

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022. This meeting was held in-person at the Municipal Building at 419 Howard Boulevard, Mount Arlington, New Jersey and commenced at 7:00PM.

Mayor Stanzilis called the meeting to order.

Mr. Bansch stated, “adequate notice of this meeting of the Mayor and 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 13, 2022 and posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Borough Municipal Building on January 6, 2022; notice of this meeting is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk. 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.”

The Mayor asked a Boy Scout in attendance to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 Ms. Almeida, Borough Engineer Mr. Puszcz and the writer.

Presentations:

Colleen Lyons, Lake Hopatcong Commission Administrator Monthly Report:

Ms. Lyons provided an end-of-season update regarding HABs (Harmful Algal Blooms) on Lake Hopatcong. Overall, it was a relatively successful summer. There was a persistent HAB in Crescent Cove. Together, the Lake Hopatcong Commission and Lake Hopatcong Foundation applied a treatment called Green Clean which reduced the cell count, but not by enough to lower the Advisory level. Over the winter months they would be discussing future treatment plans. There were also HAB Advisory levels at Shore Hills Beach and Bonaparte Point which went back to Watch levels shortly thereafter.

Ms. Lyons reported the DEP had announced \$10 million in stormwater funding. The Commission and Foundation would be applying for two projects that did not receive funding under the 319 Grant: a large scale biofiltration system and raingarden in Jefferson Township; and a retrofit of two detention basins in Roxbury Township. Mayor Stanzilis then presented Ms. Lyons with a Letter of Support from the Borough for these two projects. Although these projects were not located in Mount Arlington, nor were there any in-kind responsibilities required on Mount Arlington's behalf, the purpose of the letter was to demonstrate a lake wide commitment to these types of projects.

Mayor Stanzilis asked what the cost would be to eventually dredge Memorial Pond. Ms. Lyons said she would look into it and get back to the Council. They agreed it would be a great project for the Borough and Lake Hopatcong at large. Memorial Pond acted as a stormwater basin for Lake Hopatcong. Ms. Lyons stated she was hopeful they could eventually identify some funding for this project.

Ms. Lyons reported Lake Hopatcong was currently experiencing low water levels. Boaters were concerned as to whether or not they should be taking their boats out of the water. The Commission and Foundation were in contact with the DEP regarding this issue. Fish and Wildlife were out at the end of August assessing downstream conditions, but there was no update as to whether outflow of the dam could be reduced. Hopefully some upcoming rainfall would help with water levels. She stated, according to the Water Level Management Plan, for every inch of rainfall, two inches accumulated in the lake. Regarding weed harvesting, it was continuing north and south of Brady Bridge. They were planning on pulling the harvesters out of the water by mid-September depending on water levels. Lake Hopatcong's Annual Drawdown was scheduled to begin November 15th with a 22-inch drawdown.

Councilman Cangiano asked what the current water level was in Lake Hopatcong. Ms. Lyons replied it was currently around 7.7 feet, which was more than 15 inches lower than the normal 9-foot water level.

Melissa Eckert, Board of Education Liaison Monthly Report:

Ms. Eckert reported the school year was starting this week. Thankfully, it would be a completely normal start, with the students attending in-person. They were looking forward to putting the past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic behind them. Last week the Superintendent held her first "Coffee and Chat" with about ten parents. These Coffee and Chats would be occurring every other month before the Board of Education meeting. There were multiple facility updates over the summer, including some new HVAC systems at the schools, as well as repaving/restriping the MAPS basketball court to accommodate both basketball and pickleball. There was a new K-8 math program called Reveal Math. Back to School Nights were scheduled for MAPS on September 20th at 6:30pm and Decker on September 27th at 6:30pm. The Scholastic Book Fair would be running in September. The Book Fair was always a big hit with the kids and was also one of the PTO's biggest fundraisers.

Mayor and Council Recognition of September 2022 Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Stanzilis read the proclamation recognizing September 2022 Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month.

Appointments: - None

Tax and Utility Report for the Month of July

July Total Tax Collections: \$1,268,416.84

July Total Utility Collections: \$297,757.87

Finance Report for the Month of July

July Receipts: \$1,802,824.29

July Disbursements: \$1,811,030.20

Approval of Minutes -

August 2, 2022 – Regular Council Meeting

Motion to Approve: Councilman Cangiano

Second: Councilwoman Galate

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Mayor's Report

Mayor Stanzilis reported there had been a power outage this past Sunday night, September 4th into Monday, September 5th which affected about 1,400 JCP&L customers in the southern portion of town including Seasons Glen, Woodmont West, Shadow Woods, Nolan's Ridge and that entire area of the Borough. Mayor Stanzilis stated that JCP&L failed to notify him, the Borough Administrator or Police Chief. When there are large power failures in town, they need to know. This was totally inexcusable and unacceptable. He was not faulting JCP&L for the power outage, but he wanted to go on record that he was displeased with their lack of communication. This was not the first time JCP&L failed to communicate with them. He would rather give the residents bad news than no news at all. He stated JCP&L had done a good job, since Hurricane Sandy, of hardening the power grid as best they could. Now, trees from private properties were falling on power lines. He was trying to schedule a meeting with JCP&L to discuss all of the above concerns, as well as ask them to do forestry and vegetation management along the power grid for the Borough.

Mayor Stanzilis recently attended a meeting with the other Lake Hopatcong mayors that was hosted by the Lake Hopatcong Commission and Lake Hopatcong Foundation. Interestingly, the biggest project in the region was currently in Jefferson Township, with Representative Mikie Sherrill putting forth \$91 million in funding before the State Senate for approval. The funding would go towards updating the sewers, which were the biggest contributor Lake Hopatcong's runoff problem. They were all supporting this funding as best they could. Regarding the Mount Arlington sewer system, Mayor Stanzilis stated he felt the Borough was very well protected. He was also pleased to report that the Borough found the backdoor connection to the Suez water system. The Borough would be looking to solidify an agreement with Suez that allowed the Borough to access the Suez system in the event something happened to the Borough's water main, and vice versa. The Suez water system also

went through Mount Arlington's water main and into Jefferson's water main, so solidifying an agreement would be a win-win for everyone. Mayor Stanzilis recently sat on a round table with Representative Mikie Sherrill for the CHIPS and Science Act. They both also attended an event for the offshore wind project in South Jersey which would be bringing a lot of money and jobs to New Jersey. Canal Day in Wharton was an awesome event. Lastly, he attended a mayor's tour of the Tilcon quarry in Rockaway Township. It was the biggest quarry in the state and very impressive.

Borough Administrator's Report

Ms. Rinaldi provided an overview of some resolutions on the agenda, including Resolution 2022-115 for the annual electronic tax sale, and Resolution 2022-12, which rescinded prior Resolution 2022-100 and re-awarded the contract for the Schmitz Terrace Stand Pipe project. The New Jersey League of Municipalities (NJLM) Annual Conference was scheduled for November 15th - 17th. At the next Land Use Board meeting on September 28th at 7:00pm, representatives from the Morris County Park Commission were going to present plans for a new pavilion at Lee's County Park Marina. Regarding the Logan Way Road Restoration project, the final payment was being made to the contractor. Overall, the project came in at \$25,000 under budget. The former Hercules Site was an active construction site. Although the construction work was happening in Roxbury, there was information developing that Howard Boulevard would be widened in certain areas, including a piece of property located in Mount Arlington. Ms. Rinaldi stated she had reached out to Roxbury to facilitate a meeting. Once she had more information, she would keep the Council informed. Mayor Stanzilis added the site was eventually supposed to be developed into a warehousing and logistics operation. Mr. Puszcz stated that no Land Use Board applications had yet been submitted to either the Roxbury Township or the County Planning Boards. He added that all work currently being done on the site was DEP-regulated.

Police Chief's Report

Chief LaBruno reported the Mount Arlington Police Department was holding a No Shave event to raise funds to help pay the medical bills for a 14-year-old boy with terminal bone cancer. The Police Union would match all of the money raised. The PAL Golf Outing on September 28th would also be raising money for this worthy cause. The County Chiefs Association was working with the Sheriff's and Prosecutor's Offices to try and bring changes to bail reform. It was a concerted effort between all Morris County law enforcement and the surrounding Counties. They were going to be reaching out to politicians, as well as trying to garner Statewide support. The Mount Arlington Police Department body cameras were finally almost ready to be operational. The delay was due to COVID-19 pandemic-related supply chain issues. This was affecting other police departments in well. Chief LaBruno stated he did not expect the car cameras to be operational anytime soon, but at least the body cameras were a step in the right direction. Some trainings the officers participated in over the last month were Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (A.R.I.D.E.), Command and Leadership (former West Point leadership program), Standardized Field Sobriety, Sexual Assault Training and Defensive Tactics.

Council President Delaney commended Sergeant Fortunato for attending Command and Leadership.

Fire Chief's Report - None

Council Committee Reports

Councilwoman Farris

Councilwoman Farris reported the lifeguards and beach attendants finished yesterday for the summer season. DPW was fully-staffed and ready for the Fall and Winter seasons. She was hopeful for a healthy season without any more COVID-19 restrictions.

