

# The Alternative Press

## Livingston Township Council Discusses Vapor Cigarette Use and More

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LIVINGSTON, NJ - Livingston's Township Council met for its 11th conference meeting of the year, mostly discussing revisions to the smoking ordinance as well as changes to rules for the use of "portable signs" for businesses.

Mayor Michael Rieber announced that there will be changes to the smoking ordinance that may also include a ban of the use of "electronic cigarettes," also known as vaporizers, in or near town facilities such as Memorial Park.

Cara A. Murphy, a representative of NJ GASP (Global Advisors Smokefree Policy) attended the meeting to advise the council. "Is there any evidence that states 'using electronic cigarettes are dangerous?'" Rieber asked.

"There are significant studies coming out from Roswell Cancer Institute and other big research organizations ... there are a lot of negative effects for the user and also second-hand vape as well," Murphy answered, "there are actually more chemicals in some cases that are in electronic cigarettes as well."

The council plans on making final revisions to the ordinance soon.

[unrelated news discussed at the Council meeting]:

Peter Klein of the planning board also attended the meeting to bring the council up to speed on the changes of the use of "portable signs" by businesses that are allowed in Livingston. "Signs can't be bigger than 25 percent of the graining or 9X5 feet," Klein explained, "banners are limited to 3X15 feet."

Klein explained that the use of portable signs need a permit which lasts six months, and may be renewed indefinitely. With the new ordinance being discussed, it would be "up to the business owner, or BID, to choose the

aesthetics of the sign.”

The council is trying to decide whether or not to put more limitations on the use of portable signs of businesses to avoid clutter while driving on the main streets of Livingston and environmental factors such as “losing the signs to the wind,” as Councilwoman Deborah Shapiro brought up.

In other news, according to Town Manager Michele Meade, revenues from Livingston’s town pools are up. “Good to see revenue is higher than last year despite the drop in membership,” stated Shapiro.

Livingston is set to get two new broom street sweepers and belt conveyors for cleaning the streets. “The current ones are in disrepair and they have to go,” Michele Meade explained. Councilman Al Anthony stated that “the Fourth of July Celebration was a great success along with the beer garden. It was a lot of fun and very family oriented despite the inclement weather.”

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