

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

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Tuesday, March 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 6:59PM.

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 led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked everyone to remain standing to observe a moment of silence to pray for all Police Officers serving throughout the great state of New Jersey and the United States of America.

Roll Call was taken for attendance:

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

Absent: Councilman Loughridge

Present from Administration: Administrator/CFO Ms. Rinaldi, Police Chief Green, Police Lieutenant Fortunato, Assistant Fire Chief D'Arco, Borough Attorney Mr. Jessup and the writer.

Appointments:

2023-50 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing Matthew Green as Chief of Police of the Borough of Mount Arlington

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

Mayor Stanzilis administered the Oath of Allegiance to Borough Police Chief Matthew Green.

Mayor Stanzilis stated one of the most important relationships he had as Mayor was with the Chief of Police. He congratulated Chief Green on working his way up through the ranks and becoming the new Chief; he could not be happier for him. He recognized past Chiefs Licata and LaBruno, as well as several Police Chiefs and dignitaries, all whom were in attendance.

Chief Green thanked the Governing Body for allowing him to continue to serve the Borough alongside such a great group of Police Officers. He thanked his family and friends who always stood by his side. Lastly, he congratulated the Fortunato family.

2023-51 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing Matthew Fortunato as Police Lieutenant of the Borough of Mount Arlington

Motion to Approve: Galate

Second: Council President Delaney

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Mayor Stanzilis administered the Oath of Allegiance to Borough Police Lieutenant Matthew Fortunato.

Mayor Stanzilis stated the Borough was in great hands.

Lieutenant Fortunato thanked everyone in the room including the Mayor, Council, Police Officers, Chief Licata and Chief LaBruno. He thanked his family and congratulated the Green family.

The Mayor and Council took a brief recess at 7:10pm and resumed at 7:23pm. Police Chief Green and Police Lieutenant Fortunato also left the meeting at 7:23pm.

Presentations:

Colleen Lyons, Lake Hopatcong Commission Administrator Monthly Report

As Ms. Lyons was absent, Ms. Rinaldi touched on the Lake Hopatcong Commission in her Borough Administrator's report.

Melissa Eckert, Board of Education Liaison Monthly Report

Ms. Eckert highlighted some February events that occurred in the Mount Arlington Public Schools:

- Beginning Band and 3rd/4th Grade Choir Winter Concert.
- Harlem Magic Masters Basketball Team ran a fun-filled assembly on Respect and Anti-Bullying.
- The 8th graders hosted a Winter Carnival as a fundraiser for their upcoming 8th grade trip to Gettysburg and Hershey.
- Love of Reading Week was great. The hallways were transformed into different books and movies.
- Family Movie Night at MAPS and Dr. Seuss Night at Decker School.

Ms. Eckert announced Decker School launched a new student initiative called Decker Day. It would be held at the end of each marking period. It was a school-wide community-building program designed to allow students and faculty to unite as a school, celebrate each other's achievements, promote school spirit, and honor positive character traits in the students. It would also promote reading. Lastly, Ms. Eckert announced some upcoming events:

- 8th Grade Student Faculty Volleyball Game – March 22nd
- 5th-8th Grade Science Fair – March 29th 6:30pm
- Zoophoria Animal Life & Career Show – March 29th 7-8pm
- Student Council Charity Talent Show – coming in April

Mayor and Council Recognition of Library Board of Trustees Member Ana Van Den Hende

Mayor Stanzilis presented Ms. Van Den Hende with a proclamation recognizing and thanking her for her twenty years of public service on the Mount Arlington Borough Library Board of Trustees.

Councilwoman Galate added, on behalf of the Library Board of Trustees, Ms. Van Den Hende would be missed.

Approval of Minutes

February 7, 2023 - Regular Council Meeting

Motion to Approve: Cangiano

Second: Fostle

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Mayor's Report

Mayor Stanzilis reported last weekend was the 13th Annual Leap in the Lake event sponsored by the Lake Hopatcong Elks. People came from all over to participate and had a great time. The event was a huge success, having raised \$117,000 for children with special needs. The Borough was blessed to have the Elks in town. The Borough had a meeting with Altice (Optimum) to follow up on upgrades that were promised to the Borough two years ago. They were currently waiting to hear back from Altice regarding when the new fiber-optic lines would be connected. Chief LaBruno's Retirement

Walkout ceremony was great; it was an honor to be there. He attended a presentation at the New York Jets Training Center on drug addiction with an emphasis on the fentanyl crisis in America. Lastly, the Mayor attended a presentation on digital equity in America, which included information on BEAD and DE Planning Programs, as well as using libraries as a powerful resource to help close the digital divide.

Borough Administrator's Report

Ms. Rinaldi reported she had spoken earlier with Ms. Lyons and there were a few updates from the Lake Hopatcong Commission which overlapped with the Borough:

- Resolution 2023-59 was to authorize the execution between the Borough and the Lake Hopatcong Commission for transfer of ownership of the aeration system at the beach.
- She and Ms. Lyons were on a preliminary call with the DEP earlier today regarding grant awards which the Borough and LHC received for raingardens to be constructed on Borough properties, Decker School and MAPS. More information to come.
- Ms. Lyons was looking to get a schedule together for three small scale watershed projects to be implemented in the spring including plantings along the banks of Memorial Pond. She would follow up at next month's Council meeting.

The Municipal Budget would be introduced at the April Council Meeting.

There were two add-on resolutions to tonight's agenda:

- Resolution 2023-61 Transfer of Funds
- Resolution 2023-62 Supporting Participation in Borough of Hopatcong LEAP Implementation Grant for Animal Control and Shelter Shared Services.

Lastly, Ms. Rinaldi announced the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Pictures with the Easter Bunny would be held at Fireman's Field on March 18th at 10:00am.

Police Chief's Report - None

Mayor Stanzilis thanked the Fire Department for their help earlier today with a house fire at 24 Bertrand Island Road.

Fire Chief's Report

Assistant Fire Chief D'Arco reported there was a serious house fire today at 24 Bertrand Island Road. Thankfully there were no injuries. Of the 4 people who inhabited the home, 3 self-relocated and 1 person was relocated by the Red Cross. For the month of February, the Fire Department had 17 total incidents totaling 117.49 man-hours. On February 6th they did Fire Prevention at Decker School; the kids really enjoyed it. In February, the Fire Department sent a mutual aid tender to Hudson County for the City of Hoboken. It was a County-wide tender due to a ruptured water main break in Hoboken.

Council Committee Reports

Councilwoman Galate

Councilwoman Galate reported the Fire Department continued honoring a "Firefighter of the Week." She read bios for those recognized most recently: Firefighter James Siuzdak; Firefighter Anthony Gonzales; Firefighter Ulysses Rodriguez; and Firefighter Matthew Deslonde.

Councilman BaRoss

Councilman BaRoss had nothing new to report.

Councilwoman Fostle

Councilwoman Fostle reported the 2023 Municipal Budget would be introduced next month. She would be doing the budget presentation at the next Council Meeting on April 4th. She had a tentative meeting scheduled for the end of the month with landscape architect John Roberts to discuss a proposal for Memorial Park, the Municipal Beach and Borough parks in general.

Councilman Cangiano

Councilman Cangiano reported he received an email from the Musconetcong Sewerage Authority asking member towns to share a flyer with residents about the dos and don'ts of what to dump down the drain or flush down the toilet. The flyer addressed common causes of pipe and sewer backups including fats and greases, baby diapers and disposable baby wipes.

Council President Delaney

Council President Delaney stated there were two big events for Police Departments: when a Chief retired and when a new Chief was sworn in. Tonight's swearing in was spectacular. It was great to see so much respect and support from the Borough Police Officers, County dignitaries and many police chiefs from other towns who attended.

Public Comment

Janet Vignola, 66 Ridgeview Lane – Ms. Vignola stated she was representing the Mount Arlington Borough Democrats. A couple of months ago, while at a Borough Council meeting, she heard Ms. Eckert's Board of Education report and request for volunteer readers for Education Week. Ms. Vignola was happy to report she had recruited four people to be readers at the Decker School. She was very impressed with the school; it was a warm and friendly atmosphere. Regarding the Mount Arlington Democrats, most of their meetings had been held on Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Now that the pandemic was over, they were looking for places to meet in-person. They were wondering if the Borough would consider allowing them to use Borough-owned property to conduct their meetings.

Mr. Jessup replied government property could not be used for partisan political activities.

Ordinance – Introduction - None

Ordinance – Second Reading- None

Resolutions – All Vote by Consent

- 2023-52 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

- 2023-53 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# 22-00001 for Property Known as Block 2 Lot 45

- 2023-54 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving Participation Within the County of Morris Office of Community Development Block Grant Program for a Dial-a-Ride Bus
- 2023-55 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing a Traffic Safety Plan Associated with the Annual 4th of July Fireworks Display
- 2023-56 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, to Cancel Future Property Taxes Due to 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption Approval Block 49.01 Lot 15
- 2023-57 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, to Cancel Municipal Tax Lien Certificate of Sale # 2-92 With Respect to Block 37 Lot 4 Within the Borough of Mount Arlington
- 2023-58 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending Resolution 2021-88 Appointing Office of Emergency Management 'Municipal Emergency Coordinator' N.J.S.A. App.A:9-40.1 and Directive Number 102
- 2023-59 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with The Lake Hopatcong Commission for the Transfer of Ownership of Certain Aeration Systems

Add-Ons:

- 2023-61 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving Transfer of Funds
- 2023-62 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Supporting Participation in Borough of Hopatcong LEAP Implementation Grant

Motion to Approve: Galate

Second: Cangiano

Council Discussion: Councilman Cangiano asked, regarding 2023-54, what the timeline was for using the grant money for a new Dial-a-Ride bus. Ms. Rinaldi replied it would be purchased this year using the CDBG award money as well as money from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Roll Call:

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Motion – None

Executive Session

2023-60 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:

- Discussion of Contract Negotiations

Action May or May Not Be Taken

Motion to Enter into Executive Session: Council President Delaney

Second: BaRoss

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Executive Session commenced at 7:58PM.

Open Session commenced at 8:50PM.

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Council President Delaney

Second: Galate

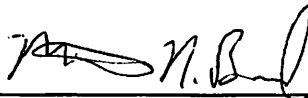
Roll Call:

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 April 4, 2023