

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2025
6:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 This meeting was held in-person at the Municipal Building at 419 Howard Boulevard, Mount Arlington, New Jersey.

Council President Delaney called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Ms. Todd read the “Adequate Notice” into record.

Mayor Stanzilis led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present- Councilman Delaney, Councilwoman Fostle, Councilman Fuller, Councilman Cangiano and Mayor Stanzilis

Certification of Election

- Ms. Todd read the certification into the record reflecting the following:
 - Nita Galate elected to the Borough Council for a term of three years
 - David “Dave” BaRoss elected to the Borough Council for a term of three years

Swearing in of 2025 Elected Officials

- Nita Galate and Dave BaRoss were both sworn into office by Matt Jessup, Esq.

Roll Call- All Elected Officials

Present- Councilman Delaney, Councilwoman Fostle, Councilman Fuller, Councilman Cangiano, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman BaRoss and Mayor Stanzilis

Recognition of Guests

Mayor Stanzilis recognized Commissioner John Krickus and Commissioner Doug Cabana, and Hopatcong Mayor Galate in the audience. The Mayor also sent regards from Senator Anthony Bucco and Assemblywoman Aura Dunn who were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

A video message from Senator Cory Booker was played on the television for the audience.

Nomination of Council President for 2025

Councilman Jack Delaney was nominated for Council President by Councilman BaRoss.
Second: Councilman Cangiano

No other nominations were made

Roll Call:

Aye: Councilman Delaney, Councilwoman Fostle, Councilman Fuller, Councilman Cangiano, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman BaRoss

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Councilman Jack Delaney accepts the nomination.

Mayor Stanzilis praised Council President Delaney on his work as Council President and looks forward to the work he will do in the year ahead.

Mayor's Address (Attachment 1)

Full transcript of Mayor Stanzilis' address is attached.

Mayor's Appointments

Council Committees

FINANCE (includes Budget, Redevelopment, Economic Development)

Committee Chair – Councilman BaRoss

Councilman Fuller

Councilman Delaney

PUBLIC SAFETY (includes Police, Court, Fire, Rescue and OEM)

Committee Chair - Councilman Fuller

Councilman Cangiano

Councilman Delaney

PERSONNEL

Committee Chair – Councilwoman Fostle

Councilman BaRoss

Councilman Delaney

PARKS & RECREATION (includes Events)

Committee Chair – Councilwoman Galate

Councilwoman Fostle

Councilman Delaney

DPW, BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & UTILITIES (includes Water/Sewer)

Committee Chair - Councilman Cangiano

Councilman Galate

Councilman Delaney

Borough Boards & Committees

LAND USE BOARD

Class I Member – Mayor Stanzilis (1-year term, expiring 12/31/2025)

Class II Member – Carolyn Rinaldi (1-year term, expiring 12/31/2025)

Class III Member – Councilwoman Melissa Fostle (1-year term, expiring 12/31/2025)
Class IV Member – Robert Van Den Hende (2-year term, expiring 12/31/2026)
Class IV Member – Tom Foley (4-year term, expiring 12/31/2025)
Class IV Member – Fran Hallowich (4-year term, expiring 12/31/2026)
Class IV Member – John Driscoll (4-year term, expiring 12/31/2026)
Class IV Member – Heidi Roldan (2 year, expires 12/31/2025)
Class IV Member – Eric Green (unexpired 4-year term, expiring 12/31/2025)
Alternate 1 Member – David Karpman (2-year term, expiring 12/31/2026)
Alternate 2 Member – Eric Wilson (2-year term, expiring 12/31/2026)
Alternate 3 Member – John Wilkinson (2-year term, expiring 12/31/2026)
Alternate 4 Member – Tom Donofrio (2-year term, expiring 12/31/2026)

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mayor Stanzilis

Mayor's Alternate – Councilman Delaney (1-year term, expiring 12/31/2025)

Superintendent Monica Rowland

Peter Panos (5-year term, expiring 12/31/2025)

Kara Higgins (5-year term, expiring 12/31/2026)

John Driscoll (5-year term, expiring 12/31/2026)

Sheila Studint (5-year term, expiring 12/31/2026)

_____ (5-year unexpired term, expiring 12/31/2027)

Lisa McQuade (5-year term, expiring 12/31/2028)

Nita Galate (5-year term, expiring 12/31/2029)

BOARD OF HEALTH

Laura O'Reilly Stanzilis (3-year term, expiring 12/31/2027)

Linda Tuorinsky (3-year term, expiring 12/31/2027)

_____ (3-year unexpired term, expiring 12/31/2026)

Roy Morance (3-year term, expiring 12/31/2026)

_____ (3-year unexpired term, expiring 12/31/2025)

Rebecca Keenan (3-year term, expiring 12/31/2025)

Bob Cantagallo (3-year term, expiring 12/31/2027)

Council Liaison – Councilwoman Galate (1-year term, expiring 12/31/2025)

BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSION

Pat Kerrigan (5-year term, expiring 12/31/2029)

Mark Rinaldi (5-year unexpired term, expiring 12/31/2025)

Rich Herbison (5-year unexpired term, expiring 12/31/2026)

Robert Jenny (5-year unexpired term, expiring 12/31/2027)

Beth BaRoss (5-year unexpired term, expiring 12/31/2028)

Gail Delaney (5-year term, expiring 12/31/2027)

Ryan Cassidy (5-year term, expiring 12/31/2028)

Alternate 1 – _____ (5-year unexpired term, expiring 12/31/2025)

Alternate 2 – _____ (5-year unexpired term, expiring 12/31/2026)

MAYOR'S WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Mayor Stanzilis
Nita Galate – Council Liaison
Helen Giles, Mt Olive Twp Health Department Representative
Laura O'Reilly Stanzilis, Board of Health
Carolyn Rinaldi, Borough Administrator
Rebecca Keenan, Board of Health
Ashley Todd, Board of Health Administrator
Christopher Merker, MAPS Representative
Tina Mayer, Library Director
Ruth E. Moore, Mt Arlington Seniors Club Representative
Andrea Danysh – MAPS Representative (Alternate)
Marlen Tomoshieski – MAPS Representative (Alternate)

LAKE HOPATCONG COMMISSION

Borough Representative – Anne Pravs (2-year term, expiring 12/31/2025)
Borough Alternate Representative – Karen Porfido (2-year term, expiring 12/31/2025)

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Mayor Stanzilis
Councilwoman Fostle
Councilman Cangiano
Carolyn Rinaldi
David Karpman
Monica Rowland
Anne Pravs
Karen Porfido
Kathy Appleby
Heidi Roldan
Kyle Richter
John Wilkinson
Jessica Price

MOUNT ARLINGTON ARTS ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

Laura Stanzilis
Mark Rinaldi
Tina Mayer
Darlene Newberry
Carolyn Rinaldi
Ashley Todd
Councilwoman Fostle
Councilwoman Galate
Mayor Stanzilis

Motion to Approve: Council President Delaney
Second: Councilman BaRoss
Council Discussion- None

Roll Call:

Aye: Council President Delaney, Councilwoman Fostle, Councilman Fuller, Councilman Cangiano, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman BaRoss

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Mount Arlington-Wharton Shared Municipal Court

1-year term expiring 12/31/25

Municipal Court Judge	Honorable Gerard Smith, Esq.
Municipal Prosecutor	Douglas Cabana, Esq.
Municipal Public Defender	Douglass Sclar, Esq.
Municipal Primary Alternate Judge	Honorable Peter Fico, Esq.
Municipal Secondary Alternate Judge	Honorable Gerald Scala, Esq.
Municipal Alternate Prosecutor	John Horan, Esq.
Municipal Alternate Primary Public Defender	Daniel Agatino, Esq.
Municipal Alternate Secondary Public Defender	John Grey, Esq.

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Galate

Second: Councilwoman Fostle

Council Discussion- None

Roll Call:

Aye: Council President Delaney, Councilwoman Fostle, Councilman Fuller, Councilman Cangiano, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman BaRoss

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Fire Department Officers & Fire Official

2-year term expiring 12/31/26

Fire Chief – Mario Marcano

Assistant Fire Chief – Wesley Martin

Captain – Eric Fowler

1st Lieutenant – Luke Borowiec

2nd Lieutenant – Sean Whitteaker

Fire Official – NJ DCA Division of Fire & Safety

Motion to Approve: Councilman Fuller

Second: Councilwoman Galate

Council Discussion- None

Roll Call:

Aye: Council President Delaney, Councilwoman Fostle, Councilman Fuller, Councilman Cangiano, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman BaRoss

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Mayor Stanzilis administered oath to Fire Chief Marcano. Fire Chief Marcano administered oath to line officers individually.

Borough Officials

1-year term expiring 12/31/25

Pension Certifying Official	Lauren Schaeffner
Tax Search Officer	Laura Adams
Clean Communities Coordinator	Lauren Schaeffner
Recycling Coordinator	Scott Hutchins
Licensed Water Operator	Tom Quillinan
Zoning Officer	Kathy Appleby
Lake Hopatcong Foundation	
Trails & Open Space Efforts Representative	Councilwoman Galate
League of Municipalities Representative	Mayor Stanzilis
Liaison to the Board of Education	Councilman BaRoss
Liaison to the Board of Recreation	Councilwoman Fostle
Liaison to the Seniors Club	Councilman Delaney
MCJIF Commissioner	Carolyn Rinaldi
Alternate MCJIF Commissioner	Lauren Schaeffner
Morris County Historic	
Preservation Review Board Representative	Councilwoman Galate
Mount Arlington Historic Sites	
Survey Representative	Councilwoman Galate
CDRS Representatives	
- Council Representative	Councilman BaRoss
- Volunteer Representative	Gail Delaney
Public Safety Coordinator	Police Chief Green
OEM Coordinators	Police Chief Green
	Councilman Fuller
Deputy OEM Coordinators	Police Lieutenant Fortunato
	Chief Marcano
Qualified Purchasing Agent	Carolyn Rinaldi
Registrar of Vital Statistics	Ashley Todd
Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics	Karen Territo

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Fostle

Second: Councilwoman Galate

Council Discussion- None

Roll Call:

Aye: Council President Delaney, Councilwoman Fostle, Councilman Fuller, Councilman Cangiano, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman BaRoss

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Ordinance – Introduction- None

Ordinance – Second Reading- None

Resolutions

- 2025-01 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Designating Official Newspapers
- 2025-02 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Petty Cash Fund
- 2025-03 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Mount Arlington for the Year 2025
- 2025-04 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Signatures on Borough Checks
- 2025-05 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Affirming Civil Rights Policy with Respect to All Officials, Appointees, Employees, Prospective Employees, Volunteers, Independent Contractors, and Members of the Public that Come into Contact with Municipal Employees, Officials and Volunteers
- 2025-06 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Establishing the Rate of Interest on Delinquent Municipal Charges, Grace Period and Year End Penalty for the Year 2025
- 2025-07 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, to Allow Cancellation of Tax and Utility Delinquent Amounts Less than \$10.00 for the Year 2025
- 2025-08 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing a Tax Sale to Be Held in the Year 2025
- 2025-09 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Assessor and/or Borough Attorney and/or Special Tax Counsel to File and Prosecute Tax Appeals/Rollbacks

- 2025-10 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing Giovanni Mancini of Treadstone Risk Management as Risk Management Consultant
- 2025-11 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Appointment of a Health Benefits Consultant to Evaluate the Borough's Employee Health Benefits Program (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(m))
- 2025-12 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing Morris County Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner and Alternate I Member for the Borough of Mount Arlington
- 2025-13 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Adopting a Form Required to Be Used for the Filing of Tort Claims Against the Borough of Mount Arlington in Accordance with the Provisions of the NJ Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:8-6
- 2025-14 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Supporting the Lake Hopatcong Commission
- 2025-15 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Supporting and Participating in the Volunteer Tuition Credit Program (P.L. 1998, C. 145)
- 2025-16 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Professional Services Contracts for the Calendar Year 2025
- 2025-17 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Temporary Appropriations for Operating Purposes
- 2025-18 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Appointment of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as Administrator of the Municipality's Section 125 - Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) In Accordance with the Regulations Promulgated by Chapter 78 of the Laws of the State of New Jersey (Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(m))
- 2025-19 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Approving and Authorizing Execution of the 2025 Kroll, LLC, Consulting Services Agreement

- 2025-20 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Waiving the Food & Drink Licensing Fees for the Board of Recreation Commission Concession Stand for 2025
- 2025-21 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Community Emergency Response Team
- 2025-22 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 Phoenix Advisors, LLC, for Continuing Disclosure Agent Services and Independent Registered Municipal Advisor of Record
- 2025-23 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Execution and Submission of Grant Applications When Due Date is Between Scheduled Council Meetings
- 2025-24 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing Carolyn Rinaldi as Public Agency Compliance Officer for the Calendar Year 2025
- 2025-25 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Designating Council Meeting Dates for the Year 2025
- 2025-26 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing a Contribution to Morris County Adaptive Recreation Program (McARP)
- 2025-27 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Endorsing the Sustainable Land Use Pledge
- 2025-28 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Application for a 2025 Municipal Recycling Tonnage Grant
- 2025-29 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Establishing Holiday Schedule and Closure of Borough Hall Offices for the Calendar Year 2025
- 2025-30 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Supporting Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination

- 2025-31 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Re-Appointing Laura Adams, Certified Tax Collector Tax Collector of the Borough of Mount Arlington
- 2025-32 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing Alternates for Municipal Court for Calendar Year 2025
- 2025-33 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 Part-Time Deputy Court Administrators
- 2025-34 A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Appointing the Local Emergency Planning Council

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Galate
Second: Councilman BaRoss
Council Discussion- None

Roll Call:

Aye: Council President Delaney, Councilwoman Fostle, Councilman Fuller, Councilman Cangiano, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman BaRoss

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Approved

Public Comment- None

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Councilwoman Galate

Second: Council President Delaney

Roll Call:

All in Favor: Aye

Opposed: None

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.


Ashley N. Todd, Acting Municipal Clerk

CC: Website

ATTACHMENT 1

Borough of Mount Arlington Mayor Mike Stanzilis' 2025 Mayor's Message

Good Evening, ladies and gentlemen. This meeting tonight will be my 9th Reorganization meeting. When I started this quest 9 years ago, I threw down a challenge to the governing body at that time. WE MUST GET TAXES UNDER CONTROL! New Jersey has the highest property taxes in the Nation, and I was not going to be a Mayor who allowed the status quo to continue here in Mount Arlington. I coined the phrase "Race to the bottom," I wanted Mount Arlington to be among the lowest taxed towns in the region. In order for us to achieve this goal, I came up with a simple formula to help us all understand the plan:

Smart Growth + Prudent Fiscal Management = Success

The success in the formula is lowered taxes. Tonight, I would like to go over some programs from this past year that fit into the smart growth and prudent fiscal management formula and some of the people who made it possible. Then I will discuss the plan for the upcoming year of 2025. When hearing the results at the end of my address, I will let the residents decide if we are achieving our goal of success.

To begin with: Mount Arlington Borough purchased landscaping equipment for the Department of Public Works to maintain borough grounds. This allows the Borough to keep this cost in house, instead of contracting out for a service. We also purchased two new trucks to replace a skid steer and backhoe. Thank you to Councilwoman Nita Galate and DPW Supervisors Scott Hutchins and Tom Quillinan for procuring the new equipment and getting us over the finish line. The DPW continues a regular schedule of street sweeping, which is critical to stormwater management and the overall health of Lake Hopatcong. Mount Arlington Borough was the first town in the State of New Jersey to develop a Green Infrastructure Committee whose main focus is improving infrastructure around the Borough specifically focusing on the water quality in the lake, and this regular street sweeping does just that.

Water and Sewer projects continue throughout the Borough. Thank you to Councilman Cangiano for keeping the projects moving forward. Dave Clark, from CP Engineers, has been working tirelessly to complete the McGregor Avenue project in the Spring of 2025. The State requires Municipalities to award contracts to the "lowest responsible bidder." The definition that the State gives for "responsible bidder" is one that I would not agree with. However, the residents of McGregor Avenue have been so patient and the Borough greatly appreciates it, and I thank you personally for it as the project had presented challenges. I promise that once the improvements are completed on McGregor Avenue, I will host a pizza party for the residents!

Mount Arlington Borough received a grant for \$277,000 from the Federal Government called a "COPS Grant" for technology equipment improvements borough wide. These improvements include cameras in public areas to the borough, and automatic license plate readers. I want to thank Congressman Tom Kean Jr. for his work on securing this grant for the Borough. Since I have been Mayor, this is the first Federal grant that the Borough has received, and that is thanks to the work that Congressman Kean is doing for us down in Washington, D.C. As a Mayor, there are issues

that keep you up at night, and the one issue that keeps me up at night is the safety and security of our town and our residents. Lives cannot be replaced, and this funding will ensure just that and allow all of us to sleep better. The Borough received a \$70,000 American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant for turnout gear for Mount Arlington's Bravest. We also received a Recreation Improvement Grant for \$75,000 for improvements to playground equipment and lighting.

There have been many community events over the last year, and I want to highlight the staff and collaborations that made it possible. The Leap in the Lake Fundraiser, hosted by the Lake Hopatcong Elks, is always a great event as TEAM MTA braves the COLD! Thank you to Kathy Appleby for leading the way and all of the borough staff members who join us and run straight into the frigid waters of Lake Hopatcong every year in March. The Mount Arlington Public Library dedicated the Library Children's Room to former mayor Johanna LoPonte who passed in 2023. Thank you to our Library Director, Tina Mayer for her leadership to complete that project. Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt has continued to grow and is outstanding. Thank you to Acting Borough Clerk, Ashley Todd for her work on that. The Lake Hopatcong Block Party is always such a great event over at the Hopatcong State Park. Thank you to Marty Kane from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation, Beth BaRoss and Lee Moreau for all of their work for volunteering to create such a fun event every year. Clean Communities clean up days and our shred days continue, thank you to Assistant Borough Administrator Lauren Schaeffner for her work on coordinating those. Our Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, thank you to Ashley Todd, Mr. Dave Gardner and his A team for their work on that. Mr. Tuneblom is going to be taking over the A team, under Mr. Gardner's guidance and will assist with the parade and ceremony moving forward. Our Summer Concert series has grown from just a small idea to now five great events that our community looks forward to all summer, most of which take place at our beautiful concert venue of the Municipal Beach, and all of that is thanks to Mr. Mark Rinaldi and all his hard work. The Halloween Bash is always a great event, and our Christmas Tree Lighting has been completely reimaged from a small quick gathering at the Veterans Memorial at Memorial Park to now the gathering expanding to the gazebo with firepits and hot chocolate; it looks like something out of a Norman Rockwell painting, and I want to thank Ashley Todd for those. The Hanukkah Celebration also has been reimaged, and that is thanks to our very own Rabbi Andy Mars who resides in Mount Arlington.

Mount Arlington Borough participated in a fire equipment apparatus study utilizing a third-party consulting group. I learned a lot about fire trucks and the different usages, the fact that they are very expensive, and that there is a long waiting list to acquire one. However, the engine that we will be receiving is a great investment to the Borough. The Borough also participated in an Operational Analysis, and found that it would be beneficial to have our line officers elected to two-year terms. By implementing this, it allows the line officers to fully understand their roles and to execute them efficiently. The Fire Department worked with the Borough Administrator and Public Safety Committee to develop a capital plan for future planning of the department's needs. This is all part of **PRUDENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT**. I also want to thank outgoing Fire Chief Mike D'Arco for his dedication to the Borough and his work on the capital plan for the Fire Department.

We all know that Small Businesses are the heart and soul of America, and we are going to continue to support our small businesses in Mount Arlington. In 2024, the Borough did videos with business owners in town, and created a landing page on the Borough website specifically dedicated to small businesses.

A key component of PRUDENT FISCAL MANGEMENT is shared services with other Municipalities. The Borough of Mount Arlington has a shared court with Wharton. Our Construction Officials are shared with Jefferson. Our Health Department is shared with Mount Olive, and I would like to give a special thank you to our Public Health Nurse Helen Giles for her work with the Borough this year. Our current Animal Control shared services with Hopatcong will end in 2025, and we are working with Jefferson and Wharton on a new agreement to replace it. Saint Clare's Ambulance Services is a shared agreement. The Borough participates in the Morris County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, with 46 municipalities participating in 2025. Our DPW Supervisor and Licensed Water/Wastewater Operator are shared with Wharton; however, our DPW staff are full time employees of Mount Arlington. The Borough also participates in various Co-ops for purchasing needs.

Now, I would like to look ahead to 2025 and what we have planned. Water and Sewer projects continue through the Borough. There will be continued preliminary work toward services to the area of Lake Rogerene. Mountainview Avenue restoration design plan is in process for drainage needs and road resurfacing. The Budget presentation for 2025 will include a road improvement plan for the Borough.

The Borough will be receiving another grant from the Federal Government in the amount of \$550,000, thanks to Congressman Kean, to dredge and rehabilitate Memorial Pond. The funding is currently going through appropriations process in Congress. This project also keeps with our Green Infrastructure and Green Initiatives in the Borough.

Mount Arlington Borough conducted a feasibility study for a new firehouse location, due to the fact that the equipment being used today has outgrown the current location which was built 75 years ago. The next step is to develop a thinktank to discuss the findings of the feasibility study of the new proposed location to see if not only it is the best location for a new firehouse, but also a new civic center.

The Borough has developed a new "Art's Alliance Committee" and will be reinvigorating our Green Infrastructure Committee.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) strides for Municipalities are something that I am very interested in. I hosted a panel on AI at the League of Municipalities Convention with experts on AI and it's benefits. Mount Arlington is currently interviewing vendors to assist the Borough to be more efficient and to stay modern with the ever-evolving technology. This will allow our team to be more effective and our residents to get better services because of it. The future is going to look very different 5 to 10 years from now in terms of business processes. I do not want Mount Arlington to be left on the dust heap of fax machines and VCR's.

To continue with PRUDENT FINSAL MANAGEMENT and SMART GROWTH, two small redevelopment projects have been approved. Orchards Village, which is an 88-unit development will reinvigorate the property, which is currently on the edge of failing. Also approved was the old Catholic school property, which will become a 36-unit development and will bring that property onto the tax rolls as it was formerly tax exempt. These projects will enhance the quality of life and add value to our town, they will bring in additional revenue, and will have a minimal impact on our

infrastructure.

As I stated earlier, our goal was to lower property taxes and not follow the status quo of New Jersey. In saying that, I now want to discuss the tax implications since I took office 9 years ago. As we know, Municipalities in New Jersey are allowed to increase taxes up to 2% each year without going to referendum. When I took office in 2016, the average homeowner's municipal portion of the tax levy was \$2,352. In 2024, the average homeowner's municipal portion of the tax levy was \$2,346. That is a DECREASE of 0.25% over 9 years. To put that into perspective, the rest of New Jersey has increased taxes about 10% in 9 years. There are not many municipalities in New Jersey who can say that not only did they keep tax rates level, but that they decreased taxes in their municipalities. It is clear that SMART GROWTH + PRUDENT FISCAL MANAGEMENT = SUCCESS works! However, none of this would be possible without the team that we have in Mount Arlington. They fully embrace and support the mission and do their jobs with exceptional energy and commitment to our community.

I would personally like to thank the Police Department for the outstanding work our Police do. When I moved here from the Bronx, I remember telling people that the police officers here know your kid's names, but for good reasons. I would like to thank the Fire Department and their line officers, Chief Mario Marcano, Assistant Chief Wes Martin, Captain Eric Fowler, 1st Lieutenant Luke Borowiec, and 2nd Lieutenant Sean Whitteaker. I always say, when your home in on fire and you are running out, Mount Arlington's Bravest are running in! Thank you to the Department of Public Works and Scott Hutchins and Tom Quillinan for their leadership. Thank you to Judge Smith and his staff for their work with the town. Of course, a thank you to the Borough Staff for the amazing job that they do. Finally, thank you to Carolyn Rinaldi, who is the Borough Administrator, Chief Financial Officer, and Qualified Purchasing Agent for the Borough who is the heart and soul of our town. Without you, none of this success would be possible.

I would also like to recognize and thank our Borough Professionals who work with us throughout the year. Stan Puszczyk and Dave Clark from CP Engineers, Jessica Caldwell from Caldwell and Associates who has been critical in maintaining our compliance with the Affordable Housing quotas, Mike Selvaggi our Land Use attorney, Matt Jessup of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC our Borough Counsel, our auditors Bud Jones and Brian Ko from Niccovocchia, Scott Holzhauser our appraiser.

Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who enthusiastically give back to our community. Thank you to the Borough Council; Council President Delaney, Councilwoman Galate, Councilman Fuller who is new to the Council, Councilman BaRoss, Councilwoman Fostle and Councilman Cangiano. Being a member of council is not an easy job. They give up their time with their families to give back to the Borough, and sometimes it can be a thankless job. However, this evening I want to thank you for all of your hard work.

I also want to thank my wonderful wife Laura for her love and support always, but especially over the last 9 years. I know it is not always easy having me whisked away on Borough business, but your understanding and support means the world to me.

In closing, as we stand here together, looking to the future with hope and optimism, I am reminded

of the great blessings we have received. First and foremost, I thank God for his guidance and grace, which continues to light our way and sustain us as we work together to build a brighter future for our wonderful community. To the residents of Mount Arlington, I can never express fully how much it means to me to serve as your mayor. You have entrusted me with a sacred duty, and it is an honor I carry with pride every day. Together, we have made great strides, but I know the best is yet to come. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your faith, your partnership, and your unwavering spirit. May we continue to move forward with the belief that, with God's help and the strength of our people, we can accomplish anything. God bless each and every one of you, and may God bless Mount Arlington, and God Bless America.