

The Public Meeting of the Mount Olive Township Council was called to order at 8:08pm by President Roman.

**President Roman:** In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by sending timely notice to the Daily Record and the Mount Olive Chronicle and posting notice on the bulletin board of the Municipal Building, 204 Flanders Drakestown Road, Budd Lake, N.J. Additional notice has been posted on the Township website and on the outside front door of the Municipal Building and notice was sent to those individuals requesting same.

ROLL CALL

**Present:** Mr. Aaron, Mrs. Labow, Ms. Lalama, Mr. Mania, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Ferrante, and Mr. Roman

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Michelle Masser, Township Clerk; Jon Testa, Township Attorney; Joe Nicaastro, Mayor; Andrew Tatarenko, Business Administrator; Claudia Quinn, Assistant Business Administrator and Sherry Kolody, CFO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 1. March 5, 2024 WS & PM (Absent: C. Labow)

**Mr. Aaron** moves for approval of the March 5, 2024, WS & PM Minutes, and **Mrs. Labow** seconds. There was no discussion.

**ROLL CALL:** Passed with the exception of Mrs. Labow, who abstained on the March 5, 2024, WS & PM Minutes

**President Roman:** I open the hearing to the public on Ordinance #8-2024 entitled,

ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

**Ord.#8-2024** Ordinance Re: Township of Mount Olive Morris County, New Jersey Calendar Year 2024 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Cost of Living Allowance and to Establish a Cap Bank. (N.J.S.A. 40A-4-45.14)

**President Roman:** Mr. Ferrante.

**Mr. Ferrante:** Sure, I move for adoption and final passage, Ordinance #8-2024.

**Mr. Mania:** Second.

**President Roman:** Okay, it’s been moved and seconded. Does anyone from the public wish to be heard? Seeing none. Anyone from Council? Seeing none. Roll Call, please.

**ROLL CALL:** Passed unanimously

**President Roman:** Ordinance #8-2024 is passed on second reading and I hereby direct the Clerk to forward a copy of the same to the Mayor and publish the notice of adoption as required by law. I open the hearing to the public on Ordinance #9-2024 entitled,

**Ord.#9-2024** An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending Section 550-23, Zoning Permits and Certificates of Occupancy; Fees, of the Township Code to Require Certain Escrow Fees.

**President Roman:** Mrs. Labow.

**Mrs. Labow:** Thank you. I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance #9-2024.

**Mr. Stewart:** Second.

**President Roman:** Okay. Anyone from the public? Seeing none. Any Council discussion? Seeing none. Roll Call.

**ROLL CALL:**           **Passed unanimously**

**President Roman:** Ordinance #9-2024 is passed on second reading and I hereby direct the Clerk to forward a copy of the same to the Mayor and publish the notice of adoption as required by law. Okay. We’re on to Ordinances for first reading with a second reading of April 2, 2024. Next item on the Agenda for first reading is Ordinance #10-2024 entitled,

**ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: (2nd reading April 2, 2024)**

**Ord.#10-2024**     Ordinance Amending Section 3(f)(iv) of Bond Ordinance #6-2019 of the Township of Mount Olive, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Finally Adopted March 6, 2019, as Amended by Ordinance #12-2022 and Ordinance #23-2022 Finally Adopted April 19, 2022 and August 9, 2022. Respectively, in Order to Include an Additional Project.

**President Roman:** Ms. Lalama.

**Ms. Lalama:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move that Ordinance #10-2024 be introduced by title and passed on first reading, be scheduled for public hearing, second reading, and consideration of final passage at a meeting to be held on April 2, 2024, at 7pm at the Municipal Building, 204 Flanders-Drakestown Road, Budd Lake, New Jersey and be published, posted, and made available by the Clerk in accordance with the law.

**Mrs. Labow:** Second.

**President Roman:** It’s been moved and seconded. Is there any Council discussion? Seeing none. Roll Call.

**ROLL CALL:**           **Passed unanimously**

**President Roman:** Next item on the Agenda for first reading is Ordinance #11-2024 entitled,

**Ord.#11-2024**     An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Acceptance of Certain Road Easements and Dedications in Connection with Development of Block 7801. (Fox Chase/VL North Coffee Ice Cream LLC)

**President Roman:** Mr. Mania.

**Mr. Mania:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move that Ordinance #11-2024 be introduced by title and passed on first reading, be scheduled for public hearing, second reading, and consideration of final passage at a meeting to be held on April 2, 2024, at 7pm at the Municipal Building, 204 Flanders-Drakestown Road, Budd Lake, New Jersey and be published, posted, and made available by the Clerk in accordance with the law.

**Mrs. Labow:** Second.

**President Roman:** It’s been moved and seconded. Any Council discussion? Okay. Seeing none. Roll Call, please.

**ROLL CALL:**           **Passed unanimously**

**RESOLUTIONS**

- 1. Resolution: Waiver of Reading Budget in Full.

**Mr. Stewart** moves for adoption and passage of Resolution number one. **Mrs. Labow** seconds.

**ROLL CALL:**           **Passed unanimously**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET and SANITATION DISTRICT BUDGET**

There was no discussion on the 2024 Municipal Budget and Sanitation District Budget.

RESOLUTIONS

- 1. Resolution to Amend the 2024 Budget.

Mr. Aaron makes a motion to pass Resolution number one and Mrs. Labow seconds.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

- 2. Resolution to Adopt the 2024 - Municipal Budget.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

Mr. Ferrante moves for adoption of Resolution number two and Mr. Mania seconds.

- 3. Resolution to Adopt the 2024 - Sanitation District Budget.

Mrs. Labow moves for adoption of Resolution number three and Mr. Mania seconds.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE

LETTERS FROM RESIDENTS/ORGANIZATIONS/OTHER TOWNS

- 1. Email received March 4, 2024, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: March 4, 2024.
- 2. Email received March 4, 2024, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Would you like to know how and what it is for you to join our familia? Let's explore the possibilities and invite your colleagues!
- 3. Email received March 7, 2024, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Partner Offer: Port Authority NY NJ Office of ODEI Industry Day.
- 4. Email received March 11, 2024, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: March 11, 2024.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES OTHER TOWNS – None

LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

- 5. Email received March 1, 2024, from NJLM regarding FY2025 Budget Address; Affordable Housing Update; Water Supply Plan Draft.
- 6. Email received March 5, 2024, from NJLM regarding NJTFF Reauthorization Bill Introduced.
- 7. Email received March 11, 2024, from NJLM regarding Take Action on Upcoming Legislation on OPRA, TTF, and Affordable Housing.
- 8. Email received March 11, 2024, from NJLM regarding Mayors' Newslines March 2024.

STATE AGENCIES/LOI/HIGHLANDS

- 9. Email received March 1, 2024, from NJDEP regarding NJDEP Weekly Update.
- 10. Email received March 7, 2024, from Commitment to Communities, DOT regarding The Best of NJDOT in 2023.
- 11. Email received March 11, 2024, from DEP Local Government Assistance regarding NJDEP Weekly Update.
- 12. Email received March 13, 2024, from NJDCA regarding ARP-FFG Grant Awards Announcement.

MSA/MUA – None

**MORRIS COUNTY**

13. Email received March 4, 2024, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: March 1, 2024.
14. Email received March 11, 2024, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: March 8, 2024.
15. Email received March 13, 2024, from Morris County regarding Morris County Chamber to Honor Kathryn DeFillippo.
16. Email received March 14, 2024, from Morris County regarding No Tax Rate Increase in Morris County Budget for 5th Consecutive Year.
17. Email received March 15, 2024, from Morris County regarding Morris County is Accepting 2024 Open Space Applications.

**UTILITIES**

18. Letter received March 5, 2024, from JCP&L regarding In the Matter of the Petition of Jersey Central Power & Light Company For Approval of a Zero Emission Certificate Recover Charge ("ZEC Recovery Charge ("ZECRC") Filing") BPU Docket No. EO24010054.

There was no discussion on Correspondence.

**CONSENT RESOLUTIONS AGENDA:**

1. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the Budd Lake Fire Department to hold a "Coin Drop" fundraiser on various dates in 2024
2. Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application by the Township of Mount Olive to the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund for a 2024 grant for the Seward House owned by the Township of Mount Olive
3. A resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, authorizing execution of a sanitary sewer easement agreement with TEIF 2000 Mount Olive, LLC for the property designated as Block 202, Lot 1 (2000 International Drive)
4. Resolution authorizing the execution of the Sidebar Agreement between the Township of Mount Olive and the Mount Olive Township Public Employee Association
5. Resolution authorizing the award of a professional service agreement without competitive bidding to John E. Keefe, Jr., Esq. to provide special legal counsel services to the Township of Mount Olive  
\*Revised - Change in law firms
6. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of contract for Electronic Waste Recycling Services (eRevival, LLC)
7. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive approving a non-fair and open vendor service contract pursuant to New Jersey local unit Pay-to-Play Law (Native Fields Landscaping)
8. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing purchases off New Jersey State contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12 for calendar year 2024 (Zetron, Inc.)
9. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the use of ESCNJ Cooperative Pricing Council Contract for 2024 (WB Mason)
10. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a contract for the purchase of Microsoft 365 Business Software off New Jersey State Contract (Dell Marketing)

- 11. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing change order no. 2 for Bid #01-2023 HVAC System Upgrades at the Municipal Building (Reiner Group)
- 12. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a 12-month subscription agreement for vehicle tracking & roadside assistance off the Sourcewell Co-op (Verizon Connect Fleet USA)
- 13. A resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, authorizing a facility use agreement between the Township of Mount Olive Baseball/Softball Association and New Jersey JCC Metrowest
- 14. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the Administration in conjunction with Matthew Krauser and the Township Attorney to initiate tax appeals

**Ms. Lalama** moves Consent Resolutions one through fourteen and **Mr. Mania** seconds. There was no discussion.

**ROLL CALL:**           **Passed unanimously**

**MOTIONS**

- 1. Bill List

**Mr. Mania** moves for approval of the Bill List and **Mrs. Labow** seconds. There was no discussion.

**ROLL CALL:**           **Passed unanimously**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Mayor Nicastro** reports he attended Breakfast with the Mayors at the Roxbury Chambers. He also reports he continues to meet with businesses to see how the Township can help. He then announces Table of Hope will be at Turkey Brook Park on April 5, 2024, from 1:00pm to 2:30pm, to assist families in need. He informs everyone that anyone interested in volunteering should contact Lisa Brett. He then goes on to discuss the next job fair on April 11, 2024, from 3:00pm to 7:00pm at the Senior Center, the Ramadan celebration on Monday, March 25, 2024, at the Mosque on Deerfield Place, and Shay’s Liquors’ (formally Buy Rite Liquors) ribbon cutting ceremony on March 27, 2024, at 5:30pm.

**Mr. Tatarenko** thanks Mrs. Kolody, the Finance Department, and the department heads for their efforts with the Budget. He then announces several grants were awarded to them last week, including a community funding project through a Budd Lake Stormwater Management grant in the amount of \$480,000.00; the American Rescue Plan Firefighter grant in the amount of \$75,000.00 for more PPE; and a Recycling Tonnage grant in the amount of \$37,503.00 for recycling efforts. He thanks the DPW and the Fire Director for applying for the grants.

**OLD BUSINESS – none**

**NEW BUSINESS – none**

**LEGAL MATTERS - none**

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Board of Education Liaison Report

**Mr. Aaron** reports the Board of Education met last week and the vacant Board of Education role was filled by Anthony Strillacci who returned to the Board of Education. He also reports the wrestling team was recognized and a preliminary budget was presented.

Library Board Liaison  
Recreation Liaison Report

**Mr. Ferrante** reports Recreation will meet in April and Library met the previous week. He discusses the Friends of the Library’s donation collection they held two weeks prior, which was successful. He adds there was a new logo contest. He then announces the Library is having many events for people of all ages and highlights “Crafter’s Café”, where residents knitted blankets and then donated them to Hackettstown Hospital for the Emergency Room and Oncology Department. He goes on to discuss increasing circulations at the Library, and an internet outage they had.

Open Space Committee Report  
Senior Citizen Liaison  
Environmental Committee/Lake Issues

**Mrs. Labow** mentions a grant libraries received for programs. She discusses the Open Space meeting and inquiries about buying certain properties in Town. She also brings up Docks Marina, where there’s concern with rust and fuel going into the water. **Mr. Tatarenko** explains they were recently issued a property maintenance violation. **Mrs. Labow** asks if a violation could be issued for another nearby property and **Mr. Tatarenko** says he will talk to property maintenance about it. **Mrs. Labow** then talks about trails in Town. She also reports the Senior Citizens had their Saint Patrick’s Day lunch with Mayor Nicastro and Councilwoman Lalama.

Board of Health Report

**Ms. Lalama** reports the Board of Health will be meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Legislative Committee Report – none  
Planning Board Report

**Mr. Mania** reports the Planning Board met on Thursday, March 14, 2024. He explains they had four Resolutions that were approved, including the Lowes Home Center, Morris Mount Olive Associates, Wright Properties, and Fratelli Beretta. He adds they had a development matter with Morristown Habitat for Humanity which was passed unanimously. He states the next meeting will be on Thursday, March 21, 2024.

Economic Development Committee Report

**Mr. Stewart** reports the EDC meets on April 24, 2024.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

**Alan Fulton**, Waterloo Road, Budd Lake, discusses electricity and forcing people into the Community Energy Aggregation program that was discussed during the Workshop Meeting. He also comments on Frances Lichowid’s 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mr. Aaron** echoes the birthday sentiments for Mrs. Lichowid’s birthday.

**Mrs. Labow** congratulates Mrs. Lichowid on her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday. She also thanks everyone for the well wishes for her ill father.

**Ms. Lalama** wishes a happy birthday to Mrs. Lichowid.

**Mr. Mania** congratulates Mrs. Lichowid on her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday and offers prayers for Mrs. Labow’s father.

**Mr. Stewart** thanks the Council, Administration, and Township for recognizing his mother-in-law, Francis Lichowid, for her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

**Mr. Ferrante** wishes Mrs. Lichowid a happy birthday. He also wishes everybody a happy first day of spring and a happy Saint Joseph’s Day to Mayor Joe Nicastro.

**President Roman** wishes Mrs. Lichowid a happy 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Motion made and seconded. All in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

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Alex Roman, Council President

I, Michelle Masser, Township Clerk of Mount Olive do hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are a true and correct copy of the Minutes approved at a legally convened meeting of the Mount Olive Township Council duly held on April 2, 2023.

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Michelle Masser, Township Clerk