

The Public Meeting of the Mount Olive Township Council was called to order at 7:42pm by President Roman.

President Roman: 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 on the outside front door of the Municipal Building and notice was sent to those individuals requesting same.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Aaron, Ms. Lalama, Mr. Mania, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Ferrante, and Mr. Roman

Absent: Mrs. Labow

Also Present: Michelle Masser, Township Clerk; Jon Testa, Township Attorney; Joe Nicastro, Mayor; Andrew Tatarenko, Business Administrator; Claudia Quinn, Assistant Business Administrator and Sherry Kolody, CFO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 1. February 20, 2024 WS & PM

Mr. Aaron moves for approval of the February 20, 2024, WS & PM Minutes, and **Mr. Stewart** seconds. There was no discussion.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE

LETTERS FROM RESIDENTS/ORGANIZATIONS/OTHER TOWNS

- 1. Email received February 20, 2024, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: February 19, 2024.
- 2. Letter received February 22, 2024, from Nadira Pershaud regarding Washington Township Land Use Board Notice of Hearing - 142 N Four Bridges Road, Long Valley.
- 3. Email received February 26, 2024, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: February 26, 2024.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES OTHER TOWNS

- 4. Email received February 26, 2024, from Roxbury Township regarding Roxbury Land Use Ordinance No. 02-24 ADOPT (adopted on 02-13-24)

LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

- 5. Email received February 16, 2024, from NJLM regarding Affordable Housing Bill Moves, Cap Exceptions OK, SALT Vote Fails.
- 6. Email received February 23, 2024, from NJLM regarding Affordable Housing Update; Local Finance Notices.
- 7. Publication received February 28, 2024, from NJLM regarding Legislative Bulletin – 2022-2023 Legislative Session, Public Laws.
- 8. Email received February 28, 2024, from NJLM regarding Governor Delivers State Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

STATE AGENCIES/LOI/HIGHLANDS

- 9. Email received February 20, 2024, from NJDEP regarding NJDEP Weekly Update.
- 10. Application received February 20, 2024, from Environmental Technology Inc. (ETI) regarding Applications for Freshwater Wetlands General Permit 8 - House Additions & General Permit 10A – Very Minor Road Crossings. Applicant: Muhammad Arif Akhtar, Subject Property: 50 Gold Mine Road, Block 4400, Lot 77. Mount Olive Township, Morris County.
- 11. Packet received February 20, 2024, from Boswell Engineering regarding Highlands Preservation Area Approval Application, Subaru World of Hackettstown, Block 8200, Lots 5 & 6, Township of Mount Olive, Morris County FEI No. 221063.
- 12. Email received February 26, 2024, from DEP Local Government Assistance regarding NJDEP Weekly Update.
- 13. Letter received February 26, 2024, from Careaga Engineering, Inc. regarding Diaz Septic Repair – Block 6900, Lot 6. 515 Drakestown Road, FWWW - GP - 24.

MSA/MUA – None

MORRIS COUNTY

- 14. Email received February 20, 2024, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: Feb. 16, 2024.
- 15. Email received February 20, 2024, from Morris County regarding Morris County Funds Planning for Celebration of American Revolution's 250th Anniversary.
- 16. Email received February 16, 2024, from Morris County regarding January 2024 Minutes of the Morris County Planning Board.
- 17. Publication received February 20, 2024, from Morris County regarding Final Equalization Table for the County of Morris for the Year 2024.
- 18. Email received February 20, 2024, from Morris County regarding Morris County Proclaims February 2024 Black History Month.
- 19. Email received February 23, 2024, from Morris County regarding Morris Street in Morristown Closed Starting Next Week.
- 20. Email received February 26, 2024, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: Feb. 23, 2024.
- 21. Email received February 27, 2024, from Morris County regarding UPDATE: Morris Street in Morristown Closed Starting March 11.
- 22. Email received February 29, 2024, from Morris County regarding Winners of 2024 Morris County Cover Contest Announced.

UTILITIES

- 23. Email received February 20, 2023, from New Jersey Natural Gas regarding NJNG - T1 Extension- SAVEGREEN GO20090622 Public Hearing Notice to Municipalities.
- 24. Letter received February 26, 2024, from Jersey Central Power & Light regarding I/M/O the Verified Petition of Jersey Central Power & Light for Approval of JCP&L's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan Including Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction Programs (JCP&L EE&C) BPU Docket No. EO20090620.

