

Township of Mantua
Committee Meeting
November 22, 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, Mrs. Pamela LeVine, Deputy Township Clerk, Mr. James Pierson, Mr. deMers, Public Works Superintendent, Erika Covely, Engineer, Chief White

Approval of the October 17, 2022, committee meeting - Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge, Committeeman Layton abstained. All were in favor.

Engineering Report:

The Engineer noted that there was a pre-construction meeting for the reconstruction of Bergen Avenue and are waiting for approval from the NJDOT.

Mrs. Covely noted that the Montgomery Ave and police holding cells bids are in and are being reviewed by the solicitor. Once reviewed we are hopeful to get this on the December agenda. She mentioned that the bids are in for both The Chestnut Branch Bathrooms and Community Center Roof and are hoping to have these on the December agenda as well. Lastly, she noted that the Mercer Ave project has been discussed with the contractor and they have agreed to lower their price, and this should be taken care of shortly.

Department of Public Works Report:

Mr. deMers noted that the residual mulch that was donated by Smiths Orchards for the Veterans Memorial was used to remulch all of the Welcome to Mantua signs around town. All signs were cleaned. Glenn also mentioned that the department has completed three weeks of leaf collection and has been on every street within the township

Glenn noted that he has been in contact with H.A. Dehart regarding the new brush crane and at this time we are still on target to receive the truck in mid December. Glenn noted that there is brush still out and that the department is continuing to pick it up. In closing Glenn noted that the Public Works Convenience Center drop off is the 4th Saturday of each month between 10-2 p.m.

Committeeman Legge noted the he did notice the nice job that has been done on the welcome signs. Great job to the department. In addition he mentioned that the public works department does a great job on the brush as he has been told by various residents.

Police Department Report:

The Chief noted that the department is working with the County and the State to get the E-Ticketing up and running. They are waiting on the equipment that is needed.

Regarding the camera registry, the Chief discussed that the county has a camera registry in their CAD system that they are considering converting our data into. Darren mentioned that this combined with other towns in the county will allow for a quicker response time in gathering evidence.

In addition, the Chief noted that the department is working on the selection process to replace retired officers. The candidates took their written test this past Thursday. Darren went onto mention that Sgt. Jason Gerle signed off on October 28th Darren also mentioned that Patrolman Bruce Shaw was nominated as head rangemaster as this was a position formerly held by Sgt. Gerle.

Lt. Murphy is waiting on a report from the state police Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit on a recent walk around of JMT School for a security assessment that we previously requested. He walked around with them and was trained to conduct the assessments himself but needs the report to know more details on what to look for. Once received, he will be doing the remainder of our Mantua and Wenonah schools.

Committeewoman Lukens inquired as to what the new E-Ticketing was. The Chief explained that this will alleviate the officers handwriting the tickets as they will now be able to scan the driver's license right into he system that will be available for not only the police department but the county as well as the court system.

Committeeman Legge asked the Chief about the Heilig Road site triangle. The Chief noted that he spoke with the resident and provided them with what needed to be done. The resident then took ill, and the Chief has not heard back from them as of this meeting. Committeeman Legge inquired if there was a timeline when this can be completed. The chief noted that there is no timeline. Committeeman Legge also noted that he will revisit this at the next committee meeting for an update.

Public Participation:

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

Solicitor Pierson noted that the Township will be adhering to the 5-minute rule as noted in Resolution R-32-2022, to allow everyone to speak, He noted that any answers will be at the end and will be at the sole discretion of the Administration and Committee.

Tom Kiernan 216 Capital Dr. inquired as to why the GCL was not on the ballot for the residents to vote on. Mayor Scirrotto noted that it was not put on the ballot. He discussed that the committee represents 16, 000 residents. He also went on to say that it will be at least 5 years until we hear anything from the GCL with inflation this project will have to be paid back in bonds and areas such as that. He doesn't want people upset

until there is a reason to be. Mr. Kiernan asked where does the committee think the second rail line that they are saying will be needed will be placed?

Mike Campbell – 204 Union Ave – Mr. Campbell noted that he understands that they are moving forward with 3-5 years times. However, he asked that now should be the time that we as a town go on the record. He asked what is stopping the committee from putting this on the ballot so that all 16,000 residents can vote. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that the Township has no say. He also stated that the committee can not give advise on how to get this question on the ballot. Mr. Campbell stated that the residents need your help. He asked how do you the committee help us to have a larger say if we can't vote on this? Deputy Mayor Zimmerman advised that a resolution would not be binding. He noted that at each meeting the same questions are asked and answered. The governing body doesn't have a say in this project. Mr. Campbell asked again that the residents are asking for assistance with this.

Joe Alleva – 182 Cheyenne inquired as to why the courts are not in session and are still on Zoom. Administrator Bileci noted that this is not something that is decided at the local level. This is done at the state level. Mr. Alleva inquired as to who does he speak with to get this changed. Mrs. Bileci advised that this is not something we can change here at the local level.

Bill Crew – 121 E. Sussex Ave – Mr. Crew noted that he is concerned that when the GCL comes in his property values as well as the environment will be affected. He currently is dealing with the speeders going up-and-down Mantua Blvd. and then if the train comes through all the traffic and whistles. Mr. Crew also inquired if the committee is aware that the train will be coming within feet of the Chew cemetery.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that normally our meetings have very few residents that show up. Now there are many. Usually there is something that they are not happy about. People just don't come to these meetings with good news. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that again he will state that there is a huge misconception that the township can make a change to this project. He stated this this is not a township project. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman stated that there are over 16,000 residents in this town, the committee has a responsibility to all 16,000, not just the few that come to these meetings that say they are against the GCL and not just the few that say they are for it.

Solicitor Pierson noted again that the residents will be allotted their five minutes and it is up to the discretion of the committee whether they will respond or not.

Debbie Heston – 102 Norris Street – Mrs. Heston noted that she feels that the GCL is a terrible idea. If a resolution in 2009 was passed, then why can't one be done now. It just doesn't make sense.

Charles Hughes - 31 N. Child St., Woodbury – Mr. Hughes mentioned that there was an informational meeting in Wenonah. Mr. Hughes went on to say that there was a ballot question recently in Wenonah and it was “do you support the train?” and “Do you support a station?”

In 2016 the studies showed that 58% said they don't want the train or the stations. At the last information session, it was noted that 73% said no to the train and that 63% said no

to the stations. Mr. Hughes went onto note that Wenonah doesn't support the GCL nor does Pitman. He feels that the committee is being disingenuous if they don't acknowledge a way to see how the people feel.

Mr. Hughes noted that the township only needs 10 % of the voters to sign a petition and it will get put on the ballot. This is something that should be done.

Anna Janda – 506 Lestershire – Ms. Janda noted that in 1996 a resolution was done by the people against the train. In 2009 Mayor Scirrotto and Deputy Mayor Zimmerman put forth a resolution for the people of the town that changed this. How did this happen except for the fact that it was done for Mr. Sweeney. We come to all these meetings and ask you the committee to put a resolution out there opposed to the GCL. May you will see that there are more than half against this. Ms. Janda asked for a resolution to be done.

Tony Alvario – 522 Delaware St., Woodbury – Mr. Alvario noted that the GCL is not going away. He noted that there will be an informational meeting in Mantua in the near future. He asked the committee will they follow the will of the people as they did in Wenonah. Please put a question on the ballot so that the people will vote and then maybe this will end.

Courtney Bracken – 161 Sussex – Ms. Bracken noted that she is bearing a lot of people who are for and who are against the GCL. This is something that has been going for years. Maybe the committee should let the community members know where they stand. She asked the committee to respond to her question. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that they would take it under advisement.

Joe Hetzel – Millville – Mr. Hetzel noted that there are only 2 people here who have ever voted on the GCL. Once done in 1996 and then again in 2009. The public won't know because they won't put it on the ballot. No one wants two stations here. It should be the will of the people. Put it on the ballot. If the GCL does go through the traffic on Tyler's Mill Rd and Center Street will be put a halt to anything moving or it will re-route itself to Main Street. By not putting it on the ballot you are denying the people of a vote. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that at each meeting we hear about doing a resolution. If there are 1500 voters and we receive it, then it will get on the ballot. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman continued to note that at each of these meetings he hears "We the People" Please advise who we the people are. He noted that he has a personal opinion to the GCL. People that come to the meetings are usually here because they have a problem. He noted that he continually states that this is not a township project, and that the township committee has not say about the GCL. Deputy Mayor Zimmerman also noted that the 2009 resolutions states: "does hereby endorse the extension of the Light Rail System into Gloucester County, as well as Bus Rapid Transit service along with other transit improvements provided for the DRPA preferred alternative plan". Deputy Mayor Zimmerman noted that all of this will be taken under advisement.

