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Councilor-at-Large Rich McMahon with Second Ward Councilor Robin Schlager at the Montclair Township Council conference meeting of September 1

The Montclair Township Council's September 1 conference meeting lasted just over an hour and there were no residents in attendance. The council considered many issues, including some on the agenda for the regularly scheduled September 8 meeting. Topics included draft ordinances on clarifying how to properly recycle cardboard and reviewing plans for the placement of generators. The Council also discussed a job training pilot program and street maintenance.

### Recycling Bins in Parks and Breaking Down Boxes Discussed

An amendment to the township's recycling ordinance generated the most discussion. The ordinance, up for first reading on September 8, addressed various points from the town's recycling program.

Second Ward Councilor Robin Schlager was dismayed that Montclair has been asking its residents to recycle "extensively" but does not provide receptacles for parks and ball fields. She noted that a member of the Friends of Edgemont Park provides recycling receptacles at that park, empties them and puts the contents out in front of his own house. Schlager said she has been told that if such receptacles were put in recreational facilities, people would dump pet waste or used diapers in them, adding that proper receptacles with explanatory signage could be used. Fourth Ward Councilor Renée Baskerville said that separate facilities for excretory matter could be provided to prevent that.

Recycling Operations Supervisor Craig Brandon, who is also a Planning Board member, said such waste is supposed to be disposed of at home because trash cans in parks aren't designed to hold pet waste for long before it becomes a health issue. He added that people are more likely to use receptacles to throw away things rather than recycle them, and that many communities have banned bottles and cans from their parks to cut down on waste overall.

Members of the council agreed that people need to be made more aware of how to dispose excretory waste. Third Ward Councilor Sean Spiller suggested that Acting Township Manager Tim Stafford look at how other communities handle waste disposal in public spaces. Councilor Schlager mentioned recycling receptacles could work outside the high school if the students were sufficiently educated on the issue.

Mayor Robert Jackson asked Brandon what in the ordinance amendment might upset residents. Brandon responded the ordinance's main intent is to clarify existing language. For example one section of the ordinance mentions the town picks up commercial or bulk waste, another section says the town doesn't. He said the revised ordinance tries to clarify that matter with rules regarding cardboard and newspaper. Newspapers should not be placed inside cardboard boxes. Boxes should be broken down and tied up. Brandon said the clarifications are meant to get people to recycle more properly, particularly with cardboard in the commercial zones.

### **Draft Ordinance Addresses Placement of Generators and Condensing Units**



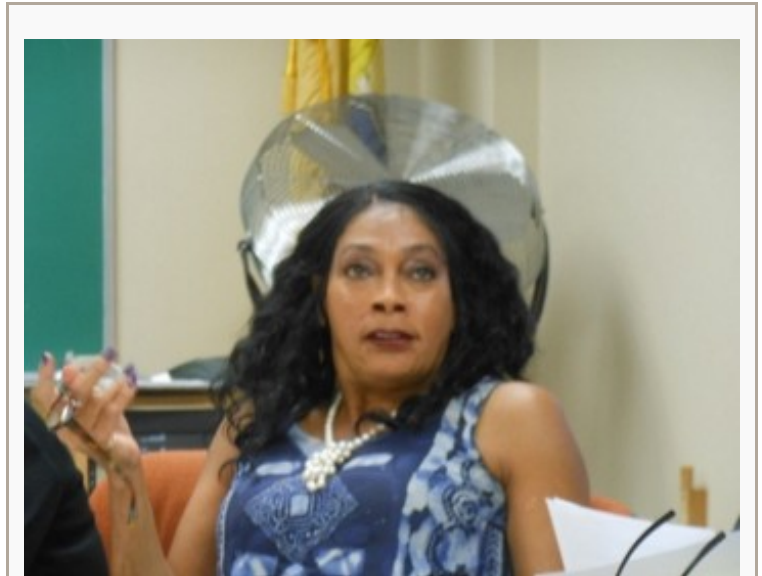
Montclair Township Planning Director Janice Talley and Acting Township Manager Tim Stafford

Township Planning Director Janice Talley also advised the council on another ordinance amending current rules. That amendment is meant to address non-residential projects in residential districts. For example, owners of multi-family residential units placing condensing units and generators in inappropriate areas. The new ordinance requests that such changes be brought to the Planning Board for site plan review.

Mayor Jackson said he was afraid that ordinance change would overwhelm the board with applications and wondered if a committee of a few board members could look over such applications. Talley said she could look into that, and Township Attorney Ira Karasick said that such matters could be so delegated. Dr. Renée Baskerville said the

amendment revision should be reworded with regard to rules governing fences and retaining walls because current language might delay residents' fence repairs.

"This is not all minor sight plans," Talley said. "It would just be for perhaps the generators." She said the original ordinance was meant to bring "problem properties" to the Planning Board so the full board could scrutinize sight plans more closely and address bigger issues with those properties. Talley thought a committee could evaluate the application and determine whether the full board should review it, and she hoped to review the suggested revisions with Karasick.



Councilor Renée Baskerville makes a point about proposed amendments to the site plan ordinance.

### **Community Job Training**

Mayor Jackson also brought to the council's attention Police Officer Garth Guthrie's work with young men in the Mission Street area looking for jobs which has helped them find employment. The mayor wanted a two- or three-week preparedness course to train young men for the workplace. Councilor Spiller asked the mayor if he specifically had anything in mind. Jackson suggested something like paying United Way to administer a job training course with transportation provided locally. He added that such a course could help prevent participants from failing at a job.

Councilor Spiller and Deputy Mayor Robert Russo agreed with the idea that teaching life skills would be more proactive than reactive, and said such an investment would be for the benefit of the community. Councilor Schlager suggested possible job placement through Aramark, the food service operating in the school district.

The mayor said there could be a pilot program. He and the Council settled on a proposed cost of somewhere between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Stafford said that, with a set budget, it would be put out as a request for qualification (RFQ) to hire a person to do the job. Dr. Baskerville asked if such a program could be crafted to have someone from the community do the training. Karasick said that familiarity with the neighborhood as a qualification would ensure such a thing. The Council endorsed a pilot program by a unanimous vote.

### **Street Maintenance**

In other developments, Stafford reported striping on the newly repaved section Park Street would be done Wednesday morning (September 2) with the new traffic lights at Park and Chestnut Streets expected to be operational by September 4. Stafford also said he had the township's acting chief financial officer identify funding for the Warman Street drainage project, and a bid package is currently under development. A request for proposal for an inspector to evaluate street openings made by utilities is also being pursued.

The council also passed a first-reading ordinance amending the salary ordinance passed on August 25, setting a salary range of \$58,440 to \$80,000 *per annum* for the deputy township manager.