

**PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers and called to order at 7:34PM. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale. Master Sergeant Deiter 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 Ghassali; Borough Attorney, Dave Lafferty; Borough Engineer, Nick Chelius; Administrator, Joe Voytus; and Municipal Clerk, Fran Scordo

ROLL CALL:

Councilmember Arendacs

Council President Lane

Councilmember Cudequest

Councilmember Roche

Councilmember Koelling

Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

PROCLAMATION: Declaring April 25, 2026 Arbor Day**ORDINANCES:**

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1584 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF A NEW JERSEY DOT LOCAL AID INFRASTRUCTURE FUND GRANT FOR THE MEMORIAL DRIVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$360,000 THEREFOR, AND PROVIDING FOR THE FUNDING OF SAID APPROPRIATION

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

SECTION 1. The Borough of Montvale has been awarded a grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation under the Local Aid Infrastructure Fund (LAIF) Program in the amount of \$300,000.00 for the Memorial Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements (LA-2024-LAIF-Memorial Drive P) project, as set forth in correspondence from the NJDOT dated June 7, 2024.

SECTION 2. The total cost of the project is hereby estimated to be \$360,000.00, which is now appropriated as follows:

- \$300,000.00 from the NJDOT LAIF Grant; and
- \$60,000.00 from the Capital Fund Balance Account of the Borough of Montvale to fund design, engineering, and construction administration costs above and beyond the grant award.

SECTION 3. The sum of \$300,000.00 is hereby appropriated in the Capital Fund of the Borough of Montvale as a Grant Receivable from the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation, Local Aid Infrastructure Fund.

SECTION 4. The sum of \$60,000.00 is hereby appropriated from the Capital Fund Balance as the Borough's share toward project costs, including design, engineering, and construction administration.

- SECTION 5.** Upon receipt of the grant proceeds, the amount thereof shall be credited to the Capital Fund as a grant receivable and shall be available to offset expenditures authorized herein.
- SECTION 6.** The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute any and all agreements or documents necessary to effectuate the terms and conditions of this Ordinance, including those required by the New Jersey Department of Transportation.
- SECTION 7.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication as required by law.

*A motion Introduced for second reading **Ordinance No. 2025-1584** by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; seconded by Councilmember Koelling; 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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1585 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ENTRY INTO A CORRECTIVE DEED WITH JTZ HOLDINGS, LLC FOR THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 1901, LOT 14

*A motion to Introduce Ordinance **2025-1585** 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 Roche - a roll call was taken – all ayes Councilmember Cudequest asked where was this located; Borough Attorney stated it was the old parking lot near 22 Railroad Ave.*

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 Koelling – all ayes

MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

MINUTES:

November 13, 2025

A motion to accept minutes by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest – all ayes with the exception of Councilmember Arendacs abstaining

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE MINUTES:

October 28, 2025

A motion to accept closed minutes by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang – all ayes

November 13, 2025

A motion to accept closed session minutes by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche – all ayes with the exception of Councilmember Arendacs

RESOLUTIONS: (NON-CONSENT)

208-2025 Approving A Business Banking Relationship With Valley Bank

WHEREAS, Valley National Bank (“Valley Bank”) has submitted a proposal to provide municipal banking services to the Borough of Montvale; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough to establish a banking relationship with Valley Bank effective January 1, 2026, proceeding without payroll services; and

WHEREAS, the Borough must open accounts and execute documents in advance to ensure a smooth transition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The Borough hereby approves a business banking relationship with Valley Bank effective January 1, 2026.
2. The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer are authorized to open all required accounts with Valley Bank in anticipation of the new banking relationship.
3. The Mayor, Borough Administrator, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer, and any other appropriate officer are authorized to execute all documents and agreements necessary to effectuate the transition to Valley Bank.

Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - a roll call was taken – all ayes --- The BA stated we will be moving all borough accounts from Wells Fargo to Valley Bank

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.

