

**RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING
MINUTES**

The Re-Organization Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers and called to order at 12:03PM. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale according to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

OPENING PRAYER:

Pastor Sam Goertz – Montvale Evangelical Free Church

SWEARING IN OF COUNCILMEMBERS (1 YEAR TERM)

Theresa Cudequest

SWEARING IN OF COUNCILMEMBERS (3 YEAR TERM)

Christopher Roche

Timothy Lane

SWEARING IN OF BOROUGH ADMINISTATOR

Joe Voytus

SWEARING IN OF POLICE CHIEF

Douglas McDowell

SWEARING IN OF THE OFFICERS OF MONTVALE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Geoffry Gibbons – Chief

Bruce Hopper – Deputy Chief

Michael Cintineo - Captain

Rick Alton – Lieutenant Company #1

Ray Hutchison – Lieutenant Company #2

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Arendacs

Councilmember Lane

Councilmember Cudequest

Councilmember Roche

Councilmember Koelling

Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang - absent

Councilmembers thanked Chief Joe Sanfilippo for his 36 years of service; you are a proven leader, exemplified as a team leader, such professionalism, big shoes to fill, Montvale has the best police force in Bergen County

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

(Council Appointment)

Motion by Councilmember Cudequest to nominate Councilmember Arendacs for Council President; seconded by Councilmember Roche - all ayes on roll call vote

ELECTION OF PLANNING BOARD MEMBER:

(Council appointment)

Motion by Councilmember Roche to nominate Councilmember Koelling for Planning Board Liaison seconded by Councilmember Lane - All ayes on roll call vote

NON-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS**00-2023 RE: Temporary Budget**

WHEREAS, 40A: 4-19 provides that where any contract, commitment or payment are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2023 budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purpose and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided; and

WHEREAS, the effective date of this resolution is January 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the total appropriations in the 2022 budget, exclusive of any appropriations for debt service, capital improvement fund and public assistance are as follows:

Current	\$19,634,520.00
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WHEREAS, 26.25 percent of the total appropriations in the 2022 budget, exclusive of any appropriations for debt service, capital improvement fund and public assistance in said 2022 budget is as follows:

Current	\$ 5,154,061.50
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the following temporary appropriations be made and that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer for his records:

General Appropriations**Operations - Within "CAPS"**

Administrative and Executive:	
Salaries and Wages	\$95,000.00
Other Expenses	50,000.00
Mayor and Council:	
Salaries and Wages	17,000.00
Other Expenses	4,000.00
Borough Clerk:	
Salaries and Wages	155,000.00
Other Expenses	7,000.00
Financial Administration:	
Salaries and Wages	60,000.00
Other Expenses	9,500.00
Assessment of Taxes:	
Salaries and Wages	12,000.00
Other Expenses	8,500.00
Collection of Taxes:	
Salaries and Wages	20,000.00
Other Expenses	10,500.00
Legal Services and Costs:	
Other Expenses	100,000.00
Engineering Services and Costs:	
Other Expenses	50,000.00
Cable TV Committee:	
Salaries and Wages	2,500.00
Other Expenses	4,000.00
Planning Board:	
Salaries and Wages	30,000.00
Other Expenses	50,000.00
Zoning Official:	
Salaries and Wages	3,000.00
Property Maintenance:	
Salaries and Wages	7,000.00
Life Insurance	1,500.00
General Liability Insurance	125,000.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	115,000.00
Employee Group Health	425,000.00
Employee Group Health - Waiver	10,000.00
Fire:	

BOROUGH OF MONTVALE**JANUARY 1, 2023**

Other Expenses	45,000.00
Fire Hydrant Service	60,000.00
Police:	
Salaries and Wages	1,250,000.00
Other Expenses	50,000.00
Purchase of Police Vehicles	10,000.00
Police Dispatch:	
Other Expenses	10,000.00
First Aid Organization:	
Other Expenses	10,000.00
Emergency Management:	
Salaries and Wages	2,500.00
Other Expenses	2,500.00
Uniform Fire Safety:	
Salaries and Wages	35,000.00
Other Expenses	3,000.00
Prosecutor:	
Other Expenses	4,500.00
Road Repairs and Maintenance:	
Other Expenses	10,000.00
Sewer System:	
Other Expenses	30,000.00
Garbage and Trash Removal:	
Other Expenses	290,000.00
Public Buildings and Grounds:	
Salaries and Wages	7,000.00
Other Expenses	50,000.00
Maintenance of All Vehicles:	
Other Expenses	12,500.00
Municipal Services Act:	
Other Expenses	5,000.00
Public Health Services:	
Salaries and Wages	4,000.00
Other Expenses	25,000.00
Environmental Commission:	
Salaries and Wages	1,500.00
Other Expenses	1,000.00
Animal Regulation:	
Other Expenses	4,000.00
Administration of Public Assistance:	
Salaries and Wages	1,000.00
Other Expenses	200.00
Parks and Playground Maintenance:	
Other Expenses	1,000.00
Recreation:	
Salaries and Wages	23,000.00
Other Expenses	5,000.00
Senior Citizen:	
Salaries and Wages	5,000.00
Other Expenses	5,000.00
Municipal Court:	
Salaries and Wages	40,000.00
Other Expenses	3,500.00
Public Defender:	
Other Expenses	1,500.00
Construction Code Official:	
Salaries and Wages	50,000.00
Other Expenses	7,500.00
Building Sub-Code Official:	
Salaries and Wages	15,000.00
Plumbing Sub-Code Official:	
Salaries and Wages	10,000.00
Fire Sub-Code Official:	
Salaries and Wages	7,000.00
Electrical Sub-Code Official:	
Salaries and Wages	15,000.00
Elevator Sub-code Official:	

BOROUGH OF MONTVALE**JANUARY 1, 2023**

Other Expenses	10,000.00
Gasoline	25,000.00
Electricity	65,000.00
Telephone	15,000.00
Natural Gas	30,000.00
Street Lighting	50,000.00

Deferred Charges and Statutory**Expenditures - Municipal Within "CAPS"****Statutory Expenditures:**

Social Security System	65,000.00
Defined Contribution Retirement Program	<u>4,000.00</u>

3,747,700.00**Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"**

Maintenance of Free Public Library	250,000.00
Sewer Processing and Disposal:	
Contractual	<u>325,000.00</u>

575,000.00**Shared Service Agreements:**

Police Dispatch / 911:	
Other Expenses	60,000.00
Municipal Court Administration:	
Salaries and Wages	40,000.00
Other Expenses	20,000.00
Prosecutor:	
Other Expenses	4,000.00
Public Defender:	
Other Expenses	1,500.00
Pascack Valley Special Police Officers:	
Salaries & Wages	50,000.00
Other Expenses	5,500.00
Department of Public Works:	
Other Expenses	<u>650,000.00</u>

831,000.005,153,700.00**Municipal Debt Service - Excluded from "CAPS"**

Payment of Bond Principal	1,290,000.00
Interest on Bonds	<u>318,240.00</u>

1,608,240.00

\$6,761,940.00

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Introduced by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche – a roll call was taken - all ayes

17-2023 Officers Fire Department

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the following Officers of the Montvale Fire Department be approved for the year 2023:

Fire Chief	-	Geoffrey Gibbons
Deputy Fire Chief	-	Bruce Hopper
Captain	-	Michael Cintineo
Lieutenant #1	-	Rick Alton
Lieutenant #2	-	Ray Hutchison

Introduced by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche – a roll call was taken - all ayes

18-2022 Professional Service Contract Appointments 2023 / New Jersey Local Unit Pay to Play” Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4

WHEREAS, on January 2006, the “New Jersey Local Unit Pay to Play” Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et. seq., took effect; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale has a need to award certain professional contracts for services required by the municipality in calendar year 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Pay to Play Law permits such services to be acquired through the “non-fair and open” process as declined in N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 or 20.5 on those contracts where it is anticipated that the total cost will exceed \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of these contracts is 1 year; and

WHEREAS, the public good and interest of the citizens of the Borough of Montvale will best be served by the “alternative” process to secure experienced professional services, rather than the “fair and open” process awarding a contract to the lowest bidder; and

WHEREAS, each professional will be required to first complete and submit a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies these professionals have not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Montvale in the previous one year, and that said professionals will be prohibited from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale as follows: The following professional 2022 contracts shall be awarded under the alternative process at the next regular meeting of the Governing Body:

<i>Borough Attorney:</i>	David S. Lafferty, Esq. Huntington Baily, L.L.P. 373 Kinderkamack Rd Westwood, NJ 07675
<i>Borough Engineer:</i>	Andrew Hipolit Colliers Engineering & Design 400 Valley Road, Suite 304 Mount Arlington, NJ 07856
<i>Auditor:</i>	Jeff Bliss Lerch, Vinci & Higgins 1717 Route 208 Fairlawn, NJ 07407

The said professionals, prior to securing such contract, shall execute and file with the Municipal Clerk, a 2023 *Business Entity Disclosure Certification* pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20-8.

Introduced by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche – a roll call was taken - all ayes

23-2023 A Resolution Appointing Joseph W. Voytus as Borough Administrator Effective January 1, 2023

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-136 provides that municipalities may established the office of municipal administrator; and

WHEREAS, Montvale Borough Code §78-1, establishes the office of the Borough Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the prior Borough Administrator resigned effective December 31, 2022, and there is a need to appoint a new Borough Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Borough Administrator is appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Borough Council; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has nominated Joseph W. Voytus to serve as the Borough Administrator and to perform the duties and responsibilities set forth in Borough Code §78-5; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has determined that Joseph W. Voytus satisfies the qualifications for the office of the Borough Administrator and is therefore desirous of appointing him to said position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Joseph W. Voytus is hereby appointed as Borough Administrator for the Borough of Montvale effective January 1, 2023.

Introduced by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche – a roll call was taken - 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 requests it, in which case, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

***CONSENT AGENDA**

RESOLUTIONS 01-2023 THROUGH 16-2023, 19-2022 THROUGH 22-2023

01-2023 Cash Management Plan

WHEREAS, P. L. 1983, Chapter 8, Local Fiscal Affairs Law; N.J.S. 40A:5-2, has been amended to require that each municipality designate a Cash Management Plan for the deposit of each local unit's monies,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following Cash Management Plan of the Borough of Montvale be and hereby is adopted:

A. DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES:

The following financial institutions are designated official depositories:

Bank of America
Wells Fargo
N.J. Cash Management Fund
TD Bank

2. Designated Official depositories are required to submit to the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Montvale a copy of the State of New Jersey, Department of Banking, Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act Notification of eligibility, which must be filed semiannually in the Department of Banking as of June 30th and December 31st of each year. Said Notices must be available for annual audit.
3. Designated official depositories are required to submit to the Chief Financial Officer a copy of institution's "Annual Report" on an annual basis.

B. DEPOSIT OF FUNDS

All funds shall be deposited within Forty-Eight (48) hours of receipt in accordance with State statute.

1. Operating funds shall be deposited into interest bearing accounts to maximize interest earnings.
2. Capital and Debt service funds may be deposited into interest bearing accounts. Non-Interest bearing accounts shall be regularly monitored for the availability of funds for investment.
3. Trust funds may be deposited into interest bearing accounts in accordance with the State statutes regulating the deposit of developer's escrow deposits. Non-Interest bearing

accounts should be regularly monitored for availability of funds for investment except where either State or Federal laws prohibit the earning of interest on such funds.

4. Payroll and agency remittance funds shall be maintained in regular checking accounts, only insofar as they serve to compensate the bank for payroll data processing services.

C. DEFINITION OF ALLOWABLE INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS:

The Borough may permit deposits and investments in such depositories as permitted in Section 4 of P.L. 1970, Chapter 236 (C.17:9-44) and other instruments specified below:

1. United States Treasury Bills (T-Bills)
2. Borough of Montvale Bonds or Notes
3. Commercial Bank Deposits and Certificates of Deposit (CD's)
4. Repurchase Agreements (Repo's)
5. Investments in Savings and Loan Association
6. United States Government Agency and Instrumentality Obligations
7. State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund
8. School District Obligations

D. DEFINITION OF ACCEPTABLE COLLATERAL AND PROTECTION OF BOROUGH ASSETS

1. All designated depositories must conform to all applicable State statutes concerning depositories of Public Funds.
2. All depositories shall obtain the highest amount possible F.D.I.C. and/or F.S.L.I.C. coverage of all Borough Assets (Demand and Certificate of Deposit)
3. Collateral will be required for all deposits and investments of the Borough, except for those in the State Cash Management Fund, collateral must have a market value of not less than 100 percent of all deposits and investments.
4. For pledges by depositories on Borough Funds, the following securities will be considered acceptable for pledges:
 - a. Any security backed by the U.S. Government
 - b. Any direct obligation of any taxing authority within the Borough of Montvale
 - c. Real Estate Mortgage Loans for Real Estate property located within the Montvale market area. Pledges of Real Estate Mortgage Loans shall be maintained at a market value of 115 percent of deposits
 - d. All pledges of collateral must be indicated on an advice copy of the investment instrument which shall be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer or Treasurer

E. COMPENSATING BALANCE AGREEMENTS:

Where compensating balances are used to offset bank expenses, an agreement between the bank and the Borough shall be executed, specifying the charge for each service. Said agreement shall be reviewed annually.

F. REPORTING PROCEDURES:

The Chief Financial Officer shall prepare for the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale the following investment reports:

1. MONTHLY REPORTING: A detailed listing of all investments purchased in the prior month, specifying the amount, interest percent per annum, number of days, period of investment and maturity date, interest amount at maturity and financial institutions with which investment is placed. This report shall be broken down by fund.

2. QUARTERLY REPORTING: A detailed summary analysis of all investments by fund, specifying the quarterly interest rate earned, quarterly interest earned on NOW and Savings Accounts and Year-To-Date total interest earnings.
 3. The Treasurer shall prepare a schedule of outstanding investments for the independent auditors as of December 31st of each year and at other such times as required by the auditors.
 4. The Treasurer shall also periodically provide analysis of average daily balances in interest bearing checking accounts vs. other investment vehicle potential.
 5. All such reports may include a comparison of current investment income vs. forecast, prior year or market conditions.
- G. DIVERSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer shall closely examine investments to guard against the effects of a financial institution going into default. This may be accomplished through the practice of spreading the investments around in various designated official depositories.
- H. MAXIMUM MATURITY POLICY:
Investments shall be limited to a maturity not to exceed one year on all operating funds unless a longer maturity is permitted within the provision of regulation promulgated by either the Federal or State Governments.
- I. INVESTMENT PROCEDURES:
Bids for Certificates of Deposit and Repurchase Agreements will be solicited of at least three (3) designated depositories only if the amount is \$100,000 or greater.
- Telephone bids will be solicited of designated depositories by the Chief Financial Officer or Treasurer or designated staff member.
- The depository shall specify the principal amount of the investment bid on, interest rate and number of days used to calculate the interest to be paid upon maturity.
- Interest paid shall be from the date the bid was awarded to the date of maturity.
- All bidders may request the results of the bid after the bid is formally awarded.
- A check or wire transfer of funds will be made available to the winning bidder on the same business day the bid is awarded.
- Each quotation shall be documented to record the date and time of quote, the parties in the discussion, the instrument(s), maturities and rates. A bid form of the Borough may be used.
- J. RETURN ON INVESTMENT:
Where the return on a proposed investment does not exceed the cost of making said investment by a minimum amount the Chief Financial Officer and/or Treasurer will not make the investment. The Chief Financial Officer and/or Treasurer shall have the discretion to award an investment to the bank wherein the funds reside, should that bank's quoted rate be less than other quoted rates received in the event that the differential in interest rates is less than 25 basis points, and providing that the term of the investment is less than fifteen (15) days.

K. CONTROLS:

When possible, the internal controls should provide for a separation of the investment placement functions and the accounting activity. Controls must be designed for telephone orders, wire transfers and securities safekeeping. Only specifically designated personnel shall be allowed to conduct this part of the transactions, and all activity should be subject to immediate written confirmation by the designated depository. The Treasurer shall review each day's activity.

L. BONDING:

The following officials shall be covered by surety bonds; said surety bonds to be examined by the independent auditor to insure their proper execution:

Tax Collector
Treasurer
Municipal Court Administrator
Deputy Municipal Court Administrator
Magistrate

Staff members of the Department of Finance not covered by separate surety bonds shall be covered by a Public Employee's Faithful Performance Bond in the minimum amount of \$50,000.00

M. COMPLIANCE:

The Cash Management Plan of the Borough of Montvale shall be subject to the annual audit conducted pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:5-4.

N. The official charged with the custody of the monies of the Borough of Montvale shall deposit them as designated by the Cash Management Plan and shall thereafter be

O. relieved of any liability or loss of such monies due to the insolvency or closing of any depository designated in the Cash Management Plan pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:5-2.

P. Where a conflict exists between this Cash Management Plan and State statute, the applicable State statute shall apply.

Q. The Cash Management Plan shall be subject to the approval of the Borough Attorney.

02-2023 Authorizing payment to the United States Postal Service to affect the use of a Postal Machine

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the Administrator be authorized to issue payment through appropriate methods, to the United States Postal Service, not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per month, to effect the use of a Postal Mailing System.

03-2023 Establish 2023 Holiday Schedule For Administrative Non-Contractual Employees

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the following 2023 Holiday Schedule for eligible Administrative non-contractual employees be and is hereby established:

SECTION 1. Mandatory holidays during which Borough Hall Administrative Offices shall be closed:

HOLIDAY

Martin Luther King Day
President's Day
Memorial Day
Juneteenth
Independence Day
Labor Day

DAY OBSERVED

Monday, January 16
Monday, February 20
Monday, May 29
Monday, June 19
Tuesday, July 4
Monday, September 4

Columbus Day	Monday, October 9
Veterans Day	Friday, November 10 (observed)
Thanksgiving Day and the Day After	Thursday, November 23 Friday, November 24
Christmas Day	Monday, December 25
New Year's Day	Monday, January 1, 2024

SECTION 2. Two Floating Holidays to be taken any time during the year. If not used during the calendar year, it will be lost with no ability to be carried or receive pay.

SECTION 3. If any of the above holidays fall on Saturday, the holiday shall be observed on Friday. If any of the above holidays fall on Sunday, the holiday shall be observed on Monday.

If Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Saturday, these two holidays shall be observed on Friday. Therefore, the two-1/2 holidays shall be observed on the Thursday before the holidays.

If Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Sunday, these two holidays shall be observed on Monday. Therefore, the two-1/2 holidays shall be observed on the Friday before the holidays.

SECTION 4. Pursuant to the Personnel Policy, those employees classified as full-time employees (working 35 hours or more each week) shall be entitled to all days, as outlined above in Section 1 through Section 3. Pursuant to the Personnel Policy, all employees classified as part-time employees (working less than 35 hours per week) and eligible to receive holidays, shall only be entitled to the holidays listed in Section 1, and only when the holidays fall on their regularly scheduled days of work.

04-2023 Designating the Mayor, Municipal Clerk, Administrator, Chief Municipal Financial Officer and Treasurer as Official signatories on Borough Warrants and the Judge, Municipal Court Administrator and Deputy Court Administrator as Official signatories on Municipal Court Accounts

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the Mayor, Municipal Clerk, Treasurer, Borough Administrator, Certified Municipal Finance Officer are hereby designated as the official signatories on Borough Warrants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Judge, Municipal Court Administrator and Deputy Court Administrator are hereby designated as the official signatories on all Municipal Court accounts.

05-2023 Roll Call of the Council members to be called in alphabetical order

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J. that a Roll Call of the Council Members at the Council meetings is to be taken in alphabetical order.

06-2023 Authorizing the Mayor, Clerk and Collector to issue warrants for certain items with ratification at the following meeting

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the Mayor, Clerk and Collector be authorized to issue warrants for the following purposes, with ratification at the following meeting, on due dates for the following items:

- Board of Education, Montvale, NJ
- Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education
- County Tax
- Bergen County Sewer Authority
- Medical Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Bond and Note Payments
- Interest on Bonds and Notes
- Payrolls
- Investments
- Gasoline
- Scavenger Service

07-2023 All bills to be presented in proper form to the Finance Department no later than the 25th of each month

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that all bills must be presented in proper form to the Finance Department no later than the 25th of each month, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any bills received later than this date shall be held over for payment until the following month.

08-2023 Change Fund in the amount of \$150.00 front counter Administration; Municipal Clerk petty cash \$500.00; Municipal Court \$150.00 each for a total of \$450.00; and \$300.00 for the Police Department

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the governing body approves the establishment of "a general change fund at the front counter in the municipal building in the amount of \$150.00, the Municipal Clerk/Deputy Municipal Clerk has a petty cash fund in the amount of \$500.00, the Joint Municipal Court Violations Clerks (3) have a change fund in the amount of \$450.00 or \$150.00 each; and the Police Department has a petty cash fund in the amount of \$300.00.

09-2023 Designation of official newspapers for advertising for the Borough of Montvale

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the following newspapers are hereby designated as the official newspapers for advertising for the Borough of Montvale, NJ for the year 2022:

The Bergen Record – Hackensack, N.J.
 The Ridgewood News – Hackensack, N.J.
 The Star Ledger – Newark, NJ

10-2023 Fixing the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes, assessments and excess sewer fees

WHEREAS, R.S. 54:4-67 permits the governing body of each municipality to fix the rate of interest to be charged for nonpayment of taxes, assessments and excess sewer fees subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of taxes, assessments and excess sewer fees as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 54:4-67 has been amended to permit the fixing of said rate of 8% per annum of the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to charge 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of taxes and excess sewer fees becoming delinquent after due date and 18% per annum on any amount of taxes and excess sewer fees in excess of \$1,500.00 becoming delinquent after due date, subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of taxes and excess sewer fees as provided by law.
2. Re Chapter 72 laws of 94 CTC 94-3. If the new tax bills are not in the mail by June 14, interest will then be charged 25 calendar days after the bills were mailed. Interest shall be calculated from August 1.
3. No interest shall be charged if payment of any quarterly tax payment and bi-annual excess sewer fees is received within ten (10) days of the date upon which the same becomes payable.
4. In connection with any delinquency of taxes, assessments or municipal charges in excess of \$10,000 which has not been paid prior to the end of a calendar year, there shall be imposed a penalty in a sum equal to six (6%) percent of the delinquency in excess of \$10,000.
5. With respect to tax certificates in excess of the sum of \$200 the following additional penalties shall be charged: two (2%) percent on the amount due over \$200 up to \$5,000; four (4%) percent of the amount due over \$5,000 up to \$10,000; and six (6%) percent on the amount in excess of \$10,000; plus cost 2% and \$25.00 per Title 54.
6. Any payments not made in accordance with Paragraph Two of this resolution shall be charged interest from the due date, as set forth in Paragraph One of this resolution.
7. The Tax Collector is authorized to hold a tax sale for unpaid taxes and/or excess sewer charges.
8. This resolution shall be published in its entirety once in the newspaper.
9. A certified copy of this resolution shall be provided by the Office of the Municipal Clerk to each of the following officials: Tax Collector; Borough Attorney; Borough Auditor; Chief Financial Officer.

11-2023 Order of business to be followed at all regular meetings of the Mayor and Council

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., the agenda to the extent known will be established and printed for each regular meeting of the Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the agenda is subject to amendments by a majority vote of the council and action may be taken on issues that are not listed on the agenda, as authorized by the Open Public Meetings Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following order of business shall be followed at all public meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J.

1. Roll Call
2. Reading and/or approval of all unapproved minutes
3. Second reading, public hearing and final passage of ordinances and introduction of ordinances
4. Presentation of resolutions/consent resolutions
5. Presentation of bills
6. Reports of committees, Mayor, Treasurer and Administrator
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Reading of all communications, petitions, etc.
10. Both Public and Workshop Meetings are opened to the public to speak
11. Adjournment

The Borough Council will conduct a meeting on the last Tuesday of each month, which will serve as workshop sessions. Action may be taken at this meeting. The public is invited to attend all meetings and speak at all public and workshop sessions of the Mayor & Council.

