

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 4, 2021  
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. This meeting was held remotely/electronically using the platform Zoom and commenced at 7:04PM.

Mayor Stanzilis stated “adequate notice of this meeting held this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021 has been provided as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, as follows: Notice was published in the Daily Record and the Roxbury Register on January 12, 2021 and posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Borough Municipal Building, on January 6, 2021; notice of this meeting is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk. Additional notice of this meeting, including without limit setting forth procedures and requirements for public participation therein given the ongoing pandemic, was also transmitted to the Morris County Daily Record and the Roxbury Register, posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Borough Municipal Building, and posted on the Borough’s website. Consistent with that additional notice, public comment may be made during this meeting in any of the following ways:

1. By attending this meeting in person, subject to capacity limits as noted in the special notice due to the pandemic;
2. By attending this meeting via Zoom, using the Attendee Link provided in that notice;
3. By attending this meeting via telephone, using the Phone Number and Event Number/Access Code provided in that notice;
4. By having provided comments in writing via electronic mail prior to 4:00 p.m. on the date of this meeting, as provided in the notice; or,
5. By having provided comments in writing and mailed same for delivery no later than the date of this meeting, as provided in the notice.

Procedures, requirements and standards for making public comment in remote meetings shall be governed by applicable law, including Local Finance and regulatory guidance. In connection with this remote meeting, the Borough will be utilizing an electronic communications platform that utilizes audio muting in connection with the control of this meeting, including the orderly conduct of public comment.”

The Mayor led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Stanzilis asked everyone to observe a moment of silence to reflect on those who had lost their lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to pray for their families.

Roll Call was taken for attendance:

**Present:** Councilwoman Farris, Councilwoman Fostle, Councilman Loughridge, Council President Delaney and Mayor Stanzilis

**Absent:** Councilman Cangiano, Councilwoman Galate

**Present from Administration:** Administrator/CFO Ms. Rinaldi, Police Chief LaBruno, Fire Chief Giacobbe, Borough Attorney Mr. Jessup, Borough Engineer Mr. Puszcz. Also present were Borough Auditor Bud Jones and Brian Coe from Nisivoccia, LLP.

**Presentations:**

**Mayor and Borough Council Recognition of Mount Arlington Volunteer Fire Department and International Firefighters' Day**

The Mayor read the proclamation recognizing the Mount Arlington Fire Department and International Firefighters' Day which was also on this day. The Mayor thanked Fire Chief Giacobbe for his leadership, and to the entire Fire Department for their outstanding service, courage and volunteerism. The entire community was very thankful.

**Mayor and Borough Council Recognition of Board of Health President Laura O'Reilly Stanzilis**

The Mayor read the proclamation recognizing Board of Health President Laura O'Reilly Stanzilis to publicly acknowledge and thank her for her ten years of public service on the Mount Arlington Board of Health, and for her numerous contributions and years of selfless service to the Borough.

**Appointments:**

**2021-63** Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey Hiring Matthew Kaiteris as Police Officer

Motion to Approve: Council President Delaney

Second: Councilwoman Farris

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call was taken.

Aye: Farris, Fostle, Loughridge, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries.

**Oath of Office - Swearing in of Police Officer Matthew Kaiteris**

Mayor Stanzilis administered an Oath of Office to Police Officer Matthew Kaiteris.

**Board of Recreation Commission**

- Amanda Braico, Alternate 1, 5-year term expiring 12/31/25
- Kristen Eannetta, Alternate 2, 5-year unexpired term, expiring 12/31/21

The Mayor asked that a motion be made to appoint Amanda Braico as a Board of Recreation Commission Alternate 1 Member for a 5-year term expiring 12/31/25; and to appoint Kristen Eannetta as a Board of Recreation Commission Alternate 2 Member for a 5-year unexpired term, expiring 12/31/21.

Motion to Appoint Amanda Braico and Kristen Eannetta: Councilwoman Fostle

Second: Councilman Loughridge

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Farris, Fostle, Loughridge, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

### **Tax and Utility Report**

None

### **Finance Report for the Month of March**

Receipts: \$631,768.00

Disbursements: \$2,566,874.15

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **April 6, 2021 - Regular Council Meeting**

Motion to Approve: Council President Delaney

Second: Councilwoman Fostle

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call was taken.

Aye: Fostle, Loughridge, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: Farris

Motion carries.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Stanzilis thanked Chief LaBruno for holding a final retirement walkout for Police Sgt. James Distasio so that Sgt. Distasio could officially retire from the Mount Arlington Police Department. The Mayor went on to congratulate the Police and Fire Departments for their willingness to always step up and serve the community. He was very proud of the work that they did, how much he loved being a resident of Mount Arlington and to serve as Mayor.

