

In The Matter Of:

In RE: Nutley Board of Commissioners

Transcript of Proceedings

August 20, 2019

Conference Session



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Min-U-Script®

Conference Session

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TOWNSHIP OF NUTLEY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ONE KENNEDY DRIVE
3RD FLOOR COMMISSION CHAMBERS
NUTLEY, NEW JERSEY 07110

*** CONFERENCE SESSION ***

DATE: August 20, 2019

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

- JOSEPH P. SCARPELLI, MAYOR
- STEVEN L. ROGERS, COMMISSIONER
- THOMAS J. EVANS, COMMISSIONER
- ALPHONSE PETRACCO, COMMISSIONER

Also Present:

- ALAN GENITEMPO, TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

1 (Recording begins)

2 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Madam Clerk?

3 THE CLERK: Yes, Mayor?

4 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Let's go.

5 THE CLERK: Ready? Board of Commissioners
6 Public Meeting, Tuesday, August 20, 2019. The time is
7 7:01. Pursuant to the requirement of the Open Public
8 Meeting Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, notice of
9 this meeting was published in the November 29th, 2018
10 issues of the Nutley Sun, the Herald-News, and
11 the Star Ledger. A copy of this notice has been posted
12 on the Nutley Town Hall bulletin board, and a copy is
13 on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

14 Commissioner Rogers?

15 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Tucci's absent,
17 excused.

18 Commissioner Evans?

19 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Here.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner Petracco?

21 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Mayor Scarpelli?

23 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Here.

24 THE CLERK: All present, Mayor, except for
25 Commissioner Tucci. He is absent, excused.

1 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Commissioner, what have you
2 got tonight?

3 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: I think I have a
4 report.

5 MAYOR SCARPELLI: All right, very good.

6 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: And I think that's
7 all I have.

8 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Commissioner Evans?

9 COMMISSIONER EVANS: One resolution for an
10 overpayment of tax charges, \$6,680.30. I have an
11 executive, need for executive.

12 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Commissioner Rogers?

13 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: No, nothing, no.

14 MAYOR SCARPELLI: And I -- Commissioner Tucci
15 and myself, we have nothing on the agenda.

16 Madam Clerk?

17 THE CLERK: Mayor, we have minutes for
18 approval for June and July, and that's it.

19 COMMISSIONER EVANS: My executive is for
20 contract negotiations.

21 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Do you have anything?

22 MR. GENITEMPO: I have nothing, Mr. Mayor.

23 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Well, I offer a motion to
24 go into executive for contract negotiations.

25 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Second.

1 THE CLERK: Whereas, Section 8 of the Open
2 Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975
3 permits the exclusion of the public from meeting in
4 certain circumstances; and

5 Whereas, the public body is of the opinion
6 that such circumstances exist;

7 Now whereas the Board of Commissioners of the
8 Township of Nutley in the County of Essex in the State
9 of New Jersey decides to proceed to closed executive
10 session; and

11 Now therefore be it resolved by the
12 Board of Commissioners of the Township of Nutley to
13 move into closed executive session to discuss contract
14 negotiations;

15 Be it further resolved that the time when
16 such discussions may be disclosed to the public shall
17 be when that such disclosures may be made without
18 adversely affecting the Township of Nutley, pending
19 and/or anticipated legal, personnel, contractual
20 matters, and other matters within the exception
21 provided for by statute.

22 Commissioner Rogers?

23 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Here. Aye.

24 THE CLERK: Commissioner Evans?

25 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

Conference Session

1 THE CLERK: Commissioner Petracco?

2 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Mayor Scarpelli?

4 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Aye.

5 THE CLERK: The time is 7:03.

6 (End of recording)

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CERTIFICATION

I, Alicia Jarrett, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording provided for transcription and prepared to the best of my professional skills and ability.

_____ September 5, 2019

Alicia Jarrett
AAERT Cert. No. 428
Certified Court Transcriptionist

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TOWNSHIP OF NUTLEY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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*** PUBLIC SESSION ***

DATE: August 20, 2019

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

- JOSEPH P. SCARPELLI, MAYOR
- STEVEN L. ROGERS, COMMISSIONER
- THOMAS J. EVANS, COMMISSIONER
- ALPHONSE PETRACCO, COMMISSIONER

Also Present:

- ALAN GENITEMPO, TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

1 (Recording begins)

2 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Madam Clerk, are you good?

3 Let me know.

4 THE CLERK: Yes, Mayor. We're on.

5 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Everybody please stand for

6 the flag salute.

7 (Pledge of Allegiance)

8 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Madam Clerk?

9 THE CLERK: Thank you, Mayor. Board of
10 Commissioners Public Meeting, Tuesday, August 20, 2019.
11 The time is 7:28. Pursuant to the requirements of the
12 Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975,
13 notice of this meeting was published in the
14 November 29th, 2018 issues of the Nutley Sun, the
15 Herald-News, and the Star Ledger. A copy of this
16 notice has been posted on the Nutley Town Hall
17 Bulletin Board, and a copy is on file in the
18 Municipal Clerk's office.

19 Commissioner Rogers?

20 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Here.

21 THE CLERK: Commissioner Tucci is absent,
22 excused.

23 Commissioner Evans?

24 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Here.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Petracco?

1 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Here.

2 THE CLERK: Mayor Scarpelli.

3 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Here.

4 THE CLERK: All present, Mayor, except for
5 Commissioner Tucci. He is absent, excused.

6 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Minutes, Madam Clerk?

7 THE CLERK: Thank you. We have meeting
8 minutes for June 6th, 2019, June 21st, 2019 emergency
9 meeting, July 16th, 2019, executive session minutes for
10 July 2nd, 2019, and executive session minutes for July
11 16, 2019.

12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Move the minutes.

13 THE CLERK: I need a second.

14 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Second.

15 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rogers?

16 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Aye.

17 THE CLERK: Commissioner Evans?

18 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

19 THE CLERK: Commissioner Petracco?

20 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

21 THE CLERK: Mayor Scarpelli?

22 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Aye.

23 THE CLERK: And that's it for minutes.

24 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Reports, Commissioner
25 Petracco?

Public Session

4

1 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Yes, I have my
2 Public Safety Report.

3 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Thank --

4 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: That's all I have.

5 MAYOR SCARPELLI: -- thank you, Commissioner.
6 Bills, Madam Clerk?

7 THE CLERK: Yes, Mayor. Bill list for
8 August 20th, 2019: Public Affairs, \$107,649.40;
9 Revenue and Finance, \$2,982,421.29; Public Safety,
10 \$43,550.47; Public Works, \$47,489.75; Parks and Public
11 Property, \$73,903.46; Water Utility, \$9,345.74; Total
12 Payroll, \$846,169.34, for a grand total of
13 \$4,110,529.45.

14 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Move the bills.

15 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Second.

16 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rogers?

17 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Commissioner Evans?

19 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

20 THE CLERK: Commissioner Petracco?

21 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

22 THE CLERK: Mayor Scarpelli?

23 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Aye.

24 THE CLERK: And that's it for bills, Mayor.

25 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Public comment on agenda

1 items only. Madam Clerk?

2 THE CLERK: Yes, Mayor. All persons
3 addressing the Board of Commissioners regarding
4 community concerns should approach the microphone and
5 provide their name and address for the record. Unless
6 further time is granted by the board, each person shall
7 limit their address to three minutes. All remarks to
8 the board and its individual members must be addressed
9 to the mayor. The mayor may defer citizens' comments
10 to the appropriate member of the board. Dialogue
11 between citizens and others addressing the board shall
12 be allowed, unless the mayor or presiding officer, or
13 the majority of the membership of the board shall
14 determine that the interests of the quorum, and/or the
15 expeditious conduct of municipal business are being
16 adversely affected by such dialogue.

17 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Anybody wish to address the
18 Board of Commissioners on the agenda items only?

19 Seeing none, commissioner -- commissioner
20 announcements? Commissioners, I just want to update
21 everybody on the Newark water situation. It's been in
22 the news, I actually got interviewed today by Fox News
23 -- Fox 5 though, Commissioner. So just an update.
24 There are 436 homes of our approximate 8,000 residents
25 that receive Newark water. They are located on the

1 western portion of town, between Glenview Avenue and
2 Center Street, above Ridge Road, and from Center Street
3 to about Harrison Street, above Van Winkle.

4 The water we receive from Newark is
5 lead-free. Lead is only introduced into the water
6 supply by the internal plumbing, or through service
7 lines. If you have not received a notice from the
8 Township of Nutley, you are not affected and do not
9 receive Newark water. The Nutley Water Department
10 strongly encourages all residents, no matter where you
11 live, as a matter of habit, to run your water for one
12 to two minutes, especially in the morning, in order to
13 introduce fresh water into your home.

14 Over the last week -- after the last week, we
15 had meetings or conference calls to receive updates and
16 voice our concerns with the governor's office, Senator
17 Menendez's office, our legislative representatives, and
18 I'd like to give Assemblyman Caputo a hand, because he
19 has been in daily contact with me. The DEP, the EPA,
20 the City of Newark, and our two partners, I would say,
21 in this, because the -- we all receive Newark water,
22 and we're not part of the City of Newark, and that's
23 Mayor Venezia from Bloomfield and Mayor Melham from
24 Belleville.

25 The anti-corrosive water treatment Newark was

1 using up until May was silicate. That is not
2 state-of-the-art treatment. Since May, they have begun
3 to introduce orthophosphate, which is state-of-the-art
4 treatment. Newark is already seeing reduced lead
5 levels in the homes, and the orthophosphate will have
6 full effectiveness by the end of the year.

7 We encourage everybody in town, and
8 especially the Newark area, to continue using their
9 water, flushing toilets, running sinks and showers, so
10 you fully introduce the new treatment into the internal
11 plumbing. In addition, Nutley has had reportable
12 levels of disinfection byproducts, namely, acetic acid.
13 In July, Newark began addressing the disinfection
14 byproduct levels by introducing potassium permanganate,
15 and moving their pre-chlorination location. These
16 changes have already resulted in lowering of
17 haloacetic acid to below allowable levels. We will
18 update you as we receive further tests from Newark, and
19 the results of our own township -- own testing within
20 the township.

21 What is the Township of Nutley doing? We are
22 expediting the testing of our pure water filters that
23 we purchased and have distributed. We're starting the
24 replacement of all known lead service lines as part of
25 our long-term infrastructure upgrades. We initiated a

1 study to determine the steps needed to have the 436
2 homes currently receiving Newark water switched to a
3 different water supply. We are offering free testing
4 of tap water in any of the 436 homes that receive
5 Newark water to see if they contain lead, and thanks to
6 Commissioner Rogers and his department, we are also
7 offering testing of children from zero to 18 years old
8 for lead. Thank you, Commissioner, and your
9 department.

10 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Thank you, Mayor.

11 MAYOR SCARPELLI: What can you do if you are
12 one of those 436 households receiving Newark water?
13 Continue to introduce new corrosion control treatment
14 into our water system by continuing to use all fixtures
15 in your home. Run water for one to two minutes to
16 introduce fresh water, as I stated previously. Always
17 use cold water for cooking. Identify and replace any
18 lead plumbing fixtures and lead pipes in your home. Do
19 not boil water in effort to reduce lead. That does not
20 work. Boiling water will not be -- boiling water will
21 not reduce any potential lead. And out of the
22 abundance of caution, until we have all testing
23 complete, residents who are pregnant or have small
24 children are advised to use bottled water for drinking,
25 cooking, and preparing baby formula. So Commissioners,

1 if you have any questions, I'd certainly answer them.

2 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: I'd just like to make a
3 comment. When this news was given to us throughout the
4 town, I've got to tell you, Mayor Scarpelli was way
5 ahead of the game, right on top of this, and I want to
6 thank you, because one of the things that we try to
7 prevent are rumors, and, you know, bad information, but
8 you got it out there quick, and I think you -- you
9 know, you brought some comfort to people, knowing that
10 you're on top of it. So I just want to thank you.

11 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Thank you, Commissioner.
12 I'll take any questions that are a little out of order
13 from the public, if they have any questions on Newark
14 water, so we stay specific to that. If not, we'll move
15 on to resolutions. Commissioner Evans?

