

Township of Mantua  
Committee Meeting  
August 15, 2022  
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 - Absent, Mr. John Legge, Mrs. Eileen Lukens, Mr. Robert Zimmerman, Mr. Peter Scirrotto, Mrs. Jennica Bileci, Township Administrator - Absent, Mrs. Pamela LeVine, Deputy Township Clerk, Mr. James Pierson, Mr. deMers, Public Works Superintendent, Erika Covely, Engineer, Chief White

Approval of the July 18, 2022, committee meeting - Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeewoman Lukens. All in Favor.

**Engineering Report:**

Mrs. Covely noted that the Mercer Ave project should begin shortly. Erica also noted that the Bergen Ave project will have bid openings at the end of the month.

**Department of Public Works Report:**

Mr. deMers thanked the County for all their help with cleaning up Jackson Road. Glenn also discussed the they have caught up with the excessive brush that has been out at the curb and the department is back to working on their normal brush schedule. Committeewoman Luken inquired about the status of the drainage issue at Mrs. Adlers home. Glenn noted that is has been looked at with the enigneer and that when the local road program begins it will be addressed.

**Police Department Report:**

The Chief noted that the administration participated in a meeting to discuss the Sheriff's office participation in renunciation. Darren mentioned that they are moving forward with the additional Class three offices and this person should be able to begin when the school year begins. The Chief noted that the promotional process is mostly complete. He also discussed they are getting prices to outfit the converted ambulances to be used at the schools. One final note the Chief said that Orbit Energy has reached out about donating bullet proof vests to both the officers and the K-9's.

Pursuant to Resolution R-32-2022, there is a time limit of five (5) minutes per person.

Solicitor Pierson noted that due to the large number of people attending this meeting, anyone who wishes to speak will be able to, however, the Committee will hold their response at this time so that everyone will have the opportunity to speak. The Committee will also be adhering to Resolution R-23-2022 that was past at the reorganization.

**Public Participation:**

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

Ryan Campbell – 223 Hunterdon Ave. Mr. Campbell quoted comments made from the last meeting. Mr. Campbell asked the committee where they have gotten their information from, and what state agency had given them any information. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that the committee will take his comments under advisement.

Linda McAdams – 2 Arsen Court – Ms. McAdams noted that there are a lot of people in favor of the train and that there could be a lot of successful businesses along the way that would make this train good for transportation. Ms. Adams noted that there are many infrastructure issues with the swamp area along Route 45 along the side of Villages of Mantua. The swamp water is now coming up through the grates and running back into the retention pond. As the committee is aware, she mentioned that the community was recently paved and that this has been a severe issue with the state since 2016. She understands that the state is considering putting in a larger pipe and that they would be raising that area of Route 45 to help with the drainage. Ms. McAdams just wanted to go on record with the township making them aware that at this time it is still a very large problem.

Josephine Marshall – 246 W. Mercer – Mrs. Marshall noted that she is not happy with the upcoming train situation. At this time, she noted that it is difficult enough to get out onto West Atlantic. When the train comes it will be worse. There is no other way to get out of her street. Maybe there's another way she inquired. Mayor Scirrotto noted that they are at least 3 years away for the design of the train and then the money must be there to do it. Mrs. Marshall said that she is concerned about the traffic during the school year as well as there will be additional people, cars, truck, busses on the road. Mrs. Marshall went onto discuss the large hole that is in the road next door to her. She asked if someone would go out and really look at it as she feels that there is something underground that is wrong. Mayor Scirrotto noted that he will get someone out there.

Maureen McCabe – Woodbury Heights – Ms. McCabe quoted comments made at the July 2022 meeting. Ms. McCabe asked if she would be using her 5 minutes to include the committee response. Solicitor Pierson noted that the committee would be allowing each person to have 5 minutes per Resolution R-32-2022 and then committee would respond if they had something to respond to. Ms. McCabe noted that this time the Township will have to pay for the application to have quiet zones, the township will also have to apply for these quiet zones. The train has already received \$200 million for the engineering to be done. Mayor Scirrotto noted that the tracks that are currently there have over 60 years of growth. He doesn't know how the state will get the project funded.

Bob Slagan – 931 Gray Fox Circle – Mr. Slagan noted that he can see that everyone here is very passionate about not having the train. He noted that he isn't clear on why

collectively the committee is not opposed to it. He asked that a resolution be done to clearly state the township is opposed to the train. Mr. Slagan also noted that there is a large hole on West Atlantic coming into Gray Fox if someone could look at this.

