

Township of Mantua  
Committee Meeting  
December 18, 2023  
Mantua Township Municipal Building  
4:00 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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of the November 18, 2023, minutes.

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

Roll Call Vote: 5 yes votes.

**Engineering Report:**

Mrs. Covely noted that the W. Mercer project is being awarded at this evening's meeting and should begin sometime in the spring. Erika also mentioned that we are still waiting on DOT regarding the S. McCarthy project. Once this gets approved, this too will begin in the spring.

**Department of Public Works Report:**

Glenn noted that leaf season is going well and that he estimated another two weeks or less for leaves to be completed. This is not taking into consideration the residents that haven't raked their leaves at all to date and that he is please with the way things are looking. Glenn also noted that the new flag poles for the veterans memorial will begin installation January 11, 2024 weather permitting. If something should change, I will keep everyone updated. IN closing Glenn wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday and new year.

**Police Department Report:**

The Chief noted that the department is looking forward to Aaron Romano to be sworn in tonight. He also discussed that the detectives and some officers have been working undercover to help curb the flow of retail theft, especially during this time of year. Darren also talked about the DWI grant patrols that are ongoing with many arrests and summonses because of this. He closed by wishing everyone a happy holiday. Mayor Zimmerman noted that after reviewing last month's report that was submitted to him it is deplorable about the amount of shoplifting that is going on within the town. He noted

that these people are not even from our area and in some cases, they are from out of town. He commended the department on their great job in apprehending these people.

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:**

Carolyn Rhodes – 106 Breakneck Rd. – Mrs. Rhodes inquired if there was going to be a correction made to the numbers that were provided to the public regarding the Rowan fossil park. Mayor Zimmerman went over the numbers for Mrs. Rhodes and noted that the administrator will be discussing the contract with her at a future time. Deputy Mayor Scirrotto inquired as to why Mrs. Rhodes was against the fossil park. Mrs. Rhodes noted that her concern is for the tax payer and this park will not help the tax payer. Deputy Mayor Scirrotto noted that there is no other museum like this in the world.

Committeewoman Lukens noted that the Smithsonian has noted that this is the most anticipated opening for 2024.

Tony Alavario – 522 Delaware St. Woodbury – Mr. Alavario noted the reason that the DRPA hasn't had an open meeting with the public is that the last time there was a meeting, the research team that the public brought in, challenged them with their facts. He also thanked the committee for the resolution on tonight's agenda for putting that it was from "the will of the people".

Joseph Hetzel – 5321 Doris Township, Commercial Township – Mr. Hetzel noted that the committee should be inquiring about quiet zones as this is a very expensive design to do and that it would come at a cost to the township. The current notation about the quiet zone for the GCL is inaccurate and the committee should be considered. In addition, Mr. Hetzel inquired about the fossil park and if they are following the ordinances that the township has in place that for the trees being removed there should be either a payout to the township and/or replacement of trees. Administrator Bileci noted that the Environmental commission has not been active for 2 years. Solicitor Platt noted that the local environmental commission does not supersede the state, and federal commissions. The local does not have jurisdiction of these matters and the state and federal commission are much more stringent than the local would be.

Charles Hughes – 31 N. Child Street, Woodbury – Mr. Hughes noted that when he was a boy scout leader, they used to take the children to the inversand site for fossils. That there was never anything larger than a thumb nail. Deputy Mayor Scirrotto noted that he would be more than happy to bring Dr. Lacovara in to speak about what dinosaurs have been found at this park, that is the museum wasn't being built that area would be under water as it must be pumped out every day.

Tom Daffin – 195 Mount Royal Road – Mr. Daffin noted that the Buddhist Temple who is behind his property has been clearing the last of all the trees through to Van Buren St. which is a paper street. He has heard that this is being cleared for buildings and trailers for people to live in. It is his understanding that there have been no permits for any of this. In addition, there is someone living in the building and this structure is not for living space. He asked if someone would please go out and see what is going on as this is infringing on his property. Mayor Zimmerman noted that the information has been

disseminated to both the Code enforcement officer as well as the Land Use department and the construction official. The township will be following up.

Richard Montana – representing Buddy Frezza – Mr. Montana inquired as to when they would be able to get a copy of the May 2023 rent levelling meeting. Solicitor Platt noted that there will be a meeting prior to the end of this year and at that time the minutes will be approved and then a copy can be given out. To have this meeting Mr. Platt noted that there must be a quorum and with the holidays upon us that may be difficult. Mr. Montana noted that at the May meeting the rent increase was approved and that the landlord has made all the improvements that were discussed. Mr. Platt advised Mr. Montana that the rent increase is conditional and a decision of the board. At this time, there is no rent increase approved.

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

RESOLUTION R-187-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA SUPPORTING THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IN OPPOSITION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GLASSBORO-CAMDEN LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a approve, it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to authorize a consented agenda Resolutions R-186-2023 through Resolutions R-207-2023, it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor.

RESOLUTION R-186-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE HIRING OF AARON ROMANO TO THE RANK OF PATROL OFFICER 8th CLASS WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION R-188-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPOINTING DAVE SMITH AS A SLEO III OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

RESOLUTION R-189-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPOINTING MARIE FREY AS A SLEO III OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

RESOLUTION R-190-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPOINTING KAYLA RHODES AS A SLEO II OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

RESOLUTION R-191-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPOINTING ANDREW GLASER AS A SLEO II OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

RESOLUTION R-192-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE LOAN REPAYMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE OWNER OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT LOCATED 1154 TRISTRAM CIRCLE LOCATED WITHIN MANTUA TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION R-193-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY CANCELLING RECEIVABLE BALANCES AND UNEXPENDED BALANCES IN THE GRANT FUND

RESOLUTION R-194-2023: A RESOLUTION AWARDED A BID IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$120,508.30 TO PAVING PLUS, LLC FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF WEST MERCER AVENUE

RESOLUTION R-195-2023: A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AND THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER FOR THE USE OF THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER FOR IT'S NUTRITION SITE

RESOLUTION R-196-2023: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF 2023 TAXES WHICH ARE \$10.00 AND BELOW AND TRANSFERRING ALL OVERPAYMENTS TO 2024

RESOLUTION R-197-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA TO CANCEL OLD OUTSTANDING CHECKS

RESOLUTION R-198-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REJECTING PUBLIC LAND SALE BIDS

RESOLUTION R-199-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA CONFIRMING THE SALARIES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT 1

RESOLUTION R-200-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE HIRING OF MELISSA GILDEIN AS THE ASSISTANT CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

RESOLUTION R-201-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA CONFIRMING BIDS AT PUBLIC LAND SALE ON DECEMBER 7, 2023

RESOLUTION R-202-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 2024 FORD ESCAPE FOR THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT UNDER STATE CONTRACT NO. 23-FLEET-41909 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,890.00, FROM CIOCCA FORD OF WILMINGTON

RESOLUTION R-203-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2023 POLICE INTERCEPTOR SUV UNDER THE CRANFORD POLICE

DEPARTMENT COOPERATIVE PRICING CONTRACT NUMBER #47-CPCPS, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$48,224.70

RESOLUTION R-204-2023: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REFUNDING CERTAIN OVERPAYMENT FOR PROPERTY TAXES FOR BLOCK 146.08 LOT 8 73 CANDLEWOOD DRIVE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,405.07

RESOLUTION R-205-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA TO MAKE CERTAIN BUDGET TRANSFERS BETWEEN APPROPRIATION RESERVES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58

RESOLUTION R-206-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CLOSED SESSION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTER PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A 10:4-12 (8)

The Committee went into closed session at 4:45 pm and returned from closed session at 4:52 p.m.

RESOLUTION R-207-2023: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA REGARDING POLICE OFFICER DISCIPLINARY MATTER

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to adopt Resolutions R-186-2023 through Resolutions R-207-2023, it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Committeeman Legge. All were in favor.

**Remarks from Township Committee:**

Committeeman Layton wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Committeewoman Lukens wished everyone a Happy holiday season.

Committeeman Legge wished everyone a Happy and safe holiday season.


Deputy Mayor Scirrotto wished everyone a Happy holiday season and that everyone should enjoy being with their families at this time of year.

Mayor Zimmerman noted that the Winter Festival was well attended and a great night weather wise as well. He wished everyone a Happy & Healthy holiday season.

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