

Approved: December 28, 2021

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

November 23, 2021

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 and Mayor Innella
Also present was Deputy Clerk Dana Klinger and Municipal Attorney Rob Rossmeissl

Excused: Mr. Merusi and Mr. Zitone

ORDINANCES (First Reading)

2021-18 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 54B OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH RESTRICTIONS ON THE RENTAL OF RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS FOR PERIODS OF SIXTY ('60') DAYS OR FEWER

Ms. Martin made a motion to table the introduction of Ordinance 2021-18 until the next regularly scheduled Township Committee Meeting when all members are in attendance. The Committee members then discussed a few changes that they would like to see before formally introducing this Ordinance.

2021-19 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2022 FREIGHTLINER FOR THE TOTAL COST OF \$220,000.00, APPROPRIATING A SUM OF \$220,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND IN THE CAPITAL TRUST

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve introduction of Ordinance 2021-19. Ms. Martin seconded and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2021-20 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 53B OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE TOWNSHIP'S AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE ITS PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE.

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve introduction of Ordinance 2021-20. Ms. Martin seconded and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCES (Second Reading)

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed within an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Township Committee and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Committee member so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Martin seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote excluding the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 09, 2021 in which, Mayor Innella abstained from due to his absence at the November 09, 2021 Committee Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2021
Regular Meeting Minutes of November 09, 2021

RESOLUTIONS

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 2021-114 | AUTHORIZE TAX TITLE LIEN REDEMPTION (BL 18, LT 26, CO2) |
| 2021-115 | AUTHORIZE TAX TITLE LIEN REDEMPTION (BL 18.55, LT 32) |
| 2021-116 | TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION (BL 18, LT 217) |
| 2021-117 | RESOLUTION TO CANCEL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION BALANCES OF COMPLETED PROJECTS PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 5-30-4.1 ET SEQ. |
| 2021-118 | RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TO JOIN AS CO-APPLICANT ON THE COMMUNITY CORPORATION OF HIGHPOINT'S APPLICATION FOR A DAM RESTORATION LOAN FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S DAM RESTORATION LOAN PROGRAM |

CORRESPONDENCE

John DeGeorge – Veterans Service Recognition – Mayor Innella read correspondence received from John DeGeorge thanking the Recreation Committee and Committeewoman Toni-Lu Martin for their efforts and nice words that were said at the Veterans Day Service.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department Cascade System Grant – Mayor Innella explained to all in attendance that the Fire Department has contacted the Township regarding a Cascade System Grant that they are applying for. The Cascade System is used to refill the oxygen tanks on the Scott Air Paks. The current system that they have is well over 25-years old. The total cost to replace the system is about \$50,000 so they are looking to apply for a Grant to cover these costs. They have been in contact with the Grant Writers, the same company that they previously used to get the last tanker, and their services should not exceed \$4,000. The Township CFO, Sharon Yarosz explained that there are unused funds in the Township Budget for Grant Writing in the amount of \$3,000. Ms. Martin suggested that this might be a cost that can be used or reimbursed through the American Rescue Plan Funds. Attorney Rossmeissl will look into this, but for now, the Township will proceed until those details can be obtained. Ms. Crawford then made a motion to approve funding for a Grant Writer for the Fire Department's Cascade System with a cost not to exceed \$3,000 and any costs encumbered thereafter will be the responsibility of the Montague Township Fire Department. Ms. Martin seconded and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote. Deputy Clerk Dana Klingler then issued this Resolution 2021-120.

OLD BUSINESS

None

REPORTS

Recreation – Ms. Martin once again thanked Mr. DeGeorge for the letter he wrote regarding the Veteran's Day Service. Ms. Martin further acknowledged the efforts made by all the Recreation Committee Members. Ms. Martin added that on December 4, 2021 the Recreation Committee will be hosting the Annual Tree Lighting at the Community Center with Santa arriving at 5:15 PM. The Holiday Decorating Contest will begin next month with the winner being announced on December 21, 2021. Lastly, Ms. Martin added if anyone knows of any families in need of toys to please contact her.

December 28, 2021

Deputy Clerk Dana Klinger announced that JCP&L will be performing their routine trimming of the circuits of the Holiday Lake Substation which will begin in January of 2022.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (limited to three minutes per person)

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

Edward Zalenski – Shore Drive – Mr. Zalenski asked the Committee if the next meeting would include the first reading of Ordinance 2021-18 since this was tabled. The Committee replied yes, it would be first reading. Mr. Zalenski further added that there has been a lot of discussion within the HPCC that they want the Master Plan changed to remove the R4 Zoning within the Country Club. If this succeeds then the proposed short-term rental Ordinance would no longer keep short-term rentals out of the Country Club. Attorney Rossmeissl responded that there has been overwhelming consensus from the Committee to exclude short-term rentals from being allowed in the Country Club; even if the Zoning were to change, the Committee could then very easily pass a subsequent Ordinance to amend the language to still include the area of the Country Club.

Jody Case-Kennedy – Shore Drive – Ms. Case-Kennedy said she is glad she attends the Committee Meetings because she learned today about the Country Club applying for a loan with the State for the repair of one of their dams. She also attends the HPCC meetings, but it seems as though they tell the public very little.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION 2021-119

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 Attorney Client Privilege without taking action, and after reconvening this public meeting action may be taken and the Mayor or her 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. Crawford made a motion to close Executive Session. Ms. Martin seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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

December 28, 2021

ADJOURN

Ms. Crawford made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 PM. Ms. Martin seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:

**DANA KLINGER, RMC
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK**