

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 6, 2024  
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. 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 11, 2024 and posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Borough Municipal Building on January 3, 2024; 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 those serving around the world to protect our freedoms.

Roll Call was taken for attendance:

**Present:** Councilwoman Galate, Councilman Loughridge, Council President Delaney, Councilman Cangiano (arrived 7:09), Councilman BaRoss and Mayor Stanzilis

**Absent:** Councilwoman Fostle

**Present from Administration:** Administrator/CFO Ms. Rinaldi, Police Chief Green, Fire Chief D'Arco, Borough Attorney Mr. Jessup and Borough Clerk Mr. Bansch

**Presentations**

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

Ms. Eckert reported on the following upcoming events:

- Kindergarten registration is this Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm (Decker School). Any child that is a Mount Arlington resident and is turning age 5 on or before October 1<sup>st</sup> may register for Kindergarten.
- MAPS Talent Show on February 12<sup>th</sup> (6:30pm). All proceeds benefit the Concert Band & Honors Choir trip to the High Note Music Festival and Dorney Park.
- February 13<sup>th</sup> is the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School Spirit Day as well.

- February 22<sup>nd</sup> is 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Carnival Night. There will be lots of fun games and contests all made by the current 8<sup>th</sup> graders. There will be a raffle for Mayor for the Day, Police Officer for the Day, and Fire Person for the Day. It is from 6-8pm.
- Preparations are on its way for the spectacular MAPS Love of Reading Week (March 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>) and Decker Read Across America Week (February 26<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>) with a Family Dr. Seuss Night Event at Decker School on Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Save the Date: Annual student versus faculty/community member volleyball game will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> at Roxbury High School from 5-9pm. The winners for the Mayor, PD and FD for the day will be announced.
- Student Accomplishments
  - We had three 8<sup>th</sup> graders (Vida Venditti, Emma Gonzalez, and Julia Gromnicki) take part in the Model UN Conference at Drew University. They worked together for the last couple of months preparing to represent a delegation from Italy, taking part in a committee discussing Climate Change. After voting to pass their committee's resolution, they were recognized as the Best Delegation taking 1<sup>st</sup> place.
- Special congrats to 8<sup>th</sup> grader Keira Baxter. She was accepted into the Junior High division of the NJ All State Chorus for treble choir. She will perform in a special concert in May with approximately one hundred other students in grades 7-9 from all over the state.

**Appointments** – None

**Approval of Minutes**

**January 16, 2024 - Regular Council Meeting**

*Motion to Approve:* Cangiano

*Second:* Council President Delaney

*Council Discussion:* None

*Roll Call:*

Aye: Galate, Cangiano, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

Opposed: None

Abstain: Loughridge

Motion Approved

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Stanzilis reported he attended a Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs meeting with Assemblyman Mike Inganamort and Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia from Legislative District 24. He was on weekly conference calls with the New Jersey League of Municipalities Executive Committee and the New Jersey Conference of Mayors regarding taking steps to oppose State Senate Bill S50 and Assembly Bill A4 which do not do enough to rehaul the process of determining constitutionally mandated Affordable Housing obligations while giving municipalities greater flexibility and input.

**Borough Administrator's Report**

Ms. Rinaldi reported Ms. Schaeffner attended the quarterly meeting with the Mayors and Administrators from around Lake Hopatcong. Several topics were discussed including generic ordinances to address noise on the lake, house boats and dock maintenance. There were also updates provided from the Lake Hopatcong Commission regarding the weed harvesting program and the very successful shrink wrap recycling program. She met with Lee Moreau regarding the upcoming

Lake Hopatcong Block Party and Veteran's Cruise. She had a preliminary meeting with Fire Chief D'Arco regarding a new fire truck apparatus study. The goal was to have a report ready for the Governing Body before the summer.

### **Police Chief's Report**

Chief Green reported there were several trainings and events which occurred in January:

- January 9<sup>th</sup> was Law Enforcement Appreciation Day at the Mount Arlington Schools. Thanks to the entire Board of Education for a great day.
- The department attended a NARCAN training hosted by Atlantic Health.
- Officer Crawford was almost finished completing his Police Academy certifications with an anticipated graduation in March.
- The department finally got a new ID machine.
- They finished their annual audit reporting as of January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Fire Chief's Report**

Fire Chief D'Arco reported for the month of January:

- There were 20 calls totaling 81.47 man-hours.
- The Department attended trainings on air bags, water and ice rescue.
- He attended a meeting with County Fire Coordinator Lou Pepe.
- He met with Councilman Cangiano and took him on a tour of the Borough firehouses.
- He met with the architects from SSP regarding the Borough's needs for a new public safety building to include a firehouse and civic community center.
- He attended a preliminary meeting with Ms. Rinaldi regarding a new fire truck apparatus study.
- He shared a handout with the Governing Body for a program, titled "After the Fire," which was a high school tour put on by two survivors of the 2000 Seton Hall University fire that claimed the lives of three freshman students and injured fifty-eight others. The Mount Alington and Roxbury Fire Departments were going to co-sponsor this program to be held at Roxbury High School for the Senior Class to help prepare them for college dorm life. Topics would include pranking/hazing, escape planning, forgiveness, overcoming adversity at a young age and more.

### **Council Committee Reports**

#### *Councilwoman Galate*

Councilwoman Galate commended Mr. Hutchins and Mr. Quillinan for taking proactive steps to inspect Borough assets for repairs. The Hope One mobile recovery access vehicle would be at the Borough Library parking lot on February 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am-2pm. Hope One offers critical support for persons struggling with addiction, with the goals of preventing drug overdoses and deaths, as well as mental health services. Hope One travels four times a week to locations throughout Morris County, bringing services to persons in need. A Sheriff's officer, licensed mental health professional, and a certified peer recovery specialist – who understand the needs of those suffering with addiction — staff the vehicle. They help people access services and Narcan training.

#### *Councilman Loughridge*

Councilman Loughridge had nothing new to report.

*Councilman BaRoss*

Councilman BaRoss reported, regarding Recreation, he attended the Recreation Commission Reorganization/Regular Meeting. Jessica Costa was appointed Chairwoman and Marc Rinaldi as Vice Chairman. Spring registration began this week for Munchkin Soccer, Tee-Ball and Coach Pitch. The success of many of these programs were dependent on volunteers and parents stepping up to help with coaching. There were various upcoming workshops including Valentine's Cookie Decorating this Saturday in the Civic Center. They were looking into a Mount Arlington Banner Sponsorship program. A morning kayaking program would be coming this Spring. There would be a series of surveys going out to residents to gauge interest in the following sports: flag football; soccer for ages 6+; beach volleyball; and pickleball.

*Councilman Cangiano*

Councilman Cangiano reported Chief D'Arco invited him for a tour of the firehouses. It was a great tour and was extremely thorough and informative.

*Council President Delaney*

Council President Delaney thanked Patrolman Braun, Sergeant Sherburne and Patrolman Tumulty for responding to his home earlier today after a vehicle traveling down Howard Boulevard lost control and drove across his front lawn, destroyed his mailbox and street light, damaged his car and neighbor's porch. The Police responded in only a couple of minutes and handled the situation phenomenally. He and his wife were extremely thankful to the Police Department.

**Public Comment**

Janet Vignola, 66 Ridgeview Lane – Ms. Vignola asked what was going on with the old Our Lady of the Lake School property.

Mayor Stanzilis replied the Diocese had sold the property to a redeveloper. Mr. Jessup directed Ms. Vignola to the Borough website where residents can view the entire Redevelopment Plan for this project.

Gail Delaney, 375 Howard Boulevard – Ms. Delaney also thanked the Police Department for responding to her home so quickly earlier today. She thanked the DPW for helping to clean up all of the debris and downed wires so expediently. She thanked Councilman BaRoss for a great Recreation Report. She also wished to add the Borough Easter Egg Roll was scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Ordinance – Introduction** – None

**Ordinance – Second Reading**

01-2024 An Ordinance of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$75,000.00 From the Capital Improvement Fund for the Purchase of Landscaping Equipment

The Mayor opened the Hearing to the Public and read Ordinance 01-2024 by Title.

There was no public comment.

The Mayor closed the Hearing to the Public.

*Motion:* Council President Delaney stated: “I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance 01-2024”

*Second:* Councilman Cangiano

*Council Discussion:* None

*Roll Call:*

*Aye:* Galate, Loughridge, Cangiano, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

*Opposed:* None

*Abstain:* None

*Motion Approved*

**Resolutions – All Vote by Consent**

2024-44 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving Transfer of Funds

2024-45 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 6, 2024

2024-46 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Hiring Joan Egan and Patricia Palazzola as Temporary Part-Time Deputy Court Administrators

2024-47 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

*Motion to Approve:* BaRoss

*Second:* Galate

*Council Discussion –* None

*Roll Call:*

*Aye:* Galate, Loughridge, Cangiano, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

*Opposed:* None

*Abstain:* None

*Motion Approved*

**Motion – All Vote by Consent**

- **Vendor Permit** - Luis Ponce, Edward Jones Investments – Financial Advising Services
- **Limousine License** - East Coast Drives, LLC – Limousine Services

*Motion to Approve:* Galate

*Second:* BaRoss

*Roll Call:*

*Aye:* Galate, Loughridge, Cangiano, BaRoss, Council President Delaney

*Opposed:* None

*Abstain:* None

*Motion Approved*

**Adjourn**

*Motion to Adjourn:* Council President Delaney

*Second:* BaRoss

*Roll Call:*

All in Favor: Aye

Opposed: None

Motion Approved

The meeting adjourned at 7:47PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley N. Todd", written over a horizontal line.

Ashley N. Todd, Acting Municipal Clerk

CC: Website

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting of March 5, 2024