

PRINCETON COUNCIL MEETING
December 2, 2013

A special meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room in the municipal complex, 400 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with Christopher Eisgruber, President of Princeton University.

NOTICE OF MEETING

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 November 27, 2013 at 10:10 a.m., said schedule was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Trentonian, the Town Topics, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL

The Municipal Clerk then called the roll.

Present: Mesdames Butler, Crumiller, Howard and Messers Liverman, Miller and Simon and Mayor Lempert.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Ms. Monzo.

Princeton University President Christopher Eisgruber, Robert Durkee and Kristen Appleget were also present.

Mayor Lempert welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the floor to public comment.

Anton Lahnston said that he is concerned about building a relationship with Princeton University as the current relationship is fractured. He said that he was thrilled that President Eisgruber was there.

Yina Moore, 19 Green Street thanked representatives of the University for coming and asked that they reconsider the plan to relocate the Dinky station. She said that the plan has already inconvenienced people. She said that she had intimate knowledge of the University and said that they could change course if they wanted to.

Anita Garoniak, President of Save The Dinky, said that the Dinky is a public asset to be preserved not destroyed and that preserving it was the right and moral thing to do. She asked that it be returned to its original place. She noted that ridership is down and continues to fall below previous numbers.

Peter Marks, 107 Moore Street said that he endorsed the comments of Ms. Moore and Ms. Garoniak.

Mayor Lempert introduced Princeton University's 20th President, Christopher Eisgruber.

Mr. Eisgruber thanked the Mayor and began by saying that he has lived in Princeton longer than he has lived anywhere else. He said that he hoped that the discussion will be the beginning of a more constructive

relationship between the town and the University. He said that in the course of the relationship we are going to disagree and sometimes the disagreements will be serious but added that he hoped that the disagreements can be addressed and worked through with respect and mutual interest in mind. He said that these are changing times and that they are faced with maintaining the quality of the University, while facing old and new challenges.

In regard to the Arts and Transit project said that he recognized that the project did cause a rift between the citizens and the University.

Mr. Liverman said that in the past, Princeton University would offer free tickets to the community youth for different sporting events and that they would reach out to the community and let them know of available employment opportunities on the university campus. Mr. Liverman said that he hoped that they would continue that practice.

Mr. Simon said that as a public official he is concerned about how to make the next tense and difficult discussion a better one. Mr. Eisgruber said that he couldn't give a formula or recipe for this and that he was regretful for the ruptures and scars that have been created. He added that the arts project is a very good project and one that he is proud of.

Ms. Butler brought up the issue of diversity and said that she was surprised that the University was looking at the socio economic undergraduate student. Mr. Eisgruber said that Princeton University is consistently ranked as a most affordable school and that they need to do a better job in getting that word out to more groups.

Ms. Howard said that she is concerned about how to continue to work well organizationally. He said that there is currently a good working relationship between the police department and public safety at the university and that have worked well together during the recent meningitis issue and the bomb threat. Mr. Eisgruber thanked Ms. Howard for that.

Mayor Lempert said that there was a lot of opportunity for collaboration on projects where there is mutual interest and that she thought that the more of these projects that they can find and work on together, the better it is for all, especially when we have to confront issues with different and sometimes conflicting objectives.

Mr. Liverman asked what Mr. Eisgrubers greatest wish would be. Mr. Eisgruber said that it goes back to diversity, depth and texture of the university and making it a more attractive place to live.

Mayor Lempert thanked President Eisgruber for coming and said that she hoped that they could make this an annual event.

(President Eisgrubers letter to Council appended to this set of minutes.)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott
Municipal Clerk