

**PUBLIC MEETING  
MINUTES**

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers and called to order at 7:30PM. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale. Master Sergeant Dieter Koelling led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and roll call was taken.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT**

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to The Bergen Record informing the public of the time and place according to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

Also Present: Mayor Mike Ghassali; Borough Attorney, Dave Lafferty; Borough Engineer, Carl O'Brien; Administrator, Joe Voytus; and Municipal Clerk, Fran Scordo

**ROLL CALL:**

Councilmember Arendacs  
Councilmember Cudequest  
Councilmember Koelling

Councilmember Lane  
Councilmember Roche  
Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang - absent

**PROCLAMATION:**

Honoring January as Muslim Heritage Month

**POLICE CHIEF, DOUG MCDOWELL, QUARTERLY REPORT**

*Some events that took place between September through December are as follows: Junior Police Academy, 9/11 ceremony, Day in the Park, Halloween safety, Veterans wreath ceremony, senior holiday luncheon and Snow tubing at Campgaw will be held on January 16<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm. Some statistics for the year: 79 shop lifters reported, 493 accidents, 86 summons issued for "Drive Sober", 38 DWI arrests, 263 total arrests. Councilmembers commended the police department on all the efforts and wished them well in the coming year.*

**ORDINANCES:**

*None*

**MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:**

Agenda Items Only

*Motion to open meeting to the public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest – all ayes*

*No Public Comment*

*Motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest – all ayes*

**MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC:**

Agenda Items Only

**MINUTES:**

**November 26, 2024**

*A motion to accept minutes by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest – all ayes*

**December 12, 2024**

*A motion to accept minutes by Councilmember Roche; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest – all ayes with the exception of Councilmember Lane abstaining*

**Sine Die January 1, 2025**

*A motion to accept minutes by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - all ayes with the exception of Councilmember Roche abstaining*

**Re-Org January 1, 2025**

*A motion to accept minutes by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - all ayes with the exception of Councilmember Roche abstaining*

**CLOSED/EXECUTIVE MINUTES:**

**November 26, 2024**

*A motion to accept minutes by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - all ayes*

**RESOLUTIONS: (CONSENT AGENDA\*)**

\*All items listed on a consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Borough Council and will be approved by a motion, seconded and a roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Council member(s) so request it, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

**45-2025 A Resolution Appointing William Betesh, Esq. Of Boggia, Boggia & Betesh to Represent The Borough of Montvale In Tax Appeal Matters Pending As of December 31, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution 23-2025, the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale (“Borough”) appointed David S. Lafferty, Esq. of Huntington Bailey, L.L.P. Borough Attorney for the 2025 calendar year; and

**WHEREAS**, as of December 31, 2024, William Betesh, Esq. of the law firm of Boggia, Boggia & Betesh was appointed as Borough Attorney for the Borough of Montvale, including representation of the Borough in tax appeals and matters before the New Jersey Tax Court;

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has determined that the law firm of Boggia, Boggia & Betesh should continue its representation of the Borough for tax appeals pending as of December 31, 2024;

**WHEREAS**, the anticipated term of this Contract is from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025;

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:111 et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of Professional Service contracts without competitive bids and the Contract itself must be available for public inspection;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, in the State of New Jersey that the office of Boggia, Boggia & Betesh will continue to represent the Borough of Montvale in the following tax appeals pending as of December 31, 2024:

- 1 Paragon Drive
- Verizon
- Grand Prix Montvale
- Life Time Fitness
- Fintan Seeley
- PRM Hospitality
- Toll NJ, LLC

- Pranay Aiya
- Richard Queen
- Hornrock Properties

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Mayor and Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Montvale are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with Boggia, Boggia & Betesh; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that William Betesh, Esq., shall complete and submit a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that he has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Montvale in the previous one year, and that the contract shall prohibit William Betesh, Esq from making any reportable contributions through the term of this contract; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law because the services are to be performed by a person authorized by law to practice a recognized profession and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and the Determination of Value shall be on file with this Resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that David S. Lafferty, Esq. will represent the Borough of Montvale in any tax appeal matters filed on and after January 1, 2025.

**46-2025 Cancellation of Outstanding Checks - Prior Years - Pascack Joint Municipal Court**

**WHEREAS**, there exists various outstanding checks from prior years drawn against certain accounts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Court Administrator provided a listing of outstanding checks that require cancellation (listing attached) from prior years.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to deposit these funds to the respective reserve or surplus account;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Municipal Court Administrator shall receive a copy of this resolution for record keeping; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the attached list of outstanding checks from prior years be cancelled;

**47-2025 Authorize Appointment – Jennifer Lacy - Acting Municipal Court Administrator**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:12-10 the Municipality of Upper Saddle River and the Municipality of Montvale, acting as lead agency for the Pascack Joint Municipal Court, are required to provide for a Municipal Court Administrator; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et. Seq., any municipality of the State of New Jersey may contract with any other municipality or municipalities to share services that any party to the agreement is empowered to provide within its own jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2B:12-1(c) the Municipality of Upper Saddle River and the Municipality of Montvale, acting as lead agency for the Pascack Joint Municipal Court, consent and agree to share the professional services of their respective Municipal Court Administrators on a provisional basis in the event of the absence of the Municipal Court Administrator and Deputy Court Administrator, to undertake the duties of the absent Municipal Court Administrator during scheduled and/or unscheduled leaves, within the two respective municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the rate of pay shall be \$30 per hour. Pay rate established by N.J.S.A. 2B:12-10(b).

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, this 9th day of January 2025, that the Municipality of Upper Saddle River and the Municipality of Montvale consent to the attached agreement.

**48-2025 2024 Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Municipal Grant Program**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale wish to enter into a Bergen County Trust Fund Project Contract ("Contract") with the County of Bergen for the purpose of using a \$84,227.00 matching grant award from the 2024 Funding Round of the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund ("Trust Fund") for the municipal park project entitled Montvale Flagg Field, Infield Improvements, Fencing, Backstop, Dugout Accessibility, located in Montvale, on the tax maps of the Borough of Montvale; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council hereby authorize Joseph Voytus and/or Michael Ghassali to be a signatory to the aforesaid Contract; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council hereby acknowledge that, in general, the use of the Trust Fund grant towards this approved park project must be completed by or about November 13, 2026; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council acknowledge that the grant disbursement to the municipality will be equivalent to fifty(50) percent of the eligible construction costs incurred (not to exceed total grant award) applied towards only the approved park improvements identified in the aforesaid Contract in accordance with the Trust Fund's requirements. Professional Services Costs may be reimbursed from grant award's unexpended balance, should there be a balance.

**49-2025 A Resolution Amending Resolution No. 178-2024 awarding a Professional Service Contract to Econsult Solutions, Inc. for Litigation Support**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale has a need to engage the services of a forensic economist with regard to certain litigation relating to the State of New Jersey's affordable housing obligations entitled Borough of Montvale, et als. vs. State of New Jersey, et als., MER-L-001778-24, Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Middlesex County;

**WHEREAS**, Econsult Solutions, Inc., 1435 Walnut Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19102, has demonstrated the necessary expertise to provide the services required by the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the anticipated term of this contract is for one (1) year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds; and

**WHEREAS**, Econsult Solutions, Inc. has or will as a condition of this Contract, completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the Contract itself must be available for public inspection;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale as follows:

1. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Montvale are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached Contract with Econsult Solutions, Inc.;
2. This Contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law as extraordinary unspecifiable services;
3. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
4. The value of this contract is at the hourly rates set forth in Econsult's proposal, not to exceed \$50,000 without further action of the Governing Body;
5. A notice of this action shall be printed once in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale.

**50-2025 Mutual Aid Plan & Rapid Deployment Force Interlocal Service Agreement**

**WHEREAS**, the police departments in Bergen County have a day-to-day responsibility to provide for the security of lives and property, for the maintenance and preservation of the public peace and order; and

**WHEREAS**, Law Enforcement Officials also have a responsibility to provide for preparedness against natural emergencies, such as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, major storms, etc., manmade causes, civil unrest, and civil disobedience such as riots, strikes, jail or prison riots, train wrecks, aircraft crashes, major fires, ethnic disorders, riots, terrorist incidents and bombings, state and national emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association has proposed a Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force to deal with these emergencies; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Plan is adopted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:14-156, N.J.S.A. 40A:14-156.1, N.J.S.A.40A:14-156.4 AND N.J.S.A. App A:9-40.6; and

**WHEREAS**, this Plan will provide a uniform procedure for the coordination of the requesting, dispatching, and utilization of law enforcement personnel and equipment whenever a local law enforcement agency requires mutual aid assistance from any other jurisdiction, both contiguous and non-contiguous, in the event of an emergency, riot or disorder, in order to protect life and property; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale to participate in a Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force in accordance with the plan submitted by the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the Police Department of the Borough of Montvale, under the direction of the Chief of Police, cooperate with the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association to create an Interlocal Services Agreement with all municipalities in the County of Bergen in order to put into place the Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, the Board of County Commissioners, the County Prosecutor, the County Chief of Police, and all Bergen County Municipalities.

**51-2025 A Resolution Awarding a Contract for Professional Engineering and Land Development Consulting Services to Dynamic Engineering Consultants, PC**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale has a need to contract with a person or entity for professional engineering and land development consulting services in connection with a proposed affordable housing concept plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(a)(1)(i)) permits contracts for professional services to be negotiated and awarded by the governing body without public advertising for bids and requires that the resolution authorizing the award of a contract for professional services without competitive bids and the contract itself be available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has received a proposal dated December 11, 2024, from Marla L. Roller, LLA, PP of Dynamic Engineering Consultants, PC, 245 Main Street, Suite 110, Chester, New Jersey 07930, to perform such services for the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of said services is as set forth in said proposal, not to exceed \$19,000 without further authorization of the Governing Body, for a scope of that work that includes due diligence, concept plan layout, project meetings, consultations and correspondence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is desirous of awarding a contract to Dynamic pursuant to said proposal; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined to award this contract as a professional service without obtaining competitive bids or quotations pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

**WHEREAS**, the anticipated term of the contract is not to exceed one year; and

**WHEREAS**, Dynamic has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that it has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Montvale for the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit them from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough's Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds have been appropriated and are available for this contract in the Borough's affordable housing trust fund.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, that a contract is hereby awarded as follows:

**Contractor**

Dynamic Engineering Consultants, PC  
245 Main Street, Suite 110  
Chester, New Jersey 07930

**Amount**

Due Diligence: \$2,500  
Layout: \$11,500  
Meetings and Consultations: \$5,000

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby directed, authorized and empowered to execute a contract to effectuate the provisions and purpose of this resolution, subject to approval as to form by the Borough Attorney.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5*, public notice of this contract award shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough in accordance with applicable law.

**53-2025 AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO RECOVER UNCLAIMED PROPERTY**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey Department of Treasury Unclaimed Property Division requires documentation to confirm the status of entities filing claims to recover unclaimed property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale (hereinafter referred to as the "Borough") is a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, officially known as the Borough of Montvale, and has also been identified as Montvale Borough in historical records; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough operates several departments and divisions, including but not limited to the Fire Prevention Bureau, established under Chapter 203 of the Code of the Borough of Montvale; the Department of Public Works, established under Chapter 88 of the Code; and Montvale Baseball, operated as a Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation under Chapter 292 of the Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough's municipal building is currently located at 12 DePiero Drive, Montvale, NJ, which was formerly known as 12 Mercedes Drive, Montvale, NJ; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the relocation to its current address, the Borough's municipal offices were located at 1 Memorial Drive, Montvale, NJ; and

