

1

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING WORKSESSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 24, 2008**

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 Thursday, March 20, 2008; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on March 11, 2008 and has been available to the public; notice of this meeting is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Formal action may be taken at Worksession Meetings.

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 pray for our soldiers and their families, especially Danielle Burros, a Mount Arlington resident who just left to serve in Iraq.

4. Roll Call

Council President Driscoll, Councilman Sorge, Councilwoman Galate Goodman, Councilwoman Mulligan, Councilwoman Cerasoli, Councilman Doran, Mayor Ondish, JoAnne Sandler, Borough Administrator, Mitch Jacobs, Borough Attorney and Matthew Giacobbe, Borough Attorney, were also present. (Attorney Giacobbe arrived at 7:15 p.m.)

5. Presentations/Mayor's Appointments

The Mayor stated there are numerous committees he would like to put together; information is on the Borough website with many opportunities for our residents to get involved and serve our community.

6. Open to Public

Carolyn O'Connor, Technical Assistant:

- Ms. O'Connor has worked as part-time Technical Assistant to the Construction Official for four years. There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to cut her hours from thirty-one hours per week to fifteen hours per week. Ms. O'Connor would like to work two days for 7-1/2 hours each day, Wednesday's and Thursday's; she has already spoken with the Borough Administrator regarding this request.

Bill O'Connor, (Carolyn's husband), Hopatcong:

- Mr. O'Connor's family pays taxes on eight different pieces of property in Mount Arlington and indicated that he has other interests in the town other than his wife's employment. At the last meeting, he listened to Council regarding reducing Carolyn's hours; he told Carolyn at that time that it was not personal, it is a sign of the times. However, he now feels it is personal because the comments made to lower her hours and hire a private company that makes a profit to do the clerical work does not make sense, especially since she does not get disability insurance nor health benefits. Mr. O'Connor continued to speak about possible alternatives to cutting this position, monetary figures of the Construction Department, and the position of Land Use Secretary. He discussed his recent OPRA requests for UCC annual reports and possible shared services with Hopatcong and reiterated that he believes the actions of Council are personal for one or more members. The Mayor responded that Construction did make money over last five years because of the huge developments that

were built; we are now losing money in the Construction Department. The Mayor stressed that this decision has nothing to do with Carolyn personally but an opportunity for us to share services and share taxpayer dollars.

7. Discussion Topics

1. **Public Parking near Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club.**
The Mayor stated that on Bertrand Island on the corner by the Yacht Club (where they recently took a house down) is a vacant lot. The concrete and stone wall is dilapidated and the parking is terrible for the residents; people park on the street along the wall. The Mayor spoke to the Club about taking the wall down, grading the land back a little so people could park off the street and on that property, which would be better for snow plowing and ease a safety hazard. The Mayor suggested DPW take the wall down, grade the property a little, get the people off the road and make it a safer corner. Councilman Sorge stated that we should not use DPW to do work for a private organization; this would be setting a bad precedent. Council agreed this was not something the Borough should be involved in but rather we should enforce the parking regulations in that area which might solve the problems.
2. **Mayor's Green Initiative.**
The Mayor stated that the Hydro System has been installed on the Dial-A-Ride van. The Mayor urged people to volunteer to be on a Green Team to look at all the initiatives available. The Mayor attended the Mayors Committee for Green Futures meeting at the Convention; they host a website named Sustainable Jersey with information to initiate green programs to save money and be more environmentally friendly. The Mayor signed up Councilwoman Galate Goodman and himself for the Mayors Wellness Campaign which is an organization trying to bring changes of health and fitness to communities. The Mayor will appoint the Green Committee in the beginning of the year, with a Council person as liaison.
3. **Council Meetings for 2009: Dates, Times, Length of Meetings and Worksessions.**
The Mayor suggested Council begin meetings at 6:00 p.m. rather than 7:00 p.m. so the meetings end earlier in the evening. Council discussed designating an end time, possibly a three hour cap, but legally the meetings must be open-ended; if a meeting gets too lengthy, Council may in fact schedule a special continuance meeting. Council agreed that meetings would begin at 6:00 p.m. and the December meeting would be mid-month, December 14, 2009. Council agreed that all meetings to be regular meetings, no Worksessions for the upcoming year. The Mayor and Administrator had talked about having some meetings earlier in the day to allow more Seniors to attend; however, in the past, we held some meetings on Saturday morning but there was not an increase in attendance. The Borough Administrator stated that Firehouse Bids will be opened on December 11, 2008; Council agreed to move the December 8, 2008 meeting to December 16, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Doran stated that he does not want to receive documentation at the meetings that he has not seen before, and he will not act on any document that he has not had time to review prior to the meeting. Councilman Doran asked that he be present when the public dock project is discussed and the resolution adopted.

