

The Public Meeting of the Mount Olive Township Council was called to order at 8:16pm 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. Roman, Mr. Stewart, and Mr. Nicastro

Absent: None

Also Present: Susan Gouveia, Deputy Township Clerk; Jon Testa, Township Attorney; Andrew Tatarenko, Business Administrator; Claudia Quinn, Assistant Business Administrator; and Sherry Kolody, CFO

DISCUSSION ITEM

- 1. Best Practices Checklist

Mrs. Kolody gives an overview of the Best Practices checklist. She highlights the two questions they answered “no” to, which include questions regarding a formal policy to purchase hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles and capital improvements for the Water Department. **Mr. Tatarenko** elaborates on the changes that will be made to the water quality report. **Mr. Roman** asks various questions regarding the questions and responses in the Best Practice Checklist. **Mr. Tatarenko** discusses options for creating policies. **Mrs. Kolody** confirms they’ll be receiving the final allotment of State Aid.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 1. October 3, 2023 WS & PM

Mr. Aaron makes a motion to approve the October 3, 2023, WS & PM Minutes, and **Mrs. Labow** seconds.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE

LETTERS FROM RESIDENTS/ORGANIZATIONS/OTHER TOWNS

- 1. Email received October 2, 2023, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: October 2, 2023.
- 2. Email received October 2, 2023, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding You are invited to our annual Atlantic City Hospitality Fiesta! Save your spot now!
- 3. Email received October 3, 2023, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Now's the time to register for these featured programs and events!
- 4. Email received October 4, 2023, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Let's celebrate Hispanic-owned businesses with NJEDA and its partners! Register today!
- 5. Email received October 4, 2023, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Webinar: What you should know about your estate planning documents. Stay tuned!
- 6. Email received October 6, 2023, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding NJPAC's Business Partners Roundtable networking! Reserve your spots now!
- 7. Email received October 10, 2023, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: October 9, 2023.

8. Email received October 10, 2023, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Sponsorship opportunities are now available for our annual Atlantic City Hospitality Fiesta! Join us and register now!
9. Email received October 11, 2023, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding INFO SESSION - Discover more about the No-Cost Programs and get the latest updates! Register and join us!
10. Email received October 12, 2023, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Your go-to source for NJ events: Weekly Community Calendar.
11. Email received October 13, 2023, from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Livestream Replay: Understanding Your Estate Planning Documents. You can still watch it again on our YT!

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES OTHER TOWNS – none**LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES – none****STATE AGENCIES/LOI/HIGHLANDS**

12. Publication received October 4, 2023, from the State of New Jersey, Department of the Treasury, Division of Taxation regarding 2023 Certification of the Table of Equalized Valuations.
13. Email received October 10, 2023, from NJDEP regarding UHOT NFA Letter for PI #: 1033207 - 11 VACCARO RD(CSP230001).
14. Email received October 12, 2023, from NJDOT regarding NJDOT Virtual Public Information Center: Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment.
15. Email received October 12, 2023, from NJDOT regarding NJDOT Virtual Public Information Center: Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment (updated).

MSA/MUA

16. Email received October 5, 2023, regarding Resolution No. 23-44 Establishing Meeting Dates for the Musconetcong Sewerage Authority for the Calendar Year 2024.

MORRIS COUNTY

17. Email received September 29, 2023, from Morris County regarding September is National Emergency Preparedness Month.
18. Email received September 29, 2023, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: Sept. 29, 2023.
19. Publication received October 5, 2023, from Morris County Board of Taxation regarding Abstract of Ratables Morris County 2023.
20. Email received October 10, 2023, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: Oct. 6, 2023.
21. Email received October 11, 2023, from Morris County regarding Historic Preservation Helps State Children's Theater Grow.
22. Email received October 12, 2023, from Morris County regarding Morris Count Stands with Israel.
23. Email received October 13, 2023, from Morris County regarding October Proclaimed National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

UTILITIES – none

There was no discussion on Correspondence.

President Nicastro: I open the hearing to the public on Ordinance #30-2023,

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Ord.# 30-2023 Ordinance Amending Section 3(h) of Bond Ordinance #7-2022, as Amended by Ordinance #1-2023, Ordinance # 18-2023 and Ordinance #20-2023, of the Township of Mount Olive, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Finally Adopted April 5, 2022, as Amended January 24, 2023, June 27, 2023, and July 24, 2023, to Include an Additional Project

President Nicastro: Mr. Ferrante.

Mr. Ferrante: Sure, I move for adoption and final passage, Ordinance #30-2023.

