

Township of Mantua  
Committee Meeting  
May 8, 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 – Arrived at 6:50 pm, Committeewoman Lukens, Mayor Zimmerman, Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, Mrs. Jennica Bileci, Township Administrator, Mrs. Pamela LeVine, Deputy Township Clerk- Absent, Mr. Justin Stausser, Solicitor, Mr. deMers, Public Works Superintendent, Erika Covely, Engineer, Chief White

**Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of the April 10, 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 the Bergen Ave project has been completed and that a punch list is being put together for the vendor to complete. Erika also mentioned that the 2023 NJDOT project for S. McCarthy has been sent to the state and we are waiting on an approval from them.. Erika noted that the on-call paving company bid that is scheduled for this Wednesday at 10:00 Lastly, Erika mentioned that she will be setting up a meeting the Jennica and Jon to further discuss the road program.

**Department of Public Works Report:**

Mr. deMers noted that the department has posted the available position for a Class 2 laborer. The posting will be up until May 15, 2023. We are setting up interviews at this time. Glenn also mentioned that the Township has received the Stormwater Assistance Grant from the State in the amount of \$25,000. This grant will off set costs that have been established by the new 2023 renewal stormwater management plan by the DEP, and that he has reached out to the engineer to set up a time to further discuss how to move forward and how to best apply this grant. Glenn noted that beginning after Memorial Day, the The Public Works Convenience Center drop off will be open each Saturday through Labor Day between 10-2 p.m.

**Police Department Report:**

Chief White stated that Sgt. Hagerty has officially retired as of April 30<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the chief noted that Ptl. Wolfsgruber was nominated for the VFW Officer of the Year on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The chief discussed that they have closed the application acceptance portion of our hiring process as of Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> and there were 29 current submissions. The Chief discussed that officers from over the area assisted Deptford two weeks ago in covering shifts within their town so that their officers could be at the hospital with Officer Shisler. Our officers really stepped up to assist. Unfortunately, Deptford had to ask for this same support again due to the death of Officer Shisler over this past weekend.

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 Committeewoman Lukens. All were in Favor.

**Lance Peters – 67 Hickory Ave.**

Mr. Peters thanked the committee and the public works department as well as the engineer for alleviating the drainage issue that was a problem on the corner of Franklin & Hickory. In addition, Mr. Peters inquired as to what the rules are for renting homes and/or rooms. Mayor Zimmerman noted that smoke detector matters have to do with the construction department and obtaining a certificate of occupancy. He also noted that the nuisance type things are a police matter and that you as well as the neighbors should contact the police department with these concerns. Regarding the rental of properties/rooms, at this time we are looking at Ordinances from surrounding towns for rental registration rules and regulations and we should be adding something to our ordinances in the near future.

**Mr. Chares Hughes – 31 Child St. Woodbury, NJ**

Mr. Hughes noted that they have been gathering petitions regarding the G.C.L. He noted that in some cases they have been threatened. Mr. Hughes discussed that there is a meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Parkview School regarding the G.C.L. and that the Gloucester County GOP will be in attendance. He also noted that petitions are being signed in Woodbury, Glassboro as well as Westville.

Mayor Zimmerman noted that threats need to be reported to the police department and that contact should be made as this is a safety matter. As you have done in the past, you can advise the police department what areas you will be in so that they are aware. Mayor Zimmerman also inquired if the statistics can be shared at this time. Mr. Hughes advised that they will be shared and broken down by District, Age, Political party, and other areas.

**Tony Alavario – 522 Delaware Street**

Mr. Alavario noted that in the beginning he didn't quite understand the purpose of the petition, however at this time he wanted to thank Bob & Pete for advising the G.C.L. Committee to do this and get a question on the ballot.

**Randy Karpinski – 10 Tallowood Ct.**

Ms. Karpinski noted that as a senior, she noticed that it was difficult getting through the front door as it is quite heavy and with an aid to walk, it makes it that more difficult. She asked if something might be able to be done to alleviate a senior having an issue.

Ms. Karpinski also inquired if the township had an Environmental Commission. Administrator Bileci noted that there used to be one, however, with people's life changing it has been hard to get people for this commission. We are in the process of trying to get people to join this commission. She also noted that they have been relying on the cub scouts and boy scouts to do various items at the parks. Particularly the butterfly garden that needs some TLC.

