

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2007**

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 January 18, 2007, and the Change in Meeting Location was published in the Roxbury Register and the Daily Record on October 18, 2007; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 8, 2007; the Change in Meeting Location was posted on October 15, 2007 and said notice is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

3. Flag Salute

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence to honor our troops serving overseas and their families.

4. Roll Call

Councilwoman Mulligan, Councilman Doran, Councilman Sorge, Councilwoman Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll, Councilman Stone, Mayor Ondish. JoAnne Sendler, Borough Administrator, and Fred Semrau, Esq. were also present.

5. Chief Richard Peterson and FOP President Joseph Wargo to Address Mayor and Council.

Chief Richard Peterson read his letter addressed to the Mayor, dated October 18, 2007, into the record (attached).

FOP President Joseph Wargo read his letter into the record (attached).

Council President Driscoll stated that earlier this evening he met with Chief Peterson, FOP President Wargo and FOP Vice President LaBruno, along with the Mayor and Borough Administrator. Council President Driscoll stated that he believes the Police are sincere regarding resolving their situation internally and that the community can be safe. Council President Driscoll stated he would like to make a Motion to provide the Police the opportunity to work with the administration so the Borough does not need to consider a shared services agreement for police services at this time. Council President Driscoll further emphasized that Council should consider a 14th individual for the Police Department; the resolution to authorize hiring another officer would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Motion to Provide the Police Department the Opportunity to Work with the Administration and to Hire a Fourteenth Individual: Council President Driscoll.

Second: Councilwoman Cerasoli.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll, Stone.

Motion Approved.

The Mayor called for a five minute break before continuing the meeting.

6. Presentations/Mayor's Appointments

Report: Analysis of Police Shared Services as prepared by Blue Shield Consulting. Ted Ehrenburg, Blue Shield Consulting, answered questions regarding his report.

7. Open to Public

- Andrew Lemieux, Newark, NJ:

Mr. Lemieux, a second year Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, has been asked by SaveMAPD to research the Blue Shield report and commented on the contents of the report.

- Gerry Curtin, 133 Orben Drive:

Mr. Curtin referred to a recent request by Mr. Paff of the Libertarian Party wherein Mr. Paff requested Executive Session Minutes; when Mr. Curtin asked the Borough Attorney if this request could be brought before the Morris County Prosecutor, the Borough Attorney said that would be only for a criminal matter. Council stated that Mr. Paff 's requests concerned Executive Session minutes and had nothing to do with the Police. The Mayor explained the procedures for Executive Sessions/Minutes.

- Wendy Maller:

Ms. Maller asked why the Borough has not considered sharing other Borough employee services with other municipalities and asked if the Business Administrator is chipping in for her benefits.

- Maureen Graham, 8 Reba Road:

Ms. Graham voiced her satisfaction with maintaining the Police Department and indicated that a firm such as Blue Shield Consulting naturally would recommend shared services for the success of their business.

- David Rubenstein, Kenvil:

Mr. Rubenstein expressed his pleasure with the Council's decision to maintain the Police Department and handed out a report written by Attorney Colleen Cusack; the Clerk indicated that this report was received in her office via Federal Express on Friday and Council had been provided copies. Mr. Rubenstein stated that Mr. Paff is not a member of the SaveMAPD campaign.

- Anne Davis, Hopatcong Avenue:

Ms. Davis thanked the Police Chief, the Members of the FOP and the Mayor and Council for the decision to maintain our Police Department. Ms. Davis also thanked Mr. Rubenstein for his efforts.

- Walter Leurs, Esq., Atlantic Highlands:

Mr. Leurs was hired by SaveMAPD to review and critique Mr. Ehrenburg's report. Mr. Leurs distributed his Analysis of Blue Shield Report and directed a few general concerns to both the Council and Mr. Ehrenburg.

- Larry Andico, Mountainview Avenue:

Mr. Andico questioned what other shared services have been reviewed for the Borough. The Mayor stated that wherever we can do shared services in order to save money for the residents we do, i.e., our Health Officer is shared with Mount Olive, Animal Control is shared with Jefferson Township. Mr. Andico questioned why the Borough has a part-time Administrator and questioned her salary and the salary of her Assistant. The Mayor responded that the amount of hours that the Administrator dedicates to the Borough far exceeds "part-time".

- Gayle Livecchia, Brookside Lane:

Ms. Livecchia stated that she had some problems with the Blue Shield report, indicating that there was no Statement of Ethical Disclosure, which she believes is a requirement. Ms. Livecchia questioned other research techniques used for the report as well.

8. Executive Session

2007-143 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Authorizing Conference of the Mayor and Borough Council with the Public Excluded. Subject Matter: Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public.

Motion to Withdraw Resolution #2007-143: Councilwoman Mulligan.

Second: Councilman Doran.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

9. Ordinances – Second Reading

18-07 Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, To Vacate and Extinguish Any and All Public Rights In and To a Portion of the Lane.

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public on Ordinance #18-07 and read the Ordinance by title.

Councilman Sorge stated, I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance #18-07.

Second: Council President Driscoll.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll, Stone.

The Mayor declared that Ordinance #18-07 is passed on second reading and directed the Clerk to publish the notice of adoption as required by law.

