

PRINCETON SPECIAL MEETING
December 14, 2015

A special meeting of the Mayor and Council of Princeton was held on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Monument Main Meeting Room, Monument Hall, 1 Monument Drive, Princeton, New Jersey.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Assistant to the Clerk read the following statement:

The following is an accurate statement concerning the providing of notice of this meeting and said statement shall be entered in the minutes of this meeting. Notice of this meeting as required by Sections 4a, 3d, 13 and 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public in the form of a written notice. On **August 5, 2015 at 10:50 a.m.**, said schedule was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Town Topics, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

WELCOME

Mayor Lempert called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Mayor Lempert introduced Council President Bernie Miller, Councilwoman Jo Butler, Councilwoman Jenny Crumiller, Councilman Lance Liverman, Councilwoman Heather Howard, Councilman Patrick Simon, Municipal Administrator Marc Dashfield, Princeton University President Chris Eisgruber and Princeton University Vice President Robert Durkee.

Mayor Lempert stated that this is the third time that the governing body has invited the President of Princeton University to come and speak and it has become a tradition. Mayor Lempert stated it was a rare occasion when the President of the University would come and address Council but that this is no longer the case.

Mayor Lempert said this is a public dialog with each other and an opportunity to explore areas of mutual interest, to anticipate areas of possible contention, and to better understand what the issues are that might be coming up. She also stated that having these discussions and maintaining an open channel of communication is important for building trust and to maintain a productive relationship between our two institutions.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Lempert opened the meeting and asked if anyone from the public would like to speak.

Daniel Harris, 28 Dodds Lane, commended Princeton's municipal leadership and Sustainable Princeton for having gained a silver accreditation this year from Sustainable Jersey along with a distinctive Leadership Award. Mr. Harris also proposed that Princeton Council give serious formal consideration, in its 2016 agenda, to a revised and more sustainable municipal program for leaf and brush pickup than the one in place. (letter attached)

Councilwoman Jenny Crumiller stated that all leaf and brush are composted, then turned into mulch and reused.

Anton Lahnston, 1 Elm Road, stated that he applauds the President of Princeton University for coming again. He stated it was a critical move from the University and that in his experience while working on consolidation the University and community's relationship was not in good shape. Mr. Lahnston stated that there were conflicts and antagonism that did not need to exist. He sees that

December 14, 2015 Special Meeting

considerable efforts have gone into the relationship between the University and community from both sides, and that it is a good beginning. Mr. Lahnston questioned President Eisgruber about his unique perspective on how the relationship is going between the University and the community and what he would like to see in the future (that is an improvement or better or helpful for the relationships between the University and the community) because the future is critical to all of us as we move forward.

Stephanie Chorney, 11 Race Street, stated that as we approach 2016 and reflect on all that has happen in 2015, we need to slow the pace of climate change by producing less landfill waste, monitoring our energy use, increasing walking or biking, which all have an impact on climate change. Ms. Chorney stated that she would like Council to consider making sustainability, waste management and energy management a priority in 2016. She also would like Council to consider in 2016 to prepare and pass ordinances around leaf management, single use bag fees, increasing composting, biking and green building requirements. Ms. Chorney also commented that she has read the 15 page report outline from the University on the University and Community's partnership but did not see any mention of a sustainability partnership. Ms. Chorney stated that she hopes to see an increase in 2016 on a sustainability partnership.

Mayor Lempert seeing no other closed the portion of the public comment.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY UPDATE BY PRESIDENT EISGRUBER

President Eisgruber thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak and to acknowledge that coming before Council for the three years is a valuable tradition. He spoke on issues pertinent to the relations of the University and community and how both will continue to maintain an open channel of communication. President Eisgruber stated that there will be issues of opportunity to collaborate around on shared priorities and there may be moments that priorities may diverge or require some accommodations between the town and University. He stated that it is very important to maintain the open channels of communication. President Eisgruber stated that the University Board of Trustees are still in the early stages of its new campus plan but will release a strategic planning document providing the framework for the process in the early spring of next year. He also stated that while the document won't list exactly what plans the University has, it will include a set of priorities and a set of projects that might be evaluated along with reports from various task forces. He stated that there are many task force reports that contain detailed information that would be of interest to the town and they will be posted on the strategic planning website. Framework documents will provide ways of evaluating proposals that eventually will emerge conversations. Mr. Eisgruber stated that there are three major themes that are important emerging from the strategic planning report: 1. the robustness of the school's liberal arts research model, with online education and with residential education being important for the undergraduate, doctoral and liberal arts graduate education; the research program is as strong as it has ever been; 2. budget pressures with state universities and colleges under pressure as discretionary funding for education and research becomes more challenging with doing more with less; 3. the impact of technology on education is affecting the way students learn and the way teachers teach, along with effecting the way research is done and partnerships that are important to advance the University's research mission.

Council President Bernie Miller thanked President Eisgruber for attending and asked, if the University considered the cascading effect that would occur if the University increases the number of under graduate students. He went on to explain by increasing the number of under graduate students that would cause increase in staff, faculty, graduate students and eventually impact the community.

President Eisgruber stated that the University has been thinking of the systems, with the faculty driven by intellectual concerns. He stated that the University has been adding faculty that meets the University's needs.

December 14, 2015 Special Meeting

Councilwoman Crumiller asked if there was a ball park figure of what the University is thinking of.

President Eisgruber stated that he would not be able to give a figure but hoped to by the spring semester. It was important for the University that 125 students were added per year totaling 500. He hopes to change the fact that the University now turns down a higher number of qualified students than ever before and the last time the student body expanded was in year 2001. Mr. Eisgruber stated that the recent completion of the Andlinger Center for Energy and Environment on Olden Street is an example of the University's commitment to the engineering program. The University is proud of the new center and hopes that the town is also proud. Mr. Eisgruber stated that the recent opening of the school's Entrepreneurial Hub on Chambers Street has provided an important connection between the school and the town. He also stated the University and town needs to be more outward looking in forming those kind of partnerships.

Councilman Lance Liverman asked about the University's hiring of local residents, which he has inquired about at a previous meeting. Mr. Eisgruber stated he was glad that Councilman Liverman continues to push the question but stated that there are no plans as of yet and he hopes to come back with a better answer at next year's meeting.

Councilwoman Jenny Crumiller questioned Mr. Eisgruber about whether the University would support a policy of earned sick leave similar to the ordinance being considered for adoption by Princeton Council. Mr. Eisgruber stated that he does not know enough about the policy of the earned sick leave so he would not be able to comment.

Councilwoman Jo Butler stated that the University is ahead of the municipality on handling transgender issues. She proposed a partnership between the University and the town on what the needs are and how promote acceptability. She stated the town could use the University's knowledge on the subject.

President Eisgruber stated that this is a promising partnership and that it is a very important and promising area to explore.

Councilwoman Heather Howard asked about public safety issues, specifically policies regarding sexual assaults and to explore new policies and the coordination with the Princeton Police Department.

President Eisgruber thanked the Princeton Police Department for the open line of communications with the University's Public Safety Department. He stated that the communications are very positive. There are a good set of procedures in place and a lot of focus has been placed on by-stander intervention. He also stated that the number of girls aged 14 to 18 who have been sexually assaulted is shocking and astonishing and the University has begun running an extra shuttle bus with adult monitors on board (between the eating clubs on Prospect Street and the campus dorms) in an effort to create a safer environment.

Councilwoman Jo Butler asked about his thought on lowering the drinking age to 18 as a way to lessen damaging incidents involving alcohol.

President Eisgruber responded that the critical question is how to respond to that correlation. He added that he was not persuaded to lowering the drinking age to 18 for the combinations of stresses problematic to producing binge drinking. Mr. Eisgruber stated that this really is an area where conversations seem positive. He thanked Princeton Police Chief Nick Sutter, the police force and the town for the cooperation they've provided.

Councilman Patrick Simon asked about the concerns in the community regarding ongoing and new development by the University.

December 14, 2015 Special Meeting

President Eisgruber responded that the University appreciates the sensitivity in a town that we all care about and thinks that campus planning will be reassuring on those fronts.

Mayor Lempert asked about the bike infrastructure plan and in regards to the state defunding public transportation. She also stated that the New Jersey Transit has raised their fare and what role do you see the University play.

President Eisgruber stated that the bike infrastructure will be part of the plan along with and other ways to make the campus more attractive. He also stated that regional transportation will work for both University and the town. The University will continue to find ways to make mass transportation more attractive and effective in moving people around town.

Councilman Simon asked what should be the expectation in the process and what will be the time line.

President Eisgruber responded by saying he thinks that the timeline will appear in the campus plan. The University's planner will look at a 10 year plan in a 30 year framework. He pointed out that decisions made in a shorter terms, for example a 10 years period, will have very large implications on what would happen in a longer term.

Councilman Lance Liverman stated that insurance companies are requesting companies to initiate plans in regards to active shooters. He asked if there were plans for active shooters with the University's armed police on campus.

President Eisgruber wanted to clarify that the officers are not armed but the system is for the officers to have access to side arms. They will continue to have interactions with the Princeton Police Department's cooperation.

Mayor Lempert asked about the University's diversity plan and the role of the community.

President Eisgruber criticized a piece by New York Times columnist Frank Bruni titled "The Lie about College Diversity," he called it irresponsible. He states that the University wants to make sure there is no sense of racial profiling between public safety officers and visitors. He stated that it can only take just one incident and misunderstanding. Diversity in the public safety force is extremely important and by paying more attention to who is on campus is the kind of cues we send to students about their identity. The University is finding ways to show that they embrace a diverse identity through artwork, iconography, and examples invoked in the public language.

Mayor Lempert thanked President Eisgruber again and closed the meeting. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Delores A. Williams
Assistant to the Clerk

I would first like to commend Princeton's municipal leadership and Sustainable Princeton for having gained a Silver accreditation this year from Sustainable Jersey, along with a distinctive Leadership Award.

In consonance with such leadership, I want to propose again that Princeton Council give serious formal consideration, in its 2016 agenda, to a revised and more sustainable municipal program for leaf and brush pickup than the one now in place. As you know from figures collected by Jenny Crumiller through Janet Pellichero and Bob Hough of DPW, program costs for 2013 were approximately \$720,000, well over 1% of the municipal budget at 60MM—not a trivial amount. This figure does **not include** costs of gas—nor the less measurable but equally significant cost of carbon emissions from program operations which contribute to global warming. I respectfully request Princeton Council to obtain accurate figures for gas consumption for this program during 2014 and 2015. As you know, Steve Hiltner and others, including myself, have made this request before.

I ask Princeton Council to consider in a systematic way the difference between municipal services and support systems which can **ONLY** be performed by municipal staff or through municipal budgeting, on the one hand, and on the other, those services which the municipal budget now subsidizes **BUT WHICH** homeowners and landlords for rental properties can easily perform by themselves. Within this broad consideration of policy revaluations, I confine myself here to the matter of leaf and brush collection.

Services which **MUST** be performed by the municipality include: road paving, pothole repair, snow removal, signage, trash collection of disposables which cannot be recycled or composted by the homeowner or landlord. In addition, Princeton municipality currently makes major contributions, for example to Princeton Public Library, Corner House (for our teens), and the Princeton Senior Resource Center (for our seniors), the last of which is funded by no less than 24% of its budget by the municipality. We will all agree, I trust, that all of these organizations contribute hugely to the public weal and their loss or diminishment would injure the viability of Princeton as a whole.

The same cannot be said of leaf and brush collection. Such operations can be managed by individual homeowners or landlords, at minimal cost, with minimal effort, either by the owner or by hired landscape helpers—a rake or blower (ugh!), a tarp, possibly a leaf corral (easily installed with stakes, a sledgehammer, and lightweight fencing). I propose, again, that the burden and responsibility for leaf and brush collection be shifted to the individual landowner, with significant tax savings to the municipality.

I grant immediately that some properties may not have sufficient space for onsite leaf/brush management—that is, the onsite decomposition of leaves and brush into soil, as well as habitat for various other species of the world's inhabitants. I also grant that some individuals may be too informed or too financially challenged to assume this responsibility. I propose that Princeton Council form a working group to figure out an equitable manner by which to deal with such cases. While a distinction between "large lots" and "small lots" seems the obvious place to begin, I do not imagine that it will cover all contingencies.

Many environmentalists in our community have said to me that "putting leaves and brush out on the street is like dumping your own garbage in a public place. Who would want to do that?" It is time for Princeton Council to deal with that question again, by a formal ordinance or a comparable revision of stated procedures. We are much better off serving the community needs of our library, our teens, and our seniors, than we are providing services to individuals which they, we, with a little more sense of civic responsibility and public need, can do for ourselves. We breach our ethics when we subsidize the narrow focus of some at the cost of the public good.

In light of the Paris accords on climate change, which every scientist knows do not go far enough, soon enough, Princeton cannot exempt itself from participation in the worldwide effort to diminish the effects of disaster on our children, their children, and populations worldwide. As Rabbi Hillel said, in the first century before the Common Era, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?" (*Ethics of the Fathers*, 1:14)

"When" is "now," or will be "now," as some of you said to me personally about a year ago, having taken earlier considerations concerning consolidation into account. "Give it a year," I heard, "before we can revise." I am not the only one waiting. We do not live in a world where we can have and get everything "on demand." But we are in an election year, and we will all wish to know how you vote on the disposition of more than 1% of Princeton's budget. A new ordinance or new regulations will surely help justify Princeton's Silver accreditation and its Leadership status.