Chris Toal – 206 W. Union Ave – Ms. Toal noted that it appears there is mass confusion with the timeline in addition to everyone having the same questions with no definitive answers. Would it be possible for the committee to put an FAQ with both questions and answers that could be accessed by the residents. This would make the committee and the township more transparent. Maybe a newsletter, this way it would benefit all 16,000 residents.

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

RESOLUTION R-188-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA FORMALIZING EXCUSAL OF COMMITTEEMAN LAYTON'S ABSENCE FROM TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON AUGUST 15, 2022, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022, AND OCTOBER 17, 2022

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor – Committeeman Layton Abstained

RESOLUTION R-169-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE PROMOTION OF SERGEANT DREW HAYES TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor– Committeeman Layton Abstained

Mayor Scirrotto swore in Lieutenant Drew Hayes

RESOLUTION R-170-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE PROMOTION OF CORPORAL WILLIAM DONOVAN TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor– Committeeman Layton Abstained

Mayor Scirrotto swore in Sergeant William Donovan

RESOLUTION R-171-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE PROMOTION OF CORPORAL CODY MROZ TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor– Committeeman Layton Abstained

Mayor Scirrotto swore in Sergeant Cody Mroz

RESOLUTION R-172-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE PROMOTION OF PATROLMAN JESSE BAIR TO THE RANK OF CORPORAL WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor– Committeeman Layton Abstained

Mayor Scirrotto swore in Corporal Jesse Bair

RESOLUTION R-189-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE PROMOTION OF CORPORAL JEFFREY KREIGER TO THE RANK OF CORPORAL WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor-- Committeeman Layton Abstained

Mayor Scirrotto swore in Corporal Jeffrey Kreiger

ORDINANCE 10-2022: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE IN FRONT OF THE RESIDENCE 29 ARBOUR LANE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 39:4-197.6 AND 39:4-138.6

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to open; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion to close it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

ORDINANCE 11-2022:AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 182 THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE UNIFORM FIRE CODE

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-173-2022 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REQUESTING THE APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000.00

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-174-2022 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REQUESTING THE APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-175-2022: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REQUESTING THE APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF

REVENUE FOR 2022 DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER GRANT AND APPROPRIATION (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87) OF THE SAME

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-176-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF REMAINING PROFESSIONAL ESCROW FUNDS

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-177-2022 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AWARDING A CONTRACT TO MIKE'S HARDSCAPES TO PROVIDE THE HOLIDAY LIGHTING AT MCCARSON PARK AND CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK FOR THE 2022 HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AT CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-178-2022 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-179-2022 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING TECHNOLOGY RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARDS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL EXCESS LIABILITY JOINT INSURANCE FUND'S CYBER RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN'S TIER TWO REQUIREMENTS

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-180-2022 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING TECHNOLOGY RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARDS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL EXCESS LIABILITY JOINT INSURANCE FUND'S CYBER RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN'S TIER THREE REQUIREMENTS

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-181-2022: RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF JASON GERLE'S RETIREMENT AND HIS SERVICE WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-182-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA EXECUTING A HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT WITH JASON GERLE FOR THE RELEASE OF HIS TOWNSHIP ISSUED SERVICE FIREARM

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-183-2022: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING TAX REFUNDS

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-184-2022: RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING MECHANICS LIEN ON REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA KNOWN AS 30-32 MANTUA BLVD., FOR MAINTENANCE WORK AUTHORIZED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-185-2022: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLING OF THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTER 2022 TAXES AND FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS, 2023 TAXES FOR A TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN FOR BLOCK 146.16 LOT 46, 85 CANDLEWOOD DR., MANTUA, NJ 08051

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-186-2022: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS 2022 LOCAL ROAD PROGRAM

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman made a motion; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

RESOLUTION R-187-2022: 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; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor

Remarks from the Township Committee

Committeeman Legge congratulated by Pete & Eileen on the election. He also mentioned that it was great to see the officers receive their promotions. Committeeman Legge went on to note that due to the inclement weather the Veterans Day ceremony was held inside the and was very crowded. Committeeman Legge wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Deputy Mayor Zimmerman wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded everyone that the Winter Festival is December 1st at 5:00 pm.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela LeVine, Township Deputy Clerk