

The Public Meeting of the Mount Olive Township Council was called to order at 7:40pm by President Nicastro.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ANNOUNCEMENT

President Nicastro: In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by sending timely notice to the Daily Record and the Mount Olive Chronicle and posting notice on the bulletin board of the Municipal Building, 204 Flanders Drakestown Road, Budd Lake, N.J. Additional notice has been posted on the Township website and Facebook page and on the outside front door of the Municipal Building and sent to those individuals requesting same.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Aaron, Mr. Ferrante, Mrs. Labow, Mr. Mania, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Nicastro

Absent: Mr. Roman

Also Present: Michelle Masser, Township Clerk; Jon Testa, Township Attorney; Rob Greenbaum, Mayor; Andrew Tatarenko, Business Administrator; Claudia Tomasello, Assistant Business Administrator; and Sherry Kolody, CFO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 1. August 8, 2023 WS & PM (Absent: J. Mania)

Mr. Aaron makes a motion to approve the August 8, 2023, WS & PM Minutes, and **Mrs. Labow** seconds.

ROLL CALL: **Passed with the exception of Mr. Mania, who abstained on the August 8, 2023, WS & PM Minutes**

CORRESPONDENCE

LETTERS FROM RESIDENTS/ORGANIZATIONS/OTHER TOWNS

- 1. Email received August 7, 2023, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: August 7, 2023.
- 2. Email received August 14, 2023, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Learn more about the exciting opportunities available to non-veterans, veterans, and their families at NO COST!
- 3. Email received August 14, 2023, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: August 14, 2023.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES OTHER TOWNS – None

LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

- 4. Email received August 11, 2023, from NJLM regarding Mayors Look Ahead for Housing Reform; Acting Governor Takes Action.

STATE AGENCIES/LOI/HIGHLANDS

- 5. Publication received August 8, 2023, from NJDCA regarding Local Finance Notice 2023 - 14.
- 6. Email received August 10, 2023, from NJDEP regarding LU eSubmission Final Decision . . . PI #:1427-22-0009.2 - Morris Cnty @ Flanders-Netcong - LUP230001.
- 7. Email received August 11, 2023, from NJDCA regarding New DCA Rulemaking: Uniform Construction Code and Historic Preservation Trust.
- 8. Email received August 14, 2023, from NJDEP regarding NJDEP Weekly Update.

MSA/MUA

- 9. Resolution received August 7, 2023, from the Musconetcong Sewerage Authority regarding Resolution No. 23-24, Resolution of the Musconetcong Sewerage Authority Adopting Service Rules for Prohibited Discharges After Public Hearing.

MORRIS COUNTY

- 10. Email received August 11, 2023, from Morris County regarding Morris County and Atlantic Health System Partner on Stroke Intervention.
- 11. Email received August 14, 2023, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: Aug. 11, 2023 Update.

UTILITIES

- 12. Email received August 9, 2023, from Gary Akmentins, SJ Industries/Elizabethtown Gas, regarding Elizabethtown Gas Company Notice(s) of Public Hearings scheduled for 8-31-2023 (BPU Docket Nos. GR23060335, GR23040270 and ER23060409).

There was no discussion on Correspondence.

ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING: - NONE

President Nicastro: No Ordinances for second reading. So, next time on the Agenda for first reading is Ordinance #23-2023,

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: (2nd reading September 5, 2023)

Ord.#23-2023 An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 375, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Township Code to Modify Parking and Travel on Pinetree Lane to Ensure Safe and Efficient Flow of Traffic.

President Nicastro: Mr. Ferrante.

Mr. Ferrante: Sure, I move that Ordinance #23-2023 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 September 5, 2023, 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 law.

Mr. Stewart: Second.

President Nicastro: Any discussion? Roll Call, please.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

President Nicastro: Next item on the Agenda for first reading is Ordinance #24-2023,

Ord.#24-2023 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #32-2022 of the Township of Mount Olive Entitled Salaries of Certain Exempt Personnel.

President Nicastro: Mrs. Labow.

Mrs. Labow: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that Ordinance #24-2023 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 September 5, 2023, 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 law.

Mr. Mania: Second.