Councilman Loughridge

Councilman Loughridge reported Yoga on the Beach had been a successful summer program. The next Summer Concert Series was scheduled for September 17th from 3:00pm-5:00pm. The Mount Arlington Community Garden Party was scheduled for September 25th from 12:00pm-1:00pm. Fall Soccer and Tee Ball would be starting soon.

Councilwoman Galate

Councilwoman Galate thanked the Police and Fire Departments for doing great jobs at the Summer Concert Series events. The next MCMUA Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event was coming up on September 24th from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy. If residents of Morris County could not make the Drop-Off Event on September 24th, they could also call the MCMUA throughout the year to schedule an appointment to drop off their household hazardous waste. The County College of Morris had a grant-supported training program for New Jersey employees and businesses and was offering a number of courses in business administration, technology and more for free. Lastly, the Board of Education was hiring for multiple positions.

Councilwoman Fostle

Councilwoman Fostle encouraged everyone to attend the Land Use Board Meeting on September 28th where the Morris County Park Commission would be presenting plans for a new pavilion at Lee's County Park Marina. The marina would be updated in stages. It was exciting to see things finally coming to fruition. It was County property, but it was located in Mount Arlington and was a positive change for the community.

Councilwoman Cangiano

Councilman Cangiano stated he wanted to coordinate times soon with Ms. Rinaldi and Mr. Puszcz to begin discussing some of the newer projects such as the booster station, Windemere II, Schmitz Terrace and the Municipal Beach.

Council President Delaney

Council President Delaney reported the Summer Concert Series events over the summer were all excellent. He hoped everyone could attend the next one on September 17th.

Mayor Stanzilis agreed with Council President Delaney and added that Mr. Rinaldi had done such a phenomenal job helping to coordinate the Summer Concert Series events. Mayor Stanzilis then put forth a recommendation to the Council that Mr. Rinaldi be recognized for all his help at the October 4th Council Meeting. There was unanimous consent by the Council.

Councilwoman Fostle wished to recognize Ms. Eckert for organizing a fundraiser to help support a family in town, the Stockstills, who recently experienced a fire in their home on 623 Bensel Drive. Councilwoman Fostle stated she'd spoken with Ms. Stockstill who was very thankful for everyone's support.

Mayor Stanzilis added that the Red Cross was available to assist in the aftermath of unfortunate situations such as housefires. Ms. Rinaldi also added the Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance was available to assist in situations like this.

Public Comment - None

Ordinance – Introduction - None

Ordinance – Second Reading - None

Resolutions – All Vote by Consent

- 2022-113 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving the Check Register Dated September 6, 2022
- 2022-114 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving the Corrective Action Plan Recommended in the Annual Report of Audit for 2021
- 2022-115 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Tax Collector to Participate in an Electronic Tax Sale
- 2022-116 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Receipt of Bids for Water and Sewer Systems Emergency Repair Services
- 2022-117 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Renewal of Membership in the Morris County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
- 2022-118. A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Opposing of New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control's Special Conditions on Limited Brewery Licensees
- 2022-119. A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Execution of a Contract Between Digital Strategy Associates, LLC and the Borough of Mount Arlington
- 2022-120. A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Accepting the Bid, and Awarding the Contract for, Schmitz Terrace Stand Pipe Rehabilitation, to Allied Painting, Inc. Pursuant to the August 11, 2022 Order of the Superior Court of New Jersey, and Rescinding the Award of the Same Made to Dynamic Sandblasting and Painting, LLC Pursuant to Resolution 2022-100

- 2022-121. A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Opposing the Proposed Increases to the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP)
- 2022-122. A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Establishing a \$25.00 Fee for the Creation, Printing and Mailing of Tax Sale Notices
- 2022-123. A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Cancelling Future Property Taxes Due to 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption Approval Block 61 Lot 23.11 Qual C1320
- 2022-124 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Refunding Tax Overpayment Made on 100% Tax Exempt Property Known as Block 39 Lot 12 Qual C028

Motion to Approve: Council President Delaney

Second: Councilwoman Fostle

Council Discussion: The Mayor and Council stated they stood in solidarity with Mount Olive Township, and other local communities, in support of Resolution 2022-118 which opposed the NJ ABC's special conditions on breweries. Ms. Rinaldi provided an overview of Resolution 2022-120 regarding the Schmitz Terrace Stand Pipe Rehabilitation project.

Roll Call:

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Motion - Vendor Permit - Luis Ponce, Edward Jones Investments – Financial Advising Services

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Galate

Second: Councilwoman Farris

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: Councilwoman Fostle

Roll Call:

All in Favor: Aye

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

The meeting adjourned at 8:03PM.

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 October 4, 2022