

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 21, 2021
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. This meeting was held in-person at the Municipal Building at 419 Howard Boulevard, Mount Arlington, New Jersey and commenced at 7:02PM.

Mayor Stanzilis stated “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 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. In accordance with the Open Public Meeting 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.”

The Mayor led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence to pray for all of those who were serving this nation around the world and would not be home for the Holidays.

Roll Call was taken for attendance:

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

Absent: None

Present from Administration: Administrator/CFO Ms. Rinaldi, Police Chief LaBruno, Borough Attorney Mr. Jessup and Borough Engineer Mr. Puszcz

Presentations:

Melissa Eckert, Board of Education Liaison Monthly Report:

Ms. Eckert reported the schools received results back from the Start Strong student assessment, which was in lieu of state testing that did not occur in spring 2021, to assess the needs of the students. The results were shared with parents. The assessment was broken down into the categories of mathematics and language arts. It was a good indicator for parents and teachers as to what students needed to improve on for the remainder of the school year. The Laker Insider was a new electronic newsletter which was a communication tool between school and home. It included sections such as the Principle’s Corner, upcoming events, Student Counsel News, PTO messages, highlights from music and art classes and more. Lastly, the student council initiated a parent and student survey a few months ago which focused on school climate, how kids were feeling at school and the parents’ perspectives. Based on the results, the students were working with guidance

counselors on an anti-bullying program called the Chain Reaction. Set to kick off after the Holiday break, the Chain Reaction would focus on doing good things which leads to positive things happening. When, in contrast, doing something negative leads to negative things happening. Ms. Eckert thought it was a very positive way to start off the New Year.

Appointments: - None

Tax and Utility Report for the Month of November

November Total Tax Collections: \$3,353,385.88

November Total Utility Collections: \$146,331.33

Finance Report for the Month of November

November Receipts: \$3,782,145.70

November Disbursements: \$3,313,255.77

Approval of Minutes

November 9, 2021 - Regular Council Meeting

Motion to Approve: Councilman Cangiano

Second: Councilwoman Farris

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Loughridge, Cangiano, Fostle, Galate, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: Farris

Motion Approved

Mayor's Report

Mayor Stanzilis reported that, last Friday, Altice cancelled a phone call which had been scheduled to discuss the many customer service concerns of Borough residents. The Borough would continue to stay on top of Altice to help the residents get some resolution to their concerns. He was invited to go for a walk with Congresswoman Mickie Sherrill to look at local small businesses and see how they were faring in the COVID-19 pandemic. The common issues amongst these businesses were with staffing and supply chain. Lastly, Mayor Stanzilis was attending many legislative meetings for the New Jersey Conference of Mayors. If there was any interesting legislation he would keep the Council informed.

Chief of Police Report

Chief LaBruno reported the Police Department had also been having issues with Altice. Between the three local municipalities, an agreement had been reached with Altice to have ten police officers assigned to various locations where Altice was installing fiberoptic lines. Altice was demonstrating a consistent lack of communication, with Altice crews often starting work in various locations without notifying the PD of their start time or location. The latest Altice usually worked was 6:00pm. The new vehicle and body cameras were tentatively going to be installed January 24th. The Borough police officers would need to be trained, and the goal was to be fully functional by March. Lastly, Chief LaBruno reported he had been sworn in as the Sergeant at Arms for the Police Chiefs Association.

There was discussion surrounding OPRA requests in association with the new vehicle and body cameras and the impact of OPRA's on police departments around the state.

Borough Administrator's Report

Ms. Rinaldi reported the Borough was closing out 2021 with several grant applications. The Borough had submitted two AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) applications on behalf of the Fire Department; one for 10 sets of turnout gear, and one for a new Ladder Truck. They hoped to hear a positive outcome for both applications between April and May of 2022. The third application slated for submission in the next few weeks was for a new Dial-a-Ride Bus. As she had discussed with the Council during the recent Borough Asset tour, the Borough was in need of a new Dial-a-Ride Bus. Mount Arlington's community had grown since the time of their last purchase (2014), their service needs had expanded, and the current Bus was now utilized full time, 5 days per week. The Borough was pursuing funding through the Morris County CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) to offset the cost of a new vehicle. They would be requesting the maximum request of \$50,000.00 and, if awarded, would be responsible for a \$48,875 match as a requirement of the grant. There were two resolutions on the agenda this evening, one regarding the fair housing notice, and one providing the Council's authorization to submit the application, which were part of the required grant application process. The application was due by January 7th. Ms. Rinaldi thanked Millenium Strategies for their assistance in completing all three applications, as well as members of the Fire Department that provided the statistics needed to complete the two AFG applications.

