

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2023
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. This meeting was held in-person at the Municipal Building at 419 Howard Boulevard, Mount Arlington, New Jersey.

Mayor Stanzilis called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

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 10, 2023 and posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Borough Municipal Building on January 4, 2023; 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 Chief LaBruno to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor then asked everyone to remain standing to observe a moment of silence to remember Sayreville Councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour. Mayor Stanzilis read Executive Order No. 314 into the record. He added Governor Murphy just texted to thank him for doing so:

"EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 314

WHEREAS, Sayreville Councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour was the child of immigrants from Africa, grew up in Newark, and graduated from Weequahic High School, where she excelled academically; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Dwumfour attended William Paterson University and graduated in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in women's studies with a minor in social justice, while also serving her community as a part-time Emergency Medical Technician during her tenure at the university; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Dwumfour was a woman of deep and abiding faith who was active in her community and her church, Champions Royal Assembly in Newark; and

WHEREAS, in November 2021, Councilwoman Dwumfour was elected to the Sayreville Borough Council at the age of 29, representing the Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Dwumfour took her seat on the Council in 2022, serving on the Public Safety, Recreation, and Water & Sewer/Environmental Standing Committees, as well as Sayreville's Human Relations Commission; and

WHEREAS, during her time on the Sayreville Borough Council, Councilwoman Dwumfour was known for her respectful discourse and composure, and was considered a passionate champion for her constituents; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Dwumfour tragically lost her life on February 1, 2023 at the age of 30 in a senseless act of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Dwumfour will be deeply missed, not only by her friends and family, but also by her colleagues on the Sayreville Borough Council and by the community she tirelessly served; and

WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness that we mourn Councilwoman Dwumfour's passing, and extend our deepest sympathy to all who knew her; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to celebrate the outstanding achievements and cherished memory of Councilwoman Dwumfour and to mark her passing;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILIP D. MURPHY, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. The flag of the United States of America and the flag of New Jersey shall be flown at half-staff at all State departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities during appropriate hours on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 in recognition and mourning of Councilwoman Eunice Dwumfour.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this 6th day of February, Two Thousand and Twentythree, and of the Independence of the United States, the Two Hundred and Forty-Seventh.

Philip D. Murphy, Governor"

Roll Call was taken for attendance:

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

Absent: Councilman Loughridge

Present from Administration: Administrator/CFO Ms. Rinaldi, Police Chief LaBruno, Fire Chief Lima, Borough Attorney Mr. Jessup, Borough Planner Ms. Caldwell and the writer.

Appointments:

- Borough Council
 - Dave BaRoss – Member, 3-year unexpired term expiring 12/31/24
- Personnel Committee
 - Dave BaRoss – Committee Chair, 1-year unexpired term expiring 12/31/23
- Public Safety Committee (includes Police, Court, Fire, Rescue and OEM)
 - Dave BaRoss – Member, 1-year unexpired term expiring 12/31/23
- Liaison to the Board of Education
 - Dave BaRoss – 1-year unexpired term expiring 12/31/23

Mayor Stanzilis administered the Oath of Allegiance to Borough Council Member Dave BaRoss.

- Mayor's Wellness Committee
 - Ashley Todd – Member, 1-year unexpired term expiring 12/31/23
 - Tina Mayer – Member, 1-year unexpired term expiring 12/31/23

Presentations:

Colleen Lyons, Lake Hopatcong Commission Administrator Monthly Report

Ms. Lyons was not present, but she had provided a report which Ms. Rinaldi read:

