

**READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
VIRTUAL ONLINE SPECIAL MEETING – AUGUST 15, 2023**

Mayor Juergen Huelsebusch *calls the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.* announcing that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting has been duly advertised.

**PRESENT:** Mayor J. Huelsebusch, Deputy Mayor A. Mueller, Mr. V. Panico, Mr. J. Heller

**ALSO PRESENT:** Administrator R. Sheola, Deputy Township Clerk A. Lehberger

**ABSENT:** Mr. J. Albanese

Mayor Huelsebusch led those present in the *Salute to the Flag*.

Deputy Clerk Lehberger read a statement from Committee Member Albanese who was unable to attend the meeting as follows:

*“I am sorry I cannot attend this morning’s meeting as I am away on vacation with my family. We schedule our vacations based on the Township Committee meeting schedule at the beginning of the year, but this special meeting was only scheduled late last week. In over five years on the Committee, this is the second meeting I am missing. I understood the time sensitive nature of the Special Event Permit and the need to schedule this meeting in a timely manner for item #1 on the agenda. As for the Summer Road Park lighting item, I ask that this be tabled for a regularly scheduled, in-person Committee meeting. This was approved just last week during a regular meeting and is now being “re-visited”. It is not appropriate to schedule a special, short notice meeting and place an item on the agenda that may involve the changing of a vote that was already taken without everyone who participated in the original discussion. This sets a dangerous precedent for any item that was the subject of a close vote. Committee members could potentially take advantage of the inability for full participation and reverse decisions. Today, we have a virtual meeting scheduled for 8:30am on a Tuesday to potentially change a vote on a matter of public safety. This violates the public trust and harms the necessary trust we need to have in our colleagues on this Township Committee.”*

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. ***Application for Special Events Permit / Donald Trump for President 2024 Rally***

Mayor Huelsebusch announced that the applicant has withdrawn their special event permit application at this time.

2. ***Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Park Lighting at Summer Road Park (Sourcewell) – discussion***

Mayor Huelsebusch explained that this resolution was previously approved at the last meeting without the Committee having all the details on the cost and scope and would like to revisit it at the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting when all Committee members are present for a full discussion.

Mr. Heller disagreed with postponing it, stating that the resolution had already been approved and it is a public safety issue.

Administrative Sheola noted that the national cooperative purchase agreement contract that they planned to use to fund the purchase will expire on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Deputy Mayor Mueller stated that a full lighting plan of the park should be done and questioned why the recreation trust fund was not being used to pay for the lights.

Mr. Panico expressed concerns about the location of the proposed lights.

Mayor Huelsebusch recommended that this be tabled until there is a more comprehensive plan and Committee Member Albanese can participate in the discussion.

**A MOTION** was made by Mr. Panico to request that the Administrator hold the purchase order until another discussion can be had with all Committee members present, seconded by Mr. Mueller and on Roll Call vote the following was recorded:

Mr. Mueller	- Aye
Mr. Heller	- Nay
Mr. Panico	- Aye
Mayor Huelsebusch	- Aye

***COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC***

Stephanie Panico spoke to a previous agreement that the Township made with the residents surrounding Summer Road Park that there would be no lights in the park.

Cheryl Reed inquired about notification of the special meeting so the residents affected can be made aware of the discussions.

Alan Harwick requested that emails be sent to all residents who have signed up on the Township email list for any special meetings.

***COMMENTS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY***

There were none.

As there was no further business, **A MOTION** was made at 9:00 a.m. by Mr. Mueller to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Panico with a vote of ayes all, nays none recorded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ann Marie Lehberger  
Deputy Township Clerk