206-2025 Approving of Tax Court Settlement for Verizon, NJ, Inc. Block 9999; Lot 1

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale have been advised of the proposed settlement of a property Tax Appeal filed by Verizon New Jersey, Inc. (hereinafter the “Tax Appeal”), under Docket Numbers, 005890-2020, 000807-2021, 002892-2022, 004515-2023, 009803-2024 and 010093-2025; and,

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Tax Appeal challenges a series of personal property tax (“PPT”) assessments charged to Verizon New Jersey, Inc. during the aforesaid tax years; and,

WHEREAS, a tentative settlement has been reached between the parties to amicably resolve the aforesaid Tax Appeal; and,

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has been advised of the merits of the subject Tax Appeal settlement by legal counsel and the Borough Tax Assessor; and,

WHEREAS, a Settlement Agreement has been prepared which delineates the terms of the proposed settlement; and,

WHEREAS, a copy of the Settlement Agreement is attached to this resolution as an Exhibit; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Borough to settle the subject Tax Appeal in accordance with the settlement terms set forth hereinabove.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, that the proposed Tax Appeal settlement is hereby approved; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with respect to same, the Mayor, Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk, Borough Tax Appeal Attorney and/or any other appropriate Borough official is hereby authorized to execute the attached Settlement Agreement and perform any other act necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth in this Resolution.

207-2025 REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 – DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER YEAR-END HOLIDAY CRACKDOWN

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law, and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY 2025 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$7,000, which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues – Section F:

Special Items of Revenue Anticipated with Prior Consent of the Director of Local Government Services – Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Year End Holiday Crackdown (FCOA 10-509).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$7,000 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

General Appropriations:

(A) Operations – Excluded from “CAPS”

Public and Private Revenues Offset by Revenues

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Year End Holiday Crackdown (FCOA 41-509).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

209-2025 Amending Resolution No. 168-2025 To Establish Recreational Fees for Year 2026

WHEREAS, The Recreation Department hereby establishes the programs, times and fees for various programs; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Director has recommended that the following fees, programs, and times be revised as described; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the following fees and programs and services be and are hereby established

TIME SCHEDULE FOR PICKLEBALL COURTS:

Weekdays and Weekends:

8:00AM - Dusk

BOROUGH OF MONTVALE
DECEMBER 11, 2025

<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Session Length</u>	<u>Resident Fee</u>	<u>Non-Resident Fee</u>
30+ Basketball	Sept-May	\$75	\$95
	Jan-May	\$40	\$60
Adult Soccer	10 weeks	\$15	\$20
Chess Lessons- Beginner	8 weeks	\$160	\$190
	7 weeks	\$140	\$170
	6 weeks	\$120	\$150
Chess Lessons- Intermediate	8 weeks	\$210	\$240
	7 weeks	\$190	\$220
	6 weeks	\$170	\$200
Drills and Skills Basketball	4 Day Camp 9:00am-12:00pm	\$155	\$185
Golf Instruction	6 weeks	\$120	\$150
	8 weeks	\$150	\$170
Pickleball Instruction	6 weeks	\$120	\$150
	8 weeks	\$160	\$200
Summer Camp: Grades 1-5	4 weeks	\$500 per child \$1500 family max	\$600 per child \$1800 family max
Adventure Camp: Grades 6-7	4 weeks	\$650 per child	\$750 per child
Summer Camp Resident/Non-Resident	\$45 late charge for every 15 minutes a child is left under care after camp dismissal. Payment shall be made directly to the Camp Director or Asst. Director and turned over to the Borough of Montvale. Camp financial assistance fee amounts will be at the discretion of the Recreation Director.		
<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Session Length</u>	<u>Resident Fee</u>	<u>Non-Resident Fee</u>
Multisport Camp by TGA	1 week (Full Day)	\$90	\$120
	1 week (Half Day)	\$60	\$90
The Way- The Art of Life	8 weeks (@ 2 classes per week)	\$120	\$180
Tai Chi	8 weeks	\$80	\$100
Montvale Senior Club Tai Chi Discount:	8 weeks	\$40	\$40
Tennis Lessons	6 weeks	\$120	\$150
	8 weeks	\$160	\$200
Tennis Badges			

BOROUGH OF MONTVALE**DECEMBER 11, 2025**

Adult (Ages 18-61)	January-December (weather permitting)	\$30	\$60
Child (Ages 17 & Younger)	January-December (weather permitting)	\$10	\$20
Family Max	January-December (weather permitting)	\$60	\$120
Seniors (Ages 62 & Up)	January-December (weather permitting)	\$15	\$30
		\$10 Fee for Replacement Tennis Badge	
Basketball Badges			
Adult (Ages 18-61)	Residents: Lifetime Non-Residents: January-December	Free	\$25
Child (Ages 17 & Younger)	Residents: Lifetime Non-Residents: January-December	Free	\$15
Seniors (Ages 62 & Older)	Residents: Lifetime Non-Residents: January-December	Free	\$10
		\$5 Fee for Replacement Basketball Badge	
Pickleball Badges			
Adult (Ages 18-61)	January-December (weather permitting)	\$30	\$100
Child (Ages 17 & Younger)	January-December (weather permitting)	\$10	\$30
Seniors (Ages 62 & Older)	January-December (weather permitting)	\$15	\$100
Family Maximum		\$60	\$200
		\$10 Fee for Replacement Pickleball Badge	
Townwide Garage Sale Registration Fee	2 Day Permit. Dates TBD by Rec. Dept	\$15	
Ultimate Frisbee	6 weeks	\$75	\$95
	8 weeks	\$100	\$120
Volleyball- Adult	January-May	\$195	\$215
Volleyball- Girls	10 weeks	\$200	\$250
Women's Softball- Adult	April - August	\$60	\$80
Yoga	8 weeks	\$80	\$100
	6 weeks	\$60	\$75
	4 weeks	\$40	\$50
Youth Theater	September-December	\$10	\$50

WHEREAS, Borough Owned Recreational Fields and Facilities shall be scheduled by the Borough of Montvale Field Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Montvale Athletic League ("MAL"), Montvale Recreation and Pascack Hills High School shall have first priority field scheduling use and shall be provide a schedule to the Field Coordinator no later than February 1 and June 1 for the respective Spring and Fall seasons.

WHEREAS, MAL, Recreation, Pascack Hills High School and churches are exempt from payment of fees relating to field use.

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Resident Team/Corporation</u>	<u>Non-Resident Team/Corporation</u>
Ballfields: Baseball or Softball (Memorial, Fieldstone or LaTrenta)	Per Hour Per Field (2 hour minimum)	\$25	\$50
Turf Fields: Soccer or Lacrosse (Fieldstone)	Per 2 Hour Time Slot Per Field	\$75 (full field) \$50 (half field)	\$150 (full field) \$100 (half field)
Basketball Courts: (Memorial)	Per Hour: Court #2 Only	\$25	\$50
Tennis Courts: (Memorial or LaTrenta) *Two court maximum reservation at any one location	Per Hour Per Court	\$25	\$50
Pickleball Courts: (Memorial)	Per Hour Per Court	\$25	\$50

Field and Facility Permit Regulations

MAL endorsed programs in sports that are not offered by MAL, and which have Montvale residents participating, shall be charged the resident fee for field use.

Resident Corporation: Any company that owns or leases commercial within the borough.

Non-Resident Corporation: Any company that does not own or lease commercial space within the borough.

Residential Team: Any athletic team comprised of at least 75% of its roster with Montvale residents.

Non-Residential Team: Any team not having at least 75% of its roster filled with Montvale residents.

Time Slot: An uninterrupted 1 or 2 hour time period or any part thereof, that a field/facility is being used by an approved team.

Season: Spring season will begin March 1 and end August 30. Fall season will begin September 1 and end December 31.

Field/Facility users who provide 7 days or more notice of changes in their scheduled use can receive a time credit if the scheduled hours are decreased. Any changes in field schedules without 7-day notice will not receive a time credit for unused field time. Time credits are only valid for the existing season and the following season.

Lightning Detection Credit Policy: If the lightning detector activates with less than 50% of scheduled time elapsed for that date, the organization shall receive a credit for that day's scheduled timeslot. If the lightning detector activates after 50% of the scheduled time has elapsed, no time credit will be granted.

Payment is required prior to use on all fields or no field use will be granted.

Once field use requests are received in full by February 1st for Spring season and June 1st for Fall season, field use will be established with the following order of preference:

1. Montvale Athletic League, Recreation and Pascack Hills High School
2. Resident: Not-For-Profit Entity
3. Resident: For Profit Entity
4. Non-Resident: Not-For-Profit Entity
5. Non-Resident: For-Profit Entity

WHEREAS, it is the Borough of Montvale's intention by the adoption of this resolution that if any prior established fee is in conflict with fee schedule the fees set forth in this fee schedule shall be the fees charged and any conflicting prior fee is hereby superseded, repealed and replaced with the fees adopted pursuant to this resolution.