Ms. Rinaldi offered congratulations to the Borough on another shared service agreement which was an Animal Control contract with Hopatcong Borough. Hopatcong was the lead agency along with Mount Arlington, Wharton, Byram and Stanhope. The Borough felt it was a better option for residents. This agreement provided for animal control services from Hopatcong as well as pound services if needed. These services were more local than the previous agreement allowed for. Hopatcong had also indicated, in addition to their current staff, they had part time assistance available to maintain services for the municipalities involved in the agreement. While the cost of the agreement was borne from animal licensing fees, it was important to note, in the prior agreement, the Borough's share was \$10,831.00. In this agreement, the Borough's share was \$5,400.00 (50% reduction in cost).

Lastly, Ms. Rinaldi reported there was a revised Personnel Policies Procedures and Employee Handbook. As members of the Morris County Municipal joint insurance fund, the Borough was also members of the Municipal Excess Liability Fund who was responsible for the preparation and revisions of the policies. The policies and handbook required revisions every two years. As with many deadlines, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that requirement was extended to three years. Ms. Rinaldi stated she had participated in webinars held throughout the process and, included in the Counsel's packets, was a memo from Mr. Giacobbe, legal counsel responsible for the revised documents, that outlined the changes. All had been shared with the personnel committee as well.

Council Committee Reports

Councilwoman Galate

Councilwoman Galate thanked the Fire Department for a great Santa Run.

Councilwoman Fostle

Councilwoman Fostle stated she attended the November NJLM Conference. At the conference, she was especially pleased with Mr. Quillinan of the DPW who walked away with many good ideas for the Borough. She felt the conference was a very informative and positive experience. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah.

Councilwoman Cangiano

Councilman Cangiano agreed the NJLM Conference was tremendously valuable. Last month the Musconetcong Sewerage Authority passed their budget which included a fee increase of about 1.5%.

Councilwoman Farris

Councilwoman Farris reported the Personnel Committee had interviewed DPW candidates and would continue to interview more candidates in January. The Personnel Committee had been provided copies of the updated Policies and Procedures Manual and would be meeting to go over it in January. She wished everyone a Happy Holidays and was looking forward to a better 2022.

Councilman Loughridge

Councilman Loughridge reported the Recreation Meeting last night was cancelled.

Councilman President Delaney

Council President Delaney reported the Lake Hopatcong Foundation Floating Classroom would continue to run through next year, thanks to a \$10,000 grant secured by the Elk's Lodge. The Elks would be looking for more grant opportunities in the future. Council President Delaney wished Borough resident Pasquale Rosio Scarpino a happy 104th birthday. Mr. Scarpino was born in 1917, the same year World War I commenced and Woodrow Wilson was sworn in as President of the United States for a second term. Mr. Pasquale immigrated to the United States from Italy and went through Ellis Island. He had been married eight times throughout the course of his life. Mr. Rosario was an active Borough resident, currently residing in the Carriage House.

Public Comment - There was no public comment.

Ordinance – Introduction - none

Ordinance – Second Reading

17-2021 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Acceptance of the Dedication of Various Easements, Access, and Other Rights-of-Way in the Trailwood Section of the Shadow Woods Development to the Borough of Mount Arlington Pursuant to and in Accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:67-1, et seq.

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 17-2021 by Title.

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

Motion: Councilwoman Galate stated: "I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance 17-2021"

Second: Councilman Loughridge

There was no Council discussion.

Roll Call:

Aye: Farris, Loughridge, Cangiano, Fostle, Galate, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Mr. Puszcz commended the Mayor and Council for all of their hard work over many years to bring this ordinance to fruition.

Resolutions – All Vote by Consent

2021-126 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey Approving Transfer of Funds

2021-127 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 December 21, 2021

2021-128 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Interlocal Services Contract Between the Borough of Mount Arlington, the Borough of Wharton, the Township of Byram and the Borough of Stanhope, with the Borough of Hopatcong, for the Provision of Animal Control Officer Services and Animal Pound/Shelter Services

2021-129 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Adopting a Revised Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies and Procedures Handbook

2021-130 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Supporting Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination

2021-131 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing an Application to the Morris County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for A Dial-A-Ride Bus

2021-132 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Hiring Cesar Galo as Full-Time Department of Public Works Laborer

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Galate

Second: Councilwoman Fostle

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Farris, Loughridge, Cangiano, Fostle, Galate, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Council President Delaney

Second: Councilman Cangiano

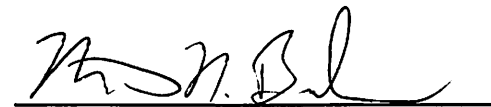
Roll Call:

All in Favor: Aye

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

The meeting adjourned at 7:37PM.

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

Matthew N. Bansch, Borough Clerk

CC: Website