

Township of Mantua  
Committee Meeting  
September 11, 2023, 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 late, Committeewoman Lukens, Mayor Zimmerman, Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, Mrs. Jennica Bileci, Township Administrator, Mrs. Pamela LeVine, Deputy Township Clerk, Mr. Justin Strausser, Solicitor, Mr. deMers, Public Works Superintendent, Erika Covely, Engineer, Chief White

Mayor Zimmerman noted that this is the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the 9-11 incident. He noted that this morning the Township held their annual 9-11 ceremony at Chestnut Branch Parks Place of Reflection. This was a very somber affair and very emotional for all the families, The Rodaks, The Brandemartis as well as the Thompson families. This event was something of disbelief for our country and changed the world as we once knew it. Mayor Zimmerman read the timing of events that was also read at the ceremony. Mayor Zimmerman noted that hopefully the country will never have to experience something like this ever again.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of the August 14, 2023, minutes.

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

Roll Call Vote: 4 yes votes.

A Proclamation Recognizing September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month was read by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto.

A Proclamation Recognizing Mantua Little League was read by Mayor Zimmerman and the Team, and their coaches were each presented with proclamations for a great job.

**Engineering Report:**

Mrs. Covely said that the designs for the West Mercer project have been finished and a bid package should be ready to go out in 2-3 weeks. Erika also mentioned that they have received DOT approval for S. McCarthy as well as the DOT close out of East Mercer & Bergen Ave projects.

### **Department of Public Works Report:**

Glenn discussed that the department was behind going into the bulk week due to the holiday, however the guys did an amazing job getting everything up with little to no over time. In addition, Glenn mentioned that he has driven around town and noticed that there are leaves out. We have advised the residents that these can go into the green cart until we begin the actual leaf season which will begin October 30, 2023. He discussed this matter with the Administrator about getting this information out on social media. Glenn also noted that the Public Works Convenience Center is back to its normal yearly schedule and that residents can drop off at the center the fourth Saturday of each month between 10-2 p.m.

### **Police Department Report:**

The Chief noted that the speed signs have all been out consistently since the last meeting. The Chief went on to discuss that the officers met with the organized retail theft group because of an increase in shoplifting offenses to discuss ways to better prevent and investigate. In addition, he noted that the department has been working on getting the newly sworn-in officers all set up on their shifts with all the equipment they need. Darren mentioned that the intersection of Barnesboro at Heilig was marked out again for a proper sight triangle. There is more that needs to be trimmed, but the homeowner is just about there as he has made significant progress. The department conducted DWI patrols and it was one of our most productive DWI grants in a while. The officers who worked the grant, made 302 vehicles stopped for a variety of reasons with only 1 DWI charge. The Chief went on to discuss that the schools seem to be doing well overall. There were some traffic concerns at JMT due to them having several kindergartners, but the traffic plan worked. Sewell school also had an anticipated parking and traffic problem due to the parents not being allowed to park in the Timberline Plaza any longer, and the school adding a new parking lot in the rear playground area. This seemed to work. In closing Darren mentioned that everyone to please be mindful of your surroundings and lock your doors.

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.

Josie Ladd – Carriage Hill – Mrs. Ladd inquired of the Chief regarding security measures for her grandchildren as well as her home. The chief noted that anything is better than nothing and although he couldn't comment on a particular type, he did note that the louder the better.

Charles Hughes – 31 Child Street, Woodbury – Mr. Hughes thanked the committee for putting the resolution on the last meeting regarding the ballot question. Mr. Hughes also inquired whether the committee would be making a resolution based on the outcome of the voters. Mayor Zimmerman noted that he would rather wait and see what the voters want at the election.

Tony Alvario – 522 Delaware St., Woodbury – Mr. Alvario noted at the last meeting someone noted that there were residents that claimed that the people asking for signatures were taking up too much of their time. Mr. Alvario inquired as to why those people had never been to a meeting. He also inquired if there would be a resolution regarding the outcome of the election. Mayor Zimmerman again noted that he would wait to see what the residents want.

Mary Marks - Heritage Road – Ms. Marks noted that she had read a Facebook post about people wanting to have chickens in their yards and that there was some issue about that. Ms. Marks noted that she has several chicken coops and would be more than willing to sit down with the committee to further discuss why she has them and how they are cared for. Mayor Zimmerman noted that the township has put together a committee consisting of the Administrator, the solicitor and Committee persons Legge & Lukens.

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

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

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

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

ORDINANCE 0-15-2023: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$40,000.00 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

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

***Resolution No. 140-2023 through No 158-2023 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.***

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-140-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA CANCELLING TAXES FOR A TOTAL DISABLED VETERAN CHARLES AND STEVEN NIEDBALSKI 438 BETHEL MILL ROAD

SEWELL, NJ BLOCK 244, LOT 9 FOR THE 3RD AND 4TH QUARTERS OF 2023,  
AND FUTURE TAXES DUE

RESOLUTION R-141-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING VARIOUS TAX REFUNDS

RESOLUTION R-142-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING A GRANT AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AND THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER  
FOR THE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00

RESOLUTION R-143-2023: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF  
MANTUA, THROUGH THE MANTUA POLICE DEPARTMENT, TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT  
OFFICE, 1033 PROGRAM TO ENABLE MANTUA POLICE DEPARTMENT TO  
REQUEST AND ACQUIRE EXCESS THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
EQUIPMENT FROM 9/11/2023 THROUGH 12/31/2023.

RESOLUTION R-144-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF  
REMAINING PROFESSIONAL ESCROW FUNDS

RESOLUTION R-145-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA  
REQUESTING APPROVAL OF THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF  
REVENUE IN THE BUDGET RECEIVED FROM STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
ALCOHOL EDUCATION REHAB AND ENFORCEMENT FUND IN THE SUM OF  
\$1,946.92

RESOLUTION 146-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE INSERTION  
OF AN ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2023 BUDGET FROM THE STATE OF NEW  
JERSEY, DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY, 2023 DISTRACTED  
DRIVING CRACKDOWN, UDRIVE, U TEXT, U PAY, IN THE AMOUNT OF  
\$4,200.00

RESOLUTION 147-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REQUESTING THE APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF  
REVENUE FOR CLICK IT OR TICKET AND APPROPRIATION (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87)  
OF THE SAME

RESOLUTION 148-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REQUESTING THE APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF  
REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87) OF THE SAME

RESOLUTION R-149-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA CANCELLING TAXES FOR A TOTAL DISABLED  
VETERAN JASON FREELAND 13 KRISTEN LANE MANTUA, NJ BLOCK 53, LOT  
11 FOR THE 3RD AND 4TH QUARTERS OF 2023 AND 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTERS  
2024 AND FUTURE TAXES DUE

RESOLUTION R-150-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH BRYSON & YATES FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE POLICE HOLDING CELL PHASE 2 PROJECT

RESOLUTION R-151-2023: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$195,093.25 FILED BY PAVING PLUS, LLC FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS FY 2021 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM -RECONSTRUCTION OF EAST MERCER AVENUE AND ACCEPTING A MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,987.28 TO BE HELD BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS

RESOLUTION R-152-2023: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,935.00 FILED BY MARINO CONSTRUCTION FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS THE 2019 CDBG – REPLACEMENT OF BATHROOMS AT CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK AND ACCEPTING A MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,040.36 TO BE HELD BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS

RESOLUTION R-153-2023: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$63,770.00 FILED BY MARINO CONSTRUCTION FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS THE 2019 CDBG – PHASE 2-REPLACEMENT OF BATHROOMS AT CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK AND ACCEPTING A MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,222.25 TO BE HELD BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS

RESOLUTION R-154-2023: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$69,860.80 FILED BY GERALD BARRETT, LLC FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS MONTGOMERY DRIVE STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS AND ACCEPTING A MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,039.12 TO BE HELD BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS

RESOLUTION R-155-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT RENEWING MEMBERSHIP IN THE GLOUCESTER, SALEM, CUMBERLAND COUNTIES MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

RESOLUTION R-156-2023: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELEASE OF A MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,814.12 FILED BY BRUCE PAPARONE INC, FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS COUNTRY GARDENS PHASE 3B – WISHING WELL COURT

RESOLUTION R-157-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REGARDING ADOPTION OF UPDATED PERSONNEL POLICIES

RESOLUTION R-158-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING THE LOSAP PAYMENT FOR 2022

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to adopt Resolutions R-140-2023 – resolution R-158-2023, it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All were in Favor.

**Remarks from Township Solicitor:**

No remarks were made.

**Remarks from Township Administrator:**

Administrator Bileci discussed the township had a successful bond rating and that we were provided with a great interest rate for the capital bonds.

**Remarks from Township Committee:**

Committeewoman Lukens noted that the 9-11 ceremony was very reflective and that everyone involved in putting it together did a great job.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto agreed with Mrs. Lukens that the 9011 event went well and that it is a very somber moment to bring everyone together so that we don't forget.

Mayor Zimmerman noted that he had received a letter from Mrs. Akers dated 8/24 and was a great job our officers Shaw & Germsheid had done with a situation she had. In addition, Mayor Zimmerman noted that there is a Bonsal Blues concert at McCarson Park at 7 pm coming up as well as a shredding even on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-12 I the municipal parking lot of the municipal building. In closing the mayor noted there is a senior dinner on October 24, 2023, at the community center and that in 2024 there will be more dinners there since we have redone the building. He went on to thank Bogeys for having the dinners over the last year and a half as we were working on the building.

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