210-205=25 Authorizing Hiring Stephen Wiersma, Part-Time Plumbing Subcode Official and Inspector, for the Construction Department

WHEREAS, Stephen Wiersma meets the qualifications for the position of Plumbing Subcode Official and Inspector and agrees to the terms and conditions of employment, and has previously completed a satisfactory background investigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Stephen Wiersma shall be paid pro-rata based on an annual salary of \$37,238 with a work week of 15 hours.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLEVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the above-named individual is hereby appointed to the above position effective December 8, 2025

211-2025 A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Motorola Solutions for Four (4) All-Band Portable Radios Pursuant to State Contract #83909 for the Montvale Police Department

WHEREAS, the Montvale Police Department has a need to acquire an all-band portable radios to allow communications on additional frequencies with nearby municipalities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a and N.J.C.A. 5:34-7.29(c), the Borough may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program for any State Contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the Borough did solicit a quote from Motorola Solutions, Inc. for this equipment under State Contract #83909; and

WHEREAS, Motorola submitted a proposal to the Borough, a copy of which is attached hereto, in the total amount of \$34,186.56; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's Police Chief has recommended that the Borough award this contract pursuant to the Motorola Proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds have been appropriated and are available for this purpose.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Borough of Montvale does approve the attached Quote from Motorola Solutions, Inc., 123 Tice Boulevard, Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey 07677 for Four (4) All-Band Portable Radios and related equipment and services for use by the Montvale Police Department.
2. The Mayor, Borough Clerk and/or Borough Administrator are hereby directed, authorized and empowered to execute an agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc., consistent with this resolution.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

212-2025 Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 – DRUNK DRIVING ENFORCEMENT FUND

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law, and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY 2025 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$2,899.18, which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues – Section F:

Special Items of Revenue Anticipated with Prior Consent of the Director of Local Government Services – Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:

Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund (Other Expenses) (FCOA 10-510).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$2,899.18 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

General Appropriations:

(A) Operations – Excluded from “CAPS”

Public and Private Revenues Offset by Revenues

Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund (Other Expenses) (FCOA 41-510).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

213-2025 Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 – JIF SAFETY INCENTIVE GRANT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law, and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY 2025 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$1,750.00, which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues – Section F:

Special Items of Revenue Anticipated with Prior Consent of the Director of Local Government Services – Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:

JIF Safety Incentive Grant (FCOA 10-886).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$1,750.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

General Appropriations:

(A) Operations – Excluded from “CAPS”

Public and Private Revenues Offset by Revenues

JIF Safety Incentive Grant (FCOA 41-886).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

214-2025 Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 – MINI GRANT WATERWAYS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law, and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY 2025 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$500.00, which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues – Section F:

Special Items of Revenue Anticipated with Prior Consent of the Director of Local Government Services – Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:

Mini Grant Waterways Program (FCOA 10-889).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$500.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

General Appropriations:

(A) Operations – Excluded from “CAPS”

Public and Private Revenues Offset by Revenues

Mini Grant Waterways Program (FCOA 41-889).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

215-2025 Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 – CLEAN COMMUNITIES GRANT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law, and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY 2025 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$24,024.91, which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues – Section F:

Special Items of Revenue Anticipated with Prior Consent of the Director of Local Government Services – Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:

Clean Communities Grant (FCOA 10-602).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$24,024.91 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

General Appropriations:

(A) Operations – Excluded from “CAPS”

Public and Private Revenues Offset by Revenues

Clean Communities Grant (FCOA 41-602).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

216-2025 Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 – ALCOHOL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION FUND

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality

when such item shall have been made available by law, and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the CY 2025 Municipal Budget in the sum of \$2,475.99, which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues – Section F:

Special Items of Revenue Anticipated with Prior Consent of the Director of Local Government Services – Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Fund (FCOA 10-501).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$2,475.99 is hereby appropriated under the caption:

General Appropriations:

(A) Operations – Excluded from “CAPS”

Public and Private Revenues Offset by Revenues

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Fund (FCOA 41-501).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be electronically filed with the Director for approval as required by law.

217-2025 Authorize Budget Transfers Between Appropriation Accounts Pursuant to N.J.S.A.

