

Approved: December 12, 2023.

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

7:00 PM

OPENING STATEMENT

Mayor Zitone 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. Innella, Mr. Krumpfer, Mr. LeDonne, Mr. Merusi, and Mayor Zitone
Also present were Municipal Clerk Dana Klinger and Attorney Rossmeissl.

Absent: None

MINUTES

Mr. Innella made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2023. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCES (First Reading)

2023-20 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING & SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 45 OF THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE, ENTITLED "JUNKYARDS"

Attorney Rossmeissl noted that this is the first reading of the Ordinance, which will revise the Township's current "Junkyard" portion of the code, which will be under the Health & General Welfare legislation rather than the "Zoning" legislation. Attorney Rossmeissl went over some of the key points that will be established in this ordinance which include: changing the point person or enforcement officer of this ordinance to the Township Construction Official, changing the licensing fee to \$350 annually, establishing rigorous fire safety standards, establishing fencing standards, including offsets and/or setbacks, changes to the definition section of Junkyards, establishing hours of operation and establishing penalty/violation provisions. The Committee then had a brief discussion regarding the proposed inclusions. Mr. Krumpfer then made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-20 upon introduction. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion was carried with Mr. Innella, Mr. Krumpfer, Mr. LeDonne, and Mayor Zitone all voting yes and Mr. Merusi voting no.

ORDINANCES (Second Reading)

2023-15 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 76 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ENTITLED "ZONING", AMENDING ARTICLE III, DEFINITIONS, SECTION 76-7, DELETING THE DEFINITION OF "BUILDING HEIGHT" AND REPLACING THAT DEFINITION

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-15. Mr. Krumpfer then seconded the motion. Mr. Merusi then made a motion to open to the public for discussion of Ordinance 2023-15. Mr. Innella seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote.

With no comment from the public, Mr. Merusi made a motion to close to the public. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote. Municipal Clerk Klinger then called the roll, and the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-15 was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Zitone then stated that the next series of Ordinances are the State Mandated Ordinances for the Township's new Tier A designation for its Stormwater Management Permit, these will include Ordinance 2023-16 through Ordinance 2023-19.

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2023-16 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 88 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, ENTITLED "COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", AMENDING SECTION 88-1, "DEFINITIONS", AND ADDING SECTION 88-17, ESTABLISH A YARD WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Mr. Innella made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-16. Mr. Merusi then seconded the motion. Mr. Merusi then made a motion to open to the public for discussion of Ordinance 2023-16. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote.

With no comment from the public, Mr. Merusi made a motion to close to the public. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote. Municipal Clerk Klinger then called the roll, and the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-16 was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2023-17 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE AT CHAPTER 47 ENTITLED "LITTERING"

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-17. Mr. LeDonne then seconded the motion. Mr. Merusi then made a motion to open to the public for discussion of Ordinance 2023-17. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote.

With no comment from the public, Mr. Merusi made a motion to close to the public. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote. Municipal Clerk Klinger then called the roll, and the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-17 was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2023-18 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 56 OF THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, ENTITLED "STORMWATER CONTROL", AMENDING ARTICLE II, "DEFINITIONS," AND ADDING ARTICLE V, "FEEDING WILD ANIMALS", ARTICLE VI, "ILLICIT CONNECTION", ARTICLE VII, "IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTE", ARTICLE VIII, "PRIVATE STORM DRAIN INLET RETROFITTING", AND ARTICLE IX, "PRIVATE STORAGE OF DE-ICING MATERIALS"

Mr. LeDonne made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-18. Mr. Krumpfer then seconded the motion. Mr. Merusi then made a motion to open to the public for discussion of Ordinance 2023-18. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote.

With no comment from the public, Mr. Merusi made a motion to close to the public. Mr. Innella seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote. Municipal Clerk Klinger then called the roll, and the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-18 was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2023-19 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 34 OF THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, ENTITLED "DOGS", TO ADD A PROVISION REGARDING PET WASTE

Mr. LeDonne made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-19. Mr. Merusi then seconded the motion. Mr. Merusi then made a motion to open to the public for discussion of Ordinance 2023-19. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote.

With no comment from the public, Mr. Merusi made a motion to close to the public. Mr. Innella seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote. Municipal Clerk Klinger then called the roll, and the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-19 was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS

2023-120 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION OF THE FY2024 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FIREFIGHTER GRANT PROGRAM

Mayor Zitone stated that the Montague Township Fire Department will be applying for a grant to purchase a new air compressor. Municipal Clerk Klinger added that this is a reimbursable grant and is non-matching, therefore the Township/Fire Department will not be contributing any funds. Mr. Krumpfer made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-120. Mr. Innella seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Approved: December 12, 2023.

2023-121 RESOLUTION APPOINTING RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT 2024 FUND YEAR

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-121. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2023-122 RESOLUTION APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER FOR FUND YEAR 2024

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-122. Mr. Innella seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2023-123 TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Mr. Krumpfer made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-123. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2023-124 AUTHORIZATION TO CANCEL TOWNSHIP TAX SALE CERTIFICATE

Mr. Krumpfer made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-124. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2023-125 RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT TO R&L DATACENTERS, INC. FOR PAYROLL SERVICES FROM JANUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024.

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-125. Mr. Innella seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Harold E. Pellow & Associates, Inc. – Year-End Report & Engineer’s Appointment for CY 2024- The Township Committee acknowledged receipt and review of the Annual Report.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

REPORTS

The Township Committee discussed a Christmas Tree Drop-Off at the DPW Yard this year for Montague Township Residents. The Committee also suggested including a pick-up for disabled persons. Mr. Merusi also announced that the Township will be holding its Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 4:00 PM on Saturday, December 2, 2023.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (limited to three minutes per person)

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

Darren Ponce – Millville Road – Mr. Ponce asked for clarification regarding the Junkyard Ordinance regarding the limit of cars allowed. As it stands, the Township has a number of ten cars included within the Ordinance.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Merusi made a motion approve Resolution 2023-126 to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Krumpfer seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION 2023-126

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

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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 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.

Mr. Merusi made a motion to close the Executive Session. Mr. Innella seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Merusi made a motion to open to Regular Session. Mr. Innella seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote.

No action was taken regarding Executive Session – Personnel.

ADJOURN

Mr. Innella made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Mr. LeDonne seconded, and the motion was carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:

**DANA KLINGER, RMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK**