

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 8, 2023
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Wednesday, November 8, 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 7:01PM.

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 asked a Boy Scout who was present to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Stanzilis then asked everyone to remain standing to observe a moment of silence for all those who have lost their lives in wars around the world.

Roll Call was taken for attendance:

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

Absent: Councilman Loughridge, 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:

- Public Strategic Planning Meeting Dates are November 28th and December 5th in the MAPS gym. This is a chance for all community stakeholders to come together and discuss the following:
 - Successes as a school district
 - Challenges/areas of improvement
 - Vision/goals for the school district in 5 years

- What needs to be done over the next 5 years to reach these goals (Student Achievement, Community Connection/Communication and Operations)
- Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive
 - All students at Decker and MAPS have been donating food. Baskets will be created to donate to local families in need.
 - The FOP is donating ShopRite gift cards for families to purchase turkeys.
- The Veteran's Day program was today and it went great. Over two dozen community veterans attended. The Mayor and Ms. Rinaldi were there as well.
- Lake Cleanup
 - Fifteen 4th and 5th graders and a some teachers volunteered for the Lake Hopatcong Lake-Wide Cleanup last weekend.
- Upcoming Events
 - New Year's Bell Fundraiser
 - The 8th grade class will be selling bells to ring in the new year. Each bell will be packaged and comes with a little New Year's message. At midnight all of Mount Arlington can ring in the New Year together. They will be on sale at the Tree lighting on December 2nd. All proceeds will go towards the 8th grade trip and dinner dance.

Eagle Scout Project Proposal – Anthony Roznoy

Mr. Roznoy of Troop 188 presented his Eagle Scout project proposal. His project consisted of building a trailhead for the new trails off McGregor Avenue. He provided a handout to the Mayor and Council which included a proposed sketch with dimensions and a description of the project.

The Mayor and Council agreed Mr. Roznoy's project proposal sounded like a good idea.

Ms. Rinaldi stated construction would be going on in that area of McGregor Avenue and the trailhead would not be installed until after construction had been completed in that area. She would be in further discussions with Mr. Roznoy.

Appointments

Board of Recreation Commission – Robert Jenny, Member, 5-year unexpired term expiring 12/31/27

Motion to Appoint: Galate

Second: Council President Delaney

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

Mayor Stanzilis administered an Oath of Office to Board of Recreation Commission Member Robert Jenny.

Appointments:

2023-154 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing Adrian Vargas as Volunteer Fire Fighter

Motion to Appoint: Galate

Second: Council President Delaney

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

2023-155 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing Nicholas DeFelice as Volunteer Fire Fighter

Motion to Appoint: Council President Delaney

Second: Galate

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

Mayor Stanzilis administered Oaths of Office to each firefighter individually.

Approval of Minutes

October 3, 2023 - Regular Council Meeting

Motion to Approve: Fostle

Second: Galate

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Mayor's Report

Mayor Stanzilis congratulated Councilwoman Fostle, Councilman BaRoss and Council President Delaney on their electoral victories in yesterday's General Election. This morning's Veteran's Day celebration at MAPs went great. Last week was Justin Cordeiro's Eagle Scout Ceremony; over one hundred people attended. The Lake Hopatcong Lake-Wide Cleanup was a big success. He attended a roundtable meeting with Senator Andrew Zwicker about AI (Artificial Intelligence). He announced he was participating in a fundraiser on December 1st for the Homeless Solutions fourth annual A Night in the Cold. He attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the County College of Morris Center for Entrepreneurship and Culinary Arts. He and Councilwoman Fostle were attending the

Roxbury Land Use Board meetings and speaking up, as residents, and on behalf of the residents of Mount Arlington, regarding the proposed development by Hartz Mountain Industries to construct massive warehouses at the old Hercules property in Roxbury Township. He called a meeting with the head of engineering for Morris County, as well as one of the Morris County Commissioners, to discuss what he felt were the dangers on Howard Boulevard. Currently, he was adamantly opposed to the development of these warehouses as he believed Howard Boulevard was not safe for increased commercial traffic. He and Ms. Rinaldi attended a preconstruction meeting for the upcoming construction by Exit 30 of Route 80 over Howard Boulevard in Mount Arlington. There was a resolution on tonight's agenda in support of Senate Bill 3739 which would delay the fourth round of Affordable Housing obligations from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2028. OPRA reform legislation was currently being proposed in the State Legislature. The Rotary 5k was a great event; it raised money for the 8th grade.

Borough Administrator's Report

Ms. Rinaldi reported the McGregor Avenue Watermain and Road Improvements project would mostly likely begin the week after Thanksgiving with water installation occurring first. The project would occur in stages. The milling and paving would occur next Spring. She would be in contact with the residents of McGregor via group email to provide them with an update on the project. She and the Mayor attended a preconstruction meeting with the DOT for the upcoming construction by Exit 30 of Route 80 over Howard Boulevard in Mount Arlington. Construction would begin on Route 80 with a start date was November 17th. This would be a multi-year project. The DOT would provide Ms. Rinaldi with updates every couple of weeks which would be shared with the residents. Regarding Resolution 2023-162, Authorizing the Signing of Lake Hopatcong Commission Outfall Sediment Removal Agreement, there was a typo to the attached agreement which would be corrected.

Ms. Rinaldi stated she was required to complete the 2023 Best Practices Inventory Worksheet and submit it to the Division of Local Government Services. A copy of the completed 2023 Best Practices Inventory Worksheet was provided to the Governing Body. 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.

Fire Chief's Report

1st Lieutenant Martin reported, for the month of October, there were 14 calls totaling 67 man-hours. Dispatch-to-arrival was 9 minutes 11 seconds which included out-of-town mutual aid calls. Year-to-date there were 139 calls. This month's drill was CPR. The Halloween Trunk or Treat was a great time. The Halloween Drive-Around on Engine 5 was a big success, giving out lots of candy to children in town. The Rabies Clinic on November 4th at the firehouse was a success. Due to a shortage of volunteers, fire fighters stepped up and assisted by helping register pet cats and dogs. The Fire Department helped out at both 5k events in town. They conducted fire prevention at Decker School. They thanked everyone who came to the Fire Department Dinner in October; it was a great time and well-attended. In the last couple of years they recruited 5 or 6 new volunteer firefighters which was a huge success. They would be at the Tree Lighting on December 2nd.

Ms. Rinaldi commended the Fire Department for providing volunteers to work at the Rabies Clinic. It was a big help and very much appreciated. About 100 dogs and cats were vaccinated.

Police Chief's Report

As the Public Safety Committee Chair, Councilwoman Galate included the Police report in her Council Committee Report.

Council Committee Reports

Councilwoman Galate

Councilwoman Galate gave the Police report:

- October Trainings:
 - Patrolman Kaiteris attended courses for OC Aerosol Instructor and DWI training.
 - Patrolman Braun attended courses for Outlaw Motorcycle Gang and Motor Vehicle Law.
 - Patrolman DeRosa attended the EMT recertification course.
 - Patrolman Crawford was currently completing his PTC (Police Training Commission) training at the Passaic Police Academy and would be completed by March 2024.
- There were no major incidents to report for October.
- Thanks to all of the officers and volunteers who helped out at the Halloween Bash this year.
- A big thanks to the CERT Members who assisted with traffic control for both 5K's in the rain.

Regarding the Fire Department, tonight's Ordinance 10-2023 was to hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study for a new firehouse and civic center public safety complex.

Councilman BaRoss

Councilman BaRoss reported every two years the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund required municipalities to update their Personnel Policies and Procedures and Employee Handbook. The Personnel Committee had reviewed the revised Personnel Policies and Procedures and Employee Handbook and there was a resolution on tonight's agenda to adopt them. He attended the Fire Department Dinner; it was a great event. Last month was busy campaigning for reelection.

Councilwoman Fostle

Councilwoman Fostle had nothing new to report.

Council President Delaney

Council President Delaney thanked the residents for coming out to vote on Election Day; it was their civic duty. He hoped voter turnout would continue to increase in the future.

Public Comment – None

Ordinance – Introduction

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 BaRoss stated: "I make the motion that Ordinance 07-2023 be introduced, and will be further considered after a public hearing held on December 5, 2023 at the Municipal Building at 7:00PM."

Second: Council President Delaney

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, 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: Councilwoman Fostle stated: "I make the motion that Ordinance 08-2023 be introduced, and will be further considered after a public hearing held on December 5, 2023 at the Municipal Building at 7:00PM."

Second: Council President Delaney

Council Discussion: Ms. Rinaldi provided some background information on both Ordinances 07-2023 and 08-2023. Both Ordinances contained new DEP language that each municipality was required to adopt in order to stay compliant with stormwater regulations.

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, 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: Council President Delaney stated: "I make the motion that Ordinance 09-2023 be introduced, and will be further considered after a public hearing held on December 5, 2023 at the Municipal Building at 7:00PM."

Second: Galate

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, 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: Council President Delaney stated: "I make the motion that Ordinance 10-2023 be introduced, and will be further considered after a public hearing held on December 5, 2023 at the Municipal Building at 7:00PM."

Second: Fostle

Council Discussion: Mayor Stanzilis stated the Borough had outgrown the Fire Department and Civic Center. This was only a feasibility study, but it was a huge first step in the evolution and growth of Mount Arlington.

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Ordinance – Second Reading – None

Resolutions – All Vote by Consent

- 2023-156 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
- 2023-157 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Designating Alfa Investments, LLC as Redeveloper for the Redevelopment of Certain Property Identified on the Tax Maps of the Borough as Block 17, Lot 18 and Identified in the Borough Tax Records as 61 Rooney Road, Mount Arlington, New Jersey and Authorizing the Execution of a Redevelopment Agreement in Connection Therewith
- 2023-158 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, in Support of Senate Bill 3739 Delaying the Fourth Round of Affordable Housing Obligations from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2028
- 2023-159 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 2023 Water and Sewer Systems Emergency Repair Services to Tomco Construction Inc.

- 2023-160 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Adopting a Revised Employee Handbook, Personnel Policies and Procedures Handbook, and Volunteer Handbook
- 2023-161 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Signing of Government Energy Aggregation Program Documents
- 2023-162 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Signing of Lake Hopatcong Commission Outfall Sediment Removal Agreement

Motion to Approve: BaRoss

Second: Fostle

Council Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Aye: Galate, Fostle, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Motion – None

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Council President Delaney

Second: Fostle

Roll Call:

All in Favor: Aye

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

The meeting adjourned at 7:56PM.



Matthew N. Bansch, Borough Clerk

CC: Website

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting of January 16, 2024