1. As a follow-up to the Safety Meeting with New Jersey State Police and Local Police on November 21st, she had mentioned in December a PFD program for kids that was available through Atlantic Health's Safe Kids program. She received a response on the PFD program. Chief Castimore in Jefferson researched the program and found that the PFDs were not free. She forwarded information to Ms. Rinaldi about the cost of PFDs through the program and also provided information to the LH Foundation for a possible PFD program in the future.
2. Regarding the HAB Grant, the grant period has closed and the Commission would be transferring ownership for the aeration units installed at three beaches around the lake. Winterization of the aeration units was completed in December. Princeton Hydro met with representatives of Mount Arlington and showed them how to winterize and start the systems in the spring. Last week Ms. Lyons forwarded an MOU between the Commission and Borough for transfer of the aeration system at the beach. Transfer of ownership would be March 1, 2023.
3. The next Mayors Meeting was proposed for the second week of March. During the meeting she was hoping to review the draft house boat ordinance and noise ordinance.
4. The Commission and Foundation would host a Goose Management Presentation on management options on March 9th at 6pm at the Lake Hopatcong Train Station. The primary topic would be a volunteer led egg addling program for the lake.
5. The Commission's trout study would continue in 2023. Any tagged trout should be reported through our website.

Melissa Eckert, Board of Education Liaison Monthly Report

Ms. Eckert was not present. Councilwoman Galate stated she would touch on the Board of Education during her Council Committee Report.

Tax and Utility Report for the Month of January

January Total Tax Collections: \$ 3,130,945.35

January Total Utility Collections: \$ 454,247.59

Ms. Rinaldi announced an update to the Borough's finance system, a dashboard program, which allowed the Borough to present financial data through various charts and graphs. She provided to the Governing Body a handout which included charts displaying the January Receipts and Disbursements.

Finance Report for the Month of January

January Receipts: \$4,536,597.70

January Disbursements: \$627,310.88

Approval of Minutes

December 20, 2022 - Regular Council Meeting

Motion to Approve: Cangiano

Second: Galate

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, Cangiano, Fostle, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: BaRoss

Motion Approved

January 3, 2023 – Reorganization Meeting

Motion to Approve: Galate

Second: Fostle

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, Cangiano, Fostle, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: BaRoss

Motion Approved

January 17, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting

Motion to Approve: Fostle

Second: Galate

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, Fostle, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: Cangiano, BaRoss

Motion Approved

Borough Administrator's Report

Ms. Rinaldi reported they were well underway with budget preparations. The Lake Hopatcong Block Party would be May 20th and the Borough was prepared to offer its full support as it did every year. Lastly, she congratulated Chief LaBruno on his retirement.

Mayor's Report

To honor and celebrate Chief LaBruno for his upcoming retirement at the end of the month, Mayor Stanzilis read aloud Chief LaBruno's bio. Some highlights of Chief LaBruno's career included:

- Edward LaBruno started his law enforcement career in 1997 with Mount Arlington.
- During his 26 years he held every position in the Borough Police Department:
 - Patrol Officer for first 6.5 years
 - Detective Bureau for a little less than a year
 - December 2004 promoted to Patrol Sergeant
 - June 2012 promoted to Lieutenant
 - May 2020 promoted to Police Chief
- He received several awards and commendations, including:
 - 3 Lifesaving Awards
 - Honorable Service Award
 - Meritorious Service Awards
 - Numerous administrative commendations
- Education, Trainings and Certifications
 - Master of Science Degree from Farleigh Dickson University
 - Accredited Chief Executive by the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police
 - Command and Leadership Academy, West Point Program

- FBI LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute
- NJSACOP Police Executive Institute (PEI) 15th Session
- Serviced on the Executive Board for the Morris County Police Chiefs Association from October 2020 until his retirement.

Mayor Stanzilis stated one of the unexpected pleasures of being Mayor was having served with Chief LaBruno. He learned so much from Chief LaBruno by the way he led his department and cared so much for everyone in Mount Arlington. He could not express his appreciation enough for Chief LaBruno; it was a true pleasure of his life.

Police Chief's Report

Chief LaBruno replied to the Mayor that it was a complete honor. He thanked the Mayor, Council and Administration for everything. He took pride serving the Borough for 26 years and as Chief for the last 3 years. He wouldn't be where he was without their trust in him. He would miss everyone.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Lima reported there were 4 calls in January totaling 5.15 man-hours. The Roxbury Fire Department invited them to a leadership program for incident command; three lower officers attended and learned a lot. This month, depending on the weather, they would either be holding their Ice Rescue training or mandatory fit testing.

Council Committee Reports

Councilwoman Galate

Councilwoman Galate reported the Fire Department had been honoring a "Firefighter of the Week." She read bios for those recognized thus far: former Assistant Fire Chief Jason Vivian; Firefighter Sean Whittaker; and Firefighter Paul Bizzarro. Regarding the Board of Education, on February 8th they would be hosting a carnival at MAPS to support the graduating class. They were also holding a clothing drive with donations being accepted through April. The Roxbury High School Robotics Team was doing its first event on February 22nd from 6:30pm-7:00pm. The Mount Arlington Library was hosting a movie showing of "Ticket to Paradise" on Thursday, February 9th at 1:00pm and Thursday, February 23rd at 1:00pm.

Councilman Cangiano

Councilman Cangiano welcomed Mr. BaRoss to the Council. There was a lot of interest around town with the ongoing Borough revaluation process. The Borough planned on going out to bid for the Booster Station project next month.

Councilwoman Fostle

Regarding Land Use, Councilwoman Fostle reported she would be revisiting the F.A.R. (Floor Area Ratio) Ordinance due to a disproportionate number of applications. They would be forming a committee, and coordinating with Ms. Caldwell, to help streamline the procedures for residents in the future. She was excited to announce she planned on starting a Borough Arts Committee which would encourage all types of art including performing, music, theatre and visual. Any ideas, suggestions, or residents interested in joining the committee were encouraged to reach out to her.

Councilman BaRoss

Councilman BaRoss stated he was looking forward to serving on the Council.

Council President Delaney

Council President Delaney said goodbye and farewell to Chief LaBruno. He relayed a message from his son, Town of Dover Police Chief Jonathan Delaney, who said that he would miss Chief LaBruno and really enjoyed working with him.

Public Comment

Ed O'Brien, 8210 Fieldstone Drive – Mr. O'Brien thanked the Mayor and entire staff for their responsiveness and help in getting the owner of Valley Road, which was a private road, to patch multiple potholes at the cul-de-sac at the end of Valley Road. The potholes had been creating a public safety issue for the residents of Woodmont West, Shadow Woods and office building at 400 Valley Road. He asked Mr. Jessup if anything could be done to eventually repave the entire cul-de-sac to proper specifications.

Mr. Jessup replied they would look into what could be done.

Ordinance – Introduction - None

Ordinance – Second Reading- None

Resolutions – All Vote by Consent

- 2023-46 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving Transfer of Funds
- 2023-47 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 February 7, 2023
- 2023-48 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, to Redeem a Third-Party Tax Lien Certificate of Sale# 21-00002 for Property Known as Block 22 Lot 31

Motion to Approve: Galate

Second: Fostle

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, Cangiano, Fostle, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: BaRoss

Motion Approved

Motion - Vendor Permit – RJW Exteriors – Windows, Roofing, Siding and Doors

Motion to Approve: Galate

Second: Cangiano

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Executive Session

2023-49 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing an Executive Session of the Mayor and Borough Council and Excluding the Public from that Portion of the Meeting

Anticipated Contract Negotiation/Attorney-Client Privilege Topic in Executive Session:

- Redevelopment Plan Consideration

Action May or May Not Be Taken

Motion to Enter into Executive Session: Galate

Second: Fostle

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Executive Session commenced at 7:53PM.

Open Session commenced at 8:49PM.

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: BaRoss

Second: Council President Delaney

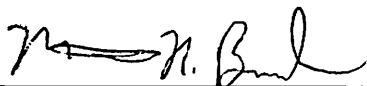
Roll Call:

All in Favor: Aye

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.



Matthew N. Bansch, Borough Clerk

CC: Website

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting of March 7, 2023