President Nicastro: Any discussion? Roll Call, please.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

President Nicastro: Next item on the Agenda for first reading is Ordinance #25-2023,

Ord.#25-2023 An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 169, Dogs and Other Animals, of the Township Code to Prohibit the Feeding of Wildlife on Public and Private Property Except for Certain Limited Exceptions.

President Nicastro: Mr. Mania.

Mr. Mania: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that Ordinance #25-2023 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 September 5, 2023, 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 law.

Mr. Stewart: Second.

President Nicastro: Any discussion?

Mrs. Labow asks about prohibiting bird feeders. **Mr. Tatarenko** explains it’s Council’s decision. After discussion, the answer was no.

President Nicastro: Roll Call.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

President Nicastro: Next item on the Agenda for first reading is Ordinance #26-2023,

Ord.#26-2023 Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending Section 375-18, Vehicles Over Certain Weights Excluded, of the Township Code to Establish a Vehicle Weight Limit on Woodland Avenue, Waterloo Road, Firetower Road and Lozier Road.

President Nicastro: Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that Ordinance #26-2023 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 September 5, 2023, 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 law.

Mrs. Labow: Second.

President Nicastro: Any discussion? Roll Call, please.

Mr. Aaron asks if there are any other roads to consider throughout this project. **Mr. Tatarenko** explains the issue of trucks being rerouted to this area. **Mr. Aaron** asks if this includes the road behind the warehouse where trucks would get stuck. **Mr. Tatarenko** explains that was already prohibited.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS AGENDA:

1. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the Budd Lake Fire Department to hold a "Coin Drop" fundraiser on various dates in 2023
2. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive requesting approval from the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for insertion of a specific item of revenue into the 2023 municipal budget (\$10,404.07 for National Opioid Settlement Grant)
3. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive to cancel taxes on Block 2801, Lot 87 for disabled veteran declared 100% totally & permanently disabled by the Tax Assessor

4. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive to cancel taxes on Block 4900, Lot 3 for disabled veteran declared 100% totally & permanently disabled by the Tax Assessor
5. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive to cancel taxes on Block 910, Lot 2 for disabled veteran declared 100% totally & permanently disabled by the Tax Assessor
6. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive to cancel taxes on Block 7801, Lot 41.18 for disabled veteran declared 100% totally & permanently disabled by the Tax Assessor
7. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive approving a non-fair and open vendor service contract pursuant to New Jersey local unit Pay-to-Play Law (Core & Main)
8. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive approving a non-fair and open vendor service contract pursuant to New Jersey local unit Pay-to-Play Law (Hungerford & Terry)
9. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a contract for the purchase of radio equipment and accessories off New Jersey State Contract (Atlantic Communications)
10. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a contract to Atlantic Tactical, Inc. for Bid #08-2023 Purchase of Sig Sauer Handguns with Trade-In for Smith & Wesson
11. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the purchase of a camera trailer off the Sourcewell Co-op (Aries industries)
12. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing purchases off New Jersey State contracts pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12 for calendar year 2023 (Atlantic Communications)
13. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the use of Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System Contract for 2023 (Gold Type Business Machines)
14. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the withholding from tax sale properties approved by the State for (LIHWAP), the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

Mr. Aaron moves for the adoption of Consent Resolutions one through fourteen and **Mr. Mania** seconds.

There was no discussion on Consent Resolutions.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

MOTIONS

1. Bill List

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

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor Greenbaum announces the Food Truck and Fireworks Festival is Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Turkey Brook Park from 4:00pm to 10:00pm. He informs everyone that MOMAC will recognize International Overdose Awareness Day, Thursday, August 31, 2023, with purple balloons displayed in Town Hall. Employees will be encouraged to wear purple as well. He then reminds everyone Township schools open Wednesday, August 30, 2023. He discusses tickets given for passing school buses. He emphasizes the importance of stopping for buses, regardless of being on a road with multiple lanes. He announces the passing of Bill Sohl, former Councilman, and Business Administrator. There will be a celebration of life on September 17, 2023, at the All Veterans Memorial.