25. Letter received February 26, 2024, from New Jersey American Water regarding In the Matter of the Petition of New Jersey-American Water Company, Inc. for Recovery of Regulatory Asset Established for Incremental Covid-19 Related Expenses, and for Establishment of an Uncollectible Adjustment Clause BPU Docket No. WR23050275.

There was no discussion on Correspondence.

ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

President Roman: I hereby open the hearing to the public on Ordinance #6-2024 entitled,

Ord.#6-2024 Ordinance Amending Sections 3(f)(i) and 3(f)(ii) of Bond Ordinance #7-2022, as Amended by Ordinance #1-2023, Ordinance #18-2023, Ordinance #20-2023 and Ordinance #30-2023, 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, July 25, 2023, and October 17, 2023, to Include an Additional Project and to Amend Section 6(b) to Decrease the Average Useful Life.

President Roman: Mr. Ferrante.

Mr. Ferrante: Sure, I move for adoption and final passage, Ordinance #6-2024.

Mr. Mania: Second.

President Roman: Does anyone from the public wish to be heard on this Ordinance? Seeing none. Does anyone from Council have any questions or comments? Okay. Roll Call.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

President Roman: Ordinance #6-2024 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. I open the hearing to the public on Ordinance #7-2024 entitled,

Ord.#7-2024 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Capital Improvements in and by the Township of Mount Olive, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Appropriating \$3,668,192 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,677,280 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of Cost Thereof.

President Roman: Ms. Lalama.

Ms. Lalama: Thank you, Mr. President. I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance #7-2024.

Mr. Mania: Second.

President Roman: Okay. It's been moved and seconded. Does anybody from the public wish to be heard on this Ordinance? State your name and address for the record unless you are exempt from Daniel's Law.

Mrs. Sergonis: Hi. Irene Sergonis, Mount Olive Road in Budd Lake. So, I have, you know, a problem with this. I discussed this at the last meeting. I was part of the original committee that acquired . . . that worked for the grants to get Turkey Brook Park. We worked from 1996 to 2003. So, I do love of that park, and I want to maintain that natural nature. Part of our park, the design concept was for playing fields, but synthetic turf fields are dangerous. I recommend . . . I did a Google doc with different links and different reasons for saying no to this Ordinance. You can go on bit.ly/noturf and you'll see my reasons outlined. There's many health concerns with this . . . increased injuries; the heat hazard is tremendous. Eighty-six degrees hotter than natural turf on a synthetic turf playing field. There's an increased risk of MRSA and other dangerous infections because there's serious turf burns and it's also a bacterial breeding ground. Now, for ecological impacts, the turf off gases, potent greenhouse gases of methane and ethylene as the blades break down with the sun. Then, of course, there's the plastics and microplastics. This is a real issue. Plastics stay here forever. They are not ever really truly recycled. They are here. The nano plastics that actually enter the cells of humans and are causing many diseases are here. The thing is, we have to stop making plastics as much as we can. The runoff from turf fields is a problem and here, Turkey Brook, is at the highest level. That runoff is an issue. This is what we're working on to restore Budd Lake, is the runoff. Athletic organizations prefer natural grass. FIFA is requiring all