Mrs. Labow: Second.

President Nicastro: Does anyone from the public wish to be heard at this time on the Ordinance? Seeing none. Closed to the public. Any Council? Anything else? Seeing none. Roll Call, please.

ROLL CALL: **Passed unanimously**

President Nicastro: Ordinance #30-2023 is passed on second reading and I hereby direct the Clerk to forward a copy of the same to the Mayor and publish the notice of adoption as required by law. Next item on the Agenda is Ordinance #31-2023,

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: (2nd reading October 31, 2023)

Ord.# 31-2023 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #32-2022 of the Township of Mount Olive Entitled Salaries of Certain Exempt Personnel

President Nicastro: Mrs. Labow.

Mrs. Labow: I move that Ordinance #31-2023 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 October 31, 2023, via Zoom at 7pm and be published, posted, and made available by the Clerk in accordance with law.

Mr. Roman: Second.

President Nicastro: Any Council discussion? Roll Call, please.

ROLL CALL: **Passed unanimously**

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS AGENDA:

- 2. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive regarding shared service for the Fire Inspections with the Township of Allamuchy for the year 2024-2025
- 3. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the sale of surplus property through public auction
- 4. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a professional services agreement for Board of Health Medical Director/Physician to Meghan K. Pillai, MD (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024) RevisedReallocation of funds
- 5. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the use of Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission Cooperative Purchasing Program for 2023 (B&H Photo)
- 6. 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 (Stanley & Orke)

- 7. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a one-year contract extension for Bid #11-2021 Snowplowing Services (Feilon Brothers) October 29, 2023 - October 28, 2024
- 8. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive to cancel taxes on Block 8100, Lot 27 for disabled Veteran declared 100% totally & permanently disabled by the Tax Assessor
- 9. Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, authorizing cancelation of 2023 taxes for 1 Main Road (Block 4600, Lot 14)
- 10. Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, approving and authorizing a Phase I Developer's Agreement with JAS Group Enterprise, Inc. for the development of property designated as Block 105, Lot 1 and Block 106, Lots 2 and 3 (Continental Crossing)
- 11. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive Closing Saunders Lane Between Houses 69 Through 12 on October 28th, Between 12:30 pm and 5:30 pm for the Purpose of Holding a Block Party (Rain Date - October 29th)
- 12. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive notice of intent to award a contract under a National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the purchase of an automated side loader off the Sourcewell Co-Op (Sanitation Equipment Corp.)

Mr. Roman moves Consent Resolution number one to Non-Consent. **Mr. Mania** moves for the adoption of Consent Resolutions two through twelve and **Mrs. Labow** seconds.

There was no discussion on Consent Resolutions.

ROLL CALL: **Passed unanimously**

RESOLUTIONS NON-CONSENT

- 1. Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, appointing Captain Michael Spitzer as Police Chief for the Township Police Department

Mr. Roman moves for approval of Non-Consent Resolution number one and **Mr. Stewart** seconds. **Mr. Roman** highlights Captain Spitzer’s new role as Police Chief.

ROLL CALL: **Passed unanimously**

MOTIONS

- 1. Bill List

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

ROLL CALL: **Passed unanimously**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Tatarenko announces offsite improvements will continue for Wawa including a closure on Thursday, October 19, 2023, for about an hour. He discusses repaving International Drive South Phase I on October 23, 2023, a \$261,000.000 grant that will be received from the New Jersey Historic Trust to do work at the Seward Barn, and a grant called the Local Freight Improvement Grant, which is a grant given out for roads that are impacted by heavy truck traffic.

President Nicastro announces the Township employees will be wearing pink on October 18, 2023, in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. He highlights the Mount Olive High School Drama Club will have their 20th Season Celebration Broadway Night on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 7:00pm. He also reminds everyone that schools are open and asks they observe school bus safety rules.

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none

LEGAL MATTERS – none

COUNCIL REPORTS

Board of Education Liaison Report

Mr. Aaron reports he attended the Board of Education meeting on October 9, 2023. He gives an overview of the Board of Education position interviews that took place. He announces Laura Fitzgerald was voted in. He then summarizes the \$54 million referendum which will increase taxes approximately \$23.00 for a \$330,000.00 home and asks that people refer to the referendum website for more information. He adds that question two cannot pass unless question one passes, which is an \$8 million referendum with \$438,000.00 from the State. He explains that if both pass, it would be about \$27.00 per home for homes that are assessed around \$330,000.00. **President Nicastrò** asks when the special election will take place. **Mr. Aaron** replies, “It’s going to be December 12, 2023.”

Environmental Committee

Lake Issues – none

Library Board Liaison

Mr. Ferrante reports the Library was meeting during the Council Meeting. He reads an update from the Director which included information about their third of the mill funding which is up nearly 11 percent. He discusses additional State funding of \$15,901.00 which is a slight increase from the previous year. He adds that circulation numbers remain strong. He then gives an update on Environmental, which previously met. He talks about a guest speaker who is also a resident, Chris Sotiro, who is an ambassador from the AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed.

Open Space Committee Report

Board of Health Report

Senior Citizen Liaison

Mrs. Labow reports that the Seniors met earlier in the day and had their big Halloween Celebration. She then discusses their upcoming trip to the Mansion at Mountain Lakes for a show and lunch. She gives an update on the Board of Health’s meeting that took place on October 11, 2023. She highlights the Mount Olive Health Improvement Coalition and their plans to do community outreach. She then states Open Space did not meet this month.

Legislative Committee Report – none

Planning Board Report

Mr. Mania reports the Planning Board will be meeting on October 19, 2023.

Recreation Liaison Report

Mr. Roman reports Recreation met on October 4, 2023. He discusses AI and ChatGBT and the George Ottavina Memorial Derby that was held at Maier’s Pond. He announces the Recreation Advisory Committee has three openings.

Economic Development Committee Report

Mr. Stewart reports the EDC meets next week and their fourth quarter newsletter is coming out at the end of the month. He adds that some people from the High School are now getting involved in the business community.

PUBLIC PORTION

Irene Sergonis, 37 Mount Olive Road, Budd Lake, expresses her appreciation for the employees of Mount Olive Township. She discusses the previous comments she made at the October 3, 2023, meeting regarding a “Green Team” and Mount Olive’s environment. She cites an email from Mr. Ferrante about a “Green Team”

and then addresses a social media post made by President Nicastro, which was a video of Mrs. Sergonis speaking at the last Council Meeting. She expresses her disapproval of the video and the hateful comments that were made on the post. She reiterates that she apologized for her comments made on the October 3, 2023, meeting and emphasizes the apprehension residents experience when they go to the podium to speak at the Council meetings. She reprimands President Nicastro for posting the video of her. **President Nicastro** explains that despite her apology, Mrs. Sergonis maintained the Township was underserving of their bronze level and that was very upsetting to him. **Mrs. Sergonis** and **President Nicastro** discuss the social media post. **Mr. Aaron** addresses the comments made by Mrs. Sergonis regarding approaching the podium during Council meetings. He emphasizes that the Council is approachable and feels it isn't fair for her to imply otherwise. **Mrs. Sergonis** explains people may be hesitant to come to the podium as a result of President Nicastro posting a video of her on Facebook. **Mr. Aaron** emphasizes the Council is here for the community. **Mrs. Labow** adds that the videos of the meetings are posted on the website. She expresses how upset she was when Mrs. Sergonis said the Town doesn't deserve their bronze award. **Mrs. Sergonis** explains the town doesn't have a "Green Team" and feels other towns do more than Mount Olive does. **Mr. Roman** expresses his disappointment with Mrs. Sergonis's comments made at the previous meeting. He then reminds Mrs. Sergonis that her comments made at the meeting are public. **Mrs. Sergonis** and **Mr. Roman** continue to discuss comments made at previous meetings.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Aaron congratulates Captain Spitzer on his promotion to Chief of Police. He also comments on the Mount Olive Police Department presenting the colors at the Jets game and he thanks the renters for attending the Council meeting and encourages people to follow proper processes.

Mr. Ferrante congratulates Mike Spitzer on his promotion to Chief of Police.

Mrs. Labow also congratulates Mike Spitzer. She then discusses apartment repairs.

Mr. Mania explains if there's a committee formed for Eagle Rock, he'd like to be a part of it. He then congratulates Captain Spitzer on his promotion to Police Chief.

Mr. Stewart echoes the previous comments and also congratulates the other police promotions. He thanks the residents who rent for coming out and keeping communication open.

Mr. Roman thanks the public for coming. He discusses the complaint process. He brings up AI technology and then shares his sentiments regarding the war between Palestine and Israel.

President Nicastro thanks Doug Boyer for the insight and reminds everyone about the Thanksgiving dinner coming up at the Senior Center. He announces the October 31, 2023 Council Meeting will be held via Zoom because of early voting.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion made and seconded. All in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Joe Nicastro, Council President

I, Michelle Masser, 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 October 31, 2023.

js _____
Michelle Masser, Township Clerk