

Township of Mantua
Committee Meeting
September 9, 2024
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: Committeeman Layton - Absent, Committeeman Legge Committeewoman Lukens- Absent, Mayor Zimmerman, Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, Mrs. Jennica Bileci, Township, Administrator, Mr. Justin Strausser, Solicitor, Mr. deMers, Public Works Superintendent, Jon Bryson, Engineer, Chief White

Mayor Zimmerman noted that before the pledge is done, he wanted to mention Jon & Matthew Gaudreau the two young men that were killed while riding their bikes along a Salem County Road.

Mayor Zimmerman noted there was a fatality along Route 55 on September 5, 2024, killing Deputy Mayor Tom Hufnell of Deptford's wife.

Sgt. Russ Lawrence of the Mantua Township Police Department passed away this past week. Russ retired from the force in 2000

Mayor Zimmerman asked everyone to stand for the pledge and a moment of silence.

Approval of Minutes:

August 12, 2024, were tabled until the October 21, 2024, meeting

Engineering Report:

Mr. Bryson noted that the reconstruction of Monmouth Ave plans was completed and that a bid opening date of October 2, 2024 will be advertised.

Department of Public Works Report:

Mr. deMers advised the committee that he would like to commend the employees of the department for working through the month of August with a smaller than normal crew due to vacations. It was a total group effort and it is much appreciated.

Glenn also noted that Public Works has been maintaining trash/recycling and grass routes, while working on inlets and stormwater maintenance as well as the day to day resident concerns.

In closing Glenn mentioned that the Public Works Convenience Center drop off is now open the 4th Saturday of the month between 10-2 p.m. from Labor Day through to Memorial Day.

Committeeman Legge noted that it is not just the month of August that the men do a great job. They recently had a bulk week and it was shortened by the Labor Day holiday and they were able to get it all done during the work week and kudos to them. Mr. deMers advised that he would let the department employees know that.

Police Department Report:

The Chief noted that there were a few vehicle burglaries. He mentioned that as a reminder to everyone, please lock your car doors, as locking your doors is still the best way of keeping yourself from becoming a victim.

The Chief noted that he is excited to have Patrolman Glaser start his fulltime career in Mantua. In addition, Darren mentioned that the department is coordinating with Rowan on getting another intern, since their past intern proved to be a great asset.

The Chief discussed that back-to-school times have been going smoothly.

Darren mentioned that Patrolman Riepen is officially retired effective the last day of August and the department wishes him well. And that Retired Sergeant Russ Lawrence passed away recently as that is why we have the draped vehicle parked in front of the police building.

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. Mayor Zimmerman noted that he will be continuing to permit the public to speak on agenda items only first and should time allow, he will hear other public comments/questions.

Public Participation:

Mayor Zimmerman reminded the public that this portion of the meeting is for agenda items only and that should someone wish to speak, it should be related to items that are on this agenda. Should time permit, the public will be able to speak on any other items with the public portion being limited to 30 minutes.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to open to the public, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in Favor. 3 yes votes.

PUBLIC PORTION

No one wished to speak on agenda items

Courtney Bracken – 161 Sussex Ave – Ms. Bracken discussed the transparency and commenting of the Township social media pages; Facebook, Instagram, etc. She asked that the committee reinstate availability for the public and residents to be able to comment on postings that are published on the various social media sites for the Township.

Mayor Zimmerman responded that the comments were taken off prior to two years ago upon legal advice all comments were disabled. The postings on the township's social media pages are for informational purposes for the committee to be transparent and to advise the resident of what is going on around town. The mayor also noted that the township social media pages are no place for cantankerous commenting and is to inform the public of many areas but not limited to the Mayors Message, upcoming events etc.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to close to the public, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in Favor. 4 yes votes.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeewoman Lukens. All were in Favor. 4 yes votes.

ORDINANCE O-9 -2024: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AMENDING CHAPTER 143 "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" ARTICLE XIII, SCHEDULES, §143-33 SCHEDULE II: PARKING PROHIBITED AT DURING CERTAIN HOURS OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
Roll Call:

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to open; it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to adopt, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in Favor. 4 yes votes.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in Favor. 4 yes votes.

ORDINANCE O-10-2024: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AMENDING SECTION 143-29.5 TRAFFIC DIRECTOR OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in Favor. 4 yes votes.

ORDINANCE O-11-2024: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AMENDING CHAPTER 69 "POLICE DEPARTMENT" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in Favor. 3 yes votes. Committeeman Layton Abstained

RESOLUTION R-112-2024: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE HIRING OF AJ GLASER TO THE RANK OF PATROL OFFICER 9th CLASS WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in Favor. 4 yes votes.

Mayor Zimmerman swore in Anthony J. Glaser, Patrolman

Resolution No. 113-2024 through No 116- 2024 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 consent agenda, it was 2nd by Committeeman Legge. All were in Favor. 4 yes votes.

RESOLUTION R-113-2024: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING THE HIRING OF LEAH CLEMENSON

RESOLUTION R-114-2024: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA APPROVING A STATE CONTRACT NO. 040621-WQ1 TO PURCHASE ONE (1) 2025 FREIGHTLINER ROLL OFF TRUCK UTILIZING A NATIONAL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH SOURCEWELL

RESOLUTION R-115-2024: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA CANCELLING TAXES FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERANS

RESOLUTION R-116-2024: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AWARDING A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE 2024 WINTER FESTIVAL AT CHESTNUT BRANCH PARK

Motion to adopt a consented agenda was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, seconded by Committeewoman Legge. All in Favor. 4 yes votes.

Motion to adopt Resolutions R-113-2024 through Resolution R-116-2024 was made by Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, seconded by Committeewoman Legge. All in Favor. 4 yes votes.

Remarks from the Township Administrator

No comments

Remarks from Township Committee:

Committeeman Layton congratulated Patrolman Glaser and hopes that he has a very safe career.

Committeeman Legge reminded everyone that the Run with the Veterans is October 6th.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto also congratulated Patrolmen Glaser. He noted that its very nice to see a family together as them. Grandfather, father and son all working for the same department in their careers.

Mayor Zimmerman noted the following upcoming events:

Wednesday 9-11 ceremony – 8:30 am

Saturday September 14, 2024 – Shredding event from 9-12 at the municipal complex. The truck will be set up further back in the parking lot to allow traffic to flow better this time.

Wednesday September 19, 2024, Pitt Hopkins Day. There will be a fund raiser at Chick Fil A from 6-9 pm sat which time a proclamation will be given to the Marigliani family.

September 19, 2024 – Police Night Out from 5-8 pm ending with fireworks

September 24, 2024 – Senior Diner at the community center which begins at 5:30

October 5, 2024, Paint Gloucester County Pink

Mayor Zimmerman also noted that he has spoken with Joyce Rodak whose husband passed away during 9/11. Mrs. Rodak mentioned that last year on 9/11 her granddaughter Angelina was born weighing 9 pounds 3 ounces. After that Mrs. Rodak found out that they had a great great great Aunt whose name is also Angelina and was also born on 9-11. Mayor Zimmerman noted that there must be something to this with all the similarities.

Motion to approve the bills: Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2nd Committeeman Legge,
Roll Call Vote: 4 yes votes.

Motion to adjourn: Deputy Mayor Scirrotto, 2nd Committeeman Legge

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela LeVine, Deputy Township Clerk