

**Township of Mantua
Minutes
Meeting March 6, 2016
Mantua Township Municipal Building
6:00 P.M.**

On the above date the Township Committee of the Township of Mantua held its Regular Meeting in the Mantua Township Municipal Building, 401 Main Street, Mantua, New Jersey 08051.

Mayor Scirrotto called the meeting to order. The time was 6:00 p.m. Mayor Scirrotto asked everyone to rise for the Flag Salute and remain standing to observe a moment of silence.

Mayor Scirrotto delivered the Sunshine Notice as required by the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

Mayor Scirrotto called on Township Deputy Clerk Pamela LeVine to call roll. Present were Deputy Mayor Robert Zimmerman, Mr. Michael Silvanio, Mayor Pete Scirrotto, Mrs. Jennica Bileci, Township Administrator, James Pierson, Esq., Mr. Jon Bryson Engineer, Steven Alexander, Public Works Superintendent, Chief Sawyer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve February 6, 2017 - Deputy Mayor Zimmerman, 2nd Committeeman Silvanio. All in favor

Engineering Report

Mr. Bryson advised the Committee that there is limited activity on any of the open projects due to the weather. Mr. Bryson advised that the Chestnut Branch Park irrigation well has been tested and the results were positive. The project has now been closed. Mayor Scirrotto asked when the Township might hear about the grant award that was submitted for Tyler Mill Road. Mr. Bryson advised that usually in June/July it will be announced. Mayor Scirrotto asked if we have added a secondary road to that application. Mr. Bryson advised that at this time the Township has not, however the Township can submit another Road for discretionary aide at any time during the year.

Department of Public Works Report

Mr. Alexander advised the Committee that the storage container located near the butterfly garden has been removed, and that Public Works will be planting grass seed there in order to improve the area in the near future. In addition, Mr. Alexander advised that the Pavilion at Chestnut Branch Park has a fresh new look. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman stated that the progress is continuing on in the Park and applauds the efforts of the Public Works Department along with Bill Pine for moving so swiftly in getting the bank shot down and the area cleaned up. In addition, that patching in the parking lot that has been done as well as the forthcoming projects that should be completed in the near future. Mr. Alexander stated there were exterior lighting fixtures that were replaced with LED bulbs for efficiency. Mr. Alexander advised that "No Litter" signs were placed on Mantua Blvd. in effort to alleviate some of the littering that is going on at this area. He commented that the Public Works department has been performing pot hole repair on

Boody Mill Road. This will be one of the streets that will be looked at on a monthly basis going forward to avoid letting it get so run down. Mr. Alexander advised that he has moved his main office to the public works area, but will be in the municipal building from time to time. Responding to Mayor Scirrotto's inquiry on bulk trash, Mr. Alexander advised that it is very heavy, however all bulk was completed for Mondays route.

Police Department Report

Chief Sawyer advised that the Police Department is having their final reaccreditation review on March 9th. He advised that the new phone systems that was installed for both the police department as well as the courts has now been installed and operating without issues. Chief Sawyer advised that the police department is awaiting for final approval for their Safe and Secure Grant as well as the 2017 Body Worn Camera grant. Chief Sawyer advised that the Radar Trailer is currently out of service and waiting for the technician. The current signs are located on Evergreen and Columbus Drive. Chief Sawyer reported that with the help of the County outside lighting has been replaced with LED lights in both the main parking lot area and in the rear of the Police Department for officer safety. Chief Sawyer discussed that they have the community service litter patrol scheduled for Saturdays. Mayor Scirrotto requested that they work on Jackson and Heritage as well as near the Cousins Nursery be readdressed, as well as the area near Thackery Court.

Committeewoman Lukens asked the Chief for an update to the status of the breaking into vehicles that has been happening in town.

Chief Sawyer advised that no positive I.D. has been made but that they are still working on this matter. Mayo Scirrotto asked if there were any other incidents happening around town. Chief Sawyer advised that there was a drug incident on Mantua Blvd, that with the help of the Monroeville K-9 unit, they were able to shut it down without anyone getting hurt.

Mayor Scirrotto reminded everyone about Resolution R-31-2017, that there is a time limit of five (5) minutes per person.

Motion to Open to the public: Deputy Mayor Zimmerman, 2nd Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Randi Karpinski – 10 Tallowood Ct – Ms. Karpinski inquired about the work that is being done on Jackson road and all the asphalt, concrete that has been placed in piles along Jackson Road and who is responsible for cleaning that up. Chief Sawyer advised that the contractor is responsible for the cleanup and that once the job is completed they will be coming back to remove. Chief Sawyer also advised that he will ensure that the cleanup takes place. In addition, Ms. Karpinski asked that maybe the students at the elementary schools participate in cleaning up of the streets of our township.

Joseph Labinski – Joseph Labinski – 305 Cherry St., Wenonah – Mr. Labinski advised the Township Committee that he resides in Wenonah but also has a property in Mantua at 49 Somerset Dr. Mr. Labinski stated that he has issue with Mr. Graham Land, the Code Enforcement officer who handles both Mantua as well as Wenonah. Mr. Labinski stated that he has brought forth a petition to document his dealings with Graham Land and would like the Committee to review and get back to him. Mr. Labinski commented that

there are 183 vacant/abandoned homes that the Township receives money from and inquired is that money in your budget? Administrator Bileci advised that yes those monies are in our budget. Mr. Labinski noted that there are 74 homes that you're not receiving any monies from that could be money you'd be receiving.

Renee Nuss – 562 Main Street – Ms. Nuss inquired to the Chief about the new ordinance regarding no parking on Main Street. Ms. Nuss asked that since she resides on Main street and should the need arise that she has company, what is she to do about overflow parking. Chief Sawyer advised Ms. Nuss that if she is able to give the police department a heads up about the overflow of parking that would be acceptable. The purpose of the ordinance is to eliminate the parking on Main St near the school as well as the municipal building during assemblies where people are parking making it difficult to get out of the driveways as well as a visionary issue.

Gregory Shast – 39 Silver Creek Drive – Mr. Shast thanked the Committee for getting Route 45 project finished and looks forward to when it is striped in the warm weather. He commented on the budget and stated that the federal government informed older people that the cost of living hasn't increased in two years. He questioned how the Township can justify increasing taxes. He stated that in the last 2 years the average increase was 3.8% in municipal taxes. He stated that the bulk of the taxes goes towards personnel expenses and Committee should start thinking outside the box. He asked the Committee to consider a salary freeze and declaring a state of financial emergency. He stated that the district school taxes only increased 2% over the last 2 years. The regional tax increased 2.3 taxed for the same 2 years. He commented that 13% of the residents of this township are over 65 and are aware that the gov't hasn't increased the cost of living. In addition, he stated that 4.5% of your residents live below the poverty line and asked what the Township is doing to help those people? He referenced an article in the Inquirer, on March 3rd which referenced some data on house pricing in PA and NJ. He stated that their data stated that the median house sold in Mantua declined 40% for 2015-2016 and asked if this figure impacted by our taxes? He asked for some consideration to doing something more than zero budgeting or whatever method you use to create a budget. He stated that tax payers deserve to know that their taxes can be stabilized and not get an increase every year.

Ken Defay – 456 Pitman Road – Mr. Defay agreed with Mr. Shast about the taxes and thinking outside of the box. He stated that there are people who haven't gotten a raise in 10 years and a few other Townships have gotten a zero increase. Mayor Scirrotto advised that the raises that are given are a very small percentage of the Operating Expenses. The Mayor advised that we utilize shared services in many of our Departments. The Mayor commented that the Township does not want to utilize all the surplus since that will not be fiscally responsible. Mayor Scirrotto stated that without laying off public works and police that would be the only place we would be able to save. Mr. Defay inquired about the Township paying for uniforms and clothing. Mayor Scirrotto advised that those are contractual items through the union's contract. Mr. Defay inquired as to the whether the Fire Department's budget was passed. Mayor Scirrotto advised that it had passed. Mr. Defay had several questions regarding their budget and Mayor Scirrotto advised Mr. Defay that this is something that he'd have to address with them. The Township doesn't have anything to do with their budget. Mr. Defay inquired about some of the bills listed on the bill list. Administrator Bielci answered his concerns as did the Chief of Police where it pertained to the Police Department. Mr. Defay inquired as to why there is a five minute rule. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman advised that this is a law that we have put in place so that everyone has an opportunity to address the Committee.

Motion to Close: Deputy Mayor Zimmerman, 2nd Committeeman Silvanio
All were in favor.

ORDINANCE 0-1-2017: BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS PIECES OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$700,000 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$665,000; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a Motion to open to the Public, 2nd by Committeeman Silvanio

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a Motion to Close to the Public, 2nd by Committeeman Silvanio. There was no public participation.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a Motion to Adopt 2nd by Committeeman Silvanio
All were in favor.

ORDINANCE O-2-2017: ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA PROHIBITING PARKING ON MAIN STREET (COUNTY ROUTE NO. 553) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a Motion to open to the Public, 2nd by Committeeman Silvanio

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a Motion to Close to the Public, 2nd by Committeeman Silvanio. There was no public participation.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a Motion to Adopt 2nd by Committeeman Silvanio
All were in favor.

ORDINANCE O-3-2017: ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR THE PROMOTION OF MEMBERS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to introduce; it was seconded by Committeeman Silvanio. All were in Favor

RESOLUTION R-54-2017: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING TAX AND PREMIUM REFUNDS

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve; it was seconded by Committeeman Silvanio. All were in Favor

RESOLUTION R-55-2017: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A MAINTENANCE BOND FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS RELIANCE LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$56,967.90

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve; it was seconded by Committeeman Silvanio. All were in Favor

RESOLUTION R-56-2017: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$362,401.80 FILED BY WENDY'S RESTAURANT FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN BLOCK 200 LOT 1.01

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve; it was seconded by Committeeman Silvanio. All were in Favor

RESOLUTION R-57-2017: APPROVING THE 2016 SAFETY CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AND THE GLOUCESTER, SALEM, CUMBERLAND COUNTIES MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND AND AUTHORIZING THE SIGNATURES OF THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP SAFETY COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve; it was seconded by Committeeman Silvanio. All were in Favor

RESOLUTION R-58 -2017: A RESOLUTION TERMINATING THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH STERLING HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ALSO KNOWN AS SOUTH JERSEY TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP FOR THE DELIVERY OF TECHNOLOGY AND WEBSITE SUPPORT AND OTHER COMPUTER AND NETWORK RELATED SERVICES

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve; it was seconded by Committeeman Silvanio. All were in Favor

RESOLUTION R-59 -2017 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS ("RFQ/RFP") FOR REDEVELOPER/DEVELOPER OF THE BRANCH ROAD/HUNGERFORD PROPERTIES, LOCATED WITHIN THE INVERSAND COMPANY/BRANCH ROAD PARTNERS REDEVELOPMENT AREA PURSUANT TO THE ADOPTED REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve; it was seconded by Committeeman Silvanio. All were in Favor

RESOLUTION R-60-2017: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION'S "ONLINE PROGRAM"

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve; it was seconded by Committeeman Silvanio. All were in Favor

RESOLUTION R-61-2017: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPOINTING SHAWN LAYTON TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF HEATHER POOL ON THE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY BOARD

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve; it was seconded by Committeeman Silvanio. All were in Favor

RESOLUTION R-62-2017: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AWARDING A CONTRACT TO BREAKER GROUP, INC. FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND WEBSITE SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to approve; it was seconded by Committeeman Silvanio. All were in Favor

Township Committee Remarks:

Committeewoman Lukens advised that the school board will be renegotiating the teachers' contract and that the schools are working on some new and exciting things going forward.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman advised that the rabies clinic is on March 18, 2017 at the public works garage from 9-10:30 and that the first Senior Dinner of the year is on March 21m2017 at 6:00 pm. And to please note that the dinners are now being held on Tuesdays.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to pay the bills; it was seconded by Committeeman Silvanio. All were in Favor

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Committeeman Silvanio. All were in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela LeVine, Deputy Clerk