

**BUDGET MEETING
MINUTES**

Budget Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held via Zoom and called to order at 6:00pm. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale.

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).

Present: Mayor Ghassali; Administrator, Joe Voytus; Councilmembers, Arendacs, Cudequest, Koelling, Lane, Roche and Russo-Vogelsang; CFO, Matt Cavallo, Treasurer, Christine Kalafut and Municipal Clerk, Fran Scordo

○ **Montvale Library - Giulia Bombace**

No additional requests – thanked all for support and financial assistance with the renovations last year; received a lot of compliments from patrons; 2,000 more patrons visited the library in 2024 than in 2023; 600 more attendees at functions and programs than prior; had over 300 participants in the summer reading challenge; added languages through an app; some ongoing improvement for this year will be updated the website, adding a new display case, adding additional seating, new water fountain and adding more programs and educational workshops.

○ **Construction and Buildings & Grounds – Chris Gruber**

Looking into the cost to replace the municipal building windows, currently the Police department has been having issues with leaking windows causing damage to the interior; the Octagon House is in need of a new roof.

○ **Recreation – Lisa Loranger**

Looking into a permanent structure at Huff Park – possibly grant funded; lights for the Pickleball courts; Flagg field renovations; will be increasing camp fees this year due to increase in busing prices and other activities.

○ **Tax Collector and Municipal Clerk – Fran Scordo**

All budgets had no significant changes.

Motion to open meeting to the public by Councilmember Roche; seconded by Councilmember Koelling – all ayes

Carolee Adams

Mentioned that next year is the 250 anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and encourage the town to celebrate as a town – did not know if it would be through the Library like having book displays or a contest or through recreation special events; Mayor Ghassali stated the County has mentioned it as a County celebration.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted, Frances Scordo, Municipal Clerk