

Township of Mantua  
Committee Meeting  
August 14, 2023  
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 Zimmerman called the meeting to order. The time was 6:00 p.m. Mayor Zimmerman asked everyone to rise for the Flag Salute and remain standing to observe a moment of silence.

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

Roll Call: Pamela LeVine, Township Deputy Clerk, Committeeman Layton, Committeeman Legge, Committeewoman Lukens, Mayor Zimmerman, Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, Mrs. Jennica Bileci, Township Administrator, Mrs. Pamela LeVine, Deputy Township Clerk, Mr. Stuart Platt, Solicitor, Mr. deMers, Public Works Superintendent, Erika Covely, Engineer, Chief White

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a moment of silence for Lt. Bill Murphy whose father recently passed away as well as Leah Clemenson who is also an employee here whose brother passed away who was only 13 years old..

**Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of the July 10, 2023, minutes.

Motion to approve: Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge, Committeewoman Lukens Abstained.

Roll Call Vote: 4 yes votes.

**Engineering Report:**

Mrs. Covely noted that the reconstruction of East Mercer is now working on closing out this project and getting a punch list together. She also mentioned that the reconstruction of Bergen Ave is completed, and they are working on closing out this project with the NJDOT. In closing Mrs. Covely noted that the Reconstruction of S. McCarthy is also being worked on to close out the project with the NJDOT.

**Department of Public Works Report:**

Glenn noted that the department has finally received the new brush crane and that it was detailed with the Township logo and lettering and is out picking up brush. Glenn also mentioned that unfortunately, they are still waiting on the new rear loader and at this time there is no update and we are still waiting on the manufacturer. Glenn discussed that the department was able to help Sewell Raildogs with their driveway and parking lot and that they regraded and added millings to both areas. Glenn reminded the public that the Public Works Convenience Center drop off will be open each Saturday through Labor Day between 10-2 p.m.

**Police Department Report:**

The Chief noted that there has been an uptick across the country of motor vehicle thefts. He discussed that one of the best ways to avoid becoming a victim is to lock your doors. In addition to the motor vehicle thefts, the chief discussed that in conjunction with other agencies, the detective bureau made an arrest for a carjacking incident that occurred several weeks ago. They are working very hard every day on self-initiated activities and reported incidents.

Pursuant to Resolution R-32-2023, there is a time limit of five (5) minutes per person. Mayor Zimmerman discussed the new rules of the public session.

**Public Participation:**

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

Josei Ladd – Ms. Ladd note that the entire room just recited the Pledge of Allegiance. She then went on to talk about the Flag of honor that is hanging in the municipal building and that she would like a wireless light to be put over the framework so that everyone is able to see and read this. She noted that we are all New Jersians, Gloucester County people, Mantua people.

Charles Hughes – 31 N. Child Street, Woodbury – Mr. Hughes noted that he wanted to note that Resolution R-138-2023 which is on this evening's agenda to add the question to the ballot about the GCL. Mr. Hughes thanked Jennica for validating the signature as there were over 1400 of them and is looking forward to the outcome in November.

Tony Alavario – 522 Delaware St., Woodbury – Mr. Alavario noted the GCL is about everyone, and this one issue has married us all together. He noted that the people outside of the Sewell area are concerned about the GCL as he has been walking the township for the past 4 ½ months and he has heard what their concerns are. He wanted to thank the committee for all their help and noted that Mantua has some very nice residents.

Danielle Ancona – 13 Willingboro Rd., Sewell, came to address the committee about the matter of backyard hens. She noted that they started an online petition for the committee to review and to see what can be done about this matter. Mayor Zimmerman noted that the ordinance has been in place for many years and that he has reached out to some of the surrounding towns to see how they handle this type of matter. He noted that each township handles it differently. In addition, he noted that nothing will be changed quickly but that he will be discussing this with the other committee members as well as the solicitor to see what we can do about this matter.

David Gherig – 24 Rosewood – Mr. Gherig discussed the large increase in his taxes and how can the township justify these increases. Mayor Zimmerman noted that the Administrator as well as our auditors are here to answer any questions that the residents may have. Mayor Zimmermann went onto discuss that for the years 2021 and 2022 there was no increase to the taxes and although the taxes may appear to have gone up this year, there is no fluff in the municipal budget. The Township is only 20% of the increase. The remaining areas are the schools, county, open space, and fire districts. Administrator Bileci noted that the residents who feel their increase is an issue should contact the county tax assessor's office and speak with them about how they came to the numbers. Deputy Mayor

Scirrotto noted that anyone who qualifies for the Anchor program as well as the property tax freeze should apply as this will help them offset some of the costs to this increase.

Daniel Marachowski – 39 East Crimson Court, Sewell – Mr. Marachowski noted that he is a retired bank executive and his taxes increased 22 percent. He inquired if there could have been a phase in for the increase from year to year. Administrator Bileci noted that the revaluation is a statutory requirement and unfortunately there was no choice.

Anna Janda – 506 Lestershire Dr. Sewell – Ms. Janda thanked Danielle for speaking about the chickens in the neighborhood. Ms. Janda noted that things need to change with the rules as they are antiquated and the chickens in this case are a part of people's lives. She also mentioned that the township has bigger problems than chickens. Ms. Janda wanted to commend the police department for dealing with the people who are stealing the catalytic converters. This happened in her neighborhood and Ms. Janda felt that the police officers were very professional.

Joseph Kumpel – 135 Carriage Hill Circle – Mr. Kumpel came to speak with committee regarding a matter that was discussed at a previous time. He noted that he is looking forward to working with both the committee and the solicitor to rectify the matter.

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

ORDINANCE O-11-2023: BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS PIECES OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$1,460,000 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 \$1,213,250; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

Motion to open to the public was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge. No one wished to speak.

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge

Roll Call Vote: All were in favor.

ORDINANCE O-12-2023: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$209,926.00 TO BE USED FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF BERGEN AVENUE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Motion to open to the public was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge. No one wished to speak.

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge

Roll Call Vote: All were in favor.

ORDINANCE O-13-2023: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$147,000.00 TO BE USED FOR THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Motion to open to the public was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2nd Committeeman Legge. No one wished to speak.

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge

Roll Call Vote: All were in favor.

ORDINANCE O-14-2023: ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE PRIVATE SALE OF CERTAIN MANTUA TOWNSHIP OWNED PROPERTY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b)

Motion to introduce was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2nd Committeeman Legge. Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge

Roll Call Vote: All were in favor.

RESOLUTION R-124-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE HIRING OF MATTHEW GERMSCHIED TO THE RANK OF PATROL OFFICER 8<sup>TH</sup> CLASS WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call. Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge. Roll Call Vote: All were in favor.

Chief White read some words about Officer Matthew Germscheid.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto swore in Patrol Officer Matthew Germscheid

RESOLUTION R-125-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE HIRING OF JOSEPH CRAIG TO THE RANK OF PATROL OFFICER 6<sup>th</sup> CLASS WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call. Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge. Roll Call Vote: All were in favor.

Chief White read some words about Officer Joseph Craig.

Deputy Mayor swore in Patrol Officer Joseph Craig

RESOLUTION R-126-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE HIRING OF JACOB

JOWETT TO THE RANK OF PATROL OFFICER 8<sup>TH</sup> CLASS WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call. Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge. Roll Call Vote: All were in favor.

Chief White read some words about Officer Jacob Jowett.

Mayor Zimmerman swore in Patrol Officer Joseph Craig

RESOLUTION R-127-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE HIRING OF ARTHUR ETTORE TO THE RANK OF PATROL OFFICER 8<sup>TH</sup> CLASS WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call. Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge. Roll Call Vote: All were in favor.

Chief White read some words about Officer Ettore.

Mayor Zimmerman swore in Patrol Officer Arthur Ettore

RESOLUTION R-128-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE PROMOTION OF ROBERT LAYTON TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call. Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge. Committeeman Layton Abstained. Roll Call Vote: 4 were in favor.

