

**Approved Minutes
Open Session
Of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Princeton
January 17, 2012
Special Meeting
Open Session 7:30 P.M.**

Present: Council President Barbara Trelstad, Councilwoman Jo Butler, Councilwoman Jenny Crumiller, Councilwoman Heather Howard, Councilman Roger Martindell, Councilman Kevin Wilkes, Mayor Yina Moore

Absent: None

Staff Present: Borough Attorney Maeve E. Cannon, Chief Finance Officer and Assistant Borough Administrator Sandra L. Webb, Deputy Borough Clerk Delores A. Williams

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. and read the open public meetings statement as follows:

“This meeting is called to order pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of January 17, 2012, was included in a list of meetings sent to and advertised in the Princeton Packet and Trenton Times, posted on the bulletin board in the Borough of Princeton municipal building and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the statute. In addition a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk. Proper notice having been given, the Borough Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.”

Mayor Moore asked all present to rise for **Agenda Item C, Salute to the Flag.**

Mayor Moore read **Agenda Item D, Public Presentation**, and asked if anyone present wished to address Council with an issue not on the agenda.

There were no public presentations. Seeing no one from the audience, Mayor Moore closed the public portion.

Mayor Moore asked Borough Attorney Maeve Cannon to explain the events surrounding the Borough’s closed sessions in December 2011 and new information obtained from Township closed meetings.

Ms. Cannon noted there were two December meetings—December 20 and December 28—that were closed to the public. On December 28 violation of the Public Meetings Act occurred when two officials elected to serve in 2012—private citizens in 2011—attended. She said the violation was cured when the topics covered were discussed again in open session on January 10, 2012.

Ms. Cannon stressed that private interviews and review of resumes is appropriate. The deliberation and selection processes should be held in open session.

Mayor Moore read **Agenda Item E, Appointment of Transition Task Force (TTF) Members.**

Mayor Moore introduced a subcommittee of Council formed on January 10th consisting of Council President Trelstad, Councilwoman Butler, and Councilman Wilkes.

Council President Trelstad was certain the candidates chosen are up to the task assigned to them and willing to commit the extraordinary time necessary to complete a transition from two communities to one consolidated community in a timeframe that is rapidly evaporating.

Council President Trelstad announced subcommittee's choices for the Borough's Transition Task Force: Brad Middlecoff, a lawyer with experience running a large organization; Mark Freda, life-long Borough resident with 35 years volunteerism in town and 13 years as elected official (11 as Borough Police Commissioner); and Hendricks Davis, developer of affordable housing and inclusive communities with experience with social service agencies. Council President Trelstad named the alternate member: Jim Levine who has experience with human resources. Council President Trelstad stated that the subcommittee had decided not to include a Consolidation Commission person on the Transition Task Force because the Consolidation Commission will continue to exist and participate in the process.

Council President Trelstad described the process of culling applicants from Council members: (1) direct mail ask, (2) email response, and (3) phone conversation. Subcommittee proceeded to compare Township's slate with Borough applicants for balance in skill set, expertise, and neighborhood. Council President Trelstad recommended forwarding all résumés to the Transition Task Force for participation in subcommittees.

Council President Trelstad thought the Transition Task Force should ask CGR to make a presentation to the entire group defining the work product expected.

Councilwoman Crumiller moved to accept the slate nominated by subcommittee; Council President Trelstad seconded.

Councilman Martindell commended the subcommittee's efforts. He spoke of his opposition to the motion based on the narrowness of the pool selected from the 28 resumes. Councilman Martindell named some specific individuals excluded for arbitrary reasons.

Councilman Martindell mentioned criteria for selection listed during Council's January 10th open meeting, none of which were spoken of today. Councilman Martindell said the process was arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable.

Councilwoman Crumiller criticized Councilman Martindell as counterproductive, casting a pall over the process.

Councilwoman Howard applauded the collaborative nature of the subcommittee's work.

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Councilman Wilkes said today's special meeting, held on Council's off night, demonstrates the urgency all members of Council assign to unification.

Councilwoman Butler thought Council had not moved as expeditiously as possible.

Mayor Moore asked for a roll call vote. Deputy Borough Clerk called the roll. Council members Trelstad, Butler, Crumiller, Howard, and Wilkes voted in the affirmative; Councilman Martindell voted nay. Mayor Moore proclaimed the Transition Task Force appointments passed.

Mayor Moore reviewed the next steps: Two-mayor discussions, CGR presentation, first meeting of the Transition Task Force to be January 30 or 31 (chaired by Mayor Moore or Township Mayor Chad Goerner—for the first and last time).

Mayor Moore announced that the joint resolution from Borough's January 10th meeting will be on Township's next agenda.

Councilwoman Butler volunteered to call the four applicants not selected.

Council President Trelstad moved to adjourn; Councilman Wilkes seconded. There being no further business, Mayor Moore adjourned the open session meeting at 8:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Delores A. Williams
Deputy Borough Clerk