**WHEREAS**, certain claimant addresses listed in the unclaimed property records reflect these former municipal office locations, namely 1 Memorial Drive and 12 Mercedes Drive, which correspond to prior official locations of the Borough's municipal offices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough seeks to recover funds that have been reported as unclaimed property and to provide the required documentation to the State of New Jersey Department of Treasury Unclaimed Property Division; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Administrator, Joseph Voytus, Esq., and the Chief Financial Officer, Matthew Cavallo, MPA, CMFO, are duly authorized to act on behalf of the Borough in matters related to the recovery of unclaimed property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough affirms that the recovery of these funds is in the best interest of the residents of the Borough of Montvale and is consistent with the Borough's fiduciary responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough certifies that any and all funds recovered through this process will be deposited into the Borough's official accounts and utilized in accordance with applicable laws and regulations governing municipal finances in the State of New Jersey.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The Borough of Montvale is officially recognized as the entity filing the claim to recover unclaimed property.
2. The Borough acknowledges that the claimant addresses listed in the unclaimed property records, including 1 Memorial Drive and 12 Mercedes Drive, are prior official municipal office locations of the Borough.
3. The Borough Administrator, Joseph Voytus, Esq., and the Chief Financial Officer, Matthew Cavallo, MPA, CMFO, are hereby authorized to take all necessary steps, including signing documents, submitting information, and providing any required evidence, to recover the funds identified in the claim.
4. The Borough Administrator and Chief Financial Officer are further authorized to retain and submit any legal or financial documentation, execute agreements, or take any additional actions necessary to effectuate the recovery of unclaimed property.
5. The Borough affirms that it has reviewed and verified the claim details and authorizes this submission as accurate and complete.
6. This resolution shall serve as official documentation of the Borough's intent and authority to pursue the recovery of unclaimed property.

**54-2025 AUTHORIZING THE ENGAGEMENT OF PHOENIX ADVISORS FOR MUNICIPAL ADVISOR SERVICES RELATED TO THE ISSUANCE OF \$10,712,000 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2025**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale ("Borough") plans to issue \$10,712,000 in General Improvement Bonds, Series 2025, to meet the Borough's financial and capital improvement objectives; and

**WHEREAS**, Phoenix Advisors, LLC, located at 2000 Waterview Drive, Suite 101, Hamilton, NJ 08691, is duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB), and has the necessary expertise to act as Municipal Advisor to the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, Phoenix Advisors has provided an engagement letter detailing the scope of services for the issuance of the General Improvement Bonds, Series 2025, including planning, structuring, coordinating, and executing the financing, as well as post-issuance analysis and reporting; and

**WHEREAS**, the compensation for these services is outlined in the engagement letter as follows:

\$9,500 base fee plus \$0.50 per \$1,000 issued, with a minimum fee of \$13,500; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Administrator and Chief Financial Officer have reviewed the engagement letter and recommend its approval to ensure a successful and efficient issuance of the bonds;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the engagement of Phoenix Advisors for Municipal Advisor services related to the issuance of \$10,712,000 General Improvement Bonds, Series 2025, is hereby approved; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor, Borough Clerk, and other appropriate officials are hereby authorized and directed to execute the engagement letter and any related documents on behalf of the Borough.

**55-2025 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH PHOENIX ADVISORS FOR MUNICIPAL ADVISOR AND CONTINUING DISCLOSURE SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale ("Borough") has identified the need for municipal advisor and continuing disclosure services to assist with financial consulting, compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12, and related advisory needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Phoenix Advisors, located at 2000 Waterview Drive, Suite 101, Hamilton, NJ 08691, has demonstrated the necessary expertise and is duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) to provide these services; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed agreement outlines the terms, conditions, and compensation for services, including municipal advisor duties, continuing disclosure assistance, and other advisory services; and **WHEREAS**, the fees for continuing disclosure services, as detailed in the agreement, are as follows:

- \$1,600 base fee for up to three (3) outstanding issues, plus \$100 for each additional outstanding obligation requiring filings;
- \$450 per issue setup charge, discounted to \$200 per issue if Phoenix Advisors serves as the Municipal Advisor for the transaction;
- \$250 for each event filing made under the SEC's Event Disclosure Rule, waived if Phoenix Advisors is engaged as Municipal Advisor for the related transaction;
- \$250 for each Notice of Redemption related to an outstanding term bond maturity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Administrator and Chief Financial Officer have reviewed the attached contract and recommend its approval to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and the Borough's financial objectives;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the attached contract between the Borough of Montvale and Phoenix Advisors for municipal advisor and continuing disclosure services, including the fees outlined above, is hereby approved; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor, Borough Clerk, and other appropriate officials are hereby authorized and directed to execute the agreement on behalf of the Borough.

#### **56-2025 AUTHORIZING 2025 DEBT SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 of the Local Budget Law authorizes the governing body to make appropriations within the first 30 days of the fiscal year to cover expenses until the adoption of the budget, and allows appropriations during the last 10 days of the preceding fiscal year for interest and debt redemption charges due in the fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 stipulates that such appropriations shall not exceed 26.25% of the total appropriations of the previous fiscal year's budget, excluding appropriations for interest, debt redemption charges, capital improvement fund, and public assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Debt Service Budget for the Borough of Montvale is itemized as follows:

**Current Fund:**

- Payment of Bond Principal: \$1,345,000
- Note Principal: \$0
- Interest on Bonds: \$436,623
- Interest on Notes: \$793,520

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19, the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to make the above appropriations.

#### **57-2025 AUTHORIZING THE ENGAGEMENT OF S&P GLOBAL RATINGS FOR CREDIT RATING SERVICES RELATED TO THE ISSUANCE OF \$10,712,000 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2025**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale ("Borough") plans to issue \$10,712,000 in General Improvement Bonds, Series 2025, to finance its capital improvement needs; and

**WHEREAS**, S&P Global Ratings, located at 55 Water Street, New York, NY 10041-0003, is recognized as a nationally accredited credit rating agency, providing reliable credit rating services for municipal bond issuances; and

**WHEREAS**, S&P Global Ratings has provided an engagement letter outlining the scope of services and fees associated with the issuance of a public credit rating for the Borough's General Improvement Bonds, Series 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the credit rating services will assist the Borough in securing favorable terms for the issuance of the bonds and ensuring transparency to potential investors; and

**WHEREAS**, the fees for these services are outlined in the engagement letter as follows:

- \$23,000 credit rating fee, plus reimbursement for reasonable travel and legal expenses, if applicable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the engagement of S&P Global Ratings for credit rating services related to the issuance of \$10,712,000 General Improvement Bonds, Series 2025, is hereby approved; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor, Borough Clerk, and other appropriate officials are hereby authorized and directed to execute the engagement letter and any related documents on behalf of the Borough

*Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - a roll call was taken – all ayes*

**52-2025 AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFERS BETWEEN APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS  
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58**

**WHEREAS**, certain transfers of funds for various 2024 budget appropriations are necessary to cover anticipated expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for the transfer of appropriations with excess over and above the amount deemed necessary to fulfill their purposes to those appropriations considered to be insufficient; and

**WHEREAS**, the appropriations subject to fund transfers hereby are not within those restricted by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 for transfer purposes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor & Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer shall and is hereby authorized to make transfers between appropriations accounts of the 2024 Municipal Budget as follows:

|                                                                                                                            | FROM    | TO      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| General Appropriations<br>(A) Operations – within “CAPS”<br>UNCLASSIFIED<br>Water                                          | \$1,200 |         |
| PUBLIC SAFETY FUNCTIONS<br>Fire<br>Fire Hydrant Service                                                                    |         | \$1,200 |
| MUNICIPAL COURT FUNCTIONS<br>Municipal Court Administration<br>Salaries and Wages                                          | \$1,700 |         |
| Other Expenses                                                                                                             |         | \$1,700 |
| (A) Operations – Excluded from “CAPS”<br>Shared Service Agreements<br>Municipal Court Administration<br>Salaries and Wages | \$6,500 |         |
| Other Expenses                                                                                                             |         | \$6,500 |

*Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - a roll call was taken – all ayes Mayor Ghassali explained there was a last minute change by the CFO in the amount*

