us?

Harry Walker: Eastgate Lane.

My question is: Before we start the search, do we have a system of checks and balances? You know, I understand that Council (inaudible) where we have one person that is the chair of the Democratic Committee, that is also the Deputy Mayor and probably Mayor, that is also going to be the chair or liaison for the Economic Development Committee (inaudible) happened back in 2012. I went back and looked at all the minutes and supposedly the where I was supposed to get an answer to all my questions

on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, that is the only one not on the website. I mean, I do not think it is a conspiracy theory with that. I just wanted to know where the answers to those questions were. Because this forum is about leaving time for you answer questions and you do not. Now when I came before, I asked the council if they would support my vision for a business incubator. No one said anything. Then afterwards it was admitted on Council that made the joke oh he just wants a building for free. He has been right next door to me all year, watching me go in my two person office right up until he gets in there. (inaudible) So the whole plan was to try to get to use one of these buildings, getting Council to support it, and I need (inaudible) funds. They you can take care of (inaudible) with money back into the school system. See that is a vision. So when I asked for a vision, I am not asking for a twenty page document or a plan, I am asking for a vision. So when that joke was made and said that I just want a building for free, that is cool. But then we go and start telling other people not even trying to devalue the vision I am trying to give you, when I did not ask for any money. So if you are saying I just want to use the Council to build my business, then that cellphone that is on somebody's website, the Deputy Mayor, is he not in fact doing the same thing (inaudible) and that is our taxpayer dollars. So is that something that is acceptable? That is my question. Is it okay for the Deputy Mayor to be using his cellphone to build his business and is there no accountability for that one. The second question is: Are we going to develop a system of checks and balances so we do not have one person with 3 power positions and then you have the governing body, the Council, where they have 3 members sitting at MUA, like come on, when are you going to clean this stuff up? That is my question, and I will just wait for a response.



Cristal Bowie: Okay, the Mayor has asked that I respond to some of your questions sir. One of the questions that I can respond to is in terms of the election process for the MUA. The Council by statute can sit as members of the MUA. That much I can tell you. I cannot give you the specific statute off hand, but I know that it is in New Jersey Statutes Annotated 40:14 – probably “b”. I believe that is the section. In terms of this particular process, checks and balances, the reason that the Council decided to have public meeting with this search for a firm is so that the public can give their input so that they can hear what the proposals are and so that the process can be open and transparent. So that is how this particular process is going to work. In terms of any issues with Council people using official equipment and that kind of thing, well, Council just like any other local government official is governed by a code of ethics and the code of ethics can be found both in the Township Ordinances as well as in the statute. The statute basically talks about what kinds of things Council members or any other local government official can or cannot do. If they are doing those things or if they are doing things that they are not supposed to be then that is your obligation as the public to bring that to the attention of Council and to follow through with the recourse that you may have. I think that is all the information. The other last piece, I believe there was a question about using a facility that the Township actually does not own and does not have any ability to rent or authorize the use for; and that was for school buildings and the Township is a separate entity from the school board and cannot authorize the use of any of their buildings in any way. Thank you.

Harry Walker Jr.: I just want thank you, but I what you are stuck on...I never asked the Council to make a decision about the school. I was asking Council to support a program for our youth. That was it, just support the program for our youth. That was it, just to clarify that. The last thing, I would like to give Ms. Sarah Holley a public apology because I was upset with our Deputy Mayor. You had nothing to do with it. I was not even in the room. That was wrong for me to go over to something socially like that. So I want to give you a public apology and that it. Thank you all.

Thomas Clark:--Garfield East. I listened to the response for Mr. Walker's question there and some of the things that you responded to are really...and I am not attacking anyone. As far as the WMUA it is well known that the Township Council appoints commissions over there. If we are talking ethics, my question is why do we have three Township Council people sitting on that board? That is telling me that there are no other qualified people in the area for that. To be blunt and outspoken it seems to be that some of the Council

is just living on the public's dime. Is it legal, yes it is very legal. That is where ethics comes in. I have heard some Council members sit up here and make comments that really to some degree determine how many people come out to our Township meetings and who those people are. It really is a negative type of thing. To go back to why was meeting was not announced last Tuesday; well I am sure there is going to be reason for that. There is going to be a valid reason, a solid reason, I doubt it, I hope I am wrong. But there have been negative remarks made to the general public and things that are going on that we really never get a response to. I know I am reading over the same thing, but some of the things we can look at and we really know the answers to. But then we want to know why. Then we always go back to: well this is in the statute. Some of the things are not in the statute. You find one and then that tells me that there are others. The other comment Mr. Walker made on Tuesday was regarding the building. I had spoken to a couple of the school board members and my question was this: Why can the school board and the Township not work together not to the ownership or not getting involved with the operation procedure of one or the other, but for the good of the Township of Willingboro, there could be some coordination. (Inaudible) instead of saying this is mine and you cannot touch it. Because like I say, it comes down to Willingboro. That is all I have, thank you.

Sarah Holley:

I would like to accept the apology of Mr. Walker, because Tuesday night at the Council meeting I simply said when you (Mr. Walker) were out of the room that Township Council had nothing to do with school buildings. That is all that I said. I have not said anything else about you and there were some people from your group in the back and simply said Mr. Walker is not here but hopefully you guys can give him that information. So anything else you might have heard, maybe someone said personal or for political gain, I do not know why I got caught up in that. But I said nothing other than the schools belong to the school board. Now, as it relates to school board and Township Council

working together, I agree. Because we are in the process, the school board, we are in the process of having the buildings assessed and those of you that come to school board meetings you know that. Once the buildings are assessed, then whatever or however the buildings are used so that the school district can maximize getting some money for the education for the students as one sitting board member with one vote, I am all for that. I am all for educating kids and those of you who come to board meetings and you know me personally, I am all about first of all education and second of all the betterment of this town.

Mayor: Thank you Ms. Holley. Are there any other questions? We have to vacate the building by 4:00 P.M. It is going to get locked up and we will not be able to use it after 4:00 P.M., anybody that has any other questions? Does the Council have any other questions please? Comments?

**Council Comment:**

Councilman Walker: I just want to thank our attorney. She provided us with some very valuable information. She said last Tuesday that she would have it for us today. She had everything that she said that she would have and I think that this will enable us to make a well informed decision. Not speaking for the Council, but being back there and having discussions, we are unanimous in making sure that the community has input in this position. I think that you guys will be pleased with the process from step A to step Z. I would say it is just an unfortunate miscommunication about today's meeting. But there was nothing done, or there was not ill intention of keeping it from you guys that we were having the meeting. Getting out of here Tuesday night, I honestly thought there was a mention Tuesday night. So that is something that I know we have to do better on and we will. I keep saying collectively, we have to do better. There is not one person here greater than the next or worse than the next. The whole thing surrounding MUA and different committees, Mr. Clark, I agree with you. We have some talented people. Ms. Holley screams it at the rooftop whenever she can. I agree with the both of you that we have some talented people in this community and going into 2016, I think that we should really look to that and address that and how we can move forward to that. I will say here publicly right now and I am sure I will be held to it. During 2016 I will be stepping down from the MUA so it will enable us to have people that can be involved that can give their time to that because it is a pull, you know, being on this body and that body and all of that. We just have to do things better. I will speak for myself, Mr. Walker, no relation, just a coincidence, that this is my personal cellphone, this is my personal cellphone. All council Township issued electronics I

only use for Township business. I am well aware of the ethics code and the purpose for those. We can take a page from Hilary Clinton's notebook of how information going to personal phones and electronics that way and myself I think that we owe it to ourselves that if , because I am not aware of it, but if anything like that is happening, I think our attorney should look at that. She made a statement, we all understand the code of ethics, that if that is the case then maybe it is something that she needs to take a look at. So, that is it for me.

Councilwoman Jennings: I just want to thank everyone for coming out. It was unintentional on our part. We were not trying to hide anything as a matter of fact we tried to think of the first date that we could and it happened to be today because Councilman was out of school today. His school was closed. Our schools were in so it was just convenient and very quick. With the search, when we had the meeting for the search team we want to do it as quickly as possible because we are already in October. We have been discussing it for a while and we are already in October. So our attorney will be contacting the firms and it will really be when they can come in. We will have to find a convenient date that they can all come for one sitting and we did want to involve our public and our community. So that is why we are doing it that way. To answer you, Ms. Harvey, we will have, of course there are things that we have to have by statute but we also as you I am sure expect certain things from our new manager coming in. So yes we will be discussing this.

Councilman Holley: I too would like to thank everybody for coming out. In response to your Ms. Harvey, you asked will we be coming up with questions or guidelines to follow and I think back there if I am not mistaken we all kind of agreed that it was not just an us, it was a we thing. That is why we agreed to have the firms come before us as Council as well as you as the residents. So any questions that you guys have and our attorney will be providing more information on this. We will be fielding questions from residents, so if there are any questions that you want to make sure get addressed, as more information becomes available on that then that will be open for you guys. In regards to Mr. Clark, I completely understand your stance with the governing bodies. I too served on the MUA for a time. When I took this office I stepped down effectively the date that I took this office. Really excited about moving forward on our search for a new Township Manager. Even though we love Ms. Diggs of course, but it is a great learning experience. I think my experience working in the education field and sitting in on interviews and going through hiring processes definitely is one of my strong suits. So that is why we are pushing for involving all of the stakeholders of the community during this process and that is why we agreed to have it opened up to you guys as well. So I look forward to seeing everybody out in regards to today's meeting I will take a little bit of the blame for that. It was not intentional. I did ask them to have the special meeting today because I knew I would be off from school and knew that we needed to discuss some business in regards to moving forward with the search. I guess it was kind of a lapse not to say it because I knew we were not voting on anything. We just wanted to come together in executive session since this is all personnel

matters to just discuss what we were going to do moving forward. As you know, our attorney kind of gave you guys some tidbits about what we did discuss in our process that we have to move forward with. So I kind of shoulder a little bit of the blame for that. We will be having some more special meetings I am assuming throughout this process since it is tedious and will require a lot of time. As always the meetings are advertised so please stay on the lookout and I will make sure and I speak for myself that I do a better job at making sure that you guys are notified. But that was just a complete lapse in judgement after we came out of executive session last week. Thank you.

Deputy Mayor Anderson: I would like to begin by addressing Ms. Harvey's question in regards to the search criteria. Once we bring in the entities that are interested and we narrow it down to the final company that we are going to final company that we are going to use. They will be putting the criteria in place. They will be guiding us, letting us know what we should be looking at. This is what they do. Based on what we have in this website you have been given, it just identifies the responsibilities and the duty. But that will be part of their services, coming in, helping us identify and putting the criteria in place that we are looking for.

In regards to Mr. Walker, since joining Council in 2010, I was issued a Township cellphone. Just as all Township members are. When my business started, I did not use my cellphone to start my business. If anyone goes to my website, my office number is (856) 581-4196, my fax number is (856) 581-4198 and in addition, I have listed my cellphone. In the event that I am not in the office, someone can reach me especially the clients that I am dealing with. So my cellphone is not used to build a business, I have an office and I have a landline. My cellphone is if someone needs to get in touch with me and I am not in the office, they can reach out to me. So that is the answer in regards to that. Thank you.

Harry Walker Jr.: So you are using our tax paid cellphone to conduct your business. Is that correct or incorrect? Not to build it, but you are using it with your business? No answer? Okay Deputy Mayor. Okay.

Mayor Campbell: Council, good evening. It is good to have you here. Yes Mr. Clark, what is it?

Thomas Clark: This goes back to what I was saying earlier, perception. Perception carries a lot of weight and it poorly, and again I am not accusing anyone of anything, but when you sit there and you say that you are doing something you are not doing, and the general public suspects that you are, why not just have a clear thing to show that I am not doing

something. Just make it clear. And the other thing about you guys, we are not you guys, we are the residents of Willingboro.

Mayor Campbell: Thank you Mr. Clark. I would like to address it directly to you since you are the one who is making the comments. I do not use any township equipment. None. N-O-N-E. I use my cellphone. I am telling you I do not use township equipment. I use my own cellphone; I pay the bill the Township does not. The Township does not put gas in my car; I use it all over the place. I try my best to not use...I did the same thing in the military. They provided equipment and there was some equipment there that I did not use. Not because I am just being important person, I did not use it because I did not need it. I do not need to have Township equipment, so I do not use it. Now, I am happy to see that everybody came out and you got a chance to ask the questions that you wanted to ask and I would like for you to keep on doing that because there are a lot of people in the town that have a different perception of what government is. They continue to carry that and carry around with it and they notify everybody else and they get the same perception. It is not good. You do not get the answer to a question, so you develop an answer. I am not talking about you; I am talking about the people in the town. You do not get an answer to a question, do you develop your own answer and then you carry that perception around, you have everybody believe it. You have just got to read what comes out in the Burlington County Times because that is the paper we advertise it in. You will find almost everything that you are asking questions about. If we had it in a meeting, you should be able to find the answer for the meeting and you should not have to look for it. We do our best to do our best for you. The Council, maybe you do not think so but we do. We do try to follow the Township ordinances and the laws the best that I can do that. I do believe that everybody else does. I am sorry to see that we have people in the Council that has to bring a recording device in to hear what we are saying. But you have got to read the paper and you will find out when a Council meeting or a meeting is taking place. You should not have to question the Council whether you did or did not have a meeting, just please read the news media you pay for your money pays for the Council to advertise in the newspaper which is the BCT and is there another on madam clerk?

Sarah Wooding: Yes, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Trenton Times and the Burlington County Times are where you will see. We use our local newspaper for our ads.

Mayor Campbell: And that is where you will find notification for meetings in those papers. We do not advertise in the Camden Courier Post. Unfortunately, but we do not. We are completed with our meeting today. It is nice to have had you out here and no matter what questions you have got to ask, that is what we want you to do. If you do not get an answer, keep asking until we can give you one.

Kay McIntosh: Is there any other way to get the information or a different way, because I mean, a lot of people do not subscribe to BCT anymore. It is on a decline in subscription, so is there any way that the people of Willingboro. I mean even at the very least the Willingboro website. That is what people (inaudible).

Mayor Campbell: Well it is posted on the Willingboro Township website. Yes. You do that and you will be able to find what we are saying.

Sarah Holley: Are we supposed to give our name and our address? I have noticed the last few meetings that names and addresses were not given

Sarah Wooding: The names were there but the addresses were not.


Sarah Holley: Okay, so we are expected to give the addresses also?

Sarah Wooding: Yes ma'am.


Mayor Campbell: Yes. We expect it. But we do not always get what we expect. Thank you so much for coming out. Is there anything else from the Council? Can I ask for a motion for adjournment?

On motion by Deputy Mayor Anderson  
Seconded by Councilman Holley  
All in favor and none opposed.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:48PM

  
Eddie Campbell, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

  
Sarah Wooding, RMC  
Township Clerk