

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2022
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Tuesday, November 1, 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 led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked everyone to remain standing to observe a moment of silence and pray that God watches over the brave Mount Arlington Volunteer Firefighters, many whom were present.

Roll Call was taken for attendance:

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

Absent: Councilwoman Fostle

Present from Administration: Administrator/CFO Ms. Rinaldi, Police Chief LaBruno, Deputy Fire Chief D’Arco, Borough Attorney Mr. Jessup, Borough Engineer Mr. Puszcz and the writer.

Presentations:

Recreation Commission - Award of Haunted House Contest Winners

Recreation Commission Chair Kristin Eannetta announced the winner of the first annual Haunted House Contest. There were a total of ten contestants, with two winners in two categories. The winner of the category “Frightfully Fun” was Anthony Vasallo of 686 Reba Road. The winner of the category “Horrifyingly Haunted” was Lisa Nunes of 126 Orben Drive. She congratulated the

winners and all ten participants. The Recreation Commission was looking into the possibility of a Holiday Decorating Contest with unanimous support of the Mayor and Council.

Colleen Lyons, Lake Hopatcong Commission Administrator Monthly Report:

Ms. Rinaldi read aloud a report prepared by Ms. Lyons who was unable to attend:

- Environmental Reports
 - The LHC received reports of sediment-laden stormwater in the quarry stream. DEP investigated and found that the stream was running clear from Weldon to the property below; however, a dirt parking area downstream of the quarry property was contributing sediment to the stream during heavy rain events. The Borough of Hopatcong and DEP were addressing the issue.
 - The LHC received a report of increased runoff through the stormwater pipe near the state police barracks in Jefferson Township. This was the result of the Jefferson DPW removing a blockage upstream. No additional action was required.
- Road Salt Webinar
 - The Watershed Institute was providing a webinar on November 11th at 12pm. The registration and recording would be available on The Watershed Institute's website.
- LHC Mailers
 - The Commission sent out Ice Retardant and Goose Management Mailers to lakefront residents in October.
- Grants
 - NFWF Grant (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)
 - The grant agreement had been finalized. They were working through the planning stages before implementation of streambank stabilization projects in Hopatcong, Roxbury and Mount Arlington along the Glen Brook.
 - HAB Grant (Harmful Algae Bloom)
 - The LHC would be closing out this grant over the next several months and Princeton Hydro would issue a final report.

Melissa Eckert, Board of Education Liaison Monthly Report

Ms. Eckert was not present. Councilwoman Galate reported on the Board of Education during her Council Committee Report.

Appointments:

Land Use Board – Eric Wilson, Alternate 4, 2-year unexpired term expiring 12/31/22

Mayor Stanzilis administered an Oath of Office to Land Use Board Alternate 4 Member Eric Wilson.

Tax and Utility Report for the Month of September

September Total Tax Collections: \$174,480.45

September Total Utility Collections: \$119,295.30

Finance Report for the Month of September

September Receipts: \$ 817,867.09

September Disbursements: \$1,652,869.85

Approval of Minutes -

October 4, 2022 – Regular Council Meeting

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Galate

Second: Councilman Cangiano

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Loughridge, Cangiano, Galate, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: Farris

Motion Approved

Mayor's Report

Mayor Stanzilis read aloud a letter from Chief Ed LaBruno expressing his intent to retire from his position as Chief of Police in the first half of 2023. The letter sought permission from the Governing Body to start the promotional process for both Chief of Police and Sergeant to have ample time to prepare and train those officers to assume their respective positions. While there was not yet an exact retirement date, Chief LaBruno anticipated knowing soon and would inform the Governing Body accordingly.

The Mayor and Council unanimously expressed their appreciation and gratitude for Chief LaBruno as a wonderful Police Chief who routinely went above and beyond for the Borough of Mount Arlington. He would be missed by all.

In order to move the process forward, a Motion was required to approve the drafting of a Resolution, to be adopted at a future Council Meeting, to authorize the vacancy of the position of Chief of Police in 2023; for a notice to be posted on the bulletin board in Police Headquarters; and to proceed with all of the procedures pursuant to this process as outlined in the Police Code.

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Farris

Second: Councilman Loughridge

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Borough Administrator's Report

Ms. Rinaldi echoed the sentiments of the Mayor and Council regarding Chief LaBruno's retirement announcement. Ms. Rinaldi stated she thoroughly enjoyed working with Chief LaBruno. She thanked him for his friendship and wished him the best of luck. Ms. Rinaldi then stated she was required to complete the 2022 Best Practices Inventory Worksheet and submit it to the Division of Local Government Services. The purpose of the Worksheet was to determine whether some portion

of the Borough's aid would be withheld. Ms. Rinaldi stated it was determined the Borough was still in compliance and would continue to receive 100% of the aid that was normally dispersed.

Police Chief's Report

Chief LaBruno thanked everyone for their kind words. Regarding the new body worn cameras, all of the officers were now trained and the entire Police Department went live with the cameras as of last week. He was hopeful there would not be any hardware or software issues with the body worn cameras. Chief LaBruno reported he attended the Boy Scouts Patriots' Path Council 2022 Morris County Lifetime Achievement Awards Dinner. Some recent classes completed by Borough Police Officers were Right to Know, Bloodborne Pathogens and Tactical Emergency Casualty Care.