16 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Thank you, Mayor, I have
17 one. Be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of
18 the Township of Nutley in the County of Essex, State of
19 New Jersey, that the Treasurer be, and she is hereby
20 authorized to refund overpayment of tax charges in the
21 amount of \$6,668.40, for the -- for Block 8102, Lot 15,
22 and Lot -- Block 6502, Lot 2. And for the total amount
23 for those two blocks, of \$6,668.40. So move.

24 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Second.

25 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rogers?

1 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Aye.

2 THE CLERK: Commissioner Evans?

3 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Commissioner Petracco?

5 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.

6 THE CLERK: Mayor Scarpelli?

7 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Thank you, Mayor.

9 MAYOR SCARPELLI: That concludes the public
10 portion of our meeting -- I mean, the business portion
11 of our meeting.

12 Madam Clerk?

13 THE CLERK: Yes, Mayor. All persons
14 addressing the Board of Commissioners regarding
15 community concerns should approach the microphone and
16 provide their name and address for the record. Unless
17 further time is granted by the board, each person
18 should limit their address to five minutes. All
19 remarks to the board and its individual members must be
20 addressed to the mayor. The mayor may defer citizens'
21 comments to the appropriate member of the board.
22 Dialogue between citizens and others addressing the
23 board shall be allowed, unless the mayor or presiding
24 officer, or the majority of the membership of the board
25 shall determine that the interests of the quorum,

1 and/or the expeditious conduct of municipal business
2 are being adversely affected by such dialogue.

3 MR. MOORE: Rory Moore, 462 Chestnut Street.
4 Mr. Evans, I only have one question this evening. I
5 did receive an OPRA response recently, and I'm still
6 looking at it. I'd like to reserve that for the next
7 meeting, if that's possible. And my question is,
8 somebody had posted on Facebook today that they called
9 the League of Municipalities to see if Nutley was in
10 the salary survey. Is Nutley going to participate in
11 that?

12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: I'm not aware of being
13 asked to, but if -- we generally do, so -- and that's
14 through the league. I think they do it every few
15 years, so I don't -- I don't have any reason why we
16 wouldn't, but I'm not aware of that we've been asked.

17 MR. MOORE: Well, the only reason it was
18 asked, is because somebody did call, and they said
19 specifically that Nutley had not responded this year,
20 and I was just curious if you were.

21 COMMISSIONER EVANS: I'm not aware of being
22 notified.

23 MR. MOORE: Okay. I'll take care of it.
24 Thank you.

25 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Anybody else wish to

1 address the Board of Commissioners this evening?

2 MS. RUBINO: Joan Rubino, 48 North Road.

3 Several months ago, a young lady presented a little bit
4 of a -- her presentation was about single-use plastic
5 bags, and getting rid of them in the town of Nutley. I
6 commend her for her commitment to the environment, and
7 I agree that plastic bags are a danger, but this young
8 lady only told one part of the story.

9 I myself have never used a recyclable grocery
10 bag because I always felt they were unsanitary, so I
11 decided to investigate to see if my opinion had any
12 merit. And I discovered some very interesting facts.
13 First of all, the bags themselves. Hundreds of
14 millions of reusable bags are made in China and other
15 countries, and some have been found to contain
16 dangerous amounts of lead, sometimes several times the
17 amount allowed by law.

18 And according to the -- a joint Food and
19 Safety report issued by the University of Arizona and
20 Loma Linda University, reusable bags contain foodborne
21 bacteria, such as e. coli, salmonella, and other
22 bacterias. Mold and yeast were also present. Harmful
23 bacteria can thrive in these bags, especially if
24 they're stored in a hot trunk, or in the backseat of
25 your car, and they actually grow ten times faster in

1 this kind of an environment.

2 And the thing is that we are using bags that
3 can be dirtier than your toilet seat. If they are not
4 properly sanitized, and this is very important, after
5 each use, you're courting trouble. To sanitize them
6 requires soapy water and a water temperature of at
7 least 140 degrees. How many of you, if you use these
8 bags, do this? It's amazing. Most people probably
9 never use -- do that. In fact, there was a survey done
10 in California and Arizona, and 97 percent of the people
11 polled said they never washed them.

12 I'm sure all of you are aware of the warnings
13 about contaminating your kitchen when you make chicken,
14 that the countertops, the utensils, your hands, should
15 be thoroughly cleaned because of that
16 cross-contamination. Just think of all the
17 cross-contamination these filthy bags. You're taking
18 them to the store. Other people are put at risk, even
19 if they don't use the bags themselves, because these
20 bags are that crummy.

21 I can't provide an answer to this complex
22 problem, but I can make you aware of some of the
23 issues, which I've tried to do tonight. There's more
24 that you can research. Many towns and entire states
25 have banned the usage of these bags, and my question

1 is, is that a reasonable solution? And this board, I
2 was wondering if you've taken any steps regarding this
3 issue, to resolve it, because you all seemed so very
4 enthused about the presentation made by the young girl,
5 and I'm just wondering how you're following through.

6 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Mayor, may I?

7 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Sure, Commissioner.

8 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Okay. So, Mrs. Rubino,
9 yeah, I agree with you. I've been doing similar
10 research, and making sure that a reusable bag is
11 sanitary and safe is also a concern. The things --
12 other things I'm researching and finding is that the
13 energy, the carbon -- carbon energy associated with
14 actually manufacturing a reusable bag, a cotton bag or
15 a paper bag, the amount of carbon energy that's
16 required to actually produce that is actually greater
17 than the --

18 MS. RUBINO: I agree. I also read that. I
19 know.

20 COMMISSIONER EVANS: So there's were -- so
21 I'm looking at, and I've been looking at what we need
22 to do. The state is now starting to take up this
23 question again, and I've reached out to them to better
24 understand that if, if we were to institute a ban on
25 single-use plastic bags I would include plastic straws

1 as well. Go to paper -- go to a single-use paper straw
2 because of the -- that's safer itself. But understand
3 what it is we need to do to educate the public on the
4 safety standards that are required to do that, which is
5 very difficult.

6 MS. RUBINO: It's impossible.

7 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yes.

8 MS. RUBINO: Because people, and the
9 lifestyles we lead are so hectic, that people will
10 disregard that, and they -- in fact, some of the people
11 surveyed with these polls, they had no concern for the
12 germs. They didn't think germs were an issue, and it's
13 a very big issue, actually.

14 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. RUBINO: And there -- there's no way
16 you're going to get people to sanitize those bags. In
17 a perfect world, you say, okay, I'll throw it in with
18 the laundry every week. It's never going to happen.
19 So I'm just very curious as to, you know, what --

20 COMMISSIONER EVANS: I don't have an answer
21 yet, but I'm trying to pursue it.

22 MS. RUBINO: It's like an impossible thing
23 to --

24 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Absolutely.

25 MS. RUBINO: -- answer.

1 COMMISSIONER EVANS: It's trying to get the
2 -- right now, the -- I think the more educated we can
3 become about all of the issues, not just the single
4 focus of disposing the bag, maybe we can come up with a
5 better solution. But there's still going to be, in my
6 mind, a significant level of accountability on the part
7 of an individual to sanitize and keep them sanitized
8 for their purpose.

9 MS. RUBINO: It's not going to happen.

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: I appreciate that.

11 MS. RUBINO: It's not going to happen.

12 COMMISSIONER EVANS: I appreciate that, I
13 have a similar concern.

14 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: I'd like to add
15 something, if you don't mind, only because I saw it I
16 think a couple nights ago on one of the TV shows about
17 pretty soon there's going to be more plastic in the
18 ocean than fish. If -- I don't know if you saw that, I
19 think it was on 60 Minutes?

20 MS. RUBINO: There's also a lot of
21 controversy about just how much is in the ocean. They
22 say the size of Texas or whatever --

23 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Right.

24 MS. RUBINO: -- and they say that's kind of
25 overstated. But I don't know. I'd have to do --

1 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: I just --

2 MS. RUBINO: -- more research on that.

3 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: -- I have to say,
4 though, you know, that it is really horrible how we're
5 leaving this world for the next generations, with all,
6 you know, this plastic, and I don't know how you get
7 away from it, obviously, either --

8 MS. RUBINO: But my concern is are we trading
9 one problem for another.

10 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: I agree.

11 MS. RUBINO: With the level of contamination,
12 and there is no question that they -- those bags are
13 very contaminated.

14 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: I mean, even if you
15 drive by the Passaic River, on occasion you can see all
16 the plastic on the shoreline, and --

17 MS. RUBINO: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: -- then it gets into
19 the ocean, and do that throughout our whole country.
20 Imagine the world we're leaving for --

21 MS. RUBINO: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: -- you know, these
23 future generations.

24 MS. RUBINO: Uh-huh.

25 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: And I don't -- I

1 don't know what the answer is, because it seems like
2 plastic is everywhere.

3 MS. RUBINO: Yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: You know, wherever
5 you touch --

6 MS. RUBINO: And even the cotton bags, you
7 know, people say, instead of recyclable plastic -- the
8 reusable ones, they are just as bad as the recyclable
9 -- or the reusable plastic ones.

10 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yes. And they actually
11 -- they require more carbon energy to be used, Ms.
12 Rubino.

13 MS. RUBINO: I'm sorry, I didn't hear you.

14 COMMISSIONER EVANS: They require more carbon
15 energy to be used to manufacture that --

16 MS. RUBINO: Yes, I know, I --

17 COMMISSIONER EVANS: -- and -- which
18 basically offsets the benefit.

19 MS. RUBINO: Right. Right. And off the --
20 the water, the everything that's used to produce them,
21 the fuel, then transporting them. There's -- it's very
22 involved.

23 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Mr. Mayor?

24 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Thank you, Ms. Rubino.

25 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: No, I just want to --

1 Ms. Rubino, I just want to weigh in on something.
2 These are moments, issues like this, when I'm reminded
3 what Ronald Reagan once said, if you get a knock at the
4 door and you open it, and they say, I'm from the
5 government, run like hell outside your back door.

6 I think a couple things. It's interesting
7 you brought this up, because there were two senior
8 citizens to -- the -- during the week who I ran into,
9 and this issue came up. They're actually shopping out
10 of town. This is going to be interesting to you,
11 because you're a businessman.

12 They shared with me that first of all they're
13 being charged a fee for the bags. Second of all,
14 they're actually leaving Nutley, in certain stores, and
15 they're going to Belleville, and they're going to
16 Clifton because there's no plastic bag ban there.

17 MS. RUBINO: Right.

18 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: And so we have to look
19 at the -- you know, the economic --

20 MS. RUBINO: Well --

21 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: -- impact that could
22 have on businesses. Now, following up with
23 Commissioner Evans, and you bring up a good point.
24 Education is important, but I'm looking at it from the
25 other end. Education on the environment, what to do

1 with plastic bags, properly disposing of them. We have
2 recycling where we're taking care of these, we're
3 taking care of tires, we're taking care of everything
4 imaginable through recycling, so education is
5 important, and I think that's at least a start.

6 MS. RUBINO: Well, you know, another thing
7 with banning plastic bags, people use them for multiple
8 purposes. You know, take one home from the store,
9 might use it two or three times to pick up dog waste,
10 or to line their trash cans. Now they're not going to
11 have these bags, but they will buy other plastic bags
12 to do the job. So, you know, it's like a very
13 difficult situation as far as I'm concerned.

14 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Yes. Ms. Rubino, this is
15 one of those decisions I think that we're going to have
16 to really look at and study all sides of it before we
17 make any decisions.

18 MS. RUBINO: Right. Well, if they --

19 MAYOR SCARPELLI: I think we're all in
20 agreement on that.

21 MS. RUBINO: -- ban them, I will never use
22 the recyclable ones. Never.

23 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Anybody else wish to
24 address the Board of Commissioners this evening?
25 Before we adjourn, we lost one of our outstanding

1 citizens this past week, Mrs. Ruth Bedford.
2 Mrs. Bedford gave her time, energy, money, to a wide
3 variety of causes and organizations. She lived to the
4 nice age of 101, and I think she's going to be missed
5 in this town, and I think if we could just have a
6 little moment of silence to remember Ruth.

7 (Pause)

8 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Mr. Mayor, regarding
10 Mrs. Bedford. You know, when a person passes, you
11 think of perhaps one of the times that that individual
12 has impact on you. I know my wife and I were over at
13 Ruth Bedford's house, and we were talking about
14 politics, and what I was amazed over is when she began
15 to speak to my wife and I about the time she had worked
16 at the White House with President Dwight Eisenhower. I
17 think -- I mean, the history that this woman had was
18 fascinating, and to hear her go through the time from
19 Eisenhower all the way up to now, I tell you what,
20 probably one of the most consistent, dedicated
21 individuals to this country that I've ever met. So
22 certainly always a role model, and a very pleasant,
23 pleasant, kind human being, and she's going to be
24 missed. Thank you, Mayor.

25 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Thank you, Mayor. I

1 have to tell you one of my fondest stories of
2 Ruth Bedford, and I have to tell you, it's -- what a
3 charmed life, and what a woman. I can remember her
4 coming to my bar/restaurant at the time, in Lyndhurst,
5 and the first thing she ordered was a Scotch, you know,
6 and everybody that knew her -- and I think she was
7 coming from the place -- the bar from Route 3, the
8 motorcycle bar, because I know she was in there, also.
9 So I have to tell you, you know, a woman that opened
10 her pocketbook, you know, for anybody and anything, and
11 somebody that really is -- when you think about Nutley,
12 you think of, you know, being in her house, and no
13 matter what side of the aisle you were on, who you were
14 friends with, she always greeted you with that warm,
15 fuzzy welcome. So, you know, I have to tell you, God
16 blessed her to live to 101, and if you're looking,
17 Ruth, it's water, but someday, I'd like to have a
18 Scotch with you up there, too. God bless you.

19 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Thank you, Commissioner.

20 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Mayor, thank you. This
21 week, I lost a dear friend. She's always been an
22 adviser. She is a lady who I have said publicly, she
23 was the grande dame of Nutley. She -- if we ever had a
24 sense of somebody who was royalty, it was Ruth Bedford.
25 But she cared about everyone equally. She -- I think

1 she was -- I would characterize her as being -- she was
2 blind to color, she was blind to gender, she was blind
3 to orientation. She was such -- had such a zest for
4 wanting to be with people, and whenever she was around
5 here, she would light up when she was meeting, talking
6 to young people, and it was a new friendship that she
7 was creating. Even at a hundred, she was there.

8 I used to visit her, and we would talk about
9 different things, about what was going on in Nutley,
10 the difficult times. She -- you would mention
11 something about so and so's having a little bit of a
12 problem, and then all of a sudden, you know, out of
13 nowhere, quietly, a check would show up. And Ruth --
14 and that was Ruth's style. She had a back room that
15 was filled with papers that probably go back to the
16 turn of the century, the 20th century, because she had
17 everything organized in piles, and that was her filing
18 system. And we used to joke about those things a lot.
19 But -- I'll just leave it at -- I just -- I lost a very
20 dear friend this week.

21 MAYOR SCARPELLI: We all did. And Nutley
22 lost a friend.

23 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Yes.

24 MAYOR SCARPELLI: A motion to adjourn,
25 gentlemen?

1 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Motion to adjourn.
2 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Second.
3 THE CLERK: Commissioner Rogers?
4 COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Aye.
5 THE CLERK: Commissioner Evans?
6 COMMISSIONER EVANS: Aye.
7 THE CLERK: Commissioner Petracco?
8 COMMISSIONER PETRACCO: Aye.
9 THE CLERK: Mayor Scarpelli?
10 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Aye.
11 THE CLERK: The time is 7:54.
12 MAYOR SCARPELLI: Good night, everybody.

13 (End of recording)

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CERTIFICATION

I, Alicia Jarrett, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording provided for transcription and prepared to the best of my professional skills and ability.

_____ September 5, 2019

Alicia Jarrett
AAERT Cert. No. 428
Certified Court Transcriptionist