Chief White read some words about Officer Layton.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto swore in Sergeant Robert Layton

RESOLUTION R-129-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE PROMOTION OF BRUCE SHAWN TO THE RANK OF CORPORAL WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call. Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge. Roll Call Vote: All were in favor.

Chief White read some words about Officer Shawn.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto swore in Corporal Bruce Shaw

RESOLUTION R-130-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE PROMOTION OF STEPHEN

WOLFSGRUBER TO THE RANK OF CORPORAL WITH THE MANTUA  
TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call. Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge. Roll Call Vote: All were in favor.

Chief White read some words about Officer Wolfsgruber.

Mayor Zimmerman swore in Corporal Stephen Wolfsgruber

***Resolution No. 131-2023 through No 138-2023 are considered to be routine by the  
Township Committee and will be acted upon in one motion. There will be no separate  
discussion of these items unless a Township Committee member so requests. In this  
event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in the normal  
sequence of the agenda.***

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a Motion to authorize Consent Agenda  
Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call. Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Committeeman Legge. Roll Call Vote: All were in favor.

RESOLUTION R-131-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
EXTENDING THE TAX DUE DATE FOR THE THIRD QUARTER 2023 PROPERTY  
TAXES

RESOLUTION R-132-2023: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
MANTUA TOWNSHIP LAND USE BOARD

RESOLUTION R-133-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF COMMITTEE  
PROMOTING ED HOLLINGSWORTH TO THE PARK FORMAN

RESOLUTION R-134-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF  
REMAINING PROFESSIONAL ESCROW FUNDS

RESOLUTION R-135-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH BRYSON  
& YATES FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR  
THE RESURFACING OF WEST MERCER AVENUE PROJECT

RESOLUTION R-136-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA  
AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT AWARD TO A STATE CONTRACT VENDOR,  
ASPHALT PAVING SYSTEMS, HAMMONTON, NJ FOR THE 2023 LOCAL ROAD  
PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000.00

RESOLUTION R-137-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICE  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP AND MANTUA TOWNSHIP BOARD  
OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS DURING THE  
ENTIRE SCHOOL DAY FOR THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION R-138-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING PLACEMENT OF A NON-BINDING REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023, GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT REGARDING THE GLASSBORO-CAMDEN LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

**Remarks from Township Committee:**

Committeeman Layton noted that the promotional process that occurred this evening is the reason that we get involved. This is a great group of new officers.

Committeewoman Lukens echoed off Committeeman Layton that this township has a first-class police department and commends them all on their dedication.

Committeeman Legge also echoed Shawn & Eileen that this was an awesome night, and it makes people feel good. Congrats to all the new officers as well as those that were promoted. Committeeman Legge also noted that regarding Resolution R-138-2023 if the solicitor and the Administrator would please put what “non-binding” means out on social media so that everyone is aware of the definition and how it works. Committeeman Legge also mentioned that he would very much like to discuss the chicken matter to see what can be done. John mentioned that the VFW walk would happen on October 1, 2023, he asked if the other committee members would please consider participating.

Mayor Zimmerman mentioned that the 9/11 ceremony will be at Chestnut Branch Park beginning at 8:30. He also noted that there will be a senior dinner at the community center on October 24, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Mayor Zimmerman wished Deputy Mayor Scirrotto a Happy Birthday as this was a milestone and he has committed himself to 30 plus years of service to this township and the residents.

**Remarks from Township Solicitor:**

Solicitor Platt noted that regarding Resolution R-138-2023 regarding the GCL, he wanted to note that he received emails from residents asking for their names to be removed from the petition as they felt that it didn't affect them.

**Remarks from Township Administrator:**

Administrator Bileci discussed that if anyone has any questions regarding the reassessment, that they should feel free to contact her or come in and sit down with her to further discuss the matter.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve the bill list; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. Committeeman Layton Abstained. All were in favor.

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Pamela LeVine

Township Deputy Clerk