

**PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held virtually by Zoom and also held in the Council Chambers and called to order at 7:32PM. 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, Joe Voytus; Administrator/Municipal Clerk, Maureen Iarossi-Alwan; and Deputy Municipal Clerk, Fran Scordo

ROLL CALL:

Councilmember Arendacs
Councilmember Curry
Councilmember Koelling

Councilmember Lane
Councilmember Roche
Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

ORDINANCES:

INTRODUCTION ORDINANCE NO. 2021-1494 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF MONTVALE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 84 OF THE BOROUGH CODE TO REVISE THE FEES APPLICABLE TO OFF-DUTY DETAILS

(Public Hearing 2-23-21)

A motion to Introduce Ordinance **2021-1494** for first reading was made by Councilmember Koelling; seconded by Councilmember Lane; Clerk read by title only; Councilmember Lane made a motion that this ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised in The Bergen Record; seconded by Councilmember Roche - a roll call was taken – all ayes

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

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

Steve Frischer

Asked about the recreation fees; Mayor Ghassali stated that it is not an agenda item and if Mr. Frischer wanted to wait until the end of the meeting to ask that question.

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

MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

MINUTES:

January 26, 2021

A motion to accept minutes by Councilmember Roche; seconded by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang – all ayes

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE MINUTES:

None

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.

50-2021 Authorize Contract NorthWest Bergen Regional Health Commission/Year 2021

WHEREAS, the Board of Health of the Borough of Montvale has received and reviewed the proposal from NorthWest Bergen Regional Health Commission; and

WHEREAS, said attached proposal for a one-year (1) contract which has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Health on December 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Montvale Board of Health recommends this one-year Health Services contract with Northwest Regional Board of Health Commission based upon services provided; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Mayor and Council to provide funds in the year 2021 Budget for this contract in the Borough of Montvale's Board of Health Budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the contract for Health Services for year 2021 be and is hereby awarded to NorthWest Bergen Regional Health Commission, 20 West Prospect Street, Waldwick, NJ 07463, NJ pursuant to the terms and conditions and rates as outlined in the attached contract effective January 1, 2021, copy of which is attached to this resolution for the base amount of \$61,000.00 for 2021 as outlined in the attached proposal.

51-2021 Appointment Regular Member / Montvale Fire Department / James A. Robinson

WHEREAS, the Montvale Fire Department is desirous of adding a regular member; and

WHEREAS, James Robinson of Montvale, NJ has been approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners and has undergone a satisfactory physical, pursuant to the attached application which has been made part of this resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the appointment of James Robinson, as a Regular Member of the Montvale Fire Department, is hereby approved

52-2021 Authorizing Refund of Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #16-00001 for Block 702 - Lot 22 / 6 Clover Court

WHEREAS, at the Municipal Tax Sale held on October 26, 2017, a lien was sold on Block 702, Lot 22, also known as 6 Clover Court, for 2016 delinquent taxes; and,

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate #16-00001, was sold to US Bank Cust BV002 Trust & Creditors, for a 0% redemption fee and a \$38,300.00 premium; and

WHEREAS, US Bank has started foreclosure proceedings which include fees in the amount of \$1,522.00; and

WHEREAS, River Edge Title Agency, LLC, has effected redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #16-00001 in the amount of \$39,109.61; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized to Redeem Certificate #16-00001 and send payment in the amount of \$77,409.61 to US Bank Cust BV002 Trust & Creditors, 50 South 16th Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102-2513

53-2021 A Resolution Adopting and Endorsing the Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale, New Jersey, has experienced natural hazards that result in public safety hazards and damage to private and public property;

WHEREAS, the hazard mitigation planning process set forth by the State of New Jersey and the Federal Emergency Management Agency offers the opportunity to consider natural hazards and risks, and to identify mitigation actions to reduce future risk through the adoption of a Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan ("Hazard Mitigation Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management is providing federal mitigation funds to support development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, a draft Hazard Mitigation Plan has been developed by the Mitigation Planning Committee; and

WHEREAS, the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan includes a prioritized list of mitigation actions including activities that, over time, will help minimize and reduce safety threats and damage to private and public property; and

WHEREAS, the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan was provided to each participating jurisdiction and was posted on the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management's website so as to introduce the planning concept and to solicit questions and comments; and to present the Hazard Mitigation Plan and request comments, as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan was submitted by the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency on August 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have approved the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan as submitted; and

WHEREAS, formal adoption and maintenance of the Hazard Mitigation Plan by the governing body is a condition of receipt of federal disaster aid; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management has recommended to the County Executive and Board of Chosen Freeholders that the Hazard Mitigation Plan, as submitted to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency on August 7, 2020, be adopted as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of the County of Bergen.