20-07 Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Grant of Sewer Lateral Easement Across Logan Way.

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public on Ordinance #20-07 and read the Ordinance by title.

Councilman Sorge stated, I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance #20-07.

Second: Councilman Stone.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll, Stone.

The Mayor declared that Ordinance #20-07 is passed on second reading and directed the Clerk to publish the notice of adoption as required by law.

21-07 Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, To Amend and Supplement the Code of the Borough of Mount Arlington, Chapter XII, Salaries, Personnel and Standards.

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public on Ordinance #21-07 and read the Ordinance by title.

Fran Hallowich, 502 Howard Boulevard, asked what this ordinance meant regarding titles/salary. JoAnne Sandler explained that this ordinance is simply changing the title of one of our employees from Secretary to Administrator on the Board of Health; there are no changes in responsibility nor salary.

Council President Driscoll stated, I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance #21-07.

Second: Councilman Stone.

Roll Call: Mulligan, Doran, Sorge, Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll, Stone.

The Mayor declared that Ordinance #21-07 is passed on second reading and directed the Clerk to publish the notice of adoption as required by law.

10. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Council President Driscoll.

Second: Councilman Stone.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

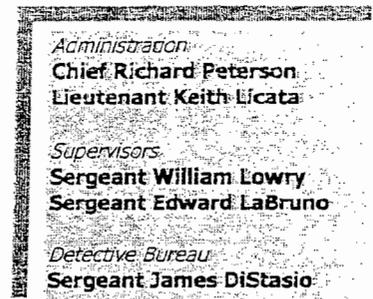
Linda DeSantis, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting on March 10, 2008.

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MOUNT ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

520 Altenbrand Avenue
Mount Arlington, New Jersey 07856
Telephone: 973-398-2100
Facsimile: 973-398-6816
Emergency: 9-1-1



Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mayor Arthur Ondish
Borough of Mount Arlington
419 Howard Boulevard
Mount Arlington, New Jersey 07856

*Hand Delivered
By Chief Peterson
10/22/07*

RE: Police Department

Mayor Ondish,

The issues currently before us concerning the police department have created a very undesirable condition throughout the Borough. It has affected the town's administration, the numerous departments, and the residents. The discussions have become personal and emotional, taking away from the real issue at hand.

We, (this department) created this problem due to an internal breakdown in communication and vision. We forced you and the members of council to intervene in a matter that could have and should have been handled internally. Your reaction to the issue of liability was proper and prudent. Miscommunication and misinformation have caused this situation to spin out of control. For that, I am truly sorry.

Numerous meetings and discussions have taken place involving the Fraternal Order of Police, the department staff and myself. What was once cloudy is now clear. As a group we now have a consensus and vision on where we are now and where we have to be in the future. The issues of department maintenance, officer safety, the safety of the residents and overtime practices has been resolved to our satisfaction. We are committed as a department to continue to provide a professional police service to the Borough and its residents.

MOUNT ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

520 Altenbrand Avenue

Mount Arlington, New Jersey 07856

Telephone: 973-398-2100

Facsimile: 973-398-6816

Emergency: 9-1-1

I respectfully request that you and the members of council consider tabling or putting aside the issues of police services at this time and throughout next year, 2008.

Let us take all the information and ideas that were gathered throughout this process from the many different sources and use it to continue to make progress. If at that time, issues remain or other issues become known, we can address them as a group and community.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Peterson', written over a horizontal line.

Richard Peterson
Chief of Police

Cc: JoAnne Sendler, Borough Administrator

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Richard Peterson
Chief of Police

I am Joseph Wargo president of the fop lodge 78. I would like to thank the mayor and council for the opportunity to speak this evening. I would also like to thank the citizens for their overwhelming support. You have no idea what that means to us. I would also like to thank the officers from numerous agencies of this state that are here to provide their support. I would just like to clarify an issue that everyone may or may not be aware of. The Mount Arlington fop lodge 78 is the bargaining unit and union for the members of the Mount Arlington police dept.

I would like to acknowledge the fact that the fop issued a letter to the mayor and council addressing concerns in reference to safety for the community and the officers of our police department. The governing bodies were put in a position where they were forced to consider alternatives in an attempt to address the liability concerns of the letter that we issued to them back in March. For that I would like to apologize to the mayor and council members. This was an issue that could have and should have been resolved within the ranks of the police department. Due to a lack of communication this issue was not addressed in the appropriate manner and has brought us to this point.

As we have so many times in the past we were able to come together and develop a plan and a vision which would best serve the needs of the residents the concerns of the governing body and the police department as a whole. Chief Peterson has a plan that addresses those needs and completely meets the concerns that were brought to light in the letter issued by the union. At the same time it addresses the needs of the community and relieves the mayor and council of the liability issue which was thrust upon them. I am here to say that the union and the entire membership of the police department back the chief and his plan 100 percent. We are in full agreement that this plan is the best scenario for the residents of Mount Arlington the governing body of Mount Arlington and the officers of the Mount Arlington police department. We are a family and that includes the officers and mayor and council and the residents of this great community.

Once again I would like to thank the mayor and council for the opportunity to address this issue and the residents for their support. I can whole heartedly say we love this community and look forward to serving it's resident's for years to come.

Thank you.

