

# MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

## MINUTES

JULY 26, 2022  
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: Mr. LeDonne, Mr. Merusi, Mr. Zitone and Mayor Innella. Also present was Municipal Clerk DeFabiis and Municipal Attorney Robert Rossmeissl

Excused: Mr. Krumpfer

### QUOTES

Fire Chief Vehicle - Township Attorney, Rob Rossmeissl announced that the Township is looking to procure a vehicle for the Fire Chief. They have received a few quotes for this vehicle, one was about \$43,000 and the other came in at \$54,000 and the last one came in at \$49,000. The Township will now have to put out a request for proposals because in accordance with the public contracts law in New Jersey anything that costs above \$44,500 must go out to a formal bid. The Committee and representatives from the Fire Department then discussed which items they would like to be included in the specs for the request for proposals.

### MINUTES

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2022. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2022. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with Mr. LeDonne, Mr. Merusi, and Mr. Zitone all voting yes and Mayor Innella abstaining.

### ORDINANCES (First Reading)

None

### ORDINANCES (Second Reading)

2022-13 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP CODE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE CHAPTER 53C VACANT AND ABANDONDED PROPERTIES.

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve this Ordinance. Mr. Zitone seconded. Mr. Merusi made a motion to open to public for discussion regarding Ordinance 2022-13. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

With no comment from the public, Mr. Merusi made a motion to close to public. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Municipal Clerk DeFabiis then called the roll, and the motion to approve Ordinance 2022-13 carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

### RESOLUTIONS

2022-087 GRACE PERIOD FOR AUGUST 2022 TAX PAYMENT

Mr. Zitone made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-087. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Montague PTA – Request for use of Municipal Parking Lot (Car Show) – Mayor Innella informed those in attendance that the Montague PTA would like permission to use the Municipal Building Parking Lot for a Car Show on Saturday, October 1, 2022 as well as use of the restrooms in the lower level of the building. Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve this request. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Montague Volunteer Fire Department – Request approval of Application for Blue Light Permit for Diavante Corum, James LeDonne, Shane Lock, and Keith Lamberson. Mr. Zitone made a motion to approve this request. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with Mr. LeDonne abstaining and Mr. Merusi, Mr. Zitone, and Mayor Innella all voting yes.

Montague Volunteer Fire Department – Request approval of Application for Membership for Kevin McCullough – Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve this request. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Summer Recycling Schedule – Mayor Innella commented that last year, due to a high demand, the Township Committee increased the Recycling Center hours to every Saturday for the summer months. The Recycling attendant has asked if the Committee would like have the same schedule for this year. Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve a summer schedule for the Recycling Center. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion carried with Mr. LeDonne, Mr. Merusi, and Mayor Innella all voting yes and Mr. Zitone voting no.

Municipal Building/Community Center Floor Waxing – It has been several years since the flooring at the Municipal Building has been waxed and it could definitely use it. Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve a quote received from LA Carpet Care in the amount of \$900 to wax the flooring in the Municipal Building and Community Center. Mr. Zitone seconded and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Land Use Board – Alternate #1 – Mayor Innella commented that currently there is one vacancy on the Land Use Board for Alternate #1 and there may even possibly be a second one coming in. Mayor Innella then asked the other members of the Committee for any possible suggestions for nominations for the vacant position. The members of the Committee will discuss this at the next Committee Meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Walking Path – Mr. Merusi stated that they are still waiting for the Engineer to come back with the final layout. Clerk DeFabiis said that she spoke to someone at the County who mentioned that they are offering grants, hopefully, each year for projects just like this but it is not a guarantee. Mayor Innella stated that they were planning to do the project in phases due to the costs so it may be possible to apply next year to the County for a grant for the second phase if it is available at that time.

## **REPORTS**

Joint Municipal Court – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022 Report – \$3,881.98 in fees and fines were collected by the Joint Municipal Court in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter which included the months of April, May and June for the Township of Montague.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (limited to three minutes per person)

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

Rhodi Teufert – Chubby Lane – Ms. Teufert thanked the members of the Committee on behalf on the Montague PTA for allowing them to use the Municipal Grounds for their Car Show Event on October 1, 2022.

Sandra Kohler – River Road – Ms. Kohler thanked the Committee for their assistance with the Short-Term Rental issue she has been having. The Attorney has been working with her on drafting a letter to the property owner whom she has had complaints with. Additionally, the Township Zoning Officer has also been out to the property.

Arthur Henn – River Road – Mr. Henn also spoke about Short-Term Rentals, asking if they are inspected. Mr. Merusi stated that there is an annual inspection. Mr. Henn also spoke regarding the Fire Chief’s Vehicle asking if there is a more cost effective option such as an SUV with 4-wheel drive. Mr. LeDonne stated that the Fire Department wanted to go with a pickup truck because there is more room in the bed for their equipment. Mr. Henn also asked for an update on the Firehouse/Community Center. Mayor Innella gave a brief update on the status of the open projects.

There being no additional comments from the public, Mr. Merusi made a motion to close to the public. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Zitone made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:

**EILEEN DEFABIIS, RMC  
MUNICIPAL CLERK**