**BILLS:** Administrator read the Bill Report.

*Motion to pay bills by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - all ayes*

**REPORT OF REVENUE:** Administrator read the Report of Revenue - December

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Council President Lane**

**Fire Dept**

*30 fires; 2 drills; 1 chief calls; 2 meetings; total fire calls for the year were 364; received great feedback from the Fire department about working with the Police department, compliments to the Police department for working well with the fire department.*

**Budget**

*Had first budget meeting; next meetings are on Zoom, Jan 13 and 27; the borough received a triple A rating, this is a testament to the financial strength to the town.*

**Councilmember Roche**

**Chamber of Commerce**

*Kick-off event will be February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Courtyard by Marriott 5:30-7:30pm*

**Recreation**

*Upcoming events include, egg coloring – April 6; fishing with first responder – May 31<sup>st</sup>; Halloween Carnival – October 24 and Tree lighting – December 5<sup>th</sup>*

**Environmental Commission**

*Looking for volunteers to help remove boards at the learning trail located at borough hall on January 20 from 9am-1pm; Clean-up day is scheduled for April 19 – Arbor Day.*

**Councilmember Cudequest**

**Board of Health**

*Held their first meeting of the year at its new time of 7pm; Namitha, our health officers, reviewed the new changes to our health coverage from Northwest Regional; uninsured families can receive physicals and required vaccines for their children at the Waldwick Child Health Clinic; 2 new Spas opened in town in December and the BOH were not aware of these openings and would like the Planning Board to include the BOH of any type of these businesses in the future.*

**Seniors**

*Would like to schedule a town hall meeting with the Mayor and Council in the Spring*

**TV Access**

*3 interviews are scheduled for January 14 including Councilmember Tim Lane.*

**Library**

*Friends of the Library held their first jewelry sale from donations of gently used jewelry, the sale brought in \$1,600, which will be used to purchase additional museum passes and for some library activities.*

**Councilmember Arendacs**

**DPW**

*Had 2 salting events; no complaints; continuing maintaining sewers and are ready for any upcoming storms.*

**Engineering**

*Monthly report included in original minutes;*

**Councilmember Koelling**

Police

*Monthly report included in original minutes; Mark Pierro graduated from the academy.*

Planning Board

*Had their re-organization meeting; 22 Railroad was carried to next meeting in Jan 21*

OEM

*At our first budget meeting, OEM budget was discussed; Joe*

**Mayor Ghassali**

*Today is a Day of Morning in honor of Jimmy Carter; Saturday, is coffee with the Mayor at Jura located on Craig Road; the lawsuit for affordable housing was denied the stay, we will appeal.*

**ENGINEER'S REPORT: Carl O'Brien**

*Monthly report included in original minutes; spoke with FEMA and DEP and will have to make changes to the Flood Control Ordinance in the coming weeks; met with the County about the intersection of Magnolia and Kinderkamack, about the traffic light between Summit and Chestnut also the county will upgrading various intersections with crosswalks and signage; will meet with MAL to go over details of Major field;*

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Dave Lafferty**

*No report*

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Joe Voytus**

*No report*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

*None*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*None*

**COMMUNICATION CORRESPONDENCE:**

- *Police Officer Nick Mazzeo - Professionalism*

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

**HEARING OF CITIZENS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

Upon recognition by the Mayor, the person shall proceed to the floor and give his/her name and address in an audible tone of voice for the records. Unless further time is granted by the Council, he/she shall limit his/her statement to five (5) minutes. Statements shall be addressed to the Council as a body and not to any member thereof. No person, other than the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, without recognition by the Mayor.

*Motion to open meeting to the public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - all ayes*

*No Public Comment*

*Motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - all ayes*

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Motion to adjourn Public Meeting by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - all ayes*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm

Regular Workshop Meeting of the Mayor & Council to be held at 7:30pm on January 28, 2025

**Budget Meeting Dates - on Zoom Only**

January 13 @ 6:00 p.m.

January 27 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted, Frances Scordo, Municipal Clerk**