

**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, Cudequest, Koelling, Lane, Roche and Russo-Vogelsang; Treasurer, Christine Kalafut; CFO, Matt Cavallo and Municipal Clerk, Fran Scordo

○ **Capital Budget Requests - Various Departments – Joe Voytus**

Requested new signage for the interior of borough hall; would like to continue with the Hometown Hero Flags; requested the bathrooms and kitchen to be renovated.

○ **General Administration – Joe Voytus**

Requested \$10,000 increase in the line item of the joint court and for cybersecurity each.

○ **Environmental Commission - Bob Hanrahan**

Would like to connect the Memorial Trail to the Veolia site, looking into grant funding; continue to refurbish the Environmental Learning Center with volunteers also looking into grant funding for this project as well; once available on the DePiero site, Montvale community garden, suggested a fence would need to be in place.

○ **Tax Assessor – Ray Tighe**

Ordered by the County Tax Board to do a re-assessment by end of 2026 - \$500,000

○ **Planning Board - Land Use – Lorraine Hutter and Chairman John DePinto**

Requested 6 filing cabinets; requested \$35,000 for changes in the Master Plan which includes Professional services for the housing element.

○ **Senior Club – Bill Maki and Jane Greene**

Membership has increased; cost of bus trips slightly increased from last year.

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

No public comment

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm

The next Budget Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. – via ZOOM on Monday, January 27th. Link will be provided on Montvale website for these budget meetings.

Respectfully submitted, Frances Scordo, Municipal Clerk