Motion to Move Executive Session to the End of the Meeting: Council President Driscoll.

Second: Councilman Doran.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

9. Resolutions

2008-164 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 November 14, 2008.

Motion to Approve: Council President Driscoll.

Second: Councilman Sorge.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Driscoll, Sorge, Galate Goodman, Mulligan, Cerasoli, Doran.

Motion Approved.

2008-165 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Authorizing Issuance of Towing Licenses for the Period January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

Motion to Approve: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Council President Driscoll.

The towing companies are called on a rotation basis.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Driscoll, Sorge, Galate Goodman, Mulligan, Cerasoli, Doran.

Motion Approved.

2008-166 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Specifying Employment Terms for Carolyn O'Connor, Construction Department Clerical Employee.

Motion to Approve: Council President Driscoll.

Second: Councilman Sorge.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Driscoll, Sorge, Galate Goodman, Cerasoli, Doran.

Nay: Mulligan.

Motion Approved.

10. Motions

None.

11. Borough Administrator's Report

- The Borough Administrator confirmed that she will work with Carolyn O'Connor regarding her hours.
- The Borough Administrator stated that during the Reorganization Meeting the Mayor appoints the Council Liaisons and she received a request to add a liaison to the Seniors. Council decided to add this to the one-year Council appointments.
- The Borough Administrator stated that there have been questions about the dedication plaques for the municipal building. Mr. Phil stated it is very difficult to secure the heavy plaques on the outside stone and suggested both be hung inside the entrance vestibule of the building; Council approved.

Councilwoman Galate Goodman:

- Councilwoman Galate Goodman attended the Board of Education meeting and gave a summary of school activities: the girls soccer team is number one in the county; their standardized testing was okay and the scores were up in 11 out of 14 categories; the Board of Education has new website containing all testing statistics; one fifth grade student scored a perfect 300 on math, 3 sixth graders scored over 280 in math; the fifth grade came in lowest because testing has changed and they still had to compare test scores to the previous scoring method; Veteran's spoke to the students on Veteran's Day; people in the community are teaching the fifth graders ceramics; and, two children's authors spoke at Decker and MAPS and taught the students creative writing. Since our students go to Roxbury High School, the Roxbury Band won the Marine Corp. award for second year in a row. Councilwoman Galate Goodman will announce future events for the schools so Council may attend. Councilwoman Galate Goodman stated that Roxbury School is selling back their

energy and getting credit for time not in school to the Rockaway Mall. The Mayor explained the theory behind Demand Time but no further details were available at this point regarding the school involvement.

- Councilwoman Galate Goodman stated the Holiday Tree Lighting verbiage is a problem for her; it is a Christmas tree lighting and distributed a letter containing legal advice and opinion on the correct verbiage. The Borough Attorney stated this should be discussed in Closed Session because it refers to legal parameters.
- Councilwoman Galate Goodman stated that there is a large ad on the back of the Lake Hopatcong Times regarding the Hybrid Hydrogen Vehicles.

8. Executive Session

2008-163 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.

Executive Session Topics: Collective Bargaining Agreement, Police, Shared Services, Court, Construction, Personnel and Attorney/Client Privilege Discussions.

There may be action taken following the Executive Session.

Motion to Go Into Executive Session: Councilman Sorge.

Second: Councilman Doran.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

Motion to Return to Open Session Council President Driscoll.

Second: Councilman Sorge.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

Council agreed that the Reorganization Meeting will be held on January 6, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Councilman Doran requested a Council Member attend the County 2009 Budget preparation meeting; Joseph Kovalcik will be attending but Councilman Doran urged the necessity of Council members to attend. Council discussed the tax from the County with regard to Lee's Park and Councilman Doran voiced his concern over the old trees hanging over the County roads and stated we need someone to scrutinize the spending of the County. The Mayor stated he tends to count on the Freeholders whom he trusts to do the best for the municipalities.

The Mayor did urge Council to attend the County Reorganization Meeting on January 5, 2009.

The Mayor invited Council to the Christmas Show at Daytop School, Mendham; breakfast and concert on December 16, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

12. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Council President Driscoll.

Second: Councilman Sorge.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

Linda DeSantis, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting of December 22, 2008.