12-2023 All monies collected by any Borough Official or Employee of the Borough shall be turned over the Borough Treasurer within 48 hours

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that all monies collected by any Borough Official or Employee of the Borough of Montvale, N.J. shall be turned over to the Borough Treasurer, in full, within forty-eight (48) hours, without any fees being deducted; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Tax Collector or Borough Treasurer shall deposit funds collected within forty-eight (48) hours, as required by law; and

BE IT RESOLVED, all cash receivables will be posted and recorded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any fees to which any Borough Official or Employee is entitled shall be set forth in detail on a regular Borough Voucher and presented for payment in the same manner as all bills are submitted.

13-2023 Establish Mayor & Council Meeting Schedule for the Year 2023

BE IT RESOLVED that public meetings of the Mayor and Borough Council shall be held on the following dates for the year 2023:

****January 1 (Sunday)***

January 10	Organization Meeting
January 31	Public Meeting
February 14	Workshop Session
February 28	Public Meeting
March 14	Workshop Session
March 28	Public Meeting
April 11	Workshop Session
April 25	Public Meeting
May 9	Workshop Session
May 30	Public Meeting
June 13	Workshop Session
June 27	Public Meeting
July 11	Workshop Session
July 25	Public Meeting

August 8	Public Meeting
Cancelled	Workshop Session
September 12	Public Meeting
September 26	Workshop Session
October 10	Public Meeting
October 31	Workshop Session
November 14	Public Meeting
November 28	Workshop Session
December 12	Public Meeting
December 26	Workshop Session

All meetings will commence at 7:30 p.m. except where noted. Closed sessions of the Mayor and Council may commence before 7:30 p.m. as indicated on the agenda for the meeting.

Meeting dates are subject to change. 48-hour notification will be provided as per N.J.S.A. 10:4-18.

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT BOTH PUBLIC AND WORKSHOP MEETINGS.

14-2023 Procedure for the Periodic Release of Closed Session Minutes

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale periodically conducts executive session meetings pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council is desirous of establishing a procedure for the periodic release of minutes of executive session meetings.

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

- Borough Council Minutes Review Committee. There shall be a minutes review committee (MRC) consisting of the Borough Administrator, the Borough Attorney and the Municipal Clerk, whose job shall be to periodically review the minutes of closed sessions of the Borough Council and make recommendations to the Borough Council which minutes should be made public. The MRC shall have no power and shall not be a "public body" within the meaning of the Open Public Meetings Act.
- Meetings of MRC. The MRC shall meet on an as-needed basis. Meetings of the MRC shall be as scheduled at the convenience of the MRC members by the Borough Administrator.
- Preparatory staff work. Prior to each meeting of the MRC, the Borough Attorney shall prepare a list of all closed sessions minutes which have been prepared by the Borough Attorney that have not been made public. The list and the minutes listed shall be made available to the MRC at their meetings.
- Basis for recommendation. Recommendations to make minutes public shall be on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration both the interest in maintaining confidentiality set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and the interest in prompt disclosure set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-14. The applicable guidelines set forth in paragraph 7 of this resolution may be considered as a general standard.
- Decision. The decision to make public the minutes of any closed session shall be made only by the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale and shall be based on a finding that public disclosure of the matters discussed at such closed session will not be detrimental to the public interest. In making this finding, the public body shall take into consideration, but need not agree with, the recommendation of the MRC and the basis for the recommendation as set forth in paragraph 4 above. In cases where more than one matter was discussed in closed session, the public body may elect to make public only the minutes pertaining to certain of those matters, and to keep the remaining portion(s) of the minutes

confidential. Should the minutes contain any material entitled to protection, the public body shall excise or redact such protected matter, provided, that all materials required to be contained in the minutes by N.J.S.A. 10:4-14 shall be set forth.

- Once public, always public. Minutes which are made public shall not thereafter be treated as confidential, but may be seen and copied by any person in the same manner as minutes of open meetings.
- Guidelines. The following general guidelines pertaining to the nine purposes for closed meetings set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.B, may be considered in recommending and deciding when to make public minutes of closed session;
 - (a) Matters required by law to be confidential. When the need to preserve the secrecy of the confidential information discussed no longer exists; provided, that material entitled to court protection shall not be disclosed.
 - (b) Matters affecting the right to receive federal funds. When disclosure would no longer impair the right to receive funds or cause funds already received to be forfeited.
 - (c) Matters involving individual privacy. Such matters shall not be disclosed except as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, or with the written consent of all of the individual(s) concerned.
 - (d) Matters relating to collective bargaining agreements. When the collective bargaining agreement has been made, executed, and ratified.
 - (e) Certain matters involving public funds. After the transaction involving the public funds has been made.
 - (f) Matters affecting public safety and property. When the disclosure would no longer impair the safety and property of the public or the conduct of any investigation.
 - (g) Litigation, contract negotiation and certain privileged matters. As to litigation, when a final decision has been rendered and all rights of appeal are exhausted; as to anticipated litigation, when the statute of limitations has been made as to contract negotiation, when either the contract has been made and is binding on all parties or if not made, when negotiation is terminated; as to matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, at such time, if ever, that disclosure would not violate the attorney's ethical duties.
 - (h) Employment matters. When the employment decision has been made and all rights to litigate or appeal are exhausted; provided, that material entitled to court protection shall not be disclosed.
 - (i) Deliberations after hearing in penalty matters. After the decision of whether to impose the penalty has been made and all rights to litigate or appeal are exhausted; provided, that material entitled to court protection shall not be disclosed.

15-2023 Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 of Public Laws of the State of New Jersey Closed Executive Sessions of the Montvale Governing Body

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale to discuss matters relating to such matters and which matters are permitted by Section 7.b of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of the State of New Jersey for 1975 to be discussed in closed session in the absence of the public from time to time:

- 1.) Any matter considered confidential by federal law, state statute, or court rule;
- 2.) Any matter in which the release of information would impair the receipt of federal funds;
- 3.) Any material which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy if disclosed;
- 4.) Any collective bargaining agreements or other discussion of the terms and conditions of a collective bargaining agreement, including negotiations leading up to such an agreement.
- 5.) Any matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds where disclosure of such matter could adversely affect the public interest.
- 6.) Any tactics and techniques used in protecting the safety and property of the public and investigations of violations or possible violations of the law.

7.) Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations in which the public body is or may become a party, and any matter falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required to preserve the attorney-client relationship.

8) Personnel matters related to the employment, appointment or termination of current or prospective employees, unless all individuals who could be adversely affected request, in writing, that the matter be discussed at a public meeting.

9.) Any deliberations of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a fine upon an individual or the suspension or the loss of license or permit belonging to an individual.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale have determined that it is necessary in the public interest that the matters in fact be discussed in closed session, and has estimated that as nearly as can now be ascertained, the results of the discussion can be disclosed to the public at the conclusion of such matters; and

WHEREAS, any motion to go into closed session will be deemed to include a motion that the matters discussed at such closed session will be disclosed to the public when such matters are finally determined and there is no further reason to prohibit the public disclosure of information relating to such matters; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that any motion to go into closed session shall have the same effect as this resolution being adopted; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public be excluded from said portions of the meetings, when said closed session is deemed necessary and the appropriate motion adopted.

16-2023 Adoption of year 2023 By-Laws of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the By-laws of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale are hereby adopted.

19-2023 Adoption Borough Policy & Procedures Manual / Administration

WHEREAS, the Municipality has a Policies & Procedures Manual which has been established to ensure Employees and prospective Employees are treated in a manner consistent with all applicable employment laws, regulations and protocols; and

WHEREAS, the Borough places great value and consideration in relation to the health, well-being and safety of its Employees.

WHEREAS, said Manual is also in accordance with the requirements promulgated by the Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund and under the auspices of the New Jersey Municipal Excess Liability Fund; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey the Manual previously adopted by Resolution is hereby reaffirmed to serve as the Borough's Policies and Procedures serving and applying to every Employee, Volunteer, Elected & Appointed Official and Independent Contractor(s) serving the Municipality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Borough will continue to monitor changes in Federal and State Statutes and Regulations to ensure continued compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policies that impact the employment practices of the Municipality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a certified copy of this Resolution shall be maintained on file in the Clerk's office and shall also be forwarded to Professional Insurance Associates, 429 Hackensack Street, P.O. Box 818 Carlstadt, NJ 07072, Risk Management Consultant to the Municipality.

20-2023 Re-affirming the Borough's Existing Policy For Eligible Municipal Employee To Voluntarily Waive The Medical & Prescription Coverages Provided Through The Employee Benefits Program Calendar Year 2023

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale provides a comprehensive health benefits program comprised of medical, prescription, dental and vision coverages for eligible municipal employees, dependents and retirees; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body desires the continuance of the program offering for the 2023 Calendar Year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, hereby re-authorizes the offering of the Borough's "Opt – Out" Program to municipal employees/Plan participants eligible for health benefits coverage through the Borough Employee Health Benefit Program, whereby the employee/plan participant can voluntarily waive participation in consideration of an annual financial incentive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the waiver of benefits financial incentive shall be set on an annual basis, such incentive set for the 2023 calendar year as follows:

**FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES/PLAN PARTICIPANTS PARTICIPATING IN THE OPT-OUT
AFTER MAY, 21, 2010**

ELIGIBLE COVERAGE	ANNUAL FINANCIAL INCENTIVE (2023)
Single	25% of the Net Savings to the Borough of Montvale or \$5,000, whichever is less
Employee/Spouse	
Parent/Child	
Family	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the above schedules are consistent with the amounts set forth by the Borough and in accordance with the provisions set forth by the NJ Divisions of Local Government Services, as established by Chapter 2, P.L. 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the specific terms and conditions of said waiver of coverage are contained within the "Waiver of Coverage Offer and Agreement," a copy attached herewith and affirmed by this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Borough Finance Officer, Health Benefits Consultant and Borough Attorney.

21-2023 A Resolution To Affirm The Borough Of Montvale's 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

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Borough of Montvale to treat the public, employees, prospective employees, appointees, volunteers and contractors in a manner consistent with all applicable civil rights laws and regulations including, but not limited to the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 as subsequently amended, the New Jersey Law against Discrimination, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Conscientious Employee Protection Act, and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of Montvale has determined that certain procedures need to be established to accomplish this policy

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale that:

Section 1: No official, employee, appointee or volunteer of the Borough of Montvale by whatever title known, or any entity that is in any way a part of the Borough of Montvale shall engage, either directly or indirectly in any act including the failure to act that constitutes discrimination, harassment or a violation of any person's constitutional rights while such official, employee, appointee volunteer, or entity is engaged in or acting on behalf of the Borough of Montvale's business or using the facilities or property of the Borough of Montvale.

Section 2: The prohibitions and requirements of this resolution shall extend to any person or entity, including but not limited to any volunteer organization or inter-local organization, whether structured as a governmental entity or a private entity, that receives authorization or support in any way from the Borough of Montvale to provide services that otherwise could be performed by the Borough of Montvale.

Section 3: Discrimination, harassment and civil rights shall be defined for purposes of this resolution using the latest definitions contained in the applicable Federal and State laws concerning discrimination, harassment and civil rights.

Section 4: The Governing Body shall establish written procedures for any person to report alleged discrimination, harassment and violations of civil rights prohibited by this resolution. Such procedures shall include alternate ways to report a complaint so that the person making the complaint need not communicate with the alleged violator in the event the alleged violator would be the normal contact for such complaints.

Section 5: No person shall retaliate against any person who reports any alleged discrimination, harassment or violation of civil rights, provided however, that any person who reports alleged violations in bad faith shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

Section 6: The Governing Body shall establish written procedures that require all officials, employees, appointees and volunteers of the Borough of Montvale as well as all other entities subject to this resolution to periodically complete training concerning their duties, responsibilities and rights pursuant to this resolution.

Section 7: The Governing Body shall establish a system to monitor compliance and shall report at least annually to the governing body the results of the monitoring.

Section 8: At least annually, the Governing Body shall cause a summary of this resolution and the procedures established pursuant to this resolution to be communicated within the Borough of Montvale. This communication shall include a statement from the governing body expressing its unequivocal commitment to enforce this resolution. This summary shall also be posted on the Borough of Montvale web site.

Section 9: This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Section 10: A copy of this resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale in order for the public to be made aware of this policy and the Borough of Montvale's commitment to the implementation and enforcement of this policy.

22-2023 Authorize Designation of Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.)/Christine Kalafut

WHEREAS, NJAC 17:27-1.1, regulates equal employment opportunity in the performance of contracts funded by the state; and

WHEREAS, NJAC 17:27-3.2 requires that a public agency annually designate a public agency compliance officer who shall be responsible for ensuring the agency's compliance with the regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Christine Kalafut, Borough Treasurer and Qualified Purchasing Agent, is hereby designated as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for Equal Employment Opportunity pursuant to this action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution to the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Contract Compliance & Equal Opportunity Office

Introduced by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - all ayes on a roll call vote

MAYOR & GOVERNING BODY APPOINTMENTS, 2023 STAFF, BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Ghassali read the staff, board and committee appointments into the record. (Listing attached to original minutes).

A motion by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - all ayes on a roll call vote

OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC:

Motion to open meeting to the public by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Roche - All ayes

Carolee Adams

Ms. Adams is very thankful for living in Montvale for 50 years; it is a family friendly town; praying for all first responders and all members of council

CLOSE MEETING TO PUBLIC:

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember President Arendacs

Chief Joe Sanfilippo, congratulations on your distinguished career over the past 36 years. You have been a proven leader and continued to always show it by initiating positive programs that always benefited our community and our residents. As Chief you exemplified the definition as team leader and now passed that role moving forward onto our New Police Chief, Doug McDowell. Chief Sanfilippo, I salute you and thank you for your honorable dedicated service!

Chief Doug McDowell, this is a proud day for not only you and your family but also for the Borough of Montvale! With your stellar past record and as our previous Captain, I know you will continue to lead our police department with honor, respect and integrity. I look forward to working with you and wish you much success in your new role as Montvale's top cop.

Mayor and Council members, I am honored to serve as your Council President once again for 2023. I thank you for instilling your trust in me to fulfill this honorable role. Congratulations to Council member Lane, Council member Roche and Council member Cudequest, on your commitment in serving the Borough for another 3 year term. As always I'm eager to work alongside with each one of you to make our community the best it can be. I'd like to thank our borough administrator, Maureen Iarossi-Alwan on her retirement with the Borough after 26 years of service. Maureen has been an asset to Montvale, she was actually the first person I met when I came to Borough Hall to ask a question when I first moved here in 2014. Over time, she has taught me a lot about municipal government and has been a mentor to me throughout my council run as I'm always learning how to better serve our residents. I wish you nothing but the best! Good luck on all your future endeavors. You will definitely be missed! Enjoy your well deserved retirement.

Congratulation to Joe Voytus our new Borough Administrator. Joe will be a huge asset to Montvale, as our attorney for the past 15 years, he has the inside track and knowledge of what our residents and governing body expect of him. On a legal aspect, it will greatly benefit our community as he currently holds a law degree for the past 15 years.

Congratulations Dave Lafferty, I welcome you to being part of our legal team! Dave you welcomed me to Montvale 9 years ago as a resident. I remember you serving as Borough Judge in Paramus for 8 years as I worked next door and I'm sure we crossed paths several times in various cases. You were also appointed by the NJ Supreme Court to the attorney ethics committee and served as their chair. It's obvious you are qualified to represent the Borough of Montvale with distinction. I know you will always have Montvale in your best interest as you also want the best as a resident yourself.

Congratulations to all the fire officers who were just sworn in to their newly elected positions, I thank you, EMS and all the first responders for your dedicated service to our town.

Council On Affordable Housing

This board provides the best opportunity for a fair, equitable and constitutionally – compliant process in 2025. However, the Borough continues to work on multiple fronts to satisfy our current obligation and to prepare us for the future. We recently authorized a memorandum of understanding with a developer to construct 4 units of disabled veterans housing at no cost to the Borough. We have 25 affordable units under construction on Summit Ave. that were 90% funded by the state and county funds. We have been and will always continue to ensure that the Borough maintains its immunity and is not overburdened by future obligations.

POLICE

As the Deputy Police Commissioner, it has been an honor working alongside Our Police Commissioner Dieter Koelling, Our former Police Chief, Joe Sanfilippo and his command staff as we were always searching for new ways to keep our community proactively safe. Safety of our residents is my utmost priority. As we move forward into the New Year with our newly promoted Police Chief, Doug McDowell who now is in command of our department, will be addressing and focusing on vehicular and pedestrian safety throughout all Borough roadways and areas of concern. I'm also looking forward in enhancing our Community oriented programs such as the Junior Youth Police Academy, National night out and the DARE program that's funded through various grants and departmental fundraising events. These are just a few of the several programs that are servicing our residents and also the children of Montvale. I look forward to working with all of you once again in 2023. As always job well done to the men and women in blue as they continue to be one of the best departments in the state.

DPW

I would like to thank, PV DPW Superintendent Rich Campanelli and his crew for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year. This has been a trying year as the PVDPW had 5 retirements. They

all have since been replaced with new hires. They have always accomplished what is asked of them as we have a great working relationship with our Pascack Valley crew and Administration.

MAYOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I would like to thank all the members of the Mayors advisory committee who volunteer their time, to go out and seek residents' valuable ideas and thoughts on how we can improve our community. They then bring these ideas back to the council where we can act on it. They truly have the pulse of Montvale at hand.

ENGINEERING

Paved over 2 miles of roads., Reconstructed Craig Road using a NJDOT grant., Paved the LaTrenta field parking lot and created disability accessibility using a County Grant., Reconstructed 5 of the Memorial Field infields., Received approx. ½ million in grants from County and State agencies for infrastructure projects., Over saw the County the removal and replacement of the Magnolia Avenue Bridge.

That all said, I would like to thank everyone sitting up here on the dais, The Mayor, Council members, our Administrator, Deputy Clerk and Borough Attorney, also to all our borough employees and our volunteers that make Montvale the best. I will continue to reach out to residents and I would hope they do the same when there is a question or concern in town. I am also a resident and only expect the best. Like I have said in the past, we have a lot of specialties and talent sitting up here and know there is nothing that we can't accomplish.

Happy, Healthy New Year to everyone and God Bless Montvale.

Councilmember Koelling

Happy New Year; honor to serve the community; looking forward to working with the new Police Chief; We have an amazing team of professionals and employees that will continue to work through any challenges ahead. Thanked Carolee Adams about the importance of our veterans in the community, would like to beef of the Veterans committee, and would like remodel the memorial downtown. Looking forward to 2023. Thank you.

Councilmember Cudequest

Wishing everyone Happy New Year; thanked all that voted me into the position; I hope I will not let you down, I hold all the residents close to my heart; safety has always been my priority within the town; Looking forward to working with new administrator and borough attorney along with mayor and council. Wished Maureen all the best in her retirement and thank her for her service to the town for so many years. Encourage all to attend our meetings. Please reach out, we are here to serve you.

Councilmember Roche

Thanked the Mayor and members of the council to continue to do good and responsible work for the town; congratulated Councilmember Lane for being re-elected to another 3 year term and congratulated Councilmember Cudequest on being re-elected to her 1 year term. Congratulations to Maureen on your retirement, you will be missed; welcome to our new borough administrator and attorney; thanked all employees for running the town so smoothly, thanked all volunteers; looking forward to working with all my committees, Chamber of Commerce, Regional BOE, Environmental Commission, MAL and Recreation Dept; thanked his family for their continued support;

Councilmember Lane

Happy New Year! I'd like to thank everyone for joining us today, and I'd especially like to thank you for your continued support of this Mayor and Council. I am also pleased to congratulate Council Members Cudequest and Roche on their re-elections.

It's an honor that the people of this Borough have elected me to office 6 times...when I reflect on the fact that this is my 16th reorganization meeting, it really makes me wonder where the years have gone. Of course, I want to thank Montvale's residents for their trust in me, but I also want to thank the two mayors and 15 other council members that I have worked with since 2008. In my tenure I have discovered that while we don't always share the same opinions, we've all shared an interest in our desire to do what's right for Montvale.

In the past 15 years I have seen these chambers packed to overflowing, and I have also attended meetings where it's just us sitting up here. While those are shorter meetings, I much prefer it when our residents come out and let us know what they are thinking. Email is great, and so is Zoom (and necessary during the pandemic)—but there is nothing like seeing residents face-to-face. But I'll confess, I only attended a few meetings before I was elected, so I understand how busy everyone is. There will be important issues this body will face in the coming 3 years; they are complex and will require all of our best efforts and understanding. Just know that we really do want your engagement and feedback.

I have also had the pleasure of serving as liaison to the Montvale Fire Department for 15 years, and had the opportunity to work with great volunteer fire officers and commissioners. Congratulations and thank you to Geoff, Bruce, Mike, Rick and Ray for their willingness to serve. While the rest of us are home in bed these men and women regularly respond to emergency calls—I thank them and all our emergency responders for stepping up to serve the critical needs of our community.

As may be apparent, this is a time of change in the Borough. I want to congratulate Chief Doug McDowell on his new responsibilities and thank Joe Sanfilippo for his service to Montvale. Congratulations to our new Council President, Doug Arendacs. I also welcome Dave Lafferty as our new Borough Attorney. Our incoming administrator, Joe Voytus, will bring a new background to the role, and while we were fortunate to have him serve as our Borough Attorney, I am certain he will excel in his new position.

And of course, I would be remiss if I did not thank our retiring Borough Administrator, Maureen Iarossi-Alwan, for her 15 years in that role. She has meant so much to this community and typifies the term "public servant".

Finally, I must thank Rose, my wife of 35 years, and my 4 children for their support of my many roles as a councilman, husband, father, and now grandfather. Thank God for blessing us, blessing Montvale, and here's to a wonderful 2

Mayor Ghassali

Wishing you a happy, safe and healthy New Year. I wanted to share with you my message that I delivered to the council at our reorganization meeting on January 1, 2023.

To our residents, staff and members of the council,
I want to congratulate Councilmembers Cudequest, Lane and Roche on their re-election.
Congratulations to Chief McDowell, business administrator Joe Voytus and our new attorney Dave Lafferty. Also congratulations to the fire department elected leadership.

We will miss Maureen in her role as a business administrator and as a clerk in few months, many thanks to Maureen for all her time and service to our community.

A lots of changes in our town in the past few years, and likely more changes to come, in a good way. We are purchasing more properties as they become available to have them under the town's control and to create additional recreation and open space for our residents.

There are several major projects in que for 2023. One is a new water tank to serve the west side of town. In preparing for 2025 affordable housing new round of numbers, we will also explore additional shared services opportunities with surrounding towns, and prepare for a new waste collection contract and explore different options rather than just relying on one contractor quote. Some towns are seeing up to 50% increase in the waste collection cost.

Our roadways and infrastructure are under constant review and maintenance, and will continue to pave roads and maintain our sewer system.

We are in discussion with a major land owner, and depending on the outcome, the community center and pool plan may change. I am hoping we conclude these discussions in about a month and move forward. I am also happy to report that in 2022 we issued and received \$1.7 million in additional tax bills, and next month will be issuing an additional \$1.2 million in tax bills, and as the new developments get filled in 2023, at least an additional one million dollars will be billed this year, bringing the total of almost four million dollars in additional tax revenue from this year forward.

I am incredibly fortunate to work alongside the highest caliber councilmembers, staff, professionals and volunteers. This is my eighth year as a mayor, and 14th year since I was sworn in as a councilman, and somehow I am always thrilled to come to borough hall and look forward to work alongside these amazing men and women serving our community.

I want to thank the residents for their support and motivating emails and messages, and I look forward to continue to serve the community that my family and I call our home.

And thank you for all the birthday wishes to me on my legal January 1st birthday, which also happened to be the birthdays of my brother, my two sisters and my parents, according to JFK airport immigration officer in 1980.

I wish you peace in your homes, in our towns, state and country, please keep us and our first responders in your thoughts and prayers, I wish you a happy, safe and healthy new year, and I wish that peace be on earth.

CLOSING PRAYER

Closing Prayer given by Pastor Sam Goertz – Montvale Evangelical Free Church

Motion to adjourn Re-Organization meeting by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - all ayes

Meeting adjourned at 1:17PM

Budget Meetings will be held January 9, 23, and 30 at 6:00pm

Next scheduled Mayor and Council meeting will be held January 10, 2023 at 7:30PM

Respectfully submitted, Fran Scordo, Deputy Municipal Clerk