

Township of Mantua
Committee Meeting
July 18, 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, Mr. John Legge – Absent, Mrs. Eileen Lukens - Absent, Mr. Robert Zimmerman, Mr. Peter Scirrotto, Mrs. Jennica Bileci, Township Administrator, Mrs. Pamela LeVine, Deputy Township Clerk, Mr. James Pierson, Mr. deMers, Public Works Superintendent, Erika Covely, Engineer, Chief White

Approval of the June 13, 2022, committee meeting - Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor.

Approval of the June 13, 2022, closed session meeting. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

Engineering Report:

Mrs. Covely noted that the East Mercer project will be going out for bid within the next two weeks. She also made mention that the Local Road program has been awarded and that a pre-construction meeting will be getting scheduled. In addition, Erika noted that the project for Bergen Avenue has been put out or bid.

Department of Public Works Report:

Mr. deMers mentioned from the June meeting, he has spoken with Ms. Adler from Carriage Hill and discussed with her that we are working on a resolution with the township engineer regarding her road in front of her apron issue.

Mr. deMers noted that Public Works is almost caught up with the mowing schedule. We were behind due to employees using their vacation time so we trying to work around the shortage of man power. He also mentioned that due to the vacations the department was only able to get the brush crane out on the last two Saturdays.

Glenn noted that he has interviewed 4 people for the two (2) job openings for public works and he is waiting on background checks.

Regarding the Mantua Township signs that were damaged, Glenn noted that all 7 areas are being cleaned up, weeded and mulched. This should be completed by the end of next week.

Police Department Report:

The Chief discussed that the written testing had already been held for the sergeant and corporal positions, and that the oral exam was administered. The next step is for the additional points to be calculated.

The Chief noted that the background information came back good for our new hire to replace Det. Guidotti. He also mentioned that Thomas Cirone graduated the academy and has started working as a class II.

Darren noted that there have been some vehicle burglaries in the Center City Area over the past month of unlocked vehicles. He mentioned this as the department is trying to continuously encourage residents to lock their car doors and remove valuables.

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

Public Participation:

Carol Rhodes – 106 Breakneck Road – Ms. Rhodes discussed that one of her neighbors wants to expand on to their property and she was upset at the way the Land Use Board handle the matter and wanted to address the committee about his. In addition, Ms. Rhodes inquired if the Township would consider putting rubberized matting at the playground areas as it is nicer than mulch.

Lance Peters – 67 Hickory Ave – Mr. Peters mentioned that he has had several issues with stormwater running onto his property and nothing is being done about it. Due to this happening, he is losing property and would like the Township to come and see what needs to be done to correct this problem. Mayor Scirrotto noted that he would have public works and the engineer look to see what can be done.

Susan Lawton – 206 Hunterdon – Ms. Lawton came to notify the township that on West Atlantic there is overgrown brush into the street. This is creating a huge problem for the children as well as the drivers coming down the street as you can see what is coming. In addition, she noted that there are a lot of vehicles that are not observing the speed limit. Chief White noted that he would have a better presence out there to see what can be done. Mr. deMers from public works advised that he would look at it and get it cut back. Ms. Lawton also inquired as to any update on the GCL as she has not heard any updates lately. Mayor Scirrotto noted that the train is at least 2-3 years away from the financial aspect of it. He also noted that the tracks have had 60 years of growth and he doesn't see how they will be able to get the train project moving.

Maureen McCabe – Woodbury Heights – Ms. McCabe inquired as to why the committee in Mantua would not put forth a resolution advising that they are against the train. She noted that the Mayors from both Pitman and Woodbury Heights have done so and she can't understand why this committee will not. Solicitor Pierson noted that counsel has advised the committee that at this time the state is only responding to questions from the public and that counsel has advised committee not to issue a resolution until something more concrete has been discussed with regards to Mantua.

Gregg Shast – 39 Silvercreek Dr. – Mr. Shast thanked the committee for providing an engineering report. He has never seen one of these at a meeting and was wondering what the engineers are doing.

Richard Dantine – 560 Main Street – Mr. Dantine noted that there has been a lot of poor behavior happening at the park in the early morning hours. People are speeding through the park and driving erratically. He is asking that there be a better police presence there as he reside directly across the street and can hear what goes on at the park. Chief White noted that he will see that there is a presence there.

Deb Baldassare – 522 Main Street – Ms. Baldassare inquired if the park gates could be closed in the evening as this would alleviate anyone driving in the park at those hours. Administrator Bileci noted that this is something that has recently been discussed as the bathrooms at the park were recent vandalized.

Anna Janda – 506 Lestershire Dr. – Ms. Janda noted that she has lived here for many years. She is concerned that committee does not want to take a stand and do a resolution against the train at this time. Ms. Janda inquired if the committee would be willing to have a discussion with residents after 6:00 p.m. so that more can attend. She is looking for straight answers from all parties involved. Mayor Scirrotto noted that it's a shame that this train has become political and that he doesn't think that there will be enough money to support this ever happening. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that there was a zoom meeting due to the pandemic with all parties involved. He also noted that the committee has limited information about the train and in most cases, they know what the public knows. He also noted that some of the committee have a personal opinion about the train but this committee needs to be able to have a seat at the table when and if this becomes something to talk about.

Joe Hetzel – Commercial Township NJ – noted that he feels the train is coming. The state has spent \$200 million for an engineering study. Mr. Hetzel feels it would be fiscally responsible for the township to do a resolution with a clause as 8 other towns have already passed a resolution. In addition, Mr. Hetzel noted every crossing will not be a quiet zone. Solicitor Pierson noted that it is counsels' recommendation not to do a resolution at this time as it would be premature.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to open; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton.
All in Favor

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to close; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton.
All in Favor

ORDINANCE 05-2022: AMENDING AND CLARIFYING THE PROVISIONS OF ORDINANCE O-6-2011 FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL LAND USE BOARD

Mayor Scirrotto read the Ordinance.

Mayor Scirrotto asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance #5-2022. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made the motion. It was second by Committeeman Layton. All were in favor.

ORDINANCE 06-2022: 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 adopt Ordinance #5-2022. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made the motion. It was second by Committeeman Layton. Committeeman Layton Abstained. All were 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 adopt Ordinance #7-2022. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made the motion. It was second by Committeeman Layton. All were in favor.

RESOLUTION R-108-2022 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, DESIGNATING BLOCK 261.01, LOTS 14, 15, 15.01, 15.02, 15.03, 16, 16.03 AND 16.04 ON THE TOWNSHIP TAX MAPS AS "AN AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT" WITHOUT THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW (NON-CONDEMNATION REDEVELOPMENT AREA)

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-109-2022 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA COMMITTEE SUPPORTING PARTICIPATION IN THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY MUNICIPAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-110-2022 RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT APPLICATION FUNDED BY ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-111-2022: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-112-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING TAX REFUNDS

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

R-113-2022: A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE APPLICATION & SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL AID FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR LOCAL AID FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SOUTH McCARTHY AVENUE #00514

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-114-2022: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REQUESTING THE APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE FOR 2019 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND APPROPRIATION (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87) OF THE SAME

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-115-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REQUESTING THE APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE FOR CLICK IT OR TICKET AND APPROPRIATION (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87) OF THE SAME

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-116-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AWARING A BID IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$559,800.00 TO ARAWAK PAVING CO., INC. FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS 2022 LOCAL ROAD PROGRAM

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-117-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLE TRACKING SYSTEMS WITH VERIZON CONNECT UTILIZING A NATIONAL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH SOURCEWELL

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-118-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH TRUVIEW BACKGROUND SCREENING SERVICES

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-119-2022: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND IN THE REDUCED AMOUNT OF \$115,363.80 FILED BY BRUCE PAPARONE INC, FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS COUNTRY GARDENS PHASE 4B

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

RESOLUTION R-120-2022: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND IN THE REDUCED AMOUNT OF \$42,530.40 FILED BY BRUCE PAPARONE INC, FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS COUNTRY GARDENS PHASE 3B

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All in Favor

Remarks from the Township Committee

Motion to Pay the Bills: Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. Committeeman Layton Abstained. All were in favor

Motion to Close: Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Layton. All were in favor

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela LeVine, Township Deputy Clerk