the stadiums for the World Cup that are going to be played in 2026 to have natural grass. The NFL Players Association has said its membership strongly prefers grass field surfaces over artificial turf and then in 2020, the Women's Soccer Team won a settlement to make sure that their games are played on natural grass. Now the financial situation, this field was . . . field number four was installed in 2012 and given a 23-year payment plan and it has only lasted for 12 years. So, there is a balance remaining of \$98,000.00 for this field. So, . . . and now, they want to remove this field and spend another million dollars to put in a new one. That does not make sense to me. Now, I have other links if people are interested in going and finding out more information and then financially, it's not just about field number four. We're talking about field number four here, but we have other fields that have been put in since then. The cost for all of the fields, according to information I received after an OPRA request, the total cost of these fields is \$3,888,908.34. The clubs place down payments of \$153,640.00 and you know, the Town has bonded for these, you know, four of the fields and also, the Town has accepted half of the cost for four out of the five fields. So, for instance, football, their turf field was \$1,032,800.00 and the Town is paying half the cost. That's \$542,220.00 that the Town accepted responsibility for. So, for the total of all the fields we have, you know, the Town took on the cost of part of the downpayments also. So, the Town has laid out \$1,737,096.77, was laid out and now . . . right now you have a club balance, a total club balance for all the fields is \$1,851,237.31. So, it doesn't seem like this . . . you're trying to pass this over in saying the sports associations are paying for it. They are not. The Town is paying for it and then the Town is bonding for this and hoping that they get paid back from the sports associations and I hope, you know, I'm sure that they plan to do that, but we have had situations where there have been financial improprieties. Are the sports associations subject to audit? We are entering a partnership with them, but it seems like it's a shake . . . it's a memorandum of agreement. So, you know, this is not sustainable. We need something sustainable, and I highly recommend that you table this, we move the expense for soccer field number four and put it up for referendum. I was at my Senior Club meeting today. There were 80 people there. They were very happy that I was speaking up against this. I've had parents of young soccer players that have also approached me and messaged me and thanked me for this. So, I am speaking up for them. I would like this to be a referendum. This is a lot of money, and I don't think that you should be spending so much money without public input. So, I think that's all I have to say on this Ordinance.

President Roman: I'd like to first thank you for at least . . . your passion, but I disagree first, with your opening comment of turf fields being dangerous. Did you reach out to our health department for any statistics regarding the dangers of turf fields on our current residents? Because you're citing statistics that are national, professional athletes. What would be more relevant would be, you know, whether kids are being injured on our fields. You mentioned plastics over and over. You know, we can argue about the ills of plastic but next time you have a medical emergency, I'm pretty sure you'd be okay if plastics were used to save your life. You mentioned runoff. Most of the runoff off that field, correct me if I'm wrong, gets captured into our retention basin and the runoff that's coming off that . . . those plastic turf fields is better than the runoff versus natural from fertilizers getting into our public waterways. I don't know if you even reached out to the soccer clubs that are in charge of and brought forth this proposal because they are the ones that are in favor of this. So, did you reach out to the soccer club to get their input?

Mrs. Sergonis: I don't think that I needed to. That's a wrong question. The question should be, "Are there any independent studies that say turf fields are safe for children?" There are none. Independent. Not paid for by the turf field manufacturers. That's what's happening. I talk to soccer player parents. That's who I talk to. So, they don't feel that they have a voice. So, but you know . . . my son played soccer, my daughter played soccer, we played soccer when the middle school was a soccer field. My son played in Love Lane. I enjoy soccer but turf fields are dangerous, and we need to really evaluate this and another thing with the soccer, a lot of parents are complaining to me. The cost. The high cost to play perhaps is because they have to make these turf field payments.

President Roman: Well, the soccer club is independently run. They have their own board. Parents are more than welcome to voice their concerns at the soccer club meeting, and I just also have to question your pushback on your financial statement. The million dollars that this field is going to cost is not going to be borne by the general taxpayer. The amount of money that we bonded with for the previous fields, are pretty much offset by the costs had we kept with the turf fields regarding maintenance, fertilizers, and employee time and overtime. So, there are those costs that would've been borne had we maintained. Does anyone else from Council have any questions? Comments? Mr. Aaron.

Mr. Aaron: Yeah, I just, I think we've taken a very responsible course of action. I've watched . . . having sat on boards with the football program and coached at some of the other levels, the fact that we're in the process of working deals where sports programs have actively been paying back the Township for these costs. I think there are other fields. I think if we're just looking at one soccer field, if you look outside of Turkey Brook, the Town has quite a few turf fields. Not only that the Township is taking responsible action by making sure that the clubs

pay for part of it, but the other turf fields that exist in Town are 100 percent taxpayer paid. So, you have a middle school turf field, you have a high school field, you have three . . . you have a baseball field, you have a lacrosse field under a bubble that were all 100 percent taxpayer paid. These are fractionally and marginally covered by the Township in a very responsible way. I don't hear, to your statistics, in our Town, with the number of turf fields that we do have that exist; Turkey Brook has one . . . three baseball, football, a couple soccers, I mean . . . the number of injuries that I hear that are directly attributable to turf are negligible considering the number of kids or families that participate and then lastly, the hazards that you present, I just caution because unless there is a specific report that says we're poisoning our kids, I'd just be cautious because that creates a bit of fear where we don't have facts. That's all I wanted to say.

President Roman: Thank you, Mr. Aaron. Anyone else? All right. Thank you for your comments. Does anyone else from the public wish to be heard?

Alicia Waldstein: Hi, my name's Alicia Waldstein. I live at 2 Hampton Road in Flanders. I am on the soccer board. Just to be clear, the project that the soccer club will be funding with the Township will be replacing an existing turf field with what we know will be a better product as improvements are always being made in this industry but I want to leave that and say that the soccer club is operating a very healthy program and can cover this project without fear of default and we have established a very credible repayment history for our previous projects that we have partnered with the Township and we want to thank the Township for your support. Diving a little bit into our operations, the Mount Olive Soccer Club runs a successful program and has the largest recreational program in Mount Olive that provides for all levels and appetite of the soccer player. Our participants start at three years old and run to over fifty. We have players that just want to do something socially with their friends and we have players that got their start on our field and are now playing on the Rutgers Men's Team . . . on the Women's Team. We've had a former player that just got drafted into the MLS and a current player that just played on the U-17 Girls National Team for Slovakia versus Turkey but to be honest, our Board of Directors gets the most satisfaction from reading the senior applications for scholarships where the high school seniors give examples of how the club impacted them, whether it be when they finally made that travel team the first time or their many memories of the Halloween tournament or by all the lessons, and not to mention money that they got from refereeing at highly competitive tournaments but how they started out by refereeing in our local instructional program. Another item I feel is worth mentioning is that the board makes different investments like the mental health seminar that we made available to our membership or the many, many scholarships for our community members every season. We are proud of our program while we continually strive to make improvements. We have a strong, healthy membership with over 2,000 participants across all of our seasons. In the spring season alone, we will run over 1,000 games . . . 1,900 practices for 124 teams. We just wouldn't be able to accommodate this demand without these turf fields. It's just impossible. The grass would just not hold up, despite the substantial investments that the soccer club also makes into the grass fields. We just could not do it. We know these fields. We walk along them with John, Eddie, and Martin. We are invested in this park. We love our Turkey Brook home and I think because we have this amazing facility that fosters and promotes our community, we are always overwhelmed by our membership's generosity when asked to help with our community outreach programs such as the Christmas presents, donations for families in need in Mount Olive, or the Easter basket fundraiser that we are currently working on. I think, rightly so, I am proud to be a part of the Mount Olive Soccer Club and as always, the Board of Directors thanks the Town Council for their continuous support in our program.

President Roman: I have a couple of questions.

Mrs. Waldstein: Yeah, sure.

President Roman: Do you guys hold regular board meetings that are attended?

Mrs. Waldstein: Just by the board members . . .

President Roman: No, by parents and coaches.

Mrs. Waldstein: We have one open meeting a year and no one ever attends.

President Roman: So, all your parents and coaches are able to email you with any concerns?

Mrs. Waldstein: Yes, and we do have coaches' meetings three times every season.

President Roman: And has there been ever a movement to go back to a grass field?

Mrs. Waldstein: Quite the opposite.

President Roman: And parents are given the opportunity to voice their concerns if not to you, to the coaches?

Mrs. Waldstein: Absolutely.

President Roman: And since you moved from grass, and I don't know if you remember that long ago, would you describe the turf field as being dangerous to your kids?

Mrs. Waldstein: No.

President Roman: All right. That's all I have. Thank you.

Mrs. Waldstein: Thank you.

President Roman: Thank you for your comment. Does anyone else from the public wish to be heard? State your name and address for the record unless you're exempt from Daniel's Law.

