

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

August 10, 2021
(Via GoToMeeting and In-Person)
7:00 PM

OPENING STATEMENT

Mayor Innella called the Montague Township Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. announcing that adequate notice has been provided to the New Jersey Herald and the Sunday New Jersey Herald for publication in which notice was given of the date, time, place and general agenda of the meeting according to the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance commenced.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Ms. Crawford, Ms. Martin, Mr. Merusi, Mr. Zitone, Mayor Innella
Also present was Deputy Clerk Dana Klinger and Municipal Attorney Rob Rossmeissl

Absent: None

VOUCHERS

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the vouchers. Ms. Crawford seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

MINUTES

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2021 and the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2021. Ms. Crawford seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCES (First Reading)

2021-15 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROAD EQUIPMENT. THE TOTAL COST OF THE EQUIPMENT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000, APPROPRIATING A SUM OF \$100,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROAD EQUIPMENT

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-15. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS

2021-71 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2021 SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Zitone made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-71. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2021-72 HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CR WOLFE AND THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-72. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2021-74 RESOLUTION TO CANCEL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION BALANCES OF COMPLETED PROJECTS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 5:30-4.1 ET SEQ

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-74. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2021-81 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH NJR CLEAN ENERGY VENTURES II CORPORATION IN CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR FACILITY ON BLOCK 13, LOT 3.07 ON THE TOWNSHIP TAX MAP

Attorney Rossmeissl commented that this Resolution is the last piece required for the Agreement with Geoscape-NJR Clean Energy for the Solar Panels at the Community Center. This is a functional easement for the company to access the panels for maintenance.

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-81. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Joseph Faillace – Community Center Use Request – Mr. Faillace is requesting use of the Community Center on Sunday's from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm with half of the time dedicated to a church service and the other half to focus on special community events for the residents in the area, such as, lunches, games, basketball tournaments etcetera. The Committee discussed this request and had some questions regarding the request. The Committee will have Deputy Clerk reach out to Mr. Faillace and ask him to attend the next meeting to discuss this item further. Mr. Faillace Correspondence will be carried to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Playground Equipment – Mayor Innella stated that the Township has received funding through the American Rescue Plan through loss of revenue. Mayor Innella feels that this funding would be well spent on purchasing some playground equipment for the children of Montague to have a playground here at the Municipal Building. Ms. Martin questioned if there would be an increase in insurance liability for having a playground. Mr. Zitone asked if there would be any other provisions necessary for having a playground such as mulch or special type of mulch and so on.

New Lead Legislation S1147 – Ms. Crawford remarked that in the past week Governor Murphy has passed new Legislation requiring the Municipality to conduct Lead Paint testing on any homes that are being sold or rented that were built prior to 1978. Attorney Rossmeissl added that it is a simple fact that having lead paint in the home is bad, but this is just another burden placed on the Municipalities from the State without any funding to back it up. This legislation will require the Zoning Officer to do this inspection every time there is a change in occupancy, but the upside to this is the legislation does not apply to any dwellings that have already been certified to be free of lead-based paint, dwellings that have been constructed after 1978, seasonal units that are occupied less than 6 months out of the year and any owner-occupied dwellings. The Township will have to pass an Ordinance allowing the Zoning Officer to do these inspections and it will not go into effect until October 20, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS

REPORTS

Construction Department – July 2021 – There were 27 permits issued for the month of July 2021 for a total collected of \$6,185.

Tax Collector – July 2021 - Current taxes collected for 2021 for the month of July 2021 totaled \$344,127.89. Prior year's taxes collected \$9,340.52. Prepaid Taxes collected totaled \$3,806.85. Interest collected for the month of July totaled \$6,012.54. \$8,394.84 was collected in Tax Title Liens for a total collected for the month of July of \$371,682.64.

Recreation – Ms. Martin asked the other members of the Committee to review the Recreation Flyer that she has created and let her know if anything is missing or should be added. Ms. Martin further added that Fire Prevention and/or Clean Communities will be paying for the postage costs to mail the flyer out to the residents.

Ms. Crawford added that this past weekend the Fire Department held their building dedication for the New Firehouse. It was a very nice and well attended event and the Fire Department expressed their gratitude for all the work that was put in in getting the building completed.

Attorney Rossmeissl gave an update on correspondence he received from the High Point Community Corp. Attorney regarding the two township-owned lots that the HPCC would like to use for bus stops. The Committee then discussed the idea of either leasing or selling the properties and holding a Municipal Land Sale Auction. The Committee directed Attorney Rossmeissl to begin the Land Sale Auction process.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (limited to three minutes per person)

Mr. Merusi made a motion to open to the public. Ms. Martin seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

John Cantelmo – Clove Road – Mr. Cantelmo made a presentation to the Committee requesting the use of the Municipal Building Parking Lot and the Community Center for the Restrooms for the High Point Cruisers Funkhana event on Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve this request provided that the certificate of insurance is provided, the Hold Harmless Agreement is completed, and the nominal fee is paid to the Township. Ms. Crawford seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

There being no further comment from the public, Mr. Merusi made a motion to close to the public. Ms. Crawford seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Crawford made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION 2021-75

WHEREAS the Township of Montague is authorized, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 to exclude the public from that portion of this meeting for purposes of discussing specific matters as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and

WHEREAS the Township intends to discuss certain matters which are deemed confidential pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 in Executive Session; and

WHEREAS at this time the Township cannot determine the time when the discussions to be held in Executive Session will be made public but will disclose the minutes of the Executive Session when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Township Committee of the Township of Montague that this meeting shall be adjourned to an executive session (closed session) and the public will be excluded in order that the Committee may, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-13(a), discuss personnel without taking action, and after reconvening this public meeting action may be taken and the Mayor or his designee will announce, if possible, the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public. This resolution is authorized and allowed by and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13.

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved by the Township Committee that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13(b) the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted in closed session of the public body can be disclosed to the public is when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Ms. Martin made a motion to close Executive Session. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Zitone made a motion to open to Regular Session. Ms. Crawford seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURN

Ms. Crawford made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:

**DANA KLINGER, RMC
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK**