

The Public Meeting of the Mount Olive Township Council was called to order at 7:05pm by President Roman.

President Roman: In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act including the Emergency Remote Meeting Protocol for Local Public Bodies, adequate notice has been provided by posting on the Township website, on the bulletin board, Council Chambers, and outside the front door of the Municipal Building, 204 Flanders-Drakestown Road, Budd Lake, NJ, and sending notice to those individuals requesting the same.

(Meeting was held via Zoom due to Governor Murphy’s State of Emergency due to the Weather)

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Aaron, Mrs. Labow, Ms. Lalama, Mr. Mania (arrived at 7:09), Mr. Stewart, Mr. Ferrante, and Mr. Roman

Absent: None

Also Present: Susan Gouveia, Deputy Township Clerk; Fred Semrau, Township Attorney; Jon Testa, Township Attorney; Joe Nicastro, Mayor; Andrew Tatarenko, Business Administrator; Claudia Quinn, Assistant Business Administrator; and Sherry Kolody, CFO

MOTIONS

- 1. Bill List

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

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE

LETTERS FROM RESIDENTS/ORGANIZATIONS/OTHER TOWNS

- 1. Email received December 18, 2023, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: December 18, 2023.
- 2. Email received December 22, 2023, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Chamber News - December 22, 2023.
- 3. Publication received December 22, 2023, from the Morris County Heritage Commission regarding The Heritage Review, The Newsletter of the Morris County Heritage Commission, Fall 2023, Vol. 45, No. 2.
- 4. Email received January 3, 2024, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: January 3, 2024.
- 5. Email received January 4, 2024, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Partner Offer: The JPMorgan Chase & Co. opens a paid summer fellowship opportunity for Hispanic and Latino students. Apply today!
- 6. Email received January 4, 2024, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Weekly Community Calendar: There's always something happening in NJ, don't miss out!

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES OTHER TOWNS – None

LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

- 7. Email received December 18, 2023, from NJLM regarding Budget Deadlines, OPRA Update, Lame Duck Moves.
- 8. Email received December 19, 2023, from NJLM regarding Legislative Leaders Announce Bills to Amend Fair Housing Act.

9. Email received December 19, 2023, from NJLM regarding Affordable Housing Reform Bill Set for Committee Hearing.
10. Email received December 27, 2023, from NJLM regarding Affordable Housing Moves; CY24 Budget Guidance; Lane Duck Activity.
11. Email received December 27, 2023, from NJLM regarding EMT Reimbursement Bill Advances.
12. Email received January 2, 2024, from NJLM regarding Minimum Wage Increase; Brewery Waiver Extended; Show Off Your City.

STATE AGENCIES/LOI/HIGHLANDS

13. Email received December 18, 2023, from DEP Local Government Assistance regarding NJDEP Weekly Update.
14. Email received December 21, 2023, from DEP Waterbank Info regarding Final FFY23/SFY24 CWSRF & DWSRF Intended Use Plans.
15. Letter received December 22, 2023, from NJDEP regarding Area of Concern: Two (2) 275 Gallons #2 Oil AST's; Unrestricted Use - No Further Action Letter and Covenant Not to Sue, Block 3307, Lot 1, 54 Sand Shore Road, Mount Olive Twp, Morris County. Program Interest #: 1010620, Activity Number: CSP230001. Communication Center Number: 22-10-18-1307-18.
16. Email received December 27, 2023, from NJDEP regarding NJDEP Weekly Update.

MSA/MUA – None**MORRIS COUNTY**

17. Email received December 18, 2023, from Morris County regarding Morris County Comes Together at Hanukkah.
18. Email received December 18, 2023, from This Week in Morris County: Dec. 15, 2023.
19. Email received December 18, 2028, from Morris County regarding Nominees Sought for 2024 "Seeds of Change" Award.
20. Email received December 21, 2023, from Morris County regarding Morris County Commissioners Present 2024 Capital Spending Plan.
21. Email received December 27, 2023, from Morris County regarding Happy Holidays and Thank You, First Responders!
22. Email received December 27, 2023, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: Dec. 22, 2023.
23. Email received January 2, 2024, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: Dec. 29, 2023.
24. Email received January 4, 2024, from Morris County regarding Morris County's Reorganization Meeting is Jan. 5.
25. Email received January 4, 2024, from Morris County regarding Flood Mitigation Program Supports Morris County residents.
26. Email received January 5, 2023, from Morris County regarding Morris Academy Ranks Number One in the State.

There was no discussion on Correspondence.

ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING: none

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING (Second reading January 23, 2024):

President Roman: I here open to the public Ordinance #1-2024 entitled,

Ord.#1-2024 An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive Amending Ordinance #38-2023 Which Established Salaries for the Mayor, Council, Department Heads and Other Exempt Employees

President Roman: Mr. Aaron.

Mr. Aaron: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that Ordinance #1-2024 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 January 23, 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.

Mr. Stewart: Second.

President Roman: Thank you. It’s been moved and seconded.

Mr. Mania: Alex, I think I’m on.

President Roman: Let the record reflect Mr. Mania is on board. Anyone from Council have any questions or comments on Ordinance #1-2024? All right. Does anyone from the public have any questions on the Ordinance? Seeing none. I close to the public. Roll Call, please.

ROLL CALL: **Passed unanimously**

Mr. Semrau: Council President, just because we’re remote, I just want to clarify for these Ordinances right now, these are for introduction, so, the public hearing would be January 23, 2024, for these Ordinances. This is all introduction right now. Just so we’re all on the same page.

President Roman: All right. Our next item on the Agenda is for Ordinance #2-2024 entitled,

Ord.#2-2024 An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive Amending Ordinance #15-2022 Entitled Fees and Rates for Off-Duty Police Officers

President Roman: Mrs. Labow.

Mrs. Labow: Thank you. I move that Ordinance #2-2024 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 January 23, 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.

Mr. Mania: Second.

ROLL CALL: **Passed unanimously**

President Roman: Next item on the Agenda is Ordinance #3-2024 entitled,

Ord.#3-2024 An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 81, "Recreation", Specifically Article II "Fees for Recreation Department Programs" Establishing Recreation Fees for Various Township-Sponsored Recreational Activities

President Roman: Ms. Lalama.

Ms. Lalama: Mr. President, I move that Ordinance #3-2024 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 January 23, 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: Okay. It’s been moved and seconded. Any Council discussion? Seeing none. Roll Call.

ROLL CALL: **Passed unanimously**

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS AGENDA:

- 1. Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing a dedication by rider for lead based paint inspection revenue
- 2. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing participation in the LEAP Implementation Grant
- 3. Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, and State of New Jersey, approving the re-appointment of Andrew Tatarenko as Business Administrator/Qualified Purchasing Agent and authorizing the execution of an employment agreement
- 4. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the purchase of goods and services via New Jersey State Contracts and Cooperative Purchasing Agreements
- 5. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the use of competitive contracting for a six-week summer recreation program
- 6. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a professional services agreement for Engineering and Construction Administration Services - Pinecrest Water System (Van Cleef Engineering Associates) *REVISED - Re-allocating funds
- 7. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a non-fair and open professional services agreement to RJH Law Enforcement Consultants to provide hearing officer services (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024)

Mr. Mania moves for the adoption of Consent Resolutions one through seven and **Mrs. Labow** seconds. There was no discussion.

ROLL CALL: **Passed unanimously**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Tatarenko thanks the DPW, Police Department, and the emergency responders for everything they did on Saturday night into Sunday during the storm.

Mr. Stewart echoes Mr. Tatarenko’s sentiments, highlighting the work done with the power outages by JCP&L.

Mrs. Labow adds that the Sanitation Department was still out picking up the garbage and recycling.

Mayor Nicastro announces JCP&L informed him they’re currently sending crews out to work on the downed wires on Route 46.

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none

LEGAL MATTERS

Mr. Semrau reports he met with Mayor Nicastro and went over some things that he and the Administration will be bringing forward to the Council. They also discussed various legal matters.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Board of Education Liaison Report

Mr. Aaron reports the Board of Education met January 8, 2024. He goes over the Board members that were sworn in and the appointments that were tabled. He mentions they had social media training as well.

President Roman adds he was approached by some Board members who are looking forward to increased dialogue between the Board of Ed. and Council.

Open Space Committee Report
Senior Citizen Liaison
Environmental Committee
Lake Issues – none

Mrs. Labow reports the Senior Citizens met the previous week for their first meeting of the new year, which went really well. She discusses their upcoming activities, number of members, and assisting seniors who asked her questions. She also reports Open Space met on January 8, 2024, and that she missed the Environmental Committee meeting. She then discusses the Open Space meeting, including issues with people parking at the Tarn (Pondview) at night. **President Roman** asks if there are surveillance cameras at the Tarn and expresses concern with liability and vandalism. **Mr. Tatarenko** explains there aren't, however, it's on a directive patrol by the Police Department who is aware of prior vandalism. He will follow up. **President Roman** assumes there is electricity. **Mr. Tatarenko** believes there is. **President Roman** suggests cameras be installed.

Board of Health Report

Ms. Lalama reports she'll be attending the first meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

Legislative Committee Report - none
Planning Board Report

Mr. Mania reports the upcoming Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2024. He adds the first thing on the Agenda is reorganization.

Economic Development Committee Report

Mr. Stewart reports the EDC will meet on January 24, 2024. He thanks Erik Bradley who's been doing their quarterly newsletter which will be out the first week of February.

Library Board Liaison
Recreation Liaison Report – none

Mr. Ferrante reports the Library meeting was cancelled and rescheduled tentatively for Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

Mrs. Labow asks when the calendar will be distributed. **Mayor Nicastro** informs her it'll come out the first week of February with the newspapers.

PUBLIC PORTION

Irene Sergonis, 37 Mount Olive Road, Budd Lake, discusses the Sidewalk Plan. She cites page 14 of the Sidewalk Plan regarding a walkway between the Senior Center and the Library. She raises concerns regarding sidewalks and safety. She also mentions residents helping each other during the snowstorm.

Mrs. Labow asks if there's a crosswalk near the apartments. **Mrs. Sergonis** confirms there is. **Mrs. Labow** then asks if there is a crosswalk between the Senior Center and Library. **Mrs. Sergonis** confirms there isn't. She continues to discuss sidewalks in the area.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Lalama tells everybody to be careful in the snow and thanks the DPW workers for doing an awesome job.

Mr. Stewart echoes Ms. Lalama's comments and also thanks the police and first responders.

Mr. Aaron hopes everyone is safe and encourages the public to reach out if they need support. He agrees with Mrs. Sergonis's sentiments about the community helping each other.

Mrs. Labow looks forward to this year and expresses her gratitude for all the workers helping during the storm. She also mentions neighbors helping each other.

Mr. Mania tells everyone to stay warm and dry and thanks the DPW and the first responders.

Mr. Ferrante echoes what everyone else said. He thanks the Township employees and volunteers who helped during the storm. He asks everybody to stay safe and dry.

President Roman thanks everyone for attending remotely and hopes people who need assistance are able to go to a warming center. He thanks the public employees.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion made and seconded. All in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.

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 January 23, 2023.

js _____
Michelle Masser, Township Clerk