Charles Hughes – 31 N. Child St., Woodbury – Mr. Hughes noted that there will be a lot of noise pollution when the train comes through. Mr. Hughes noted that there are very few quiet zones within the state of New Jersey. In fact, he noted that there are only 11 municipalities within the state that have them. Mr. Hughes noted that it took Morristown 7 years to get their quiet zone. He also noted that wherever the train runs through, it is the town's responsibility to apply for the quiet zone. This would mean that the town would have to pay for the application to the state, county, Conrail as well as developers, modify the land use ordinance to allow for the train and the quiet zone as well as secure funding for all of this as well as engineering. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that the Township does not want any crossings within the township. Currently, there are a few stops that they are asking for. And this was based on a conversation several years ago. To date there has been no conversation with the state and no feedback. Mr. Hughes inquired as to where the committee is getting any information regarding the train. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that the Administrator had spoken with the DRPA and they provided the information that we have already spoken about. There has been nothing new to date. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman also noted that this is not a township project. This is a state project.

Lance Peters – 67 Hickory Ave. – Mr. Peters inquired as to the status of the drainage issue. Engineer Covely noted that they will not be able to run a pipe through his property due to DEP regulations. They are suggesting putting inlets in to help the situation out and that these will have to go out for bid.

Mary Slagan – 931 Grey Fox Circle – Mrs. Slagan noted that she would like to know if there is one spot that the residents can go to find out about the train and anything that is happening with it. She asked that maybe there can be a link on the township website for the GCL with any notifications and updates on it. Mrs. Slagan also inquired that once the preliminary steps take off, will there be regular meetings about this? In addition, she noted that the tax assessors have come around. It was her understanding from the last reassessment that if you lived across from the train that there would be discounts. She has not heard anything about this. Mayor Scirrotto noted that this is due to equalization through the township. He advised Mrs. Slagan to contact the tax assessor's office in Clayton. In addition, Mrs. Slagan noted that she doesn't understand why the township is paying overtime and sometimes double time for the brush to be picked up on the weekend and sometimes on a holiday weekend. It doesn't make sense. Why can't the township get the county to help.

Paul Brown – 1 Oxford Terrace – Mr. Brown noted that someone hit his trash can and that public works came out right away to replace it. He also noted that he feels that someone is targeting him with a variety of issues that have been happening regarding his trash/recycling carts. He wanted to make committee aware of this as he feels this is an injustice to him.

Harry Dewitt – 201 Valley View Dr. – Mr. Dewitt noted that he understands that he can't stop the train. However, he would like for the committee to write a resolution expressing the concerns of the residents. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that the committee has

16,000 residents that all have concerns. Some are for the train, others are not. It is the committee's stance that they must be considerate to all the residents in town. There are those that are against the train and there are those that are for the train and there are those that don't have any concern about the train.

Ed Janda – 506 Lestershire Dr. – Mr. Janda noted that he was happy to hear about the crossings that the committee has been working on. However, he would think that a resolution stating the concerns of the residents would also help.

James Jordan – 25 Hollybrook Dr. – Mr. Jordan noted the is concerned about the entire county as well as the safety of these crossings as well as the noise. He noted that going to and from the city is not as prevalent as it was prior to COVID-19. Mr., Jordan noted we all live here and there are people pushing this resolution that don't even live in town. Maybe this is something that the town should consider. Mayor Scirrotto noted that this will take 3-4 years to go out to bid. The mayor noted that we should deal with the matters that are going on now such as school safety, our local road program, that we have the best fire and police departments, great public works department. The mayor discussed that we don't have control f this project. By passing a resolution that wouldn't hold up is not something he feels that we should be doing.

Mike Pontz – 611 Mantua Blvd. Mr. Pontz noted that it is the small guy that is speaking up and noted that we just want to be heard.

Joanna Kearn – Ms. Kearn inquired if there was a contract on the GCL yet. Mayor Scirrotto noted that there is no design yet. Ms. Kearn asked if there could be a non-bias committee who would be able to bring both pros and cons to the table for a discussion with the proper people. Mayor Scirrotto noted that there were meeting with them years ago and we advised them what we as a township wanted.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that there is a huge misconception that the township has information. The township has no knowledge other than what you have. The preliminary aspect and that the GCL representatives will communication with the governing bodies when the time arises. This is not a township project. If you the residents were here about a township project, the committee would be able to give answers. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman went onto say that as a township we want a seat at the table. They have earmarked us for three stops and we don't want any here in Mantua. Until we get information directly from the source, we have no further information.

Chris MacAvoy – The Township does a great jo in all areas and it's a great township to live in. Someone stated that there are potentially three stops that are planned for the township. Maybe if we had a resolution opposing it, they wouldn't put any in the township. She also noted that the committee needs to do whats best for the township. However, she continued that the last election speaks to the way the community feels. Other towns have done the resolution as enough of their residents have spoken. She inquired as to why we can't do the resolution as the other towns have done.

Sean Sepsey – 105 Adams Ave – Mr. Sepsey noted that he is looking to the future and trying to be proactive. He noted that the county just did a spending freeze so that they will be able to move forward in the future. He also noted that for the development zone for the GCL, he mentioned that over by Kingsway High School something was zoned a

particular way and that it can't be changed. If we had the local governing bodies support maybe this wouldn't go through our town. He commented that recently Congressman Van Drew noted that there are more buses in our part of the state than is necessary and that it is better to drive in this area.

Anna Janda – 506 Lestershire – Ms. Janda noted that she understands that we should always be concerned about what is happening currently. This town has survived a tornado, straight winds, the township is gearing up for the children to return to school. However, Ms. Janda noted that in 1996 a resolution was done in opposition of the GCL and then again in August of 2009. She asked why the committee now will not do one. She discussed that things have changed; the economy has changed, and the train is an antiquated idea and that it would only be good to have in high density areas. Mantua is not one of them.

Anthony Alveario – 522 Delaware St. Woodbury – Mr. Alveario provided the committee with a pamphlet that shows all the negativity of the GCL. Mr. Alveario noted that it doesn't make sense due to the cost, population, environmental studies, and many other areas. He noted that the people would like an opportunity to speak about the information in his pamphlet at an upcoming meeting or another time to make a presentation.

Josie Ladd – 124 Carriage Hill – Ms. Ladd noted that in listening to everyone speak there were some very good points made. Ms. Ladd noted that if a resolution would fix the problem, wouldn't it be better to do it with more voices? Ms. Ladd inquired about a communication tool that could be used rather than calling 9-1-1 with a concern or question. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that no matter how small you think something is, please call the police department. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that the township tries very hard to get everything out on social media, however there is no full-time person handling it and therefore, you should contact the police department for any of your concerns.

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

**ORDINANCE 7-2022: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA  
RELEASING AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEED RESTRICTIONS ON 219 TONY  
CIRCLE AND RELEASING RECAPTURE NOTE AND MORTGAGE**

Mayor Scirrotto read the Ordinance.

Mayor Scirrotto asked for a motion to open Ordinance #7-2022 to the public. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to close the motion. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt, it was second by Committeeman Legge  
All were in favor.

**ORDINANCE 08-2022: 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 2022**

Mayor Scirrotto read the Ordinance.

Mayor Scirrotto asked for a motion to open Ordinance #8-2022 to the public. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to close the motion. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt, it was second by Committeeman Legge  
All were in favor.

ORDINANCE 09-2022: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AMEND CHAPTER 230, SECTIONS 7, 19 THROUGH 25, 30, 38, 44 & 46 ENTITLED "LAND DEVELOPMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

RESOLUTION R-121-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE HIRING OF RYAN KAPPE TO THE RANK OF PATROL OFFICER WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

RESOLUTION R-122-2022: RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP LAND USE BOARD

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

RESOLUTION R -123-2022 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA EXTENDING THE TAX DUE DATE FOR THE THIRD QUARTER 2022 PROPERTY TAXES

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

RESOLUTION R-124-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPOINTING MARK HALLAHAN TO THE POSITION OF BUILDING SUB- CODE OFFICIAL FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

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

RESOLUTION R-125-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING TAX REFUNDS AND/OR CANCELATIONS

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

RESOLUTION R-126-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A DIGITAL COURT RECORDER FOR THE REGIONAL MUNICIPAL COURT THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM

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

RESOLUTION R-127-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AMENDING THE SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

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

RESOLUTION R-128-2021: RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REFERRING ORDINANCE #O-9-2022 TO THE LAND USE BOARD FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-62 AND N.J.S.A. 40:55D-64

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

RESOLUTION R-129-2021: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AWARDED A CONTRACT TO CALVELLO LANDSCAPING TO PROVIDE FOR UPGRADE AND REPAIRS TO THE 911 MONUMENT IN CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK

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

**Remarks from the Township Committee**

Committeeman Legge reminded everyone that the VFW 5K run is coming up.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that the Recreation Committee will be hosting the Winter Festival on December 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 5:00 p.m. The rain date will be December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Motion to Pay the Bills:** Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

**Motion to Close:** Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pamela LeVine".

Pamela LeVine, Township Deputy Clerk