

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Tuesday, September 5, 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 7:03PM.

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.”

Mayor Stanzilis led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked everyone to remain standing to observe a moment of silence to pray for former Councilman Bob Sorge who recently passed away. Mr. Sorge served on the Borough Council for 19 years and was Council President for most of that time. He was a Vietnam Veteran, dedicated public servant and an incredible person.

Roll Call was taken for attendance:

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

Absent: Councilwoman Galate, Councilman Cangiano

Present from Administration: Administrator/CFO Ms. Rinaldi, Fire Chief Lima, Borough Attorney Mr. Jessup and Borough Clerk Mr. Bansch

Presentations

Melissa Eckert, Board of Education Liaison Monthly Report:

Ms. Eckert reported the following:

- There were 34 students registered for Kindergarten.
- Cross Country for grades 5-8 was a new Fall Club due to lots of interest.
- Mrs. Rowland would continue with her “Coffee and Chat with the Superintendent” held before the Board meeting every other month in the media center at the Mount Arlington School. The next one was Wednesday, September 20th at 6:00 pm.

- Facility Updates
 - The Board of Education addressed a number of facility improvements this summer:
 - Installation of a new gym floor at Decker School
 - Installation of new flooring in one wing of the MAPS building
 - Removal of several trees at both MAPS and Decker schools
 - Classroom and hallway painting at both MAPS and Decker schools
 - Electrical upgrades at Decker School
- Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment
 - Second year of implementing K-8 Math Program (Reveal Math). Reveal Math is a complete K–12 core math program built on contemporary academic research and designed so all students can succeed in mathematics.
 - NWEA Map Growth Assessments will also be administered in the fall, winter, and spring. Since MAP Growth tests provide immediate and accurate information about each child’s learning, it is easy to identify students with similar scores that are generally ready for instruction in similar skills and topics, and then plan instruction accordingly.
 - New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) results are due to come in by late September. Based on the direction from the NJDOE they will be distributing individual score reports in early October.
 - All 8th grade students will now be taking Algebra I. Algebra I introduces fundamental concepts and skills that serve as building blocks for higher-level math courses. Completing Algebra I early provides flexibility in selecting math courses in high school.
- Upcoming Events
 - 5K Rotary Run/Walk on October 7th in remembrance of Office Joeseph Wargo. Proceeds will support the 8th grade class and other local charities.
 - Yard Sale on October 14th at the Civic Center. All proceeds will benefit the 8th grade class.

Appointments

2023-133 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Recognizing Appointments of Volunteer Firefighters

- Kevin Inglis
- William Kosch
- Donald Smith
- Robert Stone
- Michael Esposito Sr.

Motion to Appoint: Fostle

Second: BaRoss

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Loughridge, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: Fostle

Motion Approved

Approval of Minutes

August 1, 2023 - Regular Council Meeting

Motion to Approve: Council President Delaney

Second: Fostle

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Loughridge, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: Fostle

Motion Approved

Mayor's Report

Mayor Stanzilis reported he had a great meeting with Board of Education Superintendent Monica Rowland. She was doing a phenomenal job with the schools. He met last week with Senator Joe Pennachio where he learned about some interesting bills going through the New Jersey Senate. He attended a meeting with Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill and Senator Corey Booker at Washington's Headquarters for a planning session of the 250th Anniversary of America. He had a great meeting with Governor Murphy, Superintendent Callahan and the other three Mayors of Lake Hopatcong where they discussed multiple lake topics including increased police presence, harmful algae blooms and lake funding. He attended a meeting with Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill and Senator Tom Kean and was happy to report Jefferson Township was getting \$91 million from the Federal Government to get sewers around the lake. He attended an event called Table of Hope at County College of Morris where they gave out 1,300 backpacks to students in need before the start of the school year. He thanked Mark Rinaldi for his help with the Borough Summer Concert Series. He attended a 100th birthday party for resident Bob Criswell and a 90th birthday party for resident Fred Shay. The Fire Department 100th Anniversary Parade and celebration were excellent. He congratulated Chief Lima and everyone involved; especially Jonathan Feinberg. Lastly, the annual Hike with the Mayors event on July 22nd went great. About 30 people joined him and Jefferson Township Mayor Eric Wilsusen at Saffin Pond for the 3.5 mile hike.

Borough Administrator's Report

Ms. Rinaldi read an update from Colleen Lyons, Lake Hopatcong Commission Administrator:

- September Lake Hopatcong Commission Update
 - 319 Grant - the project for Mount Arlington included plantings around Memorial Pond along a steep bank to prevent erosion that can bring sediment and nutrients to the pond and down to Lake Hopatcong. The project was completed on July 19th. Thanks to the approximately twenty volunteers and assistance from the DPW.
 - NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation) Grant - the planning phase is ongoing. In Mount Arlington they have begun the planning aspects of the project which consists of streambank stabilization along the Glen Brook in Memorial Park. The Commission's goal is to integrate restoration of the streambank into the municipal plan for the park and walking paths.

- The five-year drawdown was scheduled to begin on or around September 22nd and will reach drawdown around November 1st. Work for sediment removal will occur while the lake bed is exposed in November. Each DPW provided estimates for sediment removal costs and the LHC will issue an agreement to each DPW/municipality/county for a maximum reimbursement allocation through the grant for sediment removal.
- Lake Hopatcong successfully made it through Labor Day without any serious cyanobacteria/HAB events!

Ms. Rinaldi reported the Borough held bid openings for a new Dial-a-Ride Bus and the McGregor Avenue Road Improvements and Watermain Extension project. The bid award resolutions were on tonight's agenda. She had a preliminary meeting with landscape architect John Thomas regarding the grant received by the Borough for the design of the McGregor Avenue Trails. She met with architect Margaret Hickey regarding the Preservation Planning Grant for 404 Howard Boulevard. The Rotary Club of Lake Hopatcong would be hosting a 5k Run/Walk on October 7, 2023 and the Lake Hopatcong Elks would be hosting a 5k Run/Walk on October 21, 2023. The DPW would begin soon with street sign installations, restriping and crack sealing. The Police Department conducted its annual Active Shooter Training at MAPS with the assistance of the Morris County CERT Team. Simunition ammo (paint rounds) were used to make the training more realistic. The training was organized by Detective Caparoni and Patrolman Pizzuta. Sergeant Sherburne arrested two individuals following a motor vehicle stop for being in possession of two stolen motor cycles out of New York.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Lima reported, for the month of August, there were 12 calls totaling 22.48 man-hours. Today they covered for the Roxbury Township Fire Department from 9am to 2pm who were on funeral detail to honor Roxbury's past Fire Chief Charles Alpaugh.

Council Committee Reports

Ms. Rinaldi gave the Recreation Report which was just received prior to the meeting. The Flag Football program would begin tomorrow at Fireman's Field. This was a new program to the Borough. There would be a welcome practice and pizza party. Tee Ball, Coach Pitch and Soccer were all beginning this Saturday at Fireman's Field. The last Summer Concert Series event was scheduled for this Saturday at Memorial Beach from 3-5pm. The next Recreation Commission meeting was scheduled for this Thursday, September 7th 7:30pm at Borough Hall.

Council President Delaney

Council President Delaney thanked the Fire Department for an incredible and fantastic 100th Anniversary Parade. He thanked the Mayor for recognizing Bob Sorge at the start of tonight's meeting. Former Councilman Sorge was a mentor to him when he first joined the Borough Council.

Public Comment

Lee and MaryAnn Moreau, 618 Dorothy Lane – Mr. and Mrs. Moreau wished to bring attention to the conditions on Dorothy Lane. They had reached out to the DPW, to which Mr. Quillinan had responded and was very helpful. However, they felt the road required more attention. Lastly, they complimented the Borough on the hanging flower plants along Howard Boulevard.

Mayor Stanzilis replied the Borough would look into their concerns on Dorothy Lane.

Charles Alan Torrise, 19 Windemere Avenue – Mr. Torrise inquired about any discussions to improve traffic flow by the Quick Check on Howard Boulevard by Route 80. He also expressed interest in joining the Library Board of Trustees.

Mayor Stanzilis replied there had been numerous conversations on this topic over the last few years. The timing of the two traffic lights on Howard Boulevard had certainly helped; however, traffic and motor vehicle accidents were still a huge issue in that area. The State was in the process of redesigning the entire intersection area of Rt. 80 and Howard Boulevard which should eventually mitigate most of these issues. The NJDOT had \$20 million earmarked for that entire interchange. With regards to the Library Board, he suggested Mr. Torrise email Councilwoman Galate.

Janet Vignola, 66 Ridgeview Lane – Ms. Vignola expressed concern that developer Hartz Mountain Industries was proposing the construction of massive warehouses on the former Hercules property in Roxbury Township which would drastically increase commercial traffic on Howard Boulevard.

Mayor Stanzilis replied he was attending the Roxbury Land Use Board meetings and speaking up, as a resident, and on behalf of the residents of Mount Arlington. Currently, he was adamantly opposed to the development of these warehouses as he believed Howard Boulevard was not safe for increased commercial traffic. However, if Hartz Mountain Industries were to widen and install a median on Howard Boulevard, in addition to ensuring trucks could not access the Quick Check in Mount Arlington before turning onto Route 80, then perhaps it could be feasible. Until that point, though, he would continue to voice his opposition at Roxbury Land Use Board meetings, and he encouraged his fellow Mount Arlington residents to attend as well.

Donald Cassidy, 16 Oak Street – Mr. Cassidy asked if anything could be done to prevent speeding on Oak Street such as speed bumps.

Mayor Stanzilis replied they would discuss Mr. Cassidy's concerns with the DPW and Police and review options, including speed bumps or other options.

Al Vidovich, 127 Ridgeview Lane – Mr. Vidovich stated his question had already been discussed.

Nancy Absalon, 15 Oak Street – Ms. Absalon asked if the Hartz Mountain Industries warehouse development project was a PILOT program, to which Mr. Jessup and Mayor Stanzilis replied that would be public record and she could ask the Governing Body or Business Administrator of Roxbury Township. Ms. Absalon wished to understand the appropriation and bond amounts in Ordinance 05-2023, to which Mr. Jessup provided an explanation. Ms. Absalon asked if Landscape Architect John Thomas was a Borough employee, to which Ms. Rinaldi replied it was a professional service.

Carol Miller, 115 McGregor Avenue – Ms. Miller thanked everyone involved with the recent developments of the McGregor Avenue project. She was excited about the adoption of tonight's ordinance. She wanted to confirm that the feedback gathered from the McGregor residents

would be incorporated into the McGregor Avenue project, to which Ms. Rinaldi replied yes, the feedback was incorporated into the final plans.

Ordinance – Introduction – None

Ordinance – Second Reading

05-2023 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Providing for Improvements to McGregor Avenue in and by the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$2,862,211 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,719,100 Bonds or Notes of the Borough to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 05-2023 by Title.

Nancy Absalon, 15 Oak Street – Ms. Absalon asked what was the full cost of the project, to which Mr. Jessup replied the estimated full cost was \$2,862,211. \$2,719,100 was going to be raised by bonds or notes and \$143,111 was the cash on hand.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

Motion: Council President Delaney stated: “I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance 05-2023”

Second: BaRoss

There was no Council discussion.

Roll Call:

Aye: Loughridge, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

06-2023 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$100,000.00 for the Purchase of a Dial-a-Ride Bus by the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 06-2023 by Title.

Lee Moreau, 618 Dorothy Lane – Mr. Moreau stated a new Dial-a-Ride Bus is money well spent.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

Motion: Council President Delaney stated: “I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance 06-2023”

Second: Fostle

Council discussion: Mayor Stanzilis agreed with Mr. Moreau that it was money well spent.

Roll Call:

Aye: Loughridge, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Resolutions – All Vote by Consent

- 2023-134 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 5, 2023
- 2023-135 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 2024 or Newer Ford E-450 or Equivalent Minibus, to Rohrer Enterprises, Inc.
- 2023-136 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 McGregor Avenue Road Improvements and Watermain Extension, to Reivax Contracting Corporation
- 2023-137 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
- 2023-138 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
- 2023-139 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Temporary Parking Restrictions and Road Closures During the Rotary Club of Lake Hopatcong 5k Run/Walk on October 7, 2023
- 2023-140 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Temporary Parking Restrictions and Road Closures During the Lake Hopatcong Elks 5k Run/Walk on October 21, 2023
- 2023-141 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Providing for the Combination of Certain Issues of Bonds of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State Of New Jersey, Into a Single Issue of Bonds Aggregating Not to Exceed \$479,456 in Principal Amount for Sale to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank
- 2023-142 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Determining the Form and Other Details of Not Exceeding \$479,456 Bonds of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State Of New Jersey, and Providing for Their Sale to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank and the State of New Jersey and Further Authorizing the Execution of Various Agreements, All Pursuant to and as Required by the New Jersey Water Bank

Motion to Approve: BaRoss

Second: Fostle

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Loughridge, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Approved

Motion

- Vendor Permit – Scott Oatley, Re/Max House Values – hand delivering information and door hangers

Motion to Approve: Council President Delaney

Second: BaRoss

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Loughridge, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Council President Delaney

Second: Fostle

Roll Call:

All in Favor: Aye

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

The meeting adjourned at 8:09PM.



Matthew N. Bansch, Borough Clerk

CC: Website

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting of October 3, 2023