

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

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. This meeting was held in-person at the Municipal Building at 419 Howard Boulevard, Mount Arlington, New Jersey and commenced at 7:03PM.

Council President Delaney 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.”

Council President Delaney led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked everyone to pause for a moment of silence to remember the victims of the new strain of the COVID-19 virus.

Roll Call was taken for attendance:

Present: Councilwoman Farris, Councilman Loughridge, Council President Delaney and Councilwoman Galate

Absent: Councilman Cangiano, Councilwoman Fostle and Mayor Stanzilis

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

Presentations:

Colleen Lyons, Lake Hopatcong Commission Administrator Monthly Report:

Ms. Lyons reported that Princeton Hydro gave a presentation at the Commission’s November meeting which included some information on the Mount Arlington Beach Restoration Plan:

- The targeted amount of TP (Total Phosphorus) to be removed for the Beach Restoration Plan was 19 pounds per year.
- If the Biochar were to continue to be installed (6 pounds of TP removed), the shoreline stabilization project was conducted (as part of the 319 Grant; 2.7 pounds of TP removed) and the Glen Brook stabilization project was implemented (as part of the existing NFWF Grant; 14 pounds of TP removed), then these existing projects would already remove 22.7 pounds of TP and the Borough would reach its goal.
- If all recommended projects were implemented at the site, an estimated 38 pounds of TP could be removed per year.

- The Borough may want to consider installing some Biochar at the beach, as well as conducting some Canada goose management (if they were a problem at the beach) to provide additional relief from HABs (harmful algal blooms) in the beach area.

Ms. Lyons reported BioChar removal rates at Memorial Pond had a 90% effective removal rate.

The Mount Arlington aeration system still needed some adjustments. Princeton Hydro would continue to monitor through 2022 and provide their results to Mount Arlington and DEP.

Through Rutgers, the Commission had designed 26 raingardens for residents and installed 5 to date.

Regarding the 319 Grant, Princeton Hydro completed the data collection and were analyzing the results. They were looking into aeration and alum as two possible technologies for the lake to reduce HABs. Alum seemed to be the most cost-effective option, but they were still reviewing everything.

Regarding weed harvesting, the transfer of equipment and employees was scheduled for January 1, 2022. The Commission was hopeful the weed harvesters would be out on the water in May 2022.

Ms. Lyons attended a meeting with the Morris County Parks Commission on November 23rd to discuss proposed improvements at Lee's County Park Marina, such as stormwater management and how the park would be used. Ms. Rinaldi was also present at the meeting. The next step was the Parks Commission would contract with their design professional and continue to update everyone involved.

Ms. Lyons reported, as she had mentioned at the last Council Meeting, a Jefferson Township resident had filed a complaint about some fecal material in the lake. Ms. Lyons stated that Jefferson Township cleaned the storm drains and there had been no additional complaints.

Melissa Eckert, Board of Education Liaison Monthly Report:

Ms. Eckert was not present. Councilwoman Galate gave part of her monthly report since it touched on the Board of Education.

Councilwoman Galate

Councilwoman Galate reported the Mount Arlington Schools started their newspaper, Laker Insider, which was available on the school website. They also brought back a five-member 8th grade Student Council. Their Winter Concert was scheduled for December 16th. The PTO was currently running a raffle through December 13th to win a \$250 gift card to a variety of retail stores. Tickets were \$10 each. Lastly, Councilwoman Galate commended the PTO, stating they were an amazing group who were doing phenomenal things with the schools.

Revaluation Overview - Jack Marchione, Borough Tax Assessor & Appraisal Systems, Inc.:

Mr. Marchione, as well as Mr. Jason Cohen from Appraisal Systems, provided an update on the upcoming Revaluation of Borough properties. Mr. Marchione reminded everyone that the Borough had been ordered back in 2019 by the County Board of Taxation to conduct the Revaluation in 2021. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Revaluation deadline had been extended to January 2023.