Mr. Welzmuller: Martin Welzmuller, 25 Woodcrest Avenue, Budd Lake. As one of the parents who has been involved with the Mount Olive Soccer Club for over 15 plus years, coach for 13 years of that, painted those fields more times than I can count, turf field one, two, three, four, the grass fields in the back; I probably painted 100 plus different days spending 20, 30 hours there as a volunteer. The best thing to ever happen to Mount Olive was when they started putting the turf fields in there for Mount Olive. My son was one of the kids when they first opened the field, to be the kicker to kick the ball in the goal for the first day with Greenbaum there and everyone else. Lisa was there and a lot of people were there. I had the privilege of being here that whole time. To this day, my son is a star athletic varsity player for Mount Olive High School. We compete nationally across the states all because of the starting grounds here in Mount Olive. We have one of the most successful clubs in the State. You guys should be proud of what you've done for Mount Olive with the soccer fields. I can tell you I speak to a lot of the parents, they wish more of the fields were turfed. Not less. I never heard anyone say they wanted less turf in my life. Now, I can tell you this, if a turf field was 86 point something degrees hotter than natural grass, I personally would pull my son off that field. I can tell you, that's fiction. Turf fields may be 10-15 more degrees hotter than grass and I see kids play at it all the time. I am proponent . . . pro for this. I'm one of the parents that volunteers for the high school soccer field to run the traffic at Turkey Brook. I volunteer also for the regular clubs. My son also coaches now, volunteers now, to teach the young kids because they went out to the players for the paid programs to help teach the recreational programs. So not only did this benefit the kids, I guess sports wise, it also benefits the kids as they get older because now, they become the mentors. All right and I'm telling you if we did not have what we have today, we'd have less people. We wouldn't have 2,000 people in the Mount Olive Soccer Program. We'd probably be at 1,000 because they'd be somewhere else. Okay. Mount Olive is one of the most sought-after clubs to join and I could speak from experience and for the people I know in the community. I want to thank the Board, Town Council, the Mayor, and everyone else for what you've done currently for the fields, and I encourage you to keep doing more. I'd love to see more fields turfed there because then we'd be able to hold bigger events for the Town. When people hear Mount Olive is having a tournament, they're excited. You know. The ecosystem of the weather in Turkey Brook, that's a different story. But the facilities that we have are probably one of the best in the State and I have traveled all over the country to tournaments and facilities and people brag about how good Mount Olive is. So, I am pro for this amendment to do the bonding for this and like I said, I do know because being all of the years I worked with the soccer club being a coach, I do know that they pay for this program. It's not on the taxpayers' backs but even if it was a little bit on the taxpayers' backs, it brings value to the Township. It brings up the values of your homes. It's not a negative. Okay. So, that's about all I have to say, you know, but I'm very pro and you have to keep going and moving Mount Olive forward.

President Roman: Thank you, very much. Any comments? Name and address for the record.

Ms. Narcise: Lisa Narcise, 14 Delbar Drive, and just a disclosure, I am here in my personal capacity tonight, not in my capacity as a school board member and yes, I am here again, to speak on the artificial turf project. Artificial turf has actually been around since 1960. It actually started off with a popular brand name of AstroTurf. This field is, as we said, since 2012. Most people actually, if you pay attention to the news, would know that 2012-2015, there's actually a class action suit based upon that turf that was already laid down. Go google Carteret just started and added to it. Field Turf USA had a class action lawsuit based upon the faultiness of those fields as well as the potential dangers. So why replace this field? For the safety of the students and our children and our athletes. Why give them access to this? Because we have equity, diversity, you know, importance to our children and to the taxpayers, to all of the people in our Town. We want to talk about, you

know, environmental . . . look. Turf costs less to maintain. Turf is a long-term utility savings, and it requires less maintenance and also requires less water and when you talk about the runoff from the water, you're saying it goes into the basins. Isn't that then reusable water? The new products that are out there are actually noncancerous. They're actually based upon woodchip rubber and what they do is they make it so that it's not flammable. We talk about the heat impact; we don't live in California. California is the one who is now looking at the impact of the heat on the, you know, individuals that are playing on it so we're not there. My child lives in Arizona, trust me, I understand the heat impact that occurs. We have a reduction in manual labor. A reduction in your insurance for workers compensation claims when you're not having to maintain grass fields. You . . . actually, now studies, independent studies, New York City Health Department actually just did one, shows that there's less injury that's occurring on our new turf fields that are being replaced versus the grass fields that are faulty with rocks, with divots, that are not well maintained and the reason why the FIFA Women's Soccer Program across the world is requiring grass is because they cannot maintain that each turf field is of equal value and equal safety, so, therefore, right now, they require that the fields be grass and that also requires a certain turf be used for that grass. We can go down and look at, you know, Tuckahