

Township of Mantua  
Committee Meeting  
July 10, 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 - Absent, 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 the firemen that lost their lives in North Jersey as well as Mr. Hughes from Mantua who recently passed and was a pillar in the community.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of the June 12, 2023, minutes.

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

Roll Call Vote: 4 yes votes.

**Engineering Report:**

Mrs. Covely noted that application has been made for the 2024 Local Aid for McCarthy Ave. She also noted that the Montgomery and Bergen Ave projects have been completed. Erika noted that the 2023 Reconstruction of South McCarthy has been awarded and the plans and specification should be ready shortly and then it will be sent up to NJDOT for approval.

**Department of Public Works Report:**

Mr. deMers noted that having a bulk week on a Tuesday did create some challenging issues, however we were able to get everything picked up in a timely manner with little to no overtime. The guys did a great job. Glenn also noted that the department is in the process of trimming back all the trees and bushes within the municipal complex and are half way there. In addition, we will be getting rid of the tree stump in the front of the municipal building. This tree had to be removed as it was dead and infested with giant ants through the trunk. We are also working with the park department to remove stumps there as well. Glenn discussed that the Public Works Convenience Center drop off will be open each Saturday through Labor Day between 10-2 p.m. Committeeman Layton inquired of Glenn about the status of the brush crane, Glenn noted that he has been in

touch with the dealer and it is still in the process of being prepped. Mayor Zimmerman commended the staff for working so diligently and that the municipal complex looks much better. He asked that Glenn please relay this message to the employees.

**Police Department Report:**

Chief White noted that officers have responded to several shopliftings at the Kohls and Home Depot complex recently and that shoplifting has been a real issue recently. The Chief also mentioned that the detective bureau is working with the NJ Auto Theft Task force on multiple recent thefts. Darren went on to note that patrolman Wolfsgruber has made numerous non-marijuana related drug arrests recently and that the Class 1 officers are doing a great job. We are trying to move them on from just parking enforcement to some other traffic-related or minor criminal/ordinance offenses. In closing Daren noted to the public to please lock your car doors. If they can't get into the vehicle, this will alleviate aggravation for both you the resident as well as the police department. Mayor Zimmerman inquired if there is a policy in place for the officers that work the traffic such as the project on Mantua Blvd. Chief White advised that there is no written policy, and it would depend on what the contractor hired the department to do. He will look into this. Committeeman Legge noted that the construction on Mantua Blvd. has been managed poorly especially with a police presence and controlling of the traffic. He noted that people are turning around in driveways as well as just turning around in the middle of Mantua Blvd. He asked the Chief if he would please see if there could be a flagger and/or something that would help this situation. Mayor Zimmerman commended the person at the police department who is handling their social media. He thanked the department for being proactive with their crime log as well.

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.

**Janet Walters – 1303 Tristram Circle**

Ms. Walters discussed that the HOA at the Villages of Berkley where she resides is not working with the residents there. She also noted that the buildings are in need of repair and that they are not getting answers from their HOA nor the board members. She is asking for the Townships help. Mayor Zimmerman received an email regarding this matter about a month ago. He noted that he doesn't think that the Township has a place to be involved with this type of matter however, he advised that Ms. Walters should get in touch with Administrator Bileci and that she will see what can be done. Solicitor Platt also noted that there is an elected Board for their HOA and that the township cannot get directly involved, however, he noted that he would have some suggestions if you feel that your board is acting irresponsible.

**Philip Hagerty – 52 West Street, Woodbury**

Mr. Hagerty noted that he is a resident of Woodbury and noted that everyone here is affected by the GCL. Mr. Hagerty advised that he is looking forward to working with everyone within all the towns. He also noted that there have been developers looking in Woodbury to build large developments. He feels that this should happen and will be amazing for the town. He also noted that there have been huge strides with both Rowan

and Cooper Hospital that have been made. In addition, Mr. Hagerty noted that with the GCL coming this could help the economic development of all the towns.

**Bill Crew – 121 Sussex Ave.**

Mr. Crew noted that the work being done on Mantua Blvd is creating many traffic issues. He would like for the police to be present while this roadwork is going on. In addition, Mr. Crew noted that with the GCL coming, this will definitely be bringing in more shoplifting and things of that nature into the various towns.

ORDINANCE 0-8-2023: AN ORDINANCE BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL AND REPLACE CHAPTER 188; TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Zimmerman read the Ordinance and stated that this was an adoption and that there will be a public portion.

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. Committeeman Layton Abstained.

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

Roll Call Vote: 4 were in favor.

ORDINANCE 9-2023: AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

Mayor Zimmerman read the Ordinance and stated that this was an adoption and that there will be a public portion.

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 in favor.

ORDINANCE O-10-2023: 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 2023

Mayor Zimmerman read the Ordinance and stated that this was an adoption and that there will be a public portion.

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. Committeeman Layton Abstained.

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

Roll Call Vote: All 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

Mayor Zimmerman read the Ordinance and stated that this was an introduction.

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call.

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

Roll Call Vote: All in favor.

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

Mayor Zimmerman read the Ordinance and stated that this was an introduction.

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call.

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

Roll Call Vote: All 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

Mayor Zimmerman read the Ordinance and stated that this was an introduction.

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a roll call.

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

Roll Call Vote: All in favor.

Administrator Bileci presented the 2023 budget.

Mayor Zimmerman thanked both Jennica as well Mr. Welding from Bowman & Co. for all their help with the budget. The mayor also noted that there is no fluff in this budget other than contractual obligations. He also mentioned that Committeeman Legge was very helpful as was all the committee people in trying to do the best they can to get this budget completed.

***Resolution No. 113-2023 through No 123-2023 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.***

RESOLUTION R-113-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING THE BUDGET TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

RESOLUTION R-97-2023: **Public Hearing** - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Zimmerman read the Resolution and stated that this was a public hearing and that any person wishing to speak should only be discussing the budget at this time. Motion to open to the public was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2nd Committeeman Legge.

**Gregg Shast – 39 Silvercreek Dr.**

Mr. Shast thanked the committee for the past 11 years that he has resided in Mantua for keeping the budget in line. He also inquired as to how the committee is going to deal with the increase to the state health benefits that has been inflicted on the township, thus the taxpayers. Administrator Bileci noted that the township does not have the state health benefit plan and that the plan that we do have only increased by 5% where the state plan increased 25%. Mr. Shast also noted that the new assessments that were done during a real estate bubble will impact the township and its residents. He noted that the budget noted it went up 46%, his thoughts are that this only has a benefit to those that are selling their homes. Mayor Zimmerman noted that the assessment is done by statute every 10 years and that the township was able to hold off doing theirs for 12 years.

RESOLUTION R-114-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING A REFUND FOR A PAVILION RENTAL IN CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK

RESOLUTION R-115-2023: RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR STORM RECOVERY TRUST FUND REQUIRED BY PL2013, C.271 AND NJSA 40A: 4-62.1

RESOLUTION R-116-2023: RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR ACCUMULATED ABSENCES LIABILITY TRUST FUND REQUIRED BY NJAC 5:30-15

RESOLUTION R-117-2023: RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE APPLICATION & SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL AID FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR LOCAL AID FOR THE RESURFACING OF MCCARTHY AVENUE #00613

RESOLUTION R-118-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING A SOLAR PERMIT FEE (PERMIT #22300022) BE REFUNDED FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 282 LANSING DR., MANTUA NJ IN THE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$380.00

RESOLUTION R-119-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING A SOLAR PERMIT FEE (PERMIT #223000184) BE

REFUNDED FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 42 CRESCENT HOLLOW DR.,  
MANTUA NJ IN THE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$380.00

RESOLUTION R-120-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING TAX REFUNDS

RESOLUTION R-121-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REFUNDING TAXES FOR 641 FRANKFORT AVE., MANTUA, NJ IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$1,362.76 FOR OVERPAYMENT

RESOLUTION R-122-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 FOR  
THE PROJECT KNOWN AS MONTGOMERY DRIVE STORM SEWER  
IMPROVEMENTS

RESOLUTION R-123-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE  
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER CAPITAL TRANSIT INVESTMENT PLAN FOR THE  
PURCHASE OF A NEW SENIOR BUS

Mayor Zimmerman asked for a motion to adopt Motion to adopt resolutions R113-2023  
through R-123-2023

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion, 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: 4 were in favor.

**Remarks from Township Committee:**

Committeeman Legge thanked Jennica as well as all the staff and Mr. Welding for  
doing a great job. He understands that this is not an easy task and a job well done.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto agreed with Committeeman Legge that a job well done  
by everyone. He wished everyone to have a safe and happy summer.

Mayor Zimmerman reminded everyone that there is a blood drive at the township  
tomorrow from 9:00 am – 7:00 pm. Please come out and donate.

**Remarks from Township Administrator:**

No Remarks

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