

**WORK SESSION
MINUTES**

The Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council was in the Council Chambers and called to order at 7:32pm. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale. 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).

ROLL CALL:

Councilmember Arendacs - absent
Councilmember Cudequest
Councilmember Koelling

Councilmember Lane
Councilmember Roche
Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

Also Present: Mayor Ghassali; Borough Attorney, Dave Lafferty; Administrator, Joe Voytus (via telephone); Borough Engineer, Nick Chelius; Municipal Clerk, Fran Scordo

ORDINANCES:

INTRODUCTION OF BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1565 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF MONTVALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,840,300 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,779,200 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

(public hearing 4-29-25)

A motion to Introduce Ordinance 2025-1565 for first reading was made by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; seconded by Councilmember Koelling; 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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1566 CALENDAR YEAR 2025 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

A motion to Introduce Ordinance 2025-1566 for first reading was made by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; seconded by Councilmember Roche; 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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1567 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-1559 BY APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$15,000 FOR MAJOR VEHICLE REPAIRS AND REHABILITATION"

(public hearing 4-10-25)

A motion to Introduce Ordinance 2025-1567 for first reading was made by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; 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 Cudequest - a roll call was taken – all ayes

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1568 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$70,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO THE MAJOR ROADWAY REHABILITATION FUND”

(public hearing 4-10-25)

*A motion to Introduce Ordinance **2025-1568** for first reading was made by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest; 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*

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1569 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$75,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO THE SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION FUND”

(public hearing 4-10-25)

*A motion to Introduce Ordinance **2025-1569** for first reading was made by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; 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 Cudequest - a roll call was taken – all ayes*

Resolution 95-2025 Introduction of 2025 Municipal Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statement of revenues and appropriations attached hereto constitute the local budget of the Borough of Montvale, Bergen County, New Jersey for the year 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said budget be published in The Bergen Record in the issue of March 30, 2025 and that a hearing on the budget will be held at the Municipal Building on April 29, 2025 at 7:30 P.M.

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

MINUTES:

March 13, 2025

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

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE MINUTES:

None

RESOLUTIONS: (NON-CONSENT)

96-2025 Authorize Use of a formal application to apply for a Business Permit for Massage and Somatic Therapies Establishments

WHEREAS, Borough Ordinance No. 2002-1189 establishes business permit requirements to ensure that massage and bodywork therapy establishments meet standards that protect and preserve the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Borough of Montvale, and the patrons of such businesses; and

WHEREAS, Borough Ordinance No. 2002-1189 requires the Borough Clerk to provide an application to the applicant of the establishment with a list of requirements to provide for approval;

and

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, that the attached application and checklist is approved for use by the Borough Clerk's office.

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

97-2025 A Resolution Approving the Appointment of Giuseppe C. Randazzo, Esq. as Judge for the Pascack Joint Municipal Court

WHEREAS, the Pascack Joint Municipal Court is in need of a Municipal Court Judge; and **WHEREAS**, the Pascack Joint Municipal Court Advisory Committee has recommended the appointment of Giuseppe C. Randazzo, Esq. as Municipal Court Judge for the Pascack Joint Municipal Court for a three (3) year term effective as of the date of nomination by the Governor and confirmation by the Senate; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities of Woodcliff Lake and Park Ridge concur in this appointment; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Court Judge shall be paid an annual salary of \$50,000.00 for 2025 (pro-rated) and increases for the following year as determined by the Pascack Joint Municipal Court Committee; and

WHEREAS, said compensation shall be included as part of the Operational Costs of the Pascack Joint Municipal Court as per the agreement between the participating municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Borough Clerk are authorized to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Giuseppe C. Randazzo, Esq. as Municipal Court Judge for a three-year term effective as of the date of nomination by the Governor and confirmation by the Senate; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C.5:30-5.4(a)(1), state regulations prohibit a municipality from entering into a contract unless the municipality's Chief Financial Officer first certifies in writing to the municipality's Governing Body that adequate funds are available for the contract; and

WHEREAS, the certification of the Chief Financial Officer is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference indicating that adequate funds are available in the budget and the line item appropriation of the municipal budget to which the contract will be charged as required pursuant to N.J.A.C 5:30-5.4(a)(3)(5); 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 contracts must be available for public inspection.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale do hereby approve the Advisory Committee's recommendation to appoint Giuseppe C. Randazzo, Esq. as Judge for the Pascack Joint Municipal Court; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Administrator and/or the Joint Court Administrator shall request that Giuseppe C. Randazzo, Esq. be assigned temporarily to the Pascack Joint Municipal Court effective April 1, 2025, pending nomination by the Governor and confirmation by the Senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prior to said confirmation, but in no event later than six (6) months from this resolution, the Joint Court Administrator shall provide a report to the Joint Court Advisory Committee on the operations of the Joint Municipal Court under Judge Randazzo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Administrator shall submit a request in writing to the Governor with copies of the approving resolutions of all three (3) municipalities requesting that Giuseppe C. Randazzo, Esq. be appointed as Judge of the Pascack Joint Municipal Court; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accord with the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)) as the services are to be performed by a person authorized by law to practice a recognized profession; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the contract shall be placed on file with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice of this action shall be printed once in the official

newspaper of the Borough; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Giuseppe C. Randazzo, Esq. immediately upon the passage of same.

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

98-2025 A Resolution Authorizing A Separation Agreement And General Release Between The Borough Of Montvale And R. Lorraine Hutter

WHEREAS, R. Lorraine Hutter ("Employee") has been an employee of the Borough of Montvale for more than twenty (20) years;

WHEREAS, Employee is currently on leave and has not been medically cleared to return to work with the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and Employee are desirous of executing a separation agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of Employee's separation from service with the Borough.

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

1. The Borough Administrator and/or Borough Attorney are hereby authorized to negotiate and draft a Separation Agreement between the Borough and Employee;
2. The Mayor be and hereby is authorized to execute a Separation Agreement between the Borough and Employee; and
3. Upon execution of said Separation Agreement by the Borough and Employee, no other rights or obligations shall exist between the parties thereto except for those set forth therein.

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

BILLS: Municipal Clerk read the Bill Report

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Nick Chelius

Going out to bid for the NJDOT Woodland Road project in April; in design for the NJDOT Paragon Dr project; Riverside Co-Op for the road program – lowest bidder is DLS Contracting;

ATTORNEY REPORT: David Lafferty, Esq.

Second day of mediation is scheduled for March 26; preparing bid specs for the garbage contract;

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Joe Voytus

The new sound system has been installed at the senior community center

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Discussion – Total Disabled Veteran Status – Retroactive Refund**

Municipal Clerk stated, there are 14 exempt veterans; if payment was to be made back to the actual disability date the total amount would be approximately \$144,000; Councilmember Lane added that if we refund back the full amount, it includes the county and schools which were already paid to them; therefore, the borough will be responsible for the entire amount of \$144,000. After a brief discussion Councilmembers decided not to refund back to disability date.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Town Hall meeting scheduled for April 30 @6:30 Senior Community Center
- At the Mayors Advisory committee meeting, part of the discussion was, what do we want to see built here; some ideas were, a theater, culinary school, satellite college, sports dome to name a few.

COMMUNICATION CORRESPONDENCE:

- Notes of Appreciation to the Police Department

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.

A motion to open meeting to the public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang – all ayes

No Public Comment

A motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang – all ayes

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang – all ayes

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Regular Meeting of the Mayor & Council will be held at 7:30pm on Thursday, April 10, 2025
Public Hearing and Presentation of Municipal Budget will be held at 7:30pm on April 29, 2025

Respectfully submitted, Frances Scordo, Municipal Clerk