40A:4-58

WHEREAS, certain transfers of funds for various 2025 budget appropriations are necessary to cover anticipated expenditures; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58* provides for the transfer of appropriations with excess over and above the amount deemed necessary to fulfill their purposes to those appropriations considered to be insufficient; and

WHEREAS, the appropriations subject to fund transfers hereby are not within those restricted by *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58* for transfer purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor & Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer shall and is hereby authorized to make transfers between appropriations accounts of the 2025 Municipal Budget as follows:

	FROM	TO
General Appropriations (A) Operations – within “CAPS” GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS Administration and Executive Salaries & Wages	\$750	
Borough Clerk Salaries & Wages		\$750
UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE Uniform Construction Code Salaries & Wages	\$3,000	
Electrical Subcode Official Salaries & Wages		\$3,000

218-2020 Appointment of Regular Member, Montvale Fire Department – Ara Babigian

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

219-2025 Appointment of Regular Member, Montvale Fire Department – Armand Babigian

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

220-2025 Appointment of Regular Member, Montvale Fire Department – Michael Weaver

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

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

BILLS: Administrator read the Bill Report

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council President Lane

Fire Dept

25 fire calls; 2 drills; 10 extra credits which includes decorating the park; 10 meetings – new officers were elected as follows: Chief, Geoff Gibbons; Deputy Chief, Mike Cintineo; Captain #1, Bruce Hopper; Captain #2, Chuck Lydon; Lt. #1, Ray Hutchinson and Lt. #2, Dan Demarest

Finance

Our first budget meeting will be on Monday, January 5th on ZOOM @ 6PM

Councilmember Roche

Recreation

Christmas Tree lighting was December 5th, great success; thanked Fire Dept for decorating the park, DPW for set-up and clean-up, Wegmans for their donations and Dunkin Donuts and Mulholland Family for donating hot chocolate.

Chamber of Commerce

Feb 4th – Networking Event at Flemings; Street Fair is scheduled for June 14 on Paragon Drive

Councilmember Cudequest

Library

Robert Deradorian is the new recording secretary for the board; an Eagle Scout project for a new bench will be placed in front of the Library by the handicapped parking spots; held an appreciation night for the ESL tutors; supper club completed their cookbook; held a Winter Fest

Board of Health

Product recall of formula; NorthWest stated they received a complaint with Wegmans, people are bringing their pets into the store;

Seniors

Held their Holiday luncheon at Seasons; the Executive board is reviewing their by-laws regarding membership;

Councilmember Cudequest wished everyone a Happy, Healthy and Safe Holiday Season

Councilmember Arendacs

DPW

All snow removal machines are ready for the season; leaf season is near completion; ongoing maintenance of all borough properties

Engineering

Colliers submitted a grant application for NJDOT for paving on Memorial Dr; working on finalizing the tax maps

Councilmember Arendacs wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Healthy New Year

Councilmember Koelling

Police

Monthly report included in original minutes

Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

Memorial and Fieldstone school families donated 526 turkeys and all the trimmings to be donated to 3 locations in Jersey City, Montvale is a very generous community; congratulations to Lindsey Walsh and Megan Fullam for receiving Teacher of the Year Award; new playground at Memorial has been completed; A security assessment was conducted by the Bergen County Prosecutors office; the school is waiting for the results.

Mayor

The final affordable housing settlement conference is scheduled on December 19th; a Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 22nd at 6:30pm at borough hall. Hanukkah Lighting is Sunday, Dec 14 2 6pm – Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Nick Chelius

A Green Acres grant is available which can be used for Memorial Field to install a turf field; the potential award could be up to \$750,000, total project cost approx. \$2.5 million; after a brief discussion councilmembers decided not to apply for the grant.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Dave Lafferty

Appeared before the Judge in Superior Court regarding the lease agreement for the Farm property, the Judge will make a decision within 7 days.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Joe Voytus

Working with the Police Department to bring forth an e-bike ordinance; working with the PD and Push to Walk which works with people with spinal injuries, they would like to do a 5k in April; the Octagon House historic sign is being refurbished; repairs on the flooring at the senior center will begin next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion – Council meeting dates 2026 and Holiday Schedule 2026

Councilmembers agreed on all the dates submitted by the clerk; the resolutions will be adopted at the re-org meeting

COMMUNICATION CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk received a letter from Hridank Shukla from Troop 334 – Eagle Scout Candidate thanking the council for their donation of \$200 towards his Eagle Scout project for the Montvale Environmental Learning Center.

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 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 8:24pm

Regular Workshop Meeting of the Mayor & Council to be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday December 30, 2025

RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING to be held on Thursday, January 1st, 2026 at Noon

Respectfully submitted, Frances Scordo, Municipal Clerk