### **Chief of Police Report**

Chief LaBruno agreed with the Mayor that the Mount Arlington Police Officers wanted all residents to live and thrive there. There was a true partnership amongst all departments with the support of the Mayor and Governing Body. He stated Sgt. James Distasio had a great final retirement walkout and was thankful Sgt. Distasio was able to experience it. Sgt. Distasio was a former Mount Arlington Police Officer who had experienced a horrific traffic accident. He would always be a member of the Mount Arlington family. Chief LaBruno congratulated new Officer Matthew Kaiteris on his employment with the Borough. With the COVID-19 pandemic beginning to improve, police officers were able to resume attending important trainings and workshops.

### **Borough Administrator's Report**

Ms. Rinaldi welcomed Officer Matthew Kaiteris to the Mount Arlington team. She also thanked the Council Members for their hard work on the 2021 Municipal Budget. She had an upcoming meeting with New Jersey Natural Gas as there were many residents who had expressed interest in bringing natural gas to their homes. The beach would be opening Memorial Day weekend and would be open weekends until the schools were out for the summer; then it would be open daily through Labor Day. There was an ordinance on the agenda for financing for the light tower at Fire Rescue 8.

## **Council Committee Reports**

### *Councilwoman Fostle*

Councilwoman Fostle reported she had been very busy working on the budget and would be reporting on it later in the meeting. She was looking forward to seeing the finalized plans for the Logan Way construction project.

### *Councilwoman Farris*

Councilwoman Farris stated she was proud of the Police Department and how they worked together. The school system was fantastic. It was great to see the 7<sup>th</sup> graders at this morning's 10:00am Council meeting.

### *Councilman Loughridge*

Councilman Loughridge reported, regarding Recreation, that soccer and tee-ball were very successful. Girls softball had combined with Wharton. Art would not be running. There would not be a Memorial Day Parade, but there would be a Memorial Day Ceremony on May 29<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Park. The Community Garden was very successful this year. He looked at Logan Way and saw how much work it needed.

### *Council President Delaney*

Council President Delaney reported there were a lot of good things happening in town, which was great to see after a year of things being shut down. The final retirement walkout for Police Sgt. James Distasio was very special. Council President Delaney proudly announced he had become a Grandfather for the twelfth time at 3:30pm this afternoon.

Mayor Stanzilis added that Council President Delaney's son just became Police Chief in the Town of Dover.

## **Public Comment**

Paul Bizzaro, 6 Spruce Path – Mr. Bizzaro had a complaint regarding Orben Drive and Elizabeth way. People were parking their vehicles on both sides of the street, making it very difficult to drive through, even with small vehicles.

Mayor Stanzilis responded it was a public safety issue, especially if an ambulance or fire truck were unable to fit through. He assured Mr. Bizzaro that Ms. Rinaldi would consult with Mr. Puzsz and also make sure that the police enforced all applicable parking ordinances. The Mayor thanked Mr. Bizzaro for his service. Mr. Bizzaro replied he had been a Borough Fireman for 47 years and still drove the fire truck.

## **Ordinance – Introduction**

08-2021 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$20,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Purchase of a Replacement Light Tower for Fire Department Apparatus Rescue 8

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 08-2021 by Title.

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

*Motion:* Council President Delaney stated: “I make the motion that Ordinance 08-2021 be introduced, and will be further considered after a public hearing held on June 1, 2021 at the Municipal Building at 7:00PM.”

*Second:* Councilwoman Farris

There was no Council discussion.

*Roll Call:*

Aye: Farris, Fostle, Loughridge, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

09-2021 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Providing for the Logan Way Roadway Restoration in and by the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Appropriating \$570,000 Therefor, Including \$229,626.35 Reappropriated Proceeds of Obligations Not Needed for Their Original Purposes and \$27,500 from the Capital Improvement Fund, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$542,500 Bonds or Notes of the Borough to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 09-2021 by Title.

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

*Motion:* Councilman Loughridge stated: “I make the motion that Ordinance 09-2021 be introduced, and will be further considered after a public hearing held on June 1, 2021 at the Municipal Building at 7:00PM.”

*Second:* Council President Delaney

There was no Council discussion.

*Roll Call:*

Aye: Farris, Fostle, Loughridge, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

**Ordinance – Second Reading**

07-2021 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40a: 4-45.14)

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 07-2021 by Title.

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

*Motion:* Council woman Fostle stated: "I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance 07-2021"

*Second:* Council President Delaney

There was no Council discussion.

*Roll Call:*

Aye: Farris, Fostle, Loughridge, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

### **Budget Resolutions & Public Hearing**

2021-64 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount  
Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving Self-Examination  
of the Municipal Budget

Motion to Approve: Council President Delaney

Second: Councilwoman Fostle

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call was taken.