Mr. Tatarenko adds that a two-page flyer will be inserted with the tax bills to remind residents of the laws regarding school buses. He also discusses the closure of the intersection at Route 206 and Flanders Netcong Road for the Wawa project. They will not be done with their site improvements prior to the start of school. He has a meeting with the State and County on August 23, 2023, to discuss the path forward. He told them the intersection will be reopened next week, no matter what, and they'll have to come back and finish at a later date. The two main hold ups are relocating the utility pole and some curbing issues. He informs everyone that they've advertised for the tax collector position due to the current tax collector's upcoming retirement. The new tax collector will be starting on September 12, 2023, and there will be some overlap to ensure a smooth transition. He explains Bartley-Chester Road rehabilitation will take place approximately the week of September 15, 2023. He also informs everyone that they've received a request to install a small cell 5G antenna through Verizon on River Road. The planner is working with the Legal Department to make sure it's in compliance with the requirements. He shares encouraging news that was received from the DEP regarding Valley Brook Park redevelopment. They needed to make some changes to the site plan for the redevelopment project. The DEP has accepted what they've resubmitted. Additionally, the County finalized the acquisition of 1 Main Street, which is the corner property on Main Street and Route 206 which is part of phase two of the intersection improvements. **President Nicaastro** asks for updates on Pinecrest. **Mr. Tatarenko** explains the State approved the permit. They're getting a quote from a vendor and will make an emergency purchase, so they can move forward.

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none

LEGAL MATTERS – none

COUNCIL REPORTS

Environmental Committee
Lake Issues
Library Board Liaison

Mr. Ferrante reports the next meetings will take place in September.

Open Space Committee Report
Board of Health Report
Senior Citizen Liaison

Mrs. Labow reports the Board of Health and Open Space Committee will meet in September. Senior Citizens have a lot of upcoming trips. Their next one is on the Miss Lotta in Lake Hopatcong. They recently lost a member named Sadie (Sarah Giganti) who passed away. She discusses wearing purple on August 31, 2023, for International Overdose Awareness. She makes suggestions to improve advertising for the Nonprofit Day.

Legislative Committee Report – none
Planning Board Report

Mr. Mania reports there were three applications before the Planning Board that were approved.

Economic Development Committee Report

Mr. Stewart reports the third quarter newsletter was published and is available on the Township website. They've already started on the fourth quarter newsletter. **President Nicaastro** discusses businesses in Town.

Board of Education Liaison Report – none

Recreation Liaison Report – none

PUBLIC PORTION

Debbie Post, 67 Main Street, Flanders, reads the following letter:

Dear Mount Olive Mayor and Town Council,

Over the past 25 years, my husband, Brian Malcolm, and I have lived at 67 Main Street, and we have personally witnessed our property being violated, our home damaged and landscape destroyed more than half a dozen times from northbound vehicles losing control from the insidious curve near #73 Main Street (closest intersection is Patriots Way). This is a very dangerous section of road and although the speed limit is posted at 30 mph, the off camber curve is not marked with any advance warning. Over the years, all types of vehicles in all types of weather and speed continue to damage our property, as well as our neighbors at 71 Main Street.

The latest damage occurred early Friday, Aug. 4th, when a speeding car with an impaired driver struck our neighbors' tree and mailbox and proceeded into our yard, striking a rock, mailbox, the front and rear of our retaining wall before flipping onto the passenger side, hitting the front of our house (causing interior and exterior damage) and an evergreen tree. Luckily, the driver walked away from it, and we were not in our foyer or living room nor harmed. While our house has been struck before from probable non-speeding vehicles, particularly in the winter months, this was surely the most horrific and traumatic! We are very grateful for the quick, professional, and outstanding response of the Flanders Fire Co. and Rescue Squad and Mt. Olive Police.

Now every evening as I prepare for bed, locking the front door, looking out on the oncoming northbound cars on Main St., I feel my heart go into my throat wondering if tonight will be a repeat. Since that troubling night, I also have not been able to relax in my own living room in recliners that are only inches away from where the impact occurred.

While this incident was extraordinary, it serves as a long overdue call to action for a traffic engineering assessment of the road from the crest of the hill to 73 Main St. Additionally, and for the protection of our neighborhood, the children who use the school bus stop on that curve, and the homeowners' properties, I strongly encourage the Traffic Dept. to consider the following where appropriate:

- curved arrow or "slow dangerous curve ahead" sign.
- 2 or 3 reflective arrow signs to direct the flow of traffic around the curve (as used at the northern end of Main St.).
- as speeding is much more prevalent, a flashing sign displaying the traveling speed of each vehicle.
- request consideration be given to reducing the speed limit to 25 mph as it is on Park Place.
- I have submitted a non-emergent traffic complaint to the Traffic Unit with this request and have contacted Stephen Beecher, Police Chief.
- In the meantime, my husband and I will have large boulders installed in our yard to help safeguard our property and for peace of mind. We urge the Police Traffic Unit, our Mount Olive Mayor, and Town Council to urgently consider this request and act upon it without delay (before school starts) for the safety of our residents and before further property damage or worse, a loss of life, occurs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. My husband and I, Brian Malcolm, respectfully submit this.

Mayor Greenbaum explains he's asked Mr. Tatarenko to follow up with the Police Department to get the study started immediately to make that portion of Main Street safer. He's also asked Mr. Tatarenko to report back to Ms. Post. **Ms. Post** thanks the Mayor. **Mrs. Labow** asks if they have to wait for the study to be completed to put the dangerous curve sign up. **Mr. Testa** explains they want to make sure it's properly placed. **Mr. Tatarenko** reiterates that they'll look into it. **Mr. Aaron** asks if the review of signage includes the speed limit. **Mr. Tatarenko** explains the process. **Mayor Greenbaum** discusses speeding in Town and reiterates they'll look into it.

David Lamm, 71 Main Street, Flanders, discusses the issues with speeding on the road. They're interested to see what can be done practically. **Mayor Greenbaum** emphasizes the importance of protecting the residents and gives his word that they'll hear back from somebody with an update on the issue.

Kathi & Rick Masters, 10 Aldersgate Circle, discuss a recent accident on Route 46. She asks what can be done to improve safety on Route 46 and if anyone has consulted with the Department of Transportation. She is aware that it's not Mount Olive's issue but is concerned about the number of accidents on the roadway. **Mayor Greenbaum** explains Mr. Tatarenko has already reached out to the Department of Transportation for a meeting regarding Route 46. There was thought given to putting in center medians but it's not possible because of how close the houses are to the roadway. He then discusses the recent accident that occurred and accidents that also occur on Route 206 and the ideas they've had in the past to address traffic, but they haven't worked out. He suggests she leave her phone number so Mr. Tatarenko can update her about the meeting he has. **Mr. Masters** discusses Jersey wall barriers. **Mayor Greenbaum** discusses changing traffic patterns. He then suggests the possibility of inviting the Department of Transportation to an open meeting to talk about the dangers of Route

46 and Route 206. **Mrs. Masters** suggests a traffic light on Connelly Ave be revisited. **Mayor Greenbaum** explains the Police Department wasn't in favor of it. They instead opened up the back entrance of Tanglewood Way, which seems to have helped.

Irene Sergonis, 37 Mount Olive Road, Budd Lake, expresses her gratitude for the Ukrainian Proclamation. She then asks if expanding the parking lot is part of the Senior Center Expansion Plan. **Mr. Tatarenko** replies no. **Mrs. Sergonis** announces Friends of the Library will be hosting a book sale on September 9, 2023.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Aaron gives condolences to Bill Sohl's family. He also supports the comments made about the Ukrainian Proclamation. He encourages volunteerism after having attended Nonprofit Day and emphasizes the importance of it and states the Mount Olive Food Pantry needs donations.

Mr. Ferrante wishes students a safe and successful school year.

Mrs. Labow gives her condolences to the Sohl family, as well as to Mr. Tatarenko and his family and the Ukraine. She then discusses the needs of the food pantry.

Mr. Mania prays for the family of Bill Sohl and states he was a dear friend.

Mr. Stewart thanks Mrs. Sergonis for announcing the book sale. He then discusses the needs of the food pantry. He announces they'll be doing the Annual Large Business Food Drive in November as they've done for 15 years.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion made and seconded. All in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Joe Nicastro, Council President

I, Susan Gouveia, Deputy 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 September 5, 2023.

js

Susan Gouveia, Deputy Township Clerk