Mr. Marchione provided the Mayor and Council with a handout of the 2023 Revaluation Time Line. He went over some highlights:

- By January 2022 a letter would be mailed to all Borough property owners. The letter would notify residents that the Borough had been ordered to conduct a Revaluation, and an inspector would be coming to their house sometime during 2022. The letter would also direct residents to Appraisal System's website for additional information on the Revaluation, including when inspectors would be in certain areas of town.
- Throughout 2022, inspections would run, and data would be collected and analyzed.
- Between November and December 2022, the proposed property values would be reviewed, and a taxpayer notification of proposed values would be mailed to all residents.
- Residents would have the opportunity to meet with Appraisal Systems or Mr. Marchione to discuss the new property value, which would go into effect for 2023.

Mr. Cohen stated the Appraisal Systems website would be a main communication tool with Borough residents. Residents could view letters, notifications, maps of where the inspectors were currently working in town, and the assessed values of all properties once finalized.

Mr. Cohen went over COVID safety protocols. There would also be an option of virtual inspections via Zoom. It was ultimately up to the property owners as to how much contact they wished to have with the inspectors.

Councilwoman Farris questioned how the current real estate market volatility would affect the assessed values. Mr. Cohen replied values would mostly be based on the real estate market as of October 1, 2022.

Ms. Rinaldi stated her questions had already been answered during Mr. Marchione's and Mr. Cohen's presentation, which were primarily about COVID contingencies with staffing, residents being concerned about inspectors being in their homes, and any other unexpected delays.

Mr. Cohen replied their biggest challenge throughout the COVID-19 pandemic had been staffing issues. Some towns that Appraisal Systems had worked with during the pandemic did need to request some extra time due to staffing issues.

Mr. Marchione added the County Board of Taxation had been very cooperative with towns during the pandemic. Although not ideal, the Borough could request an extension from the County if it were deemed necessary. His goal was to get the best possible numbers on the books.

Appointments:

Board of Recreation Commission - Adam Toombs, Full Member, 5-year term expiring 12/31/25
Council President Delaney asked that a motion be made to appoint Adam Toombs to the Recreation Commission.

Motion to Appoint: Councilwoman Galate

Second: Councilman Farris

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Farris, Loughridge, Galate, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Although Mr. Toombs was not present, the Borough Council congratulated him on his appointment.

Tax, Utility and Finance Reports – None

Approval of Minutes – None

Mayor's Report - None

Chief of Police Report

Chief LaBruno reported there was currently a transformer fire down by Route 80 which caused a power outage in the southern end of town. JCP&L had a crew onsite and reported power would be restored in 2-3 hours. The Police were restarting the LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence) program in the schools. Today he met with law enforcement representatives from all four of the towns on Lake Hopatcong, along with the State Police and the Sheriff's Office, to do a season end review. All six agencies were going to work more closely next year to address boater safety, especially with younger kids. They were also going to make a concerted effort to address noise complaints on the lake, particularly around the Byram Cove area. Chief LaBruno and a few other officers attended the annual Blue Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, which remembered New Jersey officers who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Chief LaBruno attended the November NJLM Conference in Atlantic City. Altice (Optimum) was currently in town installing new fiberoptic lines. The work was anticipated to take about 8 weeks. The FOP was very generous around Thanksgiving and donated 25 Shop Rite gift cards to help support struggling families in need.

Borough Administrator's Report

Ms. Rinaldi reported Altice (Optimum) was currently in town installing new fiberoptic lines. The Altice crews were actively working to finish their work within about 8 weeks. Once completed, marketing to Borough residents would begin. It was a welcome and long overdue addition. She and Ms. Lyons recently attended a meeting with the Morris County Park Commission regarding plans to improve Lees County Park Marina. The Morris County Park Commission assured them they wanted Mount Arlington, the Lake Hopatcong Commission and Foundation to all be a part of their planning, including overall dock space and parking spaces. Ms. Rinaldi was hopeful there would be a plan to review in 2022. Ms. Rinaldi announced she was currently working on three grants: a new Dial-a-Ride Van; new sets of gear for the Firefighters; and a new fire truck engine. There were personnel changes in the DPW and they were interviewing and looking to hire new DPW staff.

Council Committee Reports

Councilwoman Farris

Councilwoman Farris reported she enjoyed attending the NJLM Conference in Atlantic City and networking with her colleagues. The Borough Tree Lighting was an amazing event. Despite the cold weather, there were many children in attendance.

Councilman Loughridge

Councilman Loughridge stated Mr. Toombs' appointment to the Recreation Commission was good news. Recreation Commission meetings were going to be held remotely on Zoom in order to accommodate the members' busy schedules. Senior Chair Yoga was the only wellness program currently running. The Christmas Tree Lighting was very well attended and a great event.

Councilwoman Galate

Councilwoman Galate additionally reported the Mount Arlington Fire Department was in solidarity because of the recent passing of Hopatcong Borough Fire Department's former Fire Chief, James Byron, who passed away on November 22nd at the age of 62. She offered her condolences to Mr. Byron's family. Councilwoman Galate attended the Borough Menorah Lighting which was a nice event. Lastly, she reported there were new computer stations at the library. She stated more residents were using the library and encouraged everyone to go visit.

Council President Delaney

Council President Delaney had no report.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Ordinance – Introduction

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 make the motion that Ordinance 17-2021 be introduced, and will be further considered after a public hearing held on December 21, 2021 at the Municipal Building at 7:00PM."

Second: Councilwoman Farris

There was no Council discussion.

Roll Call:

Aye: Farris, Loughridge, Galate, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Approved

Ordinance – Second Reading

15-2021 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Rescinding and Cancelling Bond Ordinance 01-2021, Finally Adopted on January 19, 2021, Appropriating \$4,750,000 to Aid the Landfill Solar Redevelopment Project Located on the Mount Arlington Landfill Redevelopment Area in and by the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey and Authorizing the Issuance of \$4,750,000 in Bonds and Notes to Finance Such Purpose

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 15-2021 by Title.

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

Motion: Councilman Loughridge stated: “I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance 15-2021”

Second: Councilwoman Galate

There was no Council discussion.

Roll Call:

Aye: Farris, Loughridge, Galate, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

16-2021 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 135, Sewers, of the Code of the Borough of Mount Arlington

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 16-2021 by Title.

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

Motion: Councilwoman Farris stated: “I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance 16-2021”

Second: Councilwoman Galate

There was no Council discussion.

Roll Call:

Aye: Farris, Loughridge, Galate, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None
Motion Approved

Resolutions – All Vote by Consent

- 2021-116 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
- 2021-117 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 7, 2021
- 2021-118 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Establishing Holiday Schedule and Closure of Borough Hall Offices for the Calendar Year 2022
- 2021-119 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Issuance of Towing Licenses for the Period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022
- 2021-120 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, to Redeem a Third-Party Tax Lien Certificate of Sale# 20-00006 for Property Known as Block 39 Lot 3.03
- 2021-121 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, to Redeem a Third-Party Tax Lien Certificate of Sale# 20-00011 for Property Known as Block 98 Lot 20
- 2021-122 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, for Refund of Tax Overpayment Made on Property Known as Block 61 Lot 23.11 Qual C1430
- 2021-123 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Hiring Part-Time Seasonal Help for DPW
- 2021-124 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Person-to-Person Transfer of Alcoholic Beverage Plenary Retail Consumption License #1426-33-003-003 from Pat De Marino, Inc. to Arlington Spirit Company, LLC
- 2021-125 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Signature of an Addendum to the Appraisal Systems Agreement for Revaluation Services

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Galate
Second: Councilwoman Farris
Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Farris, Loughridge, Galate, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Councilwoman Farris

Second: Councilwoman Galate

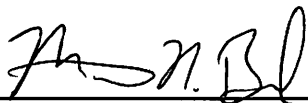
Roll Call:

All in Favor: Aye

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

The meeting adjourned at 7:51PM.



Matthew N. Bansch, Borough Clerk

CC: Website