

Township of Mantua  
Committee Meeting  
February 13, 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.

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

Approval of the December 11, 2022, and January 2, 2023, committee meeting minutes. Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to adopt; it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge, all were in favor

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Layton, Mrs. Lukens, Mr. Legge, approved the December 11, 2022, meeting, abstained from the January 2, 2023, meeting. Mr. Scirrotto, Mayor Zimmerman

**Proclamation:** Mayor Zimmerman noted that he presented a proclamation to George Gaughan who is a long-time resident of the Township and has been living with heart disease. Mayor Zimmerman noted that he himself had to have open heart surgery at the age of 46 and he feels it is important to remind everyone to get checked out. Mayor Zimmerman went on to read the statistics of having heart disease.

**Engineering Report:**

Mrs. Covely noted that there are three projects being worked on at this time. The Chestnut Branch Park phase 2 bathrooms, the Senior Center roof project and the Police Department holding cell project. Mrs. Covely noted that the Police Holding Cell project is almost completed.

**Department of Public Works Report:**

Glenn mentioned that he received an email updating the status of the new brush crane. He mentioned that we can expect a completion date of the end of March beginning of April. Glenn also noted that the GCUA has reached out to regarding the Chestnut Branch Creek having large trees in the creek near the sanitary sewer lines. They have asked for us to address this. Glenn stated that he will take a look at it and see what we can do as soon as he has men available. Glenn notate that at this time, the brush crane is out everyday as the weather has been cooperating. In closing Glenn noted that the Public Works Convenience

Center drop off is now back to its normal schedule of the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month between 10-2 p.m.

Committeeman Legge asked about where the trees in the creek were. Glenn advised that there is one between Lambs Road off of Tyler Lake Road, and that there are three between Burlington and Mantua Blvd.

**Police Department Report:**

Chief White noted that the new ambulance will be out this week in front of the various schools within the various towns. This will be used to show police presence at the school in hopes that it is a deterrent. The Chief also noted that everyone should keep their vehicles locked as there are a lot of catalytic converter thefts going on. Apparently, it is a very simple thing to remove, and they are very quick to do it. The department has just hired additional Class I officers who will begin training by the end of the month. The chief noted that they are preparing a new test to allow more people to be able to sit for the exam.

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.

Deb Baldassarre – 522 Main Street – Ms. Baldassarre inquired about the renovations at Chestnut Branch Park as well as the Community center. Mrs. Bileci note that the renovations are being done through a Community Development Grant and should be completed within 60 days' time.

Charles Hughes – Mr. Hughes noted that resolutions that had been done in previous years. He also noted that there were written questions sent to the state about the 2020 environmental study. Mr. Hughes then went on to read a statement made by Committeeman Legge at the Zoom meeting that was had regarding the noise that the GCL would create. Mr. Hughes then inquired about the committee moving forward with the ballot questions.

Mayor Zimmerman responded about the ballot question. He noted that the committee wants the view of the residents as they are the people who have these concerns. A ballot question would show what the people want. Mayor Zimmerman went on to note that the signatures needed based on the 2022 voter registration as told to him by the Superintendent of Elections is 10 % of the registered voters totally 1,242, Should the signatures be received, they would be due to the county clerk no later than 9/1/23. There will be no resolution done regardless of the signatures are received. Mayor Zimmerman went on to state the committee represents the people, and we represent 16,000 residents. This project is coming from a high authority than our committee.

Tony Alavario – 522 Delaware Street – Discussed that Mantua & Woodbury have the same things in common about the GCL. Mr. Alavario noted that point #5 in his handout that he previously gave to committee is about the hazardous material that will end up in our water's way including the water we drink. Mr. Alavario did an experiment with a rock that he shared with everyone.

William Crew – 121 E. Sussex – Mr. Crew inquired of the committee that the question that has been asked of committee has never been answered regarding the committee doing a resolution. Mr. Crew also noted that the committee has done previous resolutions and never asked the residents about what they wanted. Mayor Zimmerman noted that Mr. Platt will be answering on his behalf. Solicitor Platt asked Mr. Crew to have a seat and noted that the Township committee has thought about this for a long time and made a policy decision with respect to this issue and per the Mayor they are not going to rehash this over and over.

Anna Janda – 506 Lestershire - Ms. Janda wanted to clarify that the original resolution as well as the one revised in 2009 was done and adopted without the public or residents involvement. She noted that she has been coming to the meetings for months with no resolution. Ms. Janda noted that the public needs to vote on what they want. She also noted the frustration between the people and the committee on this subject and no one on the committee can do anything. Ms. Janda went on to state the people will go out and get the necessary petitioners but noted that the current committee noted that this would be non-binding. In addition, she commented that she will also take the necessary steps to gather a petition to remove people from office. She advised that the township needs people who are willing to at least try to do something. This is their only option.

Gregory Shast – 39 Silvercreek – Mr. Shast asked the gentlemen in the audience to please not video tape him as he had not given any permission to have this done. Solicitor Platt noted that this is a public meeting and that anyone can video and/or record a public meeting. Mr. Shast went on to say that he is a senior who has a hard time hearing and would appreciate the township putting in a better sound system so that people in the back of the room are able to hear what is being said.

Josie Ladd – 124 Carriage Hill Circle – Ms. Ladd thanked the committee for recognizing heart month as it is important to remind people. She also gave some recommendations to the public as a former nurse on what to do if you think you are in trouble with both your heart and/or choking. Ms. Ladd went onto note that the information on various items comes from many sources and has a lot of gratitude for Mr. Hughes regarding the GCL. In closing Ms. Ladd thanked the committee for the proper way to speak at a public meeting.

Mayor Zimmerman commented that the idea to put the question on the ballot about the GCL came from the people at a previous meeting. He noted that they should get the signatures so that it can get on the ballot to allow the people of the township to cast their vote.

ORDINANCE O-1-2023:AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
MANTUA AMENDING CHAPTER 217 “HOUSING STANDARDS” OF THE CODE  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

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

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Layton, Mrs. Lukens, Mr. Legge, Mr. Scirrotto, Mayor Zimmerman

RESOLUTION R-38-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE HIRING OF THOMAS CIRONE TO THE RANK OF PATROL OFFICER WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief White presented a background history of Thomas Cirone for the public.

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

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Layton, Mrs. Lukens, Mr. Legge, Mr. Scirrotto, Mayor Zimmerman

Mayor Zimmerman swore in Patrol Officer Thomas Cirone.

RESOLUTION R-39-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE HIRING OF GREGORY SWEENEY JR TO THE RANK OF PATROL OFFICER WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief White presented a background history of Gregory Sweeney, Jr. for the public.

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

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Layton, Mrs. Lukens, Mr. Legge, Mr. Scirrotto, Mayor Zimmerman

Mayor Zimmerman swore in Patrol Officer Gregory Sweeney, Jr.

Mayor Zimmerman noted that Resolution No. 40-2023 through Resolution No. 59-2023 are considered routine business 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 consented agenda and considered in the normal sequence of the agenda.

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

RESOLUTION R-40-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA EXECUTING A MUTUAL AID ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTICIPATING UNITS

RESOLUTION R-41-2023: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WITHDRAWAL FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

RESOLUTION R- 42-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE ACCEPTING THE 2021 MUNICIPAL AUDIT REPORT AND AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF THE GROUP AFFIDAVIT FORM

RESOLUTION R-43-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL OPRA COUNSEL FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

RESOLUTION R- 44-2023: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2023 SAFETY CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AND THE GLOUCESTER, SALEM, CUMBERLAND COUNTIES MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND AND AUTHORIZING THE SIGNATURES OF THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP SAFETY COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

RESOLUTION R-45-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPOINTING JENNICA BILECI AS THE FUND COMMISSIONER TO THE SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY REGIONAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

RESOLUTION R-46-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING A PETTY CASH FUND

RESOLUTION R-47-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPOINTING TARA IANNAcone TO THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH COMMISSION

RESOLUTION R-48-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION FOR THE FY 2023 LOCAL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT (LRIG) APPLICATION FUNDED BY THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

RESOLUTION R-49-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AND THE BOROUGH OF WENONAH FOR UNIFORM FIRE OFFICIAL SERVICES

RESOLUTION R-50-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AND THE BOROUGH OF WENONAH FOR CONSTRUCTION CODE AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE SERVICES

RESOLUTION R- 51-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS FY 2021 RECONSTRUCTION OF EAST MERCER AVENUE

RESOLUTION R- 52-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS MONTGOMERY AVE STORM SEWER

RESOLUTION R- 53-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS REPLACEMENT OF BATHROOMS AT CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK

RESOLUTION R- 54-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS REPLACEMENT OF BATHROOMS AT CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK PHASE 2

RESOLUTION R-55-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA CANCELLING TAXES FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 16 LOT 8 189 JACKSON ROAD, MANTUA, FOR THE PRORATED FIRST QUARTER, 2023

RESOLUTION R 56-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING TAX REFUNDS

RESOLUTION R-57-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPOINTING SCOTT HELLERMAN AS PARK DIRECTOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

RESOLUTION R-58-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPOINTING VARIOUS MEMBERS TO THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP LAND USE BOARD

RESOLUTION R-59-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA RE-APPOINTING MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS FOR THE MANTUA JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT

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

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Layton, Mrs. Lukens, Mr. Legge, Mr. Scirrotto, Mayor Zimmerman

**Remarks from the Township Solicitor:**

Mr. Platt had no remarks.

**Remarks from the Township Administrator:**

Mrs. Bileci had no remarks.

**Remarks from the Township Committee:**

There were no remarks from Township Committee.

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

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Layton, Mrs. Lukens, Mr. Legge, Mr. Scirrotto, Mayor Zimmerman

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to adjourn; 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,



Pamela LeVine, Township Deputy Clerk