

**PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in 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, Dave Lafferty; and Municipal Clerk, Fran Scordo

ROLL CALL:

Councilmember Arendacs
Council President Cudequest
Councilmember Koelling

Councilmember Lane
Councilmember Roche – arrived at 7:35
Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

POLICE CHIEF, DOUG MCDOWELL – QUARTERLY REPORT

Successful Tubing event at CampGaw, this event is growing with participants; we had 60 participants; the event was sponsored by Montvale Landscaping and they generously donated hats for all the attendees, which makes it very nice because then we could see the children by the color of their hat. Woodcliff Lake and Park Ridge also participated in this event. DARE started in February with graduation scheduled on June 9th. We had a school bus safety talk with the children from Memorial School on March 11th. We conducted a motor vehicle inspection detail on Grand Ave. We issued 50 summonses and five written warnings, and of those summonses, 33 of those were for expired inspections and 22 were for other Title 39 violations. For this quarter, we issued 1248 summonses, 69 written warnings. We received the federal distracted driver grant and were given 100 hours, totaling \$7000 to do the enforcement. The campaign started on April 1st and runs until April 30th. email traffic complaints to traffic@montvaleboro.org On 2 separate calls, the PD saved 2 residents that were unresponsive using CPR and a defibrillator.

ORDINANCES:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1588 CALENDAR YEAR 2026 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)
(public hearing 4-28 -26)

A motion to Introduce Ordinance 2026-1588 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 posted on the Borough's website; 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 Roche
– all ayes*

No Public Comment

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

MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

MINUTES:

None

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE MINUTES:

None

RESOLUTIONS: NON-CONSENT

Resolution 89-2026 - Introduction of 2026 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 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said budget be published on the Borough's official website <https://www.montvale.org/publicnotices> on April 10th, 2026 and that a hearing on the budget will be held at the Municipal Building on May 14th, 2026 at 7:30 P.M.

Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - a roll call was taken - all ayes; Councilmember Lane stated that the public hearing on the budget will be held on May 14th

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.

87-2026 A Resolution of the Borough of Montvale Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with the Pascack Valley Regional High School District Board of Education Concerning the Hiring and Placement of Special Police Officer IIIs at Pascack Hills High School For the 2026-2027 School Year

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has created a new class of Special Police Officers known as Special Police Officer III (SLEOIII) specifically and solely for the purpose of school security as outlined in NJSA 40A:14-146.10, 40A:14-146.11, 40A:14-146.14, and 40A:14-146.16; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale (the "Borough") and the Pascack Valley Regional School District (the "District") Board of Education (the "Board") agree that having security personnel that are police officers and specifically trained for school security is a best practice for the safety and security of the students and staff at Pascack Hills High School; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and the Board agree that school security is of the utmost importance to create a safe learning environment for students; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and the Board desire to enter into an agreement concerning the hiring by the Borough and placement of SLEO IIIs in Pascack Hills High School; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and the Board have negotiated an agreement concerning same that is acceptable to the Chief of Police, a copy of which is on file with the Municipal Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the agreement entitled "AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE HIRING AND PLACEMENT OF SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER IIIS IN PASCACK HILLS HIGH SCHOOL BY AND BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF MONTVALE AND PASCACK VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" FOR THE YEAR 2026-2027 is hereby approved, and the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute same in substantially the form negotiated, subject to approval as to form by the Borough Attorney; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Borough Clerk, and all other appropriate officials are hereby authorized and empowered to take all steps necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

88-2026 Authorizing the Reappointment and Granting Tenure to Matthew Cavallo as Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO)

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2022 Matthew Cavallo was appointed to a four (4) year term per N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140.10 to the position of Certified Municipal Finance Officer; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale hereby reappoints and that tenure be granted to Mathew Cavallo as Certified Municipal Finance Officer for the Borough of Montvale, effective January 1, 2026

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

BILLS: Municipal Clerk read the Bill Report

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

REPORT OF REVENUE: Municipal Clerk read the Report of Revenue – March

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council President Cudequest

Board of Health

No Report

Library

Will be giving out a scholarship to one of the graduating high school seniors at Pascack Hills, they've already received 11 applications; Put up gallery racks in the library; they will be reaching out to high school, Memorial school and middle schoolers to see if they can do exhibits with some of the student's artwork for the next school year. They are also looking into some local artists to see if they're interested in showing their art work as well.

Seniors

The community center is temporary closed due to a sewer line issue; lock boxes were handed out on April 2nd;

Councilmember Roche

Chamber of Commerce

Looking forward to the Street Fair scheduled on Paragon Drive on June 14th; Happy hour networking event May 7th at Hearth and Tap from 5:00 to 7:00.

Recreation

MAL — opening day @9am on Saturday, April 11

Environmental Commission

Cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 to 12:00 at the Red Shed on Memorial Drive. The community garden is under way, hoping for an early June opening, to inquire about plots and volunteering, please reach out to mcg@montvaleboro.org

Councilmember Lane

Fire Dept

29 fires; 2 drills; 10 work details and extra credit and 1 meeting; Total 1382 – man hours year to date

Councilmember Arendacs

Engineering

Monthly report included in original minutes;

DPW

Preparing for spring – street sweeping – filling pot holes – seasonal maintenance

Councilmember Koelling

Police

Monthly report included in original minutes;

Planning Board

All applications were postponed to next meeting

Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

Construction

No Report

Local School

No Report

Business Development

They will be switching their meetings from twice a month to once a month

MAYOR'S REPORT:

At the farm - 40 beds are being built; there are 100 people interested in community garden beds; Armenian Genocide is on April the 18th at 4:00 PM and Fishing with a first responder is on May 30th; there will be a few vacancies on the Planning Board next year, there are 45 residents that are interested in volunteering.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

No Report

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Dave Lafferty

No Report

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

No Report

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

No Public comment

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

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm

**Regular Workshop Meeting of the Mayor & Council to be held at 7:30pm on April 28, 2026
Public Hearing and Adoption of Municipal Budget to be held on May 14, 2026 at 7:30pm**

Respectfully submitted, Frances Scordo, Municipal Clerk