

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 18, 2022  
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. This meeting was held as a hybrid of in-person at the Municipal Building at 419 Howard Boulevard, Mount Arlington, New Jersey, and remotely/electronically using the platform Zoom, and commenced at 7:02PM.

Mayor Stanzilis called the meeting to order.

Mr. Bansch 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 8, 2022 and posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Borough Municipal Building, on January 7, 2022; 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."

Mayor Stanzilis asked the Senior Patrol Leader for the Boy Scouts to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Stanzilis asked everyone to observe a moment of silence to remember the first responders who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

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:**

**Colleen Lyons, Lake Hopatcong Commission Administrator Monthly Report:**

Ms. Lyons reported the Commission continued to work on the 319 Grant from 2019 with the goal of reducing HABs (harmful algal blooms) in Lake Hopatcong. The DEP announced an RFP for funding for the 319 Grant program for 2020 and 2022. They were expecting an RFP announcement for the \$10 million in lakes funding for lakes in New Jersey in the next month or two. To that end, the Commission, Foundation and Princeton Hydro would be reaching out to Mount Arlington, as

well as the other three municipalities around Lake Hopatcong, to discuss project proposals for the 319 Grant. The Commission officially transferred equipment and employees for the weed harvesting program. Weed harvesting was expected to start May 2022. On December 14<sup>th</sup> the Lake Hopatcong Foundation and Commission met with NJDEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette to update him on ongoing projects and issues around Lake Hopatcong, and their 2022 goals. There were currently no updates from the Morris County Parks Commission at this time concerning the proposed improvements at Lee's County Park Marina.

**Melissa Eckert, Board of Education Liaison Monthly Report:**

Ms. Eckert reported the Student Council was kicking off the New Year with its new anti-bullying initiative, Positive Chain Reaction, by organizing a cultural celebration of diversity in Mount Arlington. Students Council members were conducting interviews and researching the cultures of its English Language Learning Students. Positive Chain Reaction was also organizing a pen pal program, called Decker Pen Pals, to give Edith Decker students the opportunity to communicate reciprocally with older students with the hopes of fostering relationships and easing the anxiety of transitioning to the "big school." To go along with the Positive Chain Reaction initiative, the school library displayed a Welcoming Library which was a collection of immigration-themed books. Dr. Aberback, head of the music department, nominated 7<sup>th</sup> grader Gerard Palmieri, who was recognized as the Mayo Performing Arts Center's "Music Student for the Month." Gerard had been chosen as an outstanding percussionist. Lastly, in honor of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, the Mount Arlington PTO dropped off some goodies to the Mount Arlington Police Department.

**Appointments:**

**Fire Department Officers: 1-year term, expiring 12/31/22:**

- Fire Chief – Nick Lima
- Assistant Fire Chief – Mike D'Arco
- Captain – Mario Marcano
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant – Wes Martin
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant – Eric Fowler

Mayor Stanzilis administered Oaths of Office to the five new Fire Department Officers.

On behalf of the Governing Body and entire town, Mayor Stanzilis thanked the Fire Department. The bravery, dedication and training required to get to where they were was incredible. Everyone was extremely proud and supportive of the Mount Arlington Fire Department.

Mayor Stanzilis reminded everyone there was a college tuition reimbursement program, called the Volunteer Tuition Credit Program, available for volunteer firefighters, emergency medical volunteers and their spouses and dependent children

Councilman Cangiano thanked the Boy Scouts for attending the meeting and showing support for the Fire Department. Mayor Stanzilis added the Boy Scouts would be earning their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge by attending this meeting.

**Tax and Utility Report for the Month of December**

December Total Tax Collections: \$265,239.13

December Total Utility Collections: \$148,505.70

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

December Receipts:           \$627,504.37  
December Disbursements:   \$1,867,767.67

## **Approval of Minutes** - None

## **Mayor's Address**

Mayor Stanzilis reflected back on 2021 in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic:

The Borough saw the completion of some incredible infrastructure work as well as new water and sewer line installation projects. More projects were currently being worked on all around town. This would eventually include the Lake Rogerene area. Thanks to Councilman Cangiano, Administrator Rinaldi and the Borough Engineers, many areas around town that had always been on wells and septic were finally getting public water and sewer. Their hard work was paying off, and they would continue to push to move these projects forward. Mayor Stanzilis added this would certainly improve the water quality in Lake Rogerene and Lake Hopatcong.

The Logan Way road restoration project was successfully completed. Logan Way had been in very rough shape and now looked beautiful.

The new retaining wall at the Municipal Beach received many compliments. Mayor Stanzilis stated it was thanks to Mount Arlington's Shared Service with Wharton, where in-house expertise was utilized to build the retaining wall, verses going out to bid for an outside contractor. This saved the Borough at least a couple hundred thousand dollars. The shared service with Wharton's DPW leadership and attention to detail were evident throughout town, such as the newly branded DPW trucks, freshly painted fire hydrants, and many small details the Borough was very grateful for. The Borough was a huge fan of Shared Service agreements and were involved in too many to count.

Borough Recreation programs began to see a return to normalcy as the COVID pandemic improved in 2021. The Mayor thanked Councilman Loughridge for his leadership with Recreation to get activities such as Beach Volleyball, Beach Yoga, Chair Yoga, Senior Club and many more programs up and running again.

The parking passes and beach badges at the Municipal Beach during the summer season were a big success. He thanked Ms. Rinaldi and Chief LaBruno for doing the research and finding a solution that worked for the residents of Mount Arlington. This had stemmed from issues from the previous summer where the Municipal Beach had been overrun with people from all over the region, including New York and Pennsylvania, when the State Park became overcrowded.

Mount Arlington was recognized as one of the leading municipalities in New Jersey in Green Infrastructure. The Borough launched its Green Infrastructure Committee which was one of the first committees of its kind in the state. This committee was created to help the Borough mitigate HABS (Harmful Algal Blooms) through the implementation of rain gardens, downspouts, various permeable pavements and more.

The Borough was awarded a \$60,000 grant for body cameras for the Police Department. Over the last six years the Borough had been awarded more than \$1 million in grants.

Mayor Stanzilis stated one of the accomplishments he was most proud of since he has been Mayor was the Borough has not had a municipal tax increase. In fact, they had lowered the municipal rate twice and kept it flat three times. They did all of this while keeping the high level of services that the community has come to expect.

Mayor Stanzilis closed by thanking the Borough Council, Committees, Administrator, Attorney, Police Chief, Clerk and the entire team, for all of their hard work behind the scenes. Without them, Mount Arlington would not be such a great place to live in.

### **Chief of Police Report**

Chief LaBruno thanked the Boy Scouts for attending and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He reported the body cameras were expected to roll out in March 2022. Notice would go out on social media and the Borough website. The recent No Shave program raised \$1,800 for cancer research, which was donated in honor of Lieutenant Monaco of the Newton Police Department who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Chief LaBruno thanked the Mount Arlington Fire Department for inviting the Police Department to attend their Ice Rescue Training in February. The Police squads were finally changing after almost 3 years. The delay was due to the COVID-19 pandemic and retirements. It was a good opportunity for the police officers to work with other officers in the department; some who had been working with the same police officers since they were hired.

Mayor Stanzilis thanked Sergeant Farina for standing in for Chief LaBruno at the recent Eagle Scout ceremony for Omar Abdallah. Sergeant Farina did a nice job speaking to the Boy Scouts. Chief LaBruno added that Sergeant Farina recently attended a Defensive Tactics training course and was now certified to teach recruits at the Police Training Academy.

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

Ms. Rinaldi announced, as part of the New Jersey Mayor's Wellness Campaign, she was recently certified as an Adult Mental Health First Aid Responder. Put together by the National Counsel for Behavioral Health, it provided tools to assist with the initial help to someone experiencing a mental health or substance abuse challenge. At the Reorganization meeting of the Morris County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund (Morris County JIF), Ms. Rinaldi was appointed Chairwoman for a 2-year appointment. Mount Arlington was one of 45 municipalities in the Morris County JIF. Ms. Rinaldi was working with Councilwoman Galate to update the code by-laws for the Fire Department. Lastly, Ms. Rinaldi congratulated the new Fire Department Officers. She was looking forward to working with them.

Mayor Stanzilis and the Governing Body congratulated Ms. Rinaldi on her appointment as the Morris County JIF Chairwoman.

## **Council Committee Reports**

### *Councilwoman Galate*

Councilwoman Galate stated it was great to see that the Fire and Police Departments not only supported the town, but other municipalities as well. She provided an example where, this past weekend, there was a large fire in Passaic and the Fire Department helped out. The Police Department also often helped other municipalities, who in turn helped Mount Arlington.

### *Councilwoman Fostle*

Councilwoman Fostle thanked the Boy Scouts for attending. It was nice to see young people getting to know the ins and outs of municipal government. She was always available for questions.

### *Councilwoman Cangiano*

Councilman Cangiano had no report.

### *Councilwoman Farris*

Councilwoman Farris reported the Personnel Committee recently met with the DPW and met their newest hire. The updated Volunteer Handbook was on the meeting agenda for approval.

### *Councilman Loughridge*

Councilman Loughridge reported the Recreation Commission had their Reorganization meeting. Kristin Eannetta was appointed Chairwoman. Bryan Higgins was the new Vice Chairman.

### *Councilman President Delaney*

Council President Delaney reported he would be serving on the Board of Health and would be the Council Liaison. The Board of Health would be holding its Reorganization meeting soon.

Mayor Stanzilis commended Borough Engineer, Mr. Puszcz of CP Engineers, for everything he had done, and would continue to do, for the Borough.

**Public Comment** - There was no public comment.

Mayor Stanzilis commended all Borough volunteers for their great work. Without the volunteers the Borough could not offer everything it did or be as successful as it was. He was looking forward to a great year and a return to normalcy.

**Ordinance – Introduction** - None

**Ordinance – Second Reading** - None

### **Resolutions – All Vote by Consent**

2022-30 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

2022-31 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 January 18, 2022

- 2022-32 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing the Local Emergency Planning Council & OEM Coordinators
- 2022-33 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Hiring Shawn McNamara as Full-Time Department of Public Works Laborer
- 2022-34 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing John Horan, Esq. as Alternate Municipal Prosecutor
- 2022-35 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Professional Services Contract for the Calendar Year 2022
- 2022-36 A Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Adopting a Volunteer Handbook

*Motion to Approve:* Councilwoman Galate

*Second:* Councilwoman Farris

*Council Discussion:* Councilman Cangiano asked if the DPW still needed to hire more staff. Councilwoman Farris replied eventually, but not at this time.

*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: Councilwoman Galate

Roll Call:

All in Favor: Aye

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

The meeting adjourned at 7:48PM.



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Matthew N. Bansch, Borough Clerk

CC: Website