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**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OPEN PUBLIC FORUM
MARCH 16, 2010**

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 Daily Record on March 6, 2010 and in the Roxbury Register on March 11, 2010; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on March 4, 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 fighting for us.

4. Roll Call

Councilman Driscoll, Councilman Sadow, Council President Galate, Councilman Windish, Councilman Doran, Mayor Ondish. JoAnne Sendler, Borough Administrator, was also present; Councilman Sorge was absent.

5. Open Public Forum/Public Comment Regarding the Update of the Borough Master Plan.

The Mayor stated that by state statute, the Master Plan must be updated every six years and Council wanted an open discussion with the public to voice thoughts/opinions on future planning for Mount Arlington. The Land Use Attorney and Board members were also in attendance, along with planners who had previously submitted proposals. The Master Plan is made up of elements such as planning, recreation, etc.; we only have a certain amount of money to spend and want to be sure the planner focuses on the same element. The Mayor stated we will have one more Public Forum on Saturday, March 27th at 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

Veronica Silkes, Succasunna Road:

- Thanked the Mayor for placing the Master Plan on the website.
- Asked about a village center. The Mayor stated the village center designation was only for a limited amount of time and has expired. Borough went for the village center due to loans and grants, but at the time, we did not have a plan or concept for the center so we did not apply for grant money. The designation also involved COAH.
- Asked if sidewalks and lighting were part of the village center. The Mayor stated the streetscape project included the sidewalks and we received 4 DOT grants.
- Asked about new development. The Mayor stated Nolan's Ridge is not complete, and we have Shadow Woods and two new office buildings to be developed. Shadow Woods and the office buildings are in the United Water franchise area; Nolan's Ridge connects to Borough sewer and water.

- Asked how much land is dedicated to the Highlands. The Mayor stated the whole top of the mountain is in the preservation area. However, after about 4 years, we did get a waiver to put sewer and water lines in Parker/Southard/Circle.
- Asked about tourism. The Mayor stated the center of town and the lake should be the focus to generate revenue but one of our problems is we do not have any real commercial property.
- Asked about the truck stop. The Mayor stated that the property is now owned by Blue Diamond. The Mayor said changing Howard Boulevard to a mixed use zone would allow us to have little shops and a tourism center. Councilman Sadow stated 404 Howard has great historic value to Mount Arlington and would be a perfect site for a restaurant that would attract people, a destination restaurant similar to Pub 199; turn the building into revenue generator.
- Asked about Fireman's Field. The Mayor stated he would like to see the old tennis courts off Sandra Drive moved to Fireman's Field, where we have the playground, remodeled DPW, concession stand, and basketball court; we also have volleyball at the beach.
- Asked about development regulations and municipal land use laws. The Mayor stated municipal land use laws are state law and local changes are done by ordinances. Councilman Doran stated the only opportunity we have is to rezone property to attract more commercial development as opposed to residential.
- Asked about the cost for Master Plan. The Mayor stated the anticipated budget for the Master Plan is approximately \$28,000 but actually there is no budget right now due to state changes made today by Governor Christie. The Mayor stated we can not delay the Master Plan because the laws demand completion by the end of 2010; it is not completed, the presumption is that there is some invalidity of the zoning ordinance.

Nancy Absalom, 15 Oak Street:

- Asked about the Hercules powder plant land. The Mayor said Hercules has sold the land to a private owner.

Marlene Ackerman, Rogerene Way:

- Asked the intent of the Master Plan. The Mayor stated the Master Plan is a broad brush stroke of what we plan for our town in development, growth and change.

Donna Holmquist, Planner, Burgis Associates:

- Ms. Holmquist stated that land use affects the quality of life for residents so planners examine the mixture of land uses and the locations to try to promote maximum compatibility.

David Zimmerman, Planning Consultant:

- Mr. Zimmerman stated that the 1999 Master Plan recommended the now-built Nolan's Ridge, Bertrand Island, Ridgeview, etc., all just a vision in 1999; the role of Master Plan to project a development scheme for the future.

Marlene Ackerman, Rogerene Way:

- Asked about future development. The Mayor stated we have no more development, no more land to build on but we could redevelop land. The Mayor stated we want to finish the sidewalks to Memorial Park, with grant money, and the lights as well. The Mayor stated that the prime reason for sidewalks is safety, and described the inevitable growth changes in the town as opposed to years ago. The Mayor stated we have to move forward but we are waiting to see what the Governor will do; the Mayor is not going to put any more burden on taxpayers with regard to Master Plan. The Mayor stated that the state will be looking at municipalities that have utilized best practices with regard to municipal aid; the Mayor described all the services the borough now shares, noting we are doing everything according to the rule book and trying to get our expenses as low as possible. The Mayor stated the consolidation of schools falls under the purview of the school board.

Nancy Absalom, 15 Oak Street:

- Asked if shared services were part of the Master Plan. The Mayor stated recreation could fall in that category but we have always shared certain services.

The Mayor thanked all in attendance and requested more residents come out for the next meeting.

Frank Hughes, 436 Howard Boulevard:

- Asked if the old lights on Howard Boulevard are going to be removed. The Mayor stated the lights will be removed, the one at Altenbrand and Howard was already removed. The Mayor stated the new lights are about the same efficiency as the old lights; to upgrade to more modern lighting would be a tremendous cost.

The Borough Administrator stated that Councilman Sadow will conduct a Finance Meeting on Monday evening, March 22nd, with the Committee, Bud Jones, and Joe Kovalcik. Following that meeting, we will know whether we need to introduce our budget by the end of March; if extraordinary aid is in play at all, and they hold that date, we need to have a meeting by the end of the month. The Finance Committee will be meeting to review the budget, discuss the budget process and get answers from Mr. Jones and Mr. Kovalcik as to where we actually stand in this process. Councilman Sadow stated that if extraordinary aid is in play, Governor Christie might have changed the budget deadline from March. Councilman Sadow stated there was a lot of energy here tonight and would not like to dilute that energy on March 27th with something as important as the budget. Council President Galate expressed that more people might come for the budget on Saturday morning, which could then impact the input on the Master Plan.

Councilman Doran stated that with the severe damage many lakefront owners experienced during the last storm, it is that much more imperative that we get feedback from lakefront property owners on the lake level management. Please contact Councilman Doran regarding any feedback on this issue. The Mayor stated that because last year the lake did not rise after the drawdown, many residents and business owners on the lake wanted to stop future draw downs. There is now a Lake Level Management Committee, Councilman Doran is the Borough representative, and we are meeting on a regular basis. Councilman Doran stated there is a lot to be considered for the future, the more building around the lakefront of the lake affects the lake level. The Mayor stated all development now drains into the lake due to the fact that there is a reduction in forests and open land to absorb water. Councilman Doran stated the high water level rose under the ice, and there was extensive damage from the ice not softening and breaking into glacier like pieces, being windswept against property, docks, etc.; a lot of damage could not be prevented but some think if we should have more detailed control of the lake's level. Lake Hopatcong's level went up over one foot in 24 hours and now we must initiate No Wake on the lake.

The Administrator stated the Office of Emergency Management will be utilizing the Reverse 911 to assist anyone that has property damage from the storm. The Mayor stated that the Reverse 911 regarding the storm was an excellent exercise and the Chief had an excellent message. The Mayor stated that the Reverse 911 will go to any number you specify so if you have alternate numbers, call the Police Department.

The Mayor again announced the Open Forum on Saturday, March 27th at 9:00 a.m. at MAPS.

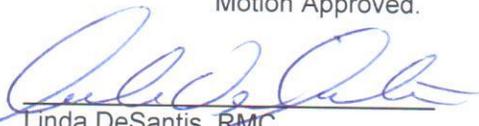
6. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Driscoll.

Second: Councilman Sadow.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.



Linda DeSantis, RMC
Borough Clerk