

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

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Tuesday, December 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. Mayor Stanzilis then asked everyone to remain standing to observe a moment of silence to pray for peace around the world.

Roll Call was taken for attendance:

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

**Absent:** Councilman Loughridge, Councilwoman Galate

**Present from Administration:** Administrator/CFO Ms. Rinaldi, Assistant Administrator/Treasurer Ms. Schaeffner, Police Chief Green, Borough Attorney Mr. Jessup and Borough Clerk Mr. Bansch

**Presentations**

**Melissa Eckert, Board of Education Liaison Monthly Report:**

Ms. Eckert was unable to attend the meeting. In her absence, Councilman BaRoss included the Board of Education report in his Council Committee Report.

**Appointments:**

2023-163 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing Brayden Holveck as Volunteer Fire Fighter

*Motion to Appoint:* Council President Delaney

*Second:* Councilman BaRoss

*Council Discussion:* None

*Roll Call:*

Aye: Cangiano, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

Mayor Stanzilis administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Holveck.

**Approval of Minutes** – None

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Stanzilis reported the Tree Lighting went very well. He thanked the Police, Fire Department, DPW and staff for their assistance with the event. He participated in a fundraiser on December 1<sup>st</sup> for the Homeless Solutions fourth annual A Night in the Cold. About \$200,000 was raised. Last week he attended the Board of Education's first Strategic Planning meeting which went very well. Tonight was the second Board of Education Strategic Planning meeting. He attended the DEI Trailblazer Awards ceremony for the State of New Jersey in conjunction with the African American Chamber of Commerce. He attended the Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City. It went very well and he always learns a lot about what is going on around the state.

**Borough Administrator's Report**

Ms. Rinaldi had nothing new to report.

**Police Chief's Report**

Chief Green reported there were several trainings the occurred throughout November:

- Sergeant Sherburne and Sergeant Farina attended Internal Affairs Investigation training.
- He attended the first Strategic Planning meeting for the BOE.
- Patrolman Pizzuta attended Methods of Instruction training.
- Patrolman Kaiteris attended Law of Interrogation training.
- Lieutenant Fortunato attended TAC Officer Training.
- Half of the department completed their firearms qualifications for Patrol Rifle in November; the other half completed their qualifications yesterday.

**Fire Chief's Report**

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Martin reported, for the month of November, there were 22 calls. It is unfortunately one of the busiest months of the year with it getting dark earlier, people firing up their stoves for the first time, plus lots of cooking around Thanksgiving. There were three cooking-related fires on Thanksgiving. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries or loss of property. Year-to-date there were 159 calls with about 735 man-hours spent on-scene. They continue to have the fastest response time in Morris County. Last night was the Fire Department Annual Election. The 2024 elected officials are as follows:

- Officers
  - Fire Chief – Mike D'Arco
  - Assistant Fire Chief – Mario Marcano
  - Captain – Wes Martin
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant – Eric Fowler
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant – Luke Borowiec

- Administrators
  - President – Laura DeFelice
  - Vice President – Matthew Deslonde
  - Secretary – Sean Whitaker
  - Treasurer – Edwin Tillou

The Fire Department brought Santa and the Grinch to the Tree Lighting which were a hit. Most of the Command staff participated in the first Strategic Planning meeting for the BOE and were presently attending the second Strategic Planning meeting. December 17<sup>th</sup> would be the Annual Santa Run with two firetrucks driving around town. The Fire Department wished to thank the Mayor, Council and Police for their continuing partnership and collaborating at meetings, events and online. All of the outreach was paying dividends. This year alone there were eight new-or-returning fire department recruits which was excellent.

### **Council Committee Reports**

#### *Councilman BaRoss*

Councilman BaRoss read the Board of Education report prepared by Melissa Eckert:

- The first Strategic Planning meeting last week had a great turn out. A special thank you to the Borough Council, community members, Ms. Rinaldi and Mayor Stanzilis for attending. There were so many great ideas and thoughts shared that will help the Board of Education plan for the next 5 years and make the district be the best it can be.
- The final meeting is tonight. The action plan with goals from tonight's meeting will be posted on the school website.
- A special thank you from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents for allowing the BOE to sell the New Year's Eve bells at the Borough Tree Lighting. They sold 57 bells. The students were very excited. The Borough Council and community are always willing to partner with the schools and the BOE greatly appreciates it.
- The next BOE meeting is Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the MAPS gym.
- The Winter Band and Choir Concert is December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the MAPS gym.
- There will be an 8<sup>th</sup> grade winter carnival in February. Details will be shared in January.

It was Councilman BaRoss's first time attending the New Jersey League of Municipalities Annual Conference. One session that stood out to him was hosted by Downtown NJ which explained what various towns of all sizes from around the state had done to revitalize their downtowns. He attended the Tree Lighting which was a great event. He thanked everyone who made it happen.

#### *Councilwoman Fostle*

Councilwoman Fostle agreed the Annual NJLM Conference was very good. She always comes home with good ideas.

#### *Councilman Cangiano*

Councilman Cangiano also attended the NJLM Conference. While there, he attended a wastewater conference where he learned about PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) which are a group of man-made chemical compounds known as "forever chemicals" because they do not break down easily in the environment. State regulations were coming which would require water purveyors, including the MCMUA where the Borough gets its water, to treat these PFAS. The Musconetcong Sewerage Authority introduced its 2024 budget.

*Council President Delaney*

Council President Delaney also attended the Tree Lighting which he thought was one of the best ones he ever attended by the Borough. It was a great night and very well-attended. The Seniors had their Holiday Party today at Casa Bianca; it was a huge success with about 135 attendees. The NJLM Annual Conference was very beneficial as always. Last week he attended the first Strategic Planning session for the BOE.

**Public Comment** – None

**Ordinance – Introduction** – None

**Ordinance – Second Reading**

07-2023 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Requiring Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 07-2023 by Title.

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

*Motion:* Councilman Cangiano stated: “I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance 07-2023”

*Second:* Councilwoman Fostle

There was no Council discussion.

*Roll Call:*

Aye: Cangiano, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

08-2023 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Establishing Requirements for Privately-Owned Salt Storage

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 08-2023 by Title.

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

*Motion:* Councilman Cangiano stated: “I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance 08-2023”

*Second:* Councilman BaRoss

There was no Council discussion.

*Roll Call:*

Aye: Cangiano, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

09-2023 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Establishing an Energy and Natural Gas Aggregation Program

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 09-2023 by Title.

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

*Motion:* Councilman BaRoss stated: "I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance 09-2023"

*Second:* Councilwoman Fostle

There was no Council discussion.

*Roll Call:*

Aye: Cangiano, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

10-2023 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$50,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the Purpose of a Feasibility Study for Design and Construction of a New Public Safety Building and Civic Center

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 10-2023 by Title.

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

*Motion:* Councilwoman Fostle stated: "I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance 10-2023"

*Second:* Councilman BaRoss

*Council Discussion:* Mayor Stanzilis stated this was his favorite ordinance for as long as he has been Mayor. He was hopeful this feasibility study was the first step in moving the Borough closer to eventually building a new firehouse and civic center. Both were currently old, outdated and outgrown. Councilman Cangiano agreed and stated modern fire equipment no longer fit in the firehouse.

*Roll Call:*

Aye: Cangiano, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

### **Resolutions – All Vote by Consent**

2023-164 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving Transfer of Funds

2023-165 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 8, 2023

- 2023-166 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Issuance of Towing Licenses for the Period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024
- 2023-167 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Execution of a Lease Agreement Between the Borough of Mount Arlington and Pitney Bowes Inc.
- 2023-168 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation NJS 40A:4-87
- 2023-169 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Designating Certain Properties Identified on the Tax Maps of the Borough as Block 30, Lots 1 & 3 as a Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area
- 2023-170 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# 22-00005 for Property Known as Block 104 Lot 1
- 2023-171 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Cancellation of Installment Plan Balance for Property Known as Block 39 Lot 86
- 2023-173 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Application for A New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Grant for Firefighter Turnout Gear
- 2023-174 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving Participation Within the State of New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council Planning Area Plan Conformance Initial Assessment Grant

*Motion to Approve:* Council President Delaney

*Second:* Councilman Cangiano

*Council Discussion:* Councilman Cangiano stated Resolution 2023-174 involved the Borough undertaking a study to evaluate the Highlands Preservation Areas in several sections of town. The majority of the town was currently not regulated by the Highlands Council. Once an area is regulated under the Highlands Regional Master Plan it becomes very restrictive. An example was the solar redevelopment project at the former landfill site. He was in favor of this resolution, but he was opposed to future designations of additional Highlands Preservation Areas. Ms. Rinaldi clarified, regarding Resolution 2023-174, that the grant application was submitted earlier in the year and was already awarded. This resolution was a formality to accept the grant funds and authorize Borough Planner Ms. Caldwell to conduct an initial study to determine the impacts of modifying the Land Use program to align with the Highlands Regional Master Plan. Anything further would be brought before the Mayor and Council for consideration.

*Roll Call:*

Aye: Cangiano, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Approved

2023-172 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing a Five-Year Contract Between the Borough of Mount Arlington and FOP Lodge 78

*Motion to Approve:* Councilman Cangiano  
*Second:* Council President Delaney

*Council Discussion:* Mayor Stanzilis congratulated the Police Department and stated a new contract was well-deserved. The amount of professionalism and training made the Borough Police Department stand out above the rest. He thanked Sergeant Parichuk and Patrolman Braun for taking the lead on getting the FOP contract done. Council President Delaney agreed and stated he thought that it was an excellent contract.

Patrolman Braun thanked Ms. Rinaldi and Ms. Schaeffner for working with them on the contract. They were very happy and grateful to work for the Borough.

Chief Green echoed the Mayor and Council's sentiments. The entire department was happy with the new FOP contract.

*Roll Call:*

Aye: Cangiano, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney  
Opposed: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Approved

**Motion** – None

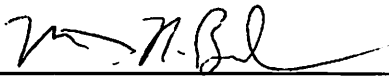
**Adjourn**

*Motion to Adjourn:* Council President Delaney  
*Second:* Cangiano

*Roll Call:*

All in Favor: Aye  
Opposed: None  
Motion Approved

The meeting adjourned at 7:46PM.

  
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Matthew N. Bansch, Borough Clerk

CC: Website

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting of January 16, 2024