

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 2, 2011**

**1. Call to Order**

- 2. Adequate notice** of this meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was published in the Roxbury Register and the Daily Record on December 23, 2010; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on December 15, 2010 and has been available to the public; notice of this meeting is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq.). The Borough Council opens every public meeting for comments of the public. However, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 : "Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the discretion of a public body to permit, prohibit or regulate the active participation at any meeting....."

Speakers at Borough meetings shall have five minutes to present their comments to the Borough Council so as not to consume time that would otherwise be allotted to other persons who wish to speak. Speakers shall be courteous to the Council and other persons attending the meeting. Offensive remarks or unruly behavior will not be allowed and anyone who violates this policy will be barred from participating in the meeting.

**3. Flag Salute**

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence to remember our troops and all those who put themselves in harms' way to protect our freedom.

**4. Roll Call**

Councilwoman Danchuk, Council President Sorge, Councilman Sadow, Councilman Windish, Councilman Stanzilis, Mayor Ondish. Elizabeth Valandingham, Esq., Borough Attorney, was also present. Councilman Cangiano was absent.

**5. Presentations/Mayor's Appointments**

None.

**6. Finance Report for the Month of June, 2011.**

The Clerk read the Finance Report for June, 2011 into the record.

Current Fund:

Receipts	\$ 307,770.17
Disbursements	\$1,395,116.42

**7. Approval of Minutes**

May 17, 2011

Regular Meeting

Motion to Approve: Councilman Stanzilis.

Second: Council President Sorge.

Roll Call:

Aye: Danchuk, Council President Sorge, Windish, Stanzilis

Abstain: Sadow

Absent: Cangiano

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

**8. Mayor' Report**

The Mayor read his report into the record.

**9. Council Committee Reports**

**Councilman Windish:**

-Recreation Committee: movie nights in place, adult programs in place, continuing to expand.

- IT Committee: looking into new website; researching contract renewal with Cablevision.
- Land Use Board passed a resolution to bring the HUD redevelopment zone back to Council.
- The beach improvement project is underway.

**Councilman Stanzilis:**

- Board of Education: discussing shared services with another town, utilizing our Board Administrator.
- Land Use Board: in light of the redevelopment issue, Councilman Stanzilis will form a committee with the school board to look at the true costs per student in the event of a pilot program.

**Councilman Sadow:**

- Seniors: doing fine, has been discussion in past about needing additional funding for their bus trips; non-residents pay a higher fare than residents.
- Finance Committee: working on possible contract with Roxbury Township and requested a line item charge-by-charge analysis to enable true cost of services. Mr. Raths, Roxbury Manager, proposed to look at the total cost of the police budget for Roxbury and divide that by number of residents in Roxbury to find the per unit person cost of services; easy ratio comparison. We would represent approximately 17.8% of that number meaning we would make up 17.8% of Roxbury population and 17.8% of their budget. Many other issues to discuss but as of now, services with Roxbury would save about \$250,000 to \$400,000 per year going forward over the period of a five year contract. The Committee feels we should continue the process and have a cost analysis prepared by Nisivoccia. All of our officers will be hired by Roxbury and would maintain their benefits packages; may or may not maintain rank within the new department, but will receive salary increases. Contract with police would not include cost of court services but needs further review. Public would be interested in seeing what their personal savings, per household, would be per year, rather than the amount of savings to the Borough.

**Council President Sorge:**

- Fire Department: fire truck had broken down while on a call; on tonight's bill list for \$10,000 repair.
- Council President Sorge thanked the entire Council for being who they are and what they are.
- Council President Sorge will be away for two weeks.
- Council President Sorge stated the Borough has found a rock for Albert Ferrara's memorial monument; further discussion when Council President returns from vacation. Council decided not to combine the unveiling with the 911 Ceremony.

**Councilwoman Danchuk:**

- The police issue is with the Finance Committee now.
- Season's Glen residents have a number of geese crossing at the bottom of Season's Drive and they are requesting a Geese Crossing sign so drivers are aware; this section of Seasons Drive is owned by the Borough. The Council decided not to place a sign at this location.
- Councilwoman Danchuk stated we receive email transmissions, etc., in the weekly communications and inquired who responds. The Borough Clerk stated she does not communicate with the public via email; she will either call them by telephone or forward the email to the appropriate person. The Borough Attorney reiterated that the Clerk addresses questions, not opinions, and does so by telephone, not a continual dialogue on email.