Aye: Farris, Fostle, Loughridge, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries.

### **Public Hearing on Introduced Budget**

Councilwoman Fostle gave an extensive presentation on the 2021 Municipal Budget, a copy of which is attached.

- The municipal tax rate would remain stable as it had been for the past five years. Last year's rate was 0.801%, and this year the rate would be 0.779%.
- The overall tax rate, which included School, County and Library taxes, increased slightly from 2.69% to 2.715%. On a house assessed at \$350,000, that was only an increase of \$7.29 per month.
- The Borough was able to provide the same level of services due to two essential elements:
  1. Conservative and prudent fiscal planning
    - a. Many grant opportunities.
    - b. Financing large projects with historically low interest rates.
    - c. Capital Improvement Funding and Current Funds available to handle emergency funds and higher expenditure years.
  2. A "race to the bottom" through "smart growth."

- a. Councilwoman Fostle emphasized the Borough's ongoing efforts in its "race to the bottom," meaning they were trying to keep the tax rate as low as possible in Morris County, if not the Greater New Jersey area.
- b. Shared Services agreements such as with Wharton Borough for DPW management.
- The Borough was not hurt financially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Staff were kept safe amongst all departments, including the Police Department, through staggered shifts, and by taking proper sanitary and precautionary measures. This reduced overtime and the ripple effects associated with facility closings.
  - The Borough was fortunate that most of its businesses were not impacted heavily by the pandemic in such a way that it did not negatively affect property tax revenue.

Councilwoman Fostle concluded by stating she was proud of the job they did. As a Borough resident herself, she felt that this was how she had hoped the budget would have been managed. She had confidence in Ms. Rinaldi's leadership and constant management of the budget all year long.

Mayor Stanzilis thanked Councilwoman Fostle for her excellent presentation. He thanked Ms. Rinaldi, the Finance Committee, Nisivoccia, LLP and the entire Borough team for their efforts.

2021-65 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Adopting the 2021 Municipal Budget.

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Fostle

Second: Councilwoman Farris

Council Discussion: None

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

Mayor Stanzilis read Resolution 2021-65 into the record stating "Be it Resolved by the Council Members of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

- (a) \$5,865,293.77 (Item 2 below) for municipal purposes, and
  - (b) Blank (Item 3 below) for school purposes in Type 1 School District only (N.J.S.A. 18A:9-2) to be raised by taxation and,
  - (c) Blank (Item 4 below) to be added to the certificate of amount to be raised by taxation for local school purposes in Type II School Districts only (N.J.S.A. 18A:9-3) and certification to the County Board of Taxation of the following summary of general revenues and appropriations.
  - (c) Blank (Sheet 43) Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Levy
  - (d) \$286,921.00 (item 5 below) Minimum Library Tax
- Total Revenues: \$11,190,519.59

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington and adopted on May 4, 2021."

Roll Call was taken.

Aye: Farris, Fostle, Loughridge, Council President Delaney  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion carries.

**Resolutions – All Vote by Consent**

- 2021-66 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving the Check Register Dated May 4, 2021
- 2021-67 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Temporary Suspension of Parking Restrictions on Seasons Drive as Set Forth in New Jersey Traffic Code 39:4-138
- 2021-68 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing an Annual Stipend for Lieutenant Matthew Green
- 2021-69 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council (MCCPC) to Renew Membership Therein for the Period of October 1, 2021 Through September 30, 2026
- 2021-70 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Change of Amount of the Plenary Retail Consumption and Distribution License Fees

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Fostle  
Second: Councilwoman Farris

Council Discussion: In reference to Resolution 2021-70, Mayor Stanzilis thanked the Council for giving the liquor license holders in town a financial break by lowering the annual liquor license renewal fee for the second year in a row in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Roll Call was taken.

Aye: Farris, Fostle, Loughridge, Council President Delaney  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion carries.

**Motion**

**Vendor Permit - Schwan's Home Service, Inc. – Grocery Delivery Service**

Motion to Approve: Council President Delaney  
Second: Councilwoman Fostle  
Council Discussion: None



Roll Call was taken.

Aye: Farris, Fostle, Loughridge, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries.

**Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn: Council President Delaney

Second: Councilwoman Fostle

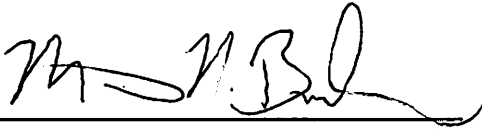
Roll Call:

All in Favor: Aye

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. N. Bansch", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew N. Bansch, Borough Clerk

CC: Website

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting of June 1, 2021