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

1. The Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, as submitted to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency on August 7, 2020 by the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management is hereby adopted as an official plan of the County of Bergen; minor revisions recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and/or the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management may be incorporated without further action.
2. A hard copy of the Hazard Mitigation Plan shall be kept on file at the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management, and a digital copy shall be posted on the web site of the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management.
3. Any action proposed by the Hazard Mitigation Plan shall be subject to and contingent upon budget approval, if required, which shall be at the discretion of the Borough of Montvale, and this resolution shall not be interpreted so as to mandate any such appropriations.
4. The Borough of Montvale Emergency Management Coordinator shall coordinate with their local offices and officials; and periodically report on the activities, accomplishments, and progress, and shall prepare an annual progress report to be submitted to the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management. The Bergen County Office of Emergency Management shall prepare an

annual progress report on the goals and mitigation actions set forth in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Copies of those reports will be kept on file at the office of the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management. Municipal status reports may be submitted at any time to the County Coordinator to amend mitigation actions identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. At a minimum, municipal status reports shall be submitted to the County Coordinator on an annual basis. The County Coordinator will identify one meeting per year that will address hazard mitigation updates, as required by the State of New Jersey's Hazard Mitigation Plan and its Standard Operating Procedure.

54-2021 Award Contract/East Coast Emergency Lighting/Upfitting To Police Vehicle/ State Contract #T0106 17 – Fleet-00-743

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council approved the purchase of 1 new police vehicles for the Borough of Montvale's Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale deemed in necessary to upfit a police vehicles for the purposes intended; and

WHEREAS, East Cost Emergency Lighting, Inc. 200 Mecco Drive, Millstone Township, NJ 08535 is the State Contract vendor selected to do said upfitting to these vehicles; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council authorize the Borough to award the State Contract State Contract #T0106 17 – Fleet-00-743 to East Coast Emergency for a not to exceed amount of \$14,101.80 for the upfitting of these vehicles; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available and certification is attached to the original of this resolution.

Introduced by: Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; seconded by Councilmember Lane - a roll call was taken - all ayes

BILLS: Municipal Clerk read the Bill Report.

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

REPORT OF REVENUE: Municipal Clerk read the Report of Revenue - January

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council President Lane

Fire Dept

18 fire calls; removed the decorations from the center of town; a new member joined the department

Finance

Working through the budget process; reminder all budget meetings are open to the public; this year is a tighter budget year. The finance committee will be meeting next week to finalize the budget so they can present to councilmembers at the next meeting.

Councilmember Roche

MAL

Spring registration is opening up next week for Kickball – PreK boys/girls; T-Ball – kindergarten boys/girls; baseball & softball – grades 1-8; track k-8; the season will run from April through mid- June; they are currently working on the safety guidelines for COVID with Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission;

Environmental Commission

Hoping for a start date of February 22nd to begin the dredging of Huff Pond, weather permitting, with a completion date of April; thanked Bob Hanrahan and Boy Scout Troop 334 for helping a family in town, pictures are on the Mayor's Face Book page.

Special Events/Recreation

Recreation is currently seeking adult or high school volunteers to assist in the planning and coordinating of Montvale's annual events such as Day In The Park, the Halloween Carnival, the Christmas Tree Lighting, the Spring Fling and more! To join the Special Events Committee, please call 201-391-5700 ext. 251 or email MontvaleRecreation@montvaleboro.org for more information.

The committee is currently working on setting dates for 2021's community events. The committee is tentatively planning for outdoor movie nights, a fishing tournament, Day in the Park, the Halloween Carnival, the Christmas Tree Lighting and the Menorah Lighting Ceremony.

Anticipated Spring Programs are Yoga, Tai Chi, Tennis Lessons, Golf Lessons, and Ultimate Frisbee
Chamber of Commerce

Street Fair is scheduled for October 17; thanked the Chamber for donating \$2,500 to the Tri-Boro food pantry

Councilmember Koelling**Police**

Monthly report included in original minutes; Mentioned about the ordinance that was just introduced, it will help with revenue; a member of the Police department is in the Army Reserves and he is currently protecting the Capital.

Councilmember Arendacs**DPW**

Thanked DPW for their hard work with cleaning up back to back storms; a lot of work goes into the preparedness and readiness for each storm; urge the residents to call borough hall or email Councilmember Arendacs directly with issues and/or concerns;

The Montvale PD is coordinating with the Bergen County Prosecutors office a "Newly formed Community Engagement Task Force which is a voluntary essay contest for Fieldstone 7 and 8 graders and for Juniors and Seniors at the High School; the topic of the essay "Why is it Important for members of the community to engage with the Local Police Departments"; the Montvale PD will be sponsoring gift cards up to \$250.00; the deadline to submit your essay is April 19th, please email your essays to ceef@bcpo.net for any additional information, please contact Lieutenant Foley at the Montvale PD.

Councilmember Curry**Seniors**

Lunchbox drive thru on February 15

Library

Is currently closed due to COVID reasons and will update the public as soon as information becomes available; the library offers digital resources, all you need is your library card.

Website

At the last mayor/council meeting, Carolee Adams made a suggestion, that the council is supporting, "50 years of Marriage" please send in a digital photo and it will be uploaded to the Montvale Strong video. Please email your photos to rcurry@montvaleboro.org please put in the subject line "Go50"

Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang**Construction**

Busy with Toll Brothers, Thrive and Mercedes projects; issued 56 permits in January and collected approximately \$40,000 in fees, 5 property maintenance violations were issued and 6 were abated;

Municipal Alliance

Had their meeting as well as the Hills-Valley Coalition; they are trying to get back to some normalcy; looking to find more creative ways to use the grant money;

Economic Development Committee

They are planning the business round table discussions for April; they are in contact with Bergen County Economic Committee for programs that can benefit our local businesses;

Local BOE

Will be celebrating the 100th day of school at Memorial with many activities;

Historic Preservation Committee

Looking to speak to the homeowners of 6 and 24 Middletown Road on possibly designating them

Diversity

Thanked Cindy and Jenny for a wonderful Lunar New Year celebration, all participants learned about the Lunar New Year and learned how to make dumplings; February is Black History month and the committee is partnering with the schools, the PTO's and the library to celebrate through reading; the Scholastic Book Fair is ongoing through February 14 and all residents can purchase books to raise money for the schools; March is Woman's History Month, more information on events will be forthcoming; currently, two events have been planned, which are Woman's Health awareness and a run/walk to honor fallen service women; encouraging residents to team up to run/walk 174 miles throughout the month of March, to honor the 174 service women who lost their lives in the Global war on terror; World Thinking Day will be a virtual celebration sponsored by the local Girl Scouts, the themes include Peace and Learning about other countries; the committee's next meeting is scheduled for March 4 at 7:30pm.

STIGMA-Free

Councilmembers Roche and Russo-Vogelsang are the Ambassadors representing Montvale; the Bergen County STIGMA-Free campaign is a county-wide program which aims to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. It is dedicated to raising awareness of the disease of mental illness and to create a culture where residents that have the disease feel supported by their community and neighbors and feel free to seek treatment for their disease without fear of stigma. Montvale was Stigma-Free since 2015 since then, there are new programs that have been implemented, which we will be bringing to the attention of the community in the next several weeks.

MAYOR

Agreed with Councilmember Arendacs regarding the DPW and OEM and their handling of both snow storms – outstanding work with the amount of snow we had. Thanked the scouts for helping our local family; trying to work with the surrounding towns to get a vaccination location in the area; Mayor Ghassali read a letter he received from the Department of Health, stating that the vaccines will be given only to County run sites. Please go to the borough website for further information.

School project at the Village of Chestnut Ridge, NY for 1000 students on Schoolhouse Road in addition to the other side where the horse farm is – a business community will be developed there. As a result from speaking with the Mayor of the Village of Chestnut Ridge he agreed to have a discussion with the engineers, planners and planning boards from both towns.

Mayor Ghassali would like to schedule a virtual town hall meeting for public discussion.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Hipolit

Report/Update

No Report

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Joe Voytus, Esq.
Report/Update
No Report

Sent a copy of a memo concerning the new cannabis law, it lays out what types of businesses to allow for example retail, warehouse distribution and medical facilities to name a few. Once the law is passed you will have 6 months to pass an ordinance to allow or not allow cannabis businesses in town. Mr. Voytus urged councilmembers to look over the memo for further discussion at a future work session meeting. Councilmember Lane mentioned that if we do decided to allow businesses in town that we can impose a local tax.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

COMMUNICATION CORRESPONDENCE:

None

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 Russo-Vogelsang - all ayes

Steve Frischer

Mention about the Diversity Committee and what they are doing is fantastic, applaud their commitment; great work the DPW is doing; amazed with the amount of volunteerism in town; he put together an online scheduling tool for snow shoveling, he will put the link on the Montvale Community Page; suggested to increase the recreation fees like adjusting the rental fees for the fields, it is a great revenue source; Councilmember Roche responded by saying we just passed a resolution at the last meeting increasing the fees.

Motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Curry; 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

BOROUGH OF MONTVALE

FEBRUARY 9, 2021

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm

Regular Workshop Meeting of the Mayor & Council to be held at 7:30pm on February 23, 2021

Budget Meeting Dates/Times:

Final Budget Meeting - February 23, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

ZOOM information is as follows:

Topic: M&C Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88491084325?pwd=L2U5RVpYMGIeFdaNzdGcFFWUTd3UT09>

Passcode: 222775

By phone

1 929 436 2866

Webinar ID: 884 9108 4325

Passcode: 222775

Respectfully submitted, Fran Scordo, Deputy Municipal Clerk