

Township of Mantua  
May 17, 2021  
Mantua Township Municipal Building  
6:00 P.M.

On the above date the Township Committee of the Township of Mantua held a Committee 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.

Mr. Shawn Layton, Mr. John Legge, Mrs. Eileen Lukens, Mr. Robert Zimmerman, Mr. Peter Scirrotto, Mrs. Jennica Bileci, Township Administrator, Mrs. Pamela LeVine, Deputy Township Clerk, Mr. Jeff Daniels, Solicitor, Jon Bryson, Engineer - Absent, Glenn deMers, Superintendent of Public Works, Chief White

A Proclamation was presented to the Meinhardt Family recognizing May 14<sup>th</sup> as Apraxia Awareness Day.

**Department of Public Works Report:**

Mr. deMers stated that Public Works had a new gate installed today to secure the public works yard.

Mr. deMers stated that he has been in contact with Exleys Nursery regarding the 3 Bradford pear tree. He advised that the department will then work on the lights at McCarson Park.

Glenn discussed that the new flags have been installed on Main Street with the help from Gloucester County Public Works, and that they will remain on Main Street through the summer.

Mr. deMers mentioned that brush continues to be a concern and that the department is behind. He appreciates everyone's patience on picking it up as the department only has the one crane. In addition, Glenn noted that they are averaging a little over 60 cubic yards a day in brush picked up.

Glenn noted that the public works department has installed 4 Dog Waste signs on Main Street from J.M.T. School to the bend entrance to the park, as well as 2 Pet Waste stations on Main Street at opposite ends of bike path.

In closing Mr. deMers noted that Public Works has a Convenience Center drop off set up for Saturday the 27th from 10 am to 2pm.

**Police Department Report:**

Chief White noted that the speed signs have been consistently out. The Chief went on to say that with the warm weather, traffic complaints have risen as they do every year. In addition, to help with the traffic complaints, we participated in the Distracted Driving Grant throughout the month of April to help curb some of this springtime bad driving behavior, which resulted in 331 Stops.

The Chief mentioned that the department has been approved for the statewide Click it or Ticket campaign, which will run from May 24<sup>th</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup> during both daytime and nighttime hours. In addition, Darren noted that the special needs registry is all running and advertised on our website. The Department also held their Straight to Treatment kickoff event.

The Chief noted that both the public works superintendent and a Mantua school services representative toured the police building to evaluate different cleaning options. Mantua schools think they can accommodate our request.

In closing the Chief noted that the department is still working through some of the most significant changes to law enforcement that he has ever seen.

Pursuant to Resolution R-32-2020, there is a time limit of five (5) minutes per person.

**Public Participation:** Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to open; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

Deb Baldassare – 522 Main Street – Ms. Baldassare wanted to thank everyone for placing the poop signs and pick up areas along Main Street. In addition, she also thanked officers Bair and Shaw for their help with the vandalism at the Methodist Church along Main Street. Lastly, she noted that the flags along Main Street look great.

Robin Stevens – Turner Street – Ms. Stevens noted that she has been here before regarding Turner Street and the parking from Orbit Energy. Ms. Stevens noted that there is a problem with getting any kind of emergency personnel down this road that there are so many vehicles parked there. She is concerned that should they have to come down Turner Street, they will not be able too. She respectfully asks that they truly investigate what can be changed to allow cars to drive up and down Turner Street. Chief White noted that this street is on the radar, and he will see what can be done.

Ryan Campbell – 223 W. Hunterdon Ave. – Mr. Campbell thanked the Committee for having this meeting. Mr. Campbell stated that he had been to prior meetings asking the Township Committee to pass a resolution based on the will of the people regarding the GCL light rail. Mr. Campbell stated that two Resolutions on the same thing one done in 1996 and another in 2009 and stated that two resolutions are conflicting.

Mr. Campbell again asked why the Committee wouldn't do a third one. Mayor Scirrotto stated that there are people who do want the train. Mr. Campbell noted that he is aware of that because of the prior resolutions. Mayor Scirrotto stated that 25 years have passed since the last Resolution. Mr. Campbell questioned drafting an Ordinance for Turner Street.

Mr. Campbell again asked about the resolution being done in 1996. Scirrotto' asked if there was anything further that Mr. Campbell wanted to discuss. Mayor Scirrotto stated that the Township would assist with the necessary measures requested by Ms. Stevens.

Comments were made by members of the public that were not clear on the recording. Mayor Scirrotto' asked that we keep it simple and if you have something to say, please step up to the microphone.

Mr. Campbell questioned the Ordinance that was on the agenda for signs. Mr. Daniels asked Mr. Campbell if he was done with his comments so that he could response to his questions. Mr. Daniels explained that the Administrator contacted him about complaints about some signage at the Mantua Little League Fields specifically an election sign for a respective candidate.

Mr. Daniels went onto explain the definition of political signs/temporary signs as it refers to the ordinance. Mr. Campbell asked then if this is the case, why was the sign taken down immediately. Mr. Daniels went on to say that the Administrator and Mayor decided to take it down until a legal opinion was presented on the matter. Mr. Campbell thanked him for the explanation.

Mr. Daniels continued to discuss the definition of the ordinance and its various sub areas as well as issue an opinion regarding amending the sign ordinance. Mr. Campbell thanked Mr. Daniels for his explanation of the ordinance, and then continued to note that the question he asked was how this happened so quickly. Mr. Daniels advised that the matter was given to him and that he acted quickly as he is an attorney and has an expertise in drafting laws and ordinances so that he could respond quickly to this issue. Mr. Campbell noted that he asked about the Resolutions being reviewed and Mr. Daniels noted that should the committee wish for him to review it, he would. Mr. Campbell clarified that he was speaking about the train matter. Mr. Campbell stated that there are two resolution each one contradicting the other and asked Mr. Daniels if he had any recommendation to the committee to review them. Mr. Daniels noted that there are two resolutions and that he was not aware of the specifics behind them as to why they were adopted, I do not even know if any members of the committee were members of the committee at that time, I would have to inquire as to those members. Comments were made by members of the public that were not clear on the recording.

William Crew – 121 East Sussex Ave, Sewell – Mr. Crew stated that he agrees what Mr. Campbell was saying about the signage issue, however the sign that was at the ball field stated that we are running for office. Mr. Crew noted that it should not be allowed.

Comments were made by members of the public that were not clear on the recording.

Mr. Daniels noted again that this is a recorded meeting and that only one person can speak at a time. Mayor Scirrotto asked Mr. Crew if there was anything else that he had to add, Mr. Crew asked why the committee will not put the resolution out to the residents and see what they want. Mayor Scirrotto stated that the resolution in 1996 was one that opposes the train, and that was 25 years ago. Mr. Crew noted that maybe we should start over again. Mayor Scirrotto explained that it is a state project. Mr. Crew stated that the residents are paying taxes for the committee to stand behind them. Mr. Daniels reiterated that if a resident comes in and asks the committee to do a resolution to support the rail line and then another resident comes in opposing the train. What would you like committee to do? You are asking committee to pass conflicting resolutions. Mr. Crew

asked for a survey to be sent out to each resident asking them their thoughts on the rail line.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that he wanted to reiterate what the mayor has already stated tonight and at the reorganization meeting. We are with the understanding that the Mantua Blvd. stop and the Center stop are both being omitted from the project. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted this before that all five of the committee has personal feelings on the GCL, however all 5 of the committee are elected by the 16,000 plus residents here so as you are all saying we must listen to the people. He explained that they are doing our due diligence trying to determine the best scenario, but ultimately this is not our project. He stated that the Township Committee is trying to mitigate certain situations to make it the best possible scenario if in fact it ever does happen.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman stated that we are paying attention to that and looking at it as closely as we can, but we cannot throw all our eggs into something that may or may not happen 10 years down the road. He stated that he lives over in that area and has equal concerns as well, so we must focus on the things that come before us every single day. Day in and day out. He stated that the entire Township Committee is speaking to the Administrator and that the Township Committee constantly receives calls and concerns from residents for the responsibilities that they have here and made special reference to the traffic issue on Turner Street.

Those are pressing like the young lady that talked about the traffic on Turner Street. They are issues that we deal with on any given single day. Mr. Crew noted that it is very bad there. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that the Chief will be looking into this.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman stated that he walks all over and asks residents how they feel about the train. He explained that when you live on the tracks, it is a hot bed, if you go 1,2,5 blocks away they either do not know about it and/or they want the train. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that he is 2/10<sup>th</sup> away from the tracks, so I hear what you are saying, there are concerns that we all have. He stated, however, if something is coming from a higher authority or an independent authority, the Township Committee cannot stop it because we do not have control over the project. The referenced that the mayor could set a tent up on the tracks. If it is going to happen, then it would run him over. Mr. Crew noted that the people are just asking for a survey on this. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman said that it is way over the 5 minutes. Mr. Crew thanked the committee for their time.

Jayson Swope – 639 Topeka Ave – Mr. Swop stated that everyone here is complaining about a train coming through here, however the track is already here. There is nothing that can stop this. They tried in 96 and again in 09, what is the point of doing this? You cannot stop the state from doing what they want to do.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to close; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. Committeeman Layton Abstained. All in Favor

ORDINANCE 6-2021: AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge.  
All in Favor

ORDINANCE O-7-2021: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, CHAPTER 82 FIXING AND ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND COMPENSATIONS OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, IN THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE YEAR 2021

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge.  
All in Favor

ORDINANCE O-8-2021: ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AMENDING CHAPTER 230 "LAND DEVELOPMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge.  
All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-72-2021: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA INTRODUCING THE 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that he wanted to make a positive note towards the community tonight. So, he prepared some notes relative to the budget however Jennica will go into the meat and potatoes of it at our next meeting. I felt it was important to make a statement on behalf of the committee. We work very hard from day to day to make sure to provide our residents with the best services whether it is working closely with the schools, outreach from our Police Department or public works picking up trash or recyclables or something for a resident. This past year, obviously it was like no other year, the pandemic took its toll and put businesses out of work and it was a horrific time for everyone. Our goal as always is to have fiscal responsibility and to have financial management as a governing body. We are doing this by presenting a municipal budget with a zero local tax increase. This is compliant with the tax levy and appropriations cap that continues to operate with surplus. The total budget this year is \$15.5 million dollars, and we are 550,000 under the spending cap and 480,000 under the tax levy cap. The only increases in this budget are for contractual obligations and for health insurance costs. So, we are not increasing anything here. We are making tough decisions, tightening the belt and we are trying to look out for all the taxpayers/residents of this community to not raise taxes at the local level. As mentioned earlier, Jennica will provide more details at our next meeting during a formal budget hearing. It is very important to recognize that this is going to be a zero-based budget. For those that do not know, the municipality, meaning the 5-committee people here along with the administrator, we control 20% of the pie. That is 20% of the taxes that residents are paying in our municipality. 30% from Mantua schools and 23% from Clearview Regional Middle and High School. That is 53% of the taxes that you pay go to the school. Again, 20% is ours, 23% goes to the County and the balance 4% is for fire. I think I covered everything, that is about 100%. So, we are doing our due diligence here, again we are making tough decisions, we are not raising taxes and we are challenging primarily the school districts who are at 53% to really take a look at their budget and

follow suit with us and keep the taxes flat this year. We all need to work together, and we need to do things to help our residents. We have seen it and we've all gotten calls from small business owners that have gone out of business, people that have lost their jobs, people who have been forced to move out of town, sell their houses to downsize to rent. At the very least all we can do is make the tough decision this year is to get down to no tax increase. That is everyone up here that works very hard, and Jennica did the fine tuning to get it where the committee wanted it to be, so I want to thank Jennica for her hard work.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge.  
All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-73-2021: A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY  
CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES  
EQUALEMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S "Enforcement Guidance  
on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under  
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge.  
All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-74-2021: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA  
AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL AUTOMATED WASTE  
CARTS VIA A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CO-OP WITH HGAC-BUY FROM  
INNOVATIVE PACKAGING LEADERS

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge.  
All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-75-2021: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING  
MECHANICS LIEN ON REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF  
MANTUA KNOWN AS 25 MANTUA BLVD., FOR MAINTENANCE WORK  
AUTHORIZED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge.  
All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-76-2021: A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1  
FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS DEMOLITION OF BASEBALL DUGOUTS AT  
MANTUA LITTLE LEAGUE IN THE INCREASED AMOUNT OF \$3,112.00 FROM  
21,990.00 TO \$25,102.00

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge.  
All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-77-2021: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A  
STREET OPENING BOND FOR 188 NORWOOD AVE IN THE AMOUNT OF  
\$1,000.00

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge.  
All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-78-2021: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REFUNDING CERTAIN OVERPAYMENT OR DUPLICATE PAID PROPERTY TAXES FOR 79 FOREST COURT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,524. 26

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge.  
All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-79-2021: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ASSIGNMENT OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge.  
All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-80-2021: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CLOSED SESSION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA TO DISCUSS COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge.  
All in Favor

**Remarks from the Township Committee:**

Committeeman Legge noted that the Memorial Day Parade will be held on Memorial Day. In addition, Mr. Legge noted that the Environmental Commission has met and that there was a person there who would like to review the EIS for the GCL and provide their recommendation. Committeeman Legge noted that there is nobody on that committee who has had any formal training on how to review that. They are just volunteers who provide their own time, there are no experts on that Commission, so I wanted to advise committee of this. I just caution them not to do anything like that. The second this is that the EIS has already been completed and published. So, he was unsure why this request would have come through this commission.

Mayor Scirrotto' noted that he and the Deputy Mayor attended an Eagle Scout ceremony where there were 5 young men who received their award. He noted that only 5 percent of Boy Scouts go onto receive their Eagle Scout. It was a lovely ceremony, and it is nice to see that the community is getting back to some sort of normalcy.

**Remarks from the Administrator:**

Mrs. Bileci noted that the Budget presentation will be held on June 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., copies will be available to the public as well as listed on the website.

**Marshalls Towing**

A Discussion was had regarding the revocation of Marshall's Towing license. Solicitor Daniels gave his professional opinion on the matter and noted that the committee must

make a vote on this matter. It was agreed upon to revoke the Towing license of Marshalls Towing.

Committee went into closed session at 6:53 p.m. and returned to public session at 7:07

**Approval of the Bill List:**

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to pay the bills; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. Committeeman Layton Abstained. All in Favor

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to close; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela LeVine, Deputy Clerk