

PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers and called to order at 7:37PM. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale. Master Sergeant Dieter Koelling led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and roll call was taken.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

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

Also Present: Mayor Mike Ghassali; Borough Attorney, Dave Lafferty; Borough Engineer, Nick Chelius; Administrator, Joe Voytus; and Municipal Clerk, Fran Scordo

ROLL CALL:

Councilmember Arendacs - absent
Councilmember Cudequest
Councilmember Koelling

Councilmember Lane
Councilmember Roche
Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

MAYOR for A DAY – Aidan Barry – postponed to a later date**PROCLAMATION: Declaring - April 9 as Education and Sharing Day****POLICE CHIEF, DOUG MCDOWELL – QUARTERLY REPORT**

Successful Tubing event at CampGaw, this event is growing with participants; hosted an event at the community center for the senior club; Officer Peiro graduated from the academy; received Distracted Driving Grant; held some events at Fieldstone School including DARE; email traffic complaints to traffic@montvaleboro.org

ORDINANCES:

PUBLIC HEARING 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)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% or the cost of living adjustment, whichever is less, unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of living adjustment for calendar year 2025 budgets is calculated at 2.5% pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and amounts to \$348,541; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale in the County of Bergen finds it's advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2025 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Governing Body hereby determines that an additional 1.0% increase in the budget of said year, amounting to \$139,416 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Governing Body hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale, in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the 2025 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Montvale shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$487,957, and that the 2025 municipal budget for the Borough of Montvale be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

*A motion Introduced for second reading **Ordinance No. 2024-1566** by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; seconded by Councilmember Lane; Clerk read by title only.*

Motion to open meeting to public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - all ayes

No Public Comment

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

Motion to adopt on Second and Final Reading in The Bergen Record by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest; Clerk read by title only - All ayes on a roll call vote

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

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that:

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 2024-1559, entitled "An Ordinance Appropriating Funds for Major Vehicle Repairs and Rehabilitation," is hereby amended. An additional \$15,000.00 is hereby allocated and appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund for major vehicle repairs and rehabilitation. This amount is in addition to the funds previously appropriated under Ordinance 2024-1559.

SECTION 2. This additional appropriation shall be used for major vehicle repairs and rehabilitation as may be necessary beyond the initially allocated funds. All repairs and rehabilitation shall continue to conform to the recommendations of the Borough Administrator and be approved by the Chief Financial Officer.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any section, paragraph, subparagraph, or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this ordinance.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law.

*A motion Introduced for second reading **Ordinance No. 2024-1567** by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; seconded by Councilmember Lane; Clerk read by title only.*

Motion to open meeting to public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - all ayes

No Public Comment

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

Motion to adopt on Second and Final Reading in The Bergen Record by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest; Clerk read by title only - All ayes on a roll call vote

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

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that:

SECTION 1. An amount of \$70,000.00 is hereby allocated and appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund to the Major Roadway Rehabilitation Fund for the purpose of major roadway rehabilitation within the Borough.

SECTION 2. The funds appropriated shall be used exclusively for costs associated with the rehabilitation of major roadways, as may be detailed and approved by the Borough Administrator and the Chief Financial Officer.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any section, paragraph, subparagraph, or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this ordinance.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law.

*A motion Introduced for second reading **Ordinance No. 2024-1568** by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest; Clerk read by title only.*

Motion to open meeting to public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - all ayes

No Public Comment

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

Motion to adopt on Second and Final Reading in The Bergen Record by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche; Clerk read by title only - All ayes on a roll call vote

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

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that:

SECTION 1. An amount of \$75,000.00 is hereby allocated and appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund to the Sewer System Rehabilitation Fund for the purpose of sewer system rehabilitation within the Borough.

SECTION 2. The appropriated funds shall be used exclusively for costs associated with the rehabilitation of the sewer system, as may be detailed and approved by the Borough Administrator and the Chief Financial Officer.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any section, paragraph, subparagraph, or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this ordinance.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law.

*A motion Introduced for second reading **Ordinance No. 2024-1569** by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; seconded by Councilmember Lane; Clerk read by title only.*

Motion to open meeting to 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

Motion to adopt on Second and Final Reading in The Bergen Record by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche; Clerk read by title only - All ayes on a roll call vote

PUBLIC HEARING:

On the Submission of a 2025 Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grant Application – Octagon House Designation and Preservation

The Borough Administrator gave a brief explanation regarding the public hearing. Joe stated this is this year's funding round to apply again for some funding; If we receive funding it will go towards repairs that are needed like the roof, etc.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:

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

No Public Comment

MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC:

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

Resolution No. 103-2025 A Resolution Endorsing and Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application for the Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund for the J.J. Blauvelt (Octagon) House

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund of the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund provides grants to municipalities for assistance in the preservation of historic buildings, districts, and sites; and

WHEREAS, part of the 2025 application by the *Borough of Montvale* to the County of Bergen is the requirement that the applying municipality must adopt a resolution supporting and approving the application; and

WHEREAS, the *Borough of Montvale* intends to apply for a Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund for assistance in the historic preservation of the *J.J. Blauvelt (Octagon) House*, located at 13 West Grand Avenue, Montvale, New Jersey, also identified as Block 1601, Lot 22 on the tax map of the Borough of Montvale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that *Borough of Montvale* does hereby support and approve the Borough's application to the Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund for the *J.J. Blauvelt (Octagon) House*.

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

On the Submission of a 2025 Bergen County Open Space Recreation Trust Fund Grant Application – Memorial Park – 1 Memorial Drive; Railroad Park – Kinderkamack and W Grand Ave and Fountain Park – Kinderkamack and Park St

Borough Engineer Nick Chelius gave a power point presentation which is attached to minutes

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:

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

No Public Comment

MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC:

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

Resolution No. 106-2025 A Resolution Endorsing and Authorizing the Submission of a 2025 Bergen County Open Space Recreation Trust Fund Grant Application – Memorial Park – 1 Memorial Drive; Railroad Park – Kinderkamack and W Grand Ave and Fountain Park – Kinderkamack and Park St

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund ("County Trust Fund"), provides matching grants to municipal governments and to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the development or redevelopment of outdoor municipal recreation facilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale desires to further the public interest by obtaining a matching grant of \$240,689.00 from the County Trust Fund to fund the following project: Seating and Walkway Improvements to Three Municipal Parks, which includes obtaining and installing picnic tables and benches, replacing walkways, and improving sidewalks at Memorial, Railroad, and Fountain Parks; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body/board has reviewed the County Trust Fund Program Statement, and the Trust Fund Municipal Program Park Improvement application and instructions, and desires to make an application for such a matching grant and provide application information and furnish such documents as may be required; and,

WHEREAS, as part of the application process, the governing body/board will hold the required Public Hearing to receive public comments on the proposed park improvements in the application on April 10th, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen shall determine whether the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the County Trust Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the County Trust Fund in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the County of Bergen for the above named project and ensure its completion on or about the project contract expiration date.

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

1. That it is hereby authorized to submit the above completed project application to the County by the deadline of APRIL 25th 2025, as established by the County; and,
2. That, in the event of a County Trust Fund award that may be less than the grant amount requested above, the Borough of Montvale has, or will secure, the balance of funding necessary to complete the project, or modify the project as necessary; and,
3. That the Borough of Montvale is committed to providing a dollar-for-dollar cash match for the project; and,
4. That only those park improvements identified and approved in the project application, its Trust Fund contract, or other documentation will be considered eligible for reimbursement.
5. That the Borough of Montvale agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and,
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; 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 Koelling; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest – all ayes

No Public Comment

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

MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

MINUTES:

None

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE MINUTES:

None

RESOLUTIONS: (NON-CONSENT)

99-2025 Refund Overpayment of Taxes - Due to Veteran Exempt Status

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing the Borough of Montvale to refund the following overpayment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, the owner of 1 Beechwood Road, Regina McCluskey, is totally exempt from taxes due to her Veteran status; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. McCluskey paid the 1st installment of this year, which resulted in an overpayment of taxes in the amount of \$1,315.84; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized to refund in the amount of \$1,315.84 to Regina McCluskey, 1 Beechwood Road, Montvale, NJ 07645

Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - a roll call was taken – all ayes with the exception of Councilmember Koelling abstaining

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.

100-2025 Authorize Release of Escrow – Western Union – 100 Summit Avenue, Block 1102, Lot 3

WHEREAS, Western Union have requested release of escrow posted for 100 Summit Avenue, Block 1102, Lot 3; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer and other Borough professionals take no exception to the release; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale hereby release escrow to Western Union, to be mailed to 7001 E. Belleview, Denver, CO 80237, in the amount of \$38.32; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Treasurer shall receive a copy of this resolution for processing.

101-2025 Approving the Appointment of Christine Baker as Municipal Housing Liaison

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale is in need of a Municipal Housing Liaison; and
WHEREAS, Christine Baker has served as Deputy Housing Liaison for the past 2 years; and
BE IT RESOLVED, that Christine Baker be appointed as Municipal Housing Liaison; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that Christine Baker is appointed as the Municipal Housing Liaison, effective April 1, 2025

102-2025 Amending Resolution No. 97-2025 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 hired as a part-time employee of the Borough of Montvale and 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.
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 this Resolution shall supersede Resolution No. 97-2025; 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.

104-2025 Appointment of Regular Member, Montvale Fire Department – Daniel T. VanHeusden

WHEREAS, the Montvale Fire Department is desirous of adding a regular member; and
WHEREAS, Daniel T. VanHeusden 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 Daniel T. VanHeusden, as a Regular Member of the Montvale Fire Department, is hereby approved.

105-2025 A Resolution Awarding a Contract to Media Consultants, LLC, as an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service for MontVale Studio Management, Content Production and Related Services

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale is desirous of engaging the services of a professional and reputable company to manage, create content and provide related services concerning the MontVale Studio in order to better serve Borough officials and residents; and

WHEREAS, such services are exempt from public bidding requirements pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(a)(ii) and N.J.A.C. 5:34-2.1 as “extraordinary unspecifiable services”; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received a proposal to provide such services from Media Consultants, LLC (the “MC Proposal”) it has been determined that Media Consultants is essential to the Montale Cable Access Studio; and

WHEREAS Media Consultants demonstrates the expertise and has proven its reputation in the specialty of television studio management, content production and related services which is essential during this time of the global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Council is therefore desirous of awarding a contract to Media Consultants, LLC to perform the above-referenced services for a period of one (1) year, for the prices and on the terms set forth in the Media Consultants Proposal; and

WHEREAS, because the value of this contract exceeds the Borough’s applicable pay-to-play threshold, it shall be awarded pursuant to the “alternative” provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et seq., and Media Consultants has provided a Business Entity Disclosure Certification and all other appropriate documentation pertaining to same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the pricing for this contract shall be for a total of \$50,392.00 as set forth in the proposal and shall be for a term of one (1) year commencing May 1st 2025 through April 30, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Clerk, and all other appropriate officials, shall be and are hereby authorized to execute all contract documents necessary to effectuate the purposes of this resolution, subject to approval as to form by the Borough Attorney.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale that a contract is hereby awarded to Media Consultants, LLC for of television studio management, consent production and related services, for the prices and on the terms set forth in the Proposal submitted by Media Consultants, LLC entitled “Borough of MontVale Studio Management Proposal” for the Borough of Montvale which is hereto attached to the original of his resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(ii), a brief notice stating the nature, duration, service and amount of this contract shall be printed once in the official newspaper of Borough of Montvale, and said notice shall also advise the public that a copy of the final contract shall be on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Borough Clerk.

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

107-2025 Award Professional Service Contract to Colliers Engineering & Design - for Survey and Design Services for Kinderkamack Road and Magnolia Avenue Improvements

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale has deemed it necessary to engage the professional services of an Engineer for Project Design and Survey Services for Kinderkamack Road and Magnolia Avenue Improvements

WHEREAS, section N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 of the Local Public Contracts Law, (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) exempts such professional services from competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, Colliers Engineering & Design, 400 Valley Road, Suite 304, Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856 has submitted a proposal dated April 9, 2025 to provide engineering services which are detailed and attached to the original of this resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified funds are available certification hereto attached to the original of this resolution.

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

- 1) That the following be provided: Design and Survey Services
- 2) The cost not to exceed shall be \$25,500.00. The Engineer shall be required to submit itemized bills and payment shall be made based upon services rendered. The rates for this work are in accordance with the hourly contractual agreement with the Borough of Montvale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be published an official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale, be on file, available for public inspection, in the office of the Municipal Clerk, Municipal Complex, 12 DePiero Drive, Montvale, NJ 07645.

Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - a roll call was taken – all ayes - As a result of speaking with the County, Joe stated this proposal was a result of scaling back the survey and design for the guardrail by Colliers

BILLS: Administrator read the Bill Report.

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

REPORT OF REVENUE: Administrator read the Report of Revenue – March

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council President Lane

Fire Dept

27 Fires; 2 drills; 7 work details and 1 meeting

Budget

Adopting the budget on April 29

Councilmember Roche

Chamber of Commerce

Street Fair is scheduled for June 8 – 10am-5pm; hosting a job fair on May 20th from 10am-2pm at the senior community center.

Recreation

Held egg coloring – April 6 – 1-3pm; townwide garage sale on May 31st; MAL opening day was this past Saturday;

Environmental Commission

Having an event at the senior community center on April 15 about planting; Clean-up day is scheduled for April 19 – Arbor Day 9am

Councilmember Cudequest

Seniors

Thanked the DPW for cleaning the bocce courts; new sound system has been installed; town hall meeting is scheduled for April 30 at borough hall 6:30pm

Library

This week is National Library week; the children's department had an event Zoophoria with live turtles and snakes

Councilmember Koelling

Police

Monthly report included in original minutes;

Planning Board

Meeting was cancelled

Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

Construction Dept

New storage facility underway

Local School

Dr. Petersen is currently overseeing the principal position at Memorial school during the transition; new principal will start on April 15; Gina McCormack will serve as interim assistant principal at Memorial; MEL is hosting a Glo-Run on April 25th; Spring break is from April 14 – 21st.

Mayor Ghassali

Armenian Genocide ceremony will be held on April 26 at Huff pond @4pm

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Nick Chelius

Woodland Road paving bid opening is May 6th; Contract will be awarded for the Riverside Coop road paving program at next meeting; GIS mapping of the storm drains is ongoing.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Dave Lafferty

On affordable housing – no decision has been made; our special counsel has filed a motion to extend the submission of our housing element from June 30 to September 30.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Joe Voytus

Received \$78,000 from LIRG grant for the shade structure for huff pond; completed bid specs for the garbage contract; the Fire department have been responding to more calls on the GSP mile marker 171.8, sent an email to Boswell Engineers to reach out to the Turnpike Authority.

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 Roche - all ayes

No Public Comment

Motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Koelling; 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 8:45pm

Regular Workshop Meeting of the Mayor & Council to be held on April 29, 2025 at 7:30pm
Public Hearing and Adoption of Municipal Budget to be held on April 29, 2025 at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Frances Scordo, Municipal Clerk