**Bill Crew – East Sussex**

Mr. Crew inquired of Chief White what the protocol is for the police to show up at an accident. He asked because there was a recent incident where an ambulance arrived but no police. Chief White advised Mr. Crew that he would need additional information to further discuss.

**Courtney Bracken - 161 E. Sussex**

Ms. Bracken noted that she would be willing to volunteer at the butterfly garden and that she could bring in 5-10 volunteers to help as well. Mayor Zimmerman advised that she should get int touch with Mr. Hellerman, the park director.

**Gregory Shast – 39 Silvercreek**

Mr. Shast noted that there is a significant improvement in the sound system this evening. Mr. Shast also discussed the corners at both Berkley Ave and Route 45 as well as Harrison Ave and Route 45. He noted that these two corners are extremely problematic. Deputy Mayor Scirrotto noted that the state is in the process of a new design for Harrison Ave & Route 45 and that intersection will probably be completed first. The other one will be thereafter.

**Mrs. Josie Ladd- 124 Carriage Hill Circle**

Mrs. Ladd quoted from the Gettysburg address and went on to thank everyone involved with the G.C.L. she continued to thank the committee for all that they do and the police department as well.

Mayor Zimmerman noted that a meeting with the G.C.L was requested in 2021. There was a zoom meeting due to COVID on May 5, 2021. There were maybe 30 participants which included the members of this committee.

Most recently, the mayor noted that he had Administrator Bileci reach out to the DRPA again. After several attempts she was able to communicate with Richard England on May 1, 2023.

He advised Mrs. Bileci that he was unsure if they would be doing town meetings at this time, however, he noted that maybe there would be some towards the end of the summer. We will be reaching out around that time to see if this can come to fruition.

Mayor Zimmerman read the email from the DRPA.

**ORDINANCE O-2-2023:**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AMENDING CHAPTER 400 “VEHICLES, MOTOR-PROPELLED” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**

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-7-2023:**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 98 “AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS”**

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.

Mayor Zimmerman noted that Resolution No. 89-2023 through Resolution No. 88-2023 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.

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: All in favor.

**RESOLUTION R-89-2023**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AND THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER FOR THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER USE OF THE CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK TO PROVIDE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT**

**RESOLUTION R-90-2023**

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARK KARGMAN, ESQUIRE AS PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA FOR THE YEAR 2023

**RESOLUTION R-91-2023**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING A SOLAR PERMIT FEE (PERMIT #22000745) BE REFUNDED FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 897 MANTUA BLVD. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$380.00 TO SUNRUN INSTALLATION SERVICES INC., 202 COMMERCE DR. STE 7, MORRESTOWN, NJ 08057

**RESOLUTION R-92-2023**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS REPAIRS TO SENIOR CENTER ROOF IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,117.70

**RESOLUTION R-93-2023**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REFUNDING TAXES FOR A TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN STEPHANIE SAVOIA 506 QUAIL COURT SEWELL, NJ BLOCK 251.06, LOT 24 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,994.38

**RESOLUTION R-94-2023**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ALLIANCE TO PREVENT ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

**RESOLUTION R-95-2023**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS 67 HICKORY DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

**RESOLUTION R-96-2023**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE OF THE BID THRESHOLD AND QUOTE THRESHOLD

**Remarks from the Township Solicitor:**

Mr. Strausser made no remarks.

**Remarks from the Township Administrator:**

Mrs. Bileci made no remarks.

**Remarks from the Township Committee:**

Committeeman Layton noted that the matter with Deptford Officer Robert Shisler is a terrible thing. However, he wanted to take this opportunity to thank our police department as well as the surrounding towns for all their support during this very difficult time.

Committeewoman Lukens also commented with the same sentiments as Committeeman Layton. It's a terrible thing that has happened.

Committeeman Legge also agreed with Committeeman Layton's comments. Committeeman Legge also reminded everyone about the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and that he would like for committee to walk the full route of the parade this year.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto also agreed with the sentiments made by Committeeman Layton.

Mayor Zimmerman noted that this the community is saddened by this loss and that it has hit home with many of us. The mayor also noted that in partnership with the Mantua Schools the Big Night Out will be on June 8, 2023, from 5-8 pm at Chestnut Branch Park

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.

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.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela LeVine  
Township Deputy Clerk