Fire Chief's Report

Deputy Chief D'Arco reported on behalf of Chief Lima who was unable to attend. For the month of October, the Fire Department handled 9 alarms totaling 17.46 man hours. Year-to-date the Fire Department was at 151 runs. They recently did fire prevention at the school. In light of the Borough recently having lost its water supply temporarily, Deputy Chief D'Arco provided an overview of the Fire Department's response process in the event of water outages. In the event of a water outage, there was no water supply to the hydrants, so the Fire Department immediately sent for its 3,000-gallon tender and brought it to the Fire Department headquarters which was centrally located. They then notified the County who set up a tanker task force to be on standby. Lastly, Deputy Chief D'Arco thanked the Mayor, Council and Administration for the new flagpoles at the Firehouses.

Mayor Stanzilis and Deputy Chief D'Arco handed out Fire Department Stipends.

Council Committee Reports

Councilwoman Galate

Councilwoman Galate reminded the Council that MAPS was hosting its Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 9th with a breakfast and parade for local veterans. The Superintendent's new Coffee and Chat events were going very well, with a goal of having one after each Board of Education meeting. The next Coffee and Chat was scheduled for December 14th at 6:00pm. The Student Council was back, and Councilwoman Galate wished to read the new Student Council officers names into the record:

- President - Ava Pranzo
- Vice President - Max Napeloni
- Secretary - Jake Shallop
- Treasurer - Justin Harris-Bennett

The Mount Arlington PTO was asking for food donations for their annual Thanksgiving Baskets. Donations were to be dropped off at Decker or MAPS inside the vestibules in the box by November 11th. She thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their assistance at the Halloween Bash. Lastly, the Board of Education was hiring for multiple positions and encouraged the public to view the BOE website for job postings.

Councilwoman Cangiano

Councilman Cangiano commended the DPW for handling many projects in-house, rather than hiring outside contractors, which was saving lots of taxpayer dollars. At the recent Musconetcong Sewerage Authority meeting, the annual budget was passed, which unfortunately included a slight increase in Mount Arlington's costs of about 4.5%. While the Musconetcong Sewerage Authority was doing everything it could to keep costs down, increases to the prices of products, consumables, trucking and hauling were all factors.

Councilwoman Farris

Councilwoman Farris recently picked up a colleague from the airport who flew in from Italy. Her friend wanted to see a house that was decorated for Halloween, so she took him to see the house at 126 Orben Drive, winner of the Haunted House Contest for the "Horribly Haunted" category. He was ecstatic and took lots of pictures.

Councilman Loughridge

Councilman Loughridge reported the Halloween Bash and Haunted House Contest were both great events. He then handed it over to Recreation Commission Chair Kristin Eannetta who continued the report.

Ms. Eannetta agreed the Halloween Bash was a success. She thanked the Police and Fire Departments and local vendors for their support. A great time was had by all. The Tree Lighting Ceremony was coming up on Saturday, December 3rd including a special performance by Mini Movers. The Recreation Commission was looking into adding a new sport, flag football, for ages 7-8.

Council President Delaney

Council President Delaney reported ex-Council President Bob Sorge would be visiting soon from Florida and attending the Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 9th at MAPS.

Public Comment - None

Ordinance – Introduction

10-2022 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Vacating a Portion of Old Howard Boulevard

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 10-2022 by Title.

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

Motion: Councilman Cangiano stated: "I make the motion that Ordinance 10-2022 be introduced, and will be further considered after a public hearing held on December 6, 2022 at the Municipal Building at 7:00PM."

Second: Council President Delaney

There was no Council discussion.

Roll Call:

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Ordinance – Second Reading - None

Resolutions – All Vote by Consent

- 2022-134 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
- 2022-135 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 November 1, 2022
- 2022-136 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 the 2022 Water and Sewer Systems Emergency Repair Services to John Garcia Construction Co.
- 2022-137 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Land Use Board to Investigate Whether the Property Identified on the Tax Maps of the Borough as Block 30, Lot 1 (382 Howard Boulevard) Constitutes a Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq.
- 2022-138 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Hiring Part-Time Seasonal Help for DPW
- 2022-139 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Appointment of a Health Benefits Consultant to Evaluate the Borough's Employee Health Benefits Program (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(m))
- 2022-140 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Appointment of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as Administrator of the Municipality's Section 125 - Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) in Accordance with the Regulations Promulgated by Chapter 78 Of the Laws of the State of New Jersey (Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(m))

Motion to Approve: Council President Delaney

Second: Councilman Cangiano

Council Discussion: Councilwoman Galate sought clarification regarding Resolution 2022-137, to which Mr. Jessup provided an overview. There was group discussion regarding non-condemnation redevelopment areas.

Roll Call:

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Motion

Limousine License

- **East Coast Drives, LLC – Limousine Services**

Motion to Approve: Council President Delaney

Second: Councilman Cangiano

Roll Call:

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Before adjourning, Councilwoman Galate stated, for the record, her commendation of Millennium Strategies for doing such an excellent job by securing numerous grants throughout the year for the Borough. The Mayor and Council agreed.

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Council President Delaney

Second: Councilwoman Farris

Roll Call:

All in Favor: Aye

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

The meeting adjourned at 7:57PM.



Matthew N. Bansch, Borough Clerk

CC: Website

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting of December 6, 2022