**Mayor Ondish:**

- Asked Council about hiring an intern for the website; Councilman Windish stated the Committee has to meet to address this issue.
- The Mayor asked Council's opinion of the email he forwarded regarding File Bank safe document storage. Council agreed to have the Mayor obtain further information to bring back to Council.
- The Mayor referred to the Safe Streets to Transit Grant but was unsure if we could get grant money to help with the remaining sidewalks to be completed. The Mayor stated we do not need a grant writer to write a DOT grant but this application must be in by September 23, 2011.

-The Mayor had a notice relating to grant money available to improve our recycling efforts; the Clerk will give this information to Paul Nelson.

#### 10. Open to Public

Gerry Curtin, 133 Orben Drive:

-Mr. Curtin attended the Land Use Board Meeting and described the treatment Councilwoman Danchuk received from the attorney for Atkins while speaking at the podium. Mr. Curtin thought this was totally out of order and stated the attorney should be reprimanded and told if he does not apologize, he will not be recognized.

-Mr. Curtin thanked Councilman Sadow for his involvement with the Seniors.

Nancy Absalon, 15 Oak Street:

-Ms. Absalon asked what number the Borough is looking for to make the police merger a feasible project; Ms. Absalon stated that we have mutual aid at all times and does not understand why we have to merge to get the same product, unless there is a need to have more officers policing Mount Arlington, the need to merge must be to save money. Council President Sorge stated it is not a number we are looking for, it's the best scenario for the public safety of the people in town. Councilman Sadow stated the fiduciary responsibility of the Council extends far beyond dollars and described the current versus the potential coverage. Ms. Absalon stated that if we could save \$1 million dollars in one year, she would be for the merger. Councilman Windish stated this is a process, when the process is complete and the final figures are available, Council will decide if it is a good venture or not.

Lois Wasas, 14 Brookside Lane:

-Ms. Wasas discussed the possible police merger and the possibility of adding 200+ new apartments into the borough; she thinks both Roxbury and Mount Arlington will suffer. The possible new development has serious issues – water rates, traffic, decrease of property values and more people, more crime; if we merge our police, Ms. Wasas feels we should just merge the Borough with the Township of Roxbury.

Marlene Ackerman, 56 Rogerene Way:

-Ms. Ackerman thanked the Mayor for always being responsive via e-mail.

-Ms. Ackerman complimented the Council as she sees improvement in communication both between Council members and with the public.

-Ms. Ackerman stated the Seniors are doing well, new people coming in, a little bit younger, an little more interesting. The bus issue should not be an ongoing problem as Seniors stated first come, first served for one bus only.

-Ms. Ackerman was totally offended on behalf of Councilwoman Danchuk at the treatment she received at the Land Use Board meeting and was surprised the Land Use Chairman did not stop the attorney.

Veronica Silkes, Succasunna Road:

-Ms. Silkes read a letter to Council dated August 1, 2011 from Nestor Pla, 9 Oak Street. Mr. Pla was out of state and asked the letter regarding his opinion not to merge police departments be read into the record.

-Ms. Silkes stated she understands the fiduciary responsibilities of Council regarding the police issue but asked for clarification. Councilman Sadow stated that the \$250,000 to \$400,000 would be saved each year for a proposed five year contract, but these numbers are not set in stone; the yearly savings would be per year for five years.

-Ms. Silkes stated that Council or a committee are willing to pay \$10,000 on a police study or \$10,000 on a redevelopment, why not have a referendum which would cost approximately \$2,500 and everyone would have a voice.

-Ms. Silkes confirmed the 2011 budget has been adopted.

-Ms. Silkes distributed information to the Clerk regarding pilot programs and revenue improvement bonds, with regard to the possible redevelopment on Valley Road.

#### 11. New Business

None.

## 12. Old Business

1. Discussion with Zoning Officer regarding Violation Enforcement.  
 Joe Weaver stated he actively addresses violations he sees and has to respond immediately when it comes to acting on residents' complaints. Councilwoman Danchuk had spoken with Council previously regarding telling a violator that someone complained. Councilman Sadow stated that the prior issue was that while on the way to address a complaint, Mr. Weaver could pass ten other violations which would lead to, "why isn't he getting a violation, etc.", which still pit neighbors against neighbors. Mr. Weaver stated that if he sends a warning and a person asks who complained, he does not give out names, etc. The Mayor stated we do not have the money for a full time Zoning Officer; all issues are reported, addressed and recorded. Council agreed that Mr. Weaver should merely specify the person is in violation, not state that a complaint was made. Council discussed a possible meeting of the Zoning Committee to further discuss enforcement of all violations.
  
2. 2011 Best Practices Inventory Questionnaire.  
 The Mayor stated the Borough has completed the questionnaire and the new procedure this year is that Council reviews and approves it. Councilwoman Danchuk posed questions; all issues were answered indicating our compliance and Council approved the questionnaire. Councilwoman Danchuk stated that the Borough does not provide quarterly reports regarding budget to actual spending. Council discussed the features of a new website where this information can be reviewed.  
  

Motion to Approve: Council President Sorge.  
 Second: Council President Sorge.  
 Roll Call:  
     All in Favor – Aye.  
     None Opposed.  
 Motion Approved.
  
3. NJDOT/Train Station Parking Lot.  
 The Mayor had mentioned this in his Mayor's Report; Council agreed to move the subject to the September 6, 2011 meeting.
  
4. DPW: Part-Time Cleaning Person.  
 Council discussed the hourly limit threshold for a part time employee and confirmed that Paul Nelson will maintain this person as a part-time employee only. Council approved the hiring of a part-time person for office cleaning and assisting with the Dial-A-Ride, resolution to be adopted at the next Council meeting.

## 13. Resolutions

- 2011-206\*** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, In the County of Morris, New Jersey, Authorizing the Mayor to Execute An Agreement Between the County of Morris and Certain Municipalities Located Therein Establishing a Cooperative Means of Conducting Certain Community Development and Home Activities for Federal Fiscal Years 2012, 2013 and 2014.  
 \*(Tabled at July 12, 2011 Meeting)

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sadow.  
 Second: Councilman Windish.  
 Discussion: Council discussed at length their opposition to the Mayor signing the Agreement as opposed to the Mayor and Council, or Council President. The Borough Attorney stated if that is the case, the entire Agreement would need to be changed; the Chief Executive Officer is the Mayor. The way it reads, it is without advice and consent of council nor approval of council. The Mayor stated this is no different than the Council authorizing the Mayor to sign for something; the Council has to authorize the Mayor to sign. The Clerk explained the process if the municipality should receive funds/grants, which all filters through the Council prior to the Mayor signing.

## Roll Call:

Aye: Danchuk, Council President Sorge, Sadow, Windish, Stanzilis

Absent: Cangiano.

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

- 2011-210** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, In the County of Morris, New Jersey, Approving the Check Register Dated August 2, 2011.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Windish.

Second: Council President Sorge.

Council discussed various charges for Christmas decorations and benefit packages.

## Roll Call:

Aye: Danchuk (except #10093), Council President Sorge (except #10093), Sadow, Windish, Stanzilis

Absent: Cangiano

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

- 2011-211** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving the Corrective Action Plan Recommended in the Annual Report of Audit for 2010.

Motion to Approve: Council President Sorge.

Second: Councilman Windish.

## Roll Call:

Aye: Danchuk, Council President Sorge, Sadow, Windish, Stanzilis

Absent: Cangiano

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

- 2011-212** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, In the County of Morris, New Jersey, Authorizing Execution of a "Renewal" Agreement for Membership in the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council (MCCPC).

Motion to Approve: Council President Sorge.

Second: Councilman Windish.

## Roll Call:

Aye: Danchuk, Council President Sorge, Sadow, Windish, Stanzilis

Absent: Cangiano

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

- 2011-213** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, In the County of Morris, New Jersey, Authorizing Nisivoccia, LLP, to Provide a Cost Study Analysis of a Police Contracted Service. \*Not to exceed cost of \$10,000.00.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sadow.

Second: Council President Sorge.

## Roll Call:

Aye: Danchuk, Council President Sorge, Sadow, Windish, Stanzilis

Absent: Cangiano

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

**Added Resolution:**

**2011-215** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, In the County of Morris, New Jersey, Authorizing Temporary Road Closure. (Lake Rogerene Family Day)

Motion to Approve: Council President Sorge.

Second: Councilman Windish.

Roll Call:

Aye: Danchuk, Council President Sorge, Sadow, Windish, Stanzilis

Absent: Cangiano

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

**14. Ordinances – Introduction**

None.

**15. Ordinances – Second Reading**

None.

**16. Executive Session**

**2011-214** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Authorizing An Executive Session of the Mayor and Borough Council and Excluding the Public from That Portion of the Meeting.

Action Will Not Be Taken.

Executive Discussion: Attorney Client Privilege.

Motion to Go Into Executive Session: Councilman Sadow.

Second: Councilman Stanzilis.

All in Favor – Aye.

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

Motion to Return to Open Session: Council President Sorge.

Second: Councilman Stanzilis.

All in Favor – Aye.

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

The Mayor stated that Council President Sorge will be away from August 12<sup>th</sup> through August 27<sup>th</sup>; Councilman Sadow will act as Council President during his absence due to his seniority on Council.

**17. Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn: Council President Sorge.

Second: Councilman Windish.

All in Favor – Aye.

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.



Linda DeSantis, RMC  
Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Added Resolution:**

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Motion to Approve: Council President Sorge.

Second: Councilman Windish.

Roll Call:

Aye: Danchuk, Council President Sorge, Sadow, Windish, Stanzilis

Absent: Cangiano

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

**14. Ordinances – Introduction**

None.

**15. Ordinances – Second Reading**

None.

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Action Will Not Be Taken.

Executive Discussion: Attorney Client Privilege.

Motion to Go Into Executive Session: Councilman Sadow.

Second: Councilman Stanzilis.

All in Favor – Aye.

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

Motion to Return to Open Session: Council President Sorge.

Second: Councilman Stanzilis.

All in Favor – Aye.

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

The Mayor stated that Council President Sorge will be away from August 12<sup>th</sup> through August 27<sup>th</sup>; Councilman Sadow will act as Council President during his absence due to his seniority on Council.

**17. Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn: Council President Sorge.

Second: Councilman Windish.

All in Favor – Aye.

None Opposed.

Motion Approved.



Linda DeSantis, RMC  
Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting of November 1, 2011.

BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON  
FINANCE OFFICE

Finance Report for June 2011

Current Fund

Receipts	307,770.17
Disbursements	1,395,116.42

Mayor report for 8/2/11

Since our meeting on 7/12/11:

7/14/11- Met with DOT over the sidewalks and parking lot. They were very pleased to learn we are interested in discussing the possible purchase of the parking lot.

7/20/11- Attended Regular Land Use Meeting

7/29/11- Officiated a wedding at our beach.

7/30/11-Officiated a wedding at the Arlington

7/31/11- Officiated a wedding at the Arlington

7/31-8/2/11- Attended a National Alternative Fuel Strategy retreat at the Rockefeller estate in Tarrytown, NY. This event was sponsored by the Clean Cities Coalition. Clean Cities is a national organization focused on the deployment of alternative energy vehicles. This is a serious transportation energy initiative. In enjoyed meeting Clean City Coordinators from all over the Country. I also enjoyed meeting the Mayor of Chattanooga, Tn as well as the former Mayor of Burbank, CA. Also spent some time with the DEP and DOE Commissioner from Connecticut. These were just a few of the many who are actively working to decrease our dependency on foreign oil. This is something that also seriously affects national security and health. It was a great event and the Estate is just incredible complete

with a museum and it is only 60 miles away on the other side of the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Read at meeting by Veronica Silkes  
August 2, 2011.

08-01-2011

Letter for the council of The Borough of Mount Arlington.

First of all I want to apologize for not being there in person but I have an appointment that I must keep out of state.

I am writing this letter because I do not want another police department to patrol and police the streets of The Borough of Mount Arlington. I am very happy with the service the Mt. Arlington Police Department (M.A.P.D) provides. I have seen M.A.P.D. cars driving around Bertrand Island in the early hours of the morning in many occasions. I worry that receiving police services from another police department other than Mt.Arlington's is going to impact the visibility of police officers in Mt. Arlington and specially the smaller less traveled streets. I know my tax paying money is staying in The Borough of Mount Arlington when I see the M.A.P.D. patrolling the one way in, one way out Bertrand Island Road in Mount Arlington.

I often wonder how the Roxbury tax paying residents feel when they see Roxbury Police cars on Route 80. Route 80 is patrolled by the State Police yet I see Roxbury Police cars on Rt. 80 almost every day I travel that roadway. I don't want my shared services/merger or whatever it could become police department on Route 80, I want them patrolling the town of Mount Arlington. If I was a resident in Roxbury I would want those cars in my neighborhood, not Route 80.

The news media has reported on various police department mergers and disbandments in New Jersey and the reports state that the taxes actually went up in the towns that contracted a new police department after their police department was eliminated.

Members of the council, I ask you to stop any plans to replace our police department immediately. Bigger is not always better.

Thank you for your time,  
Mount Arlington resident  
Nestor Pla  
9 Oak Street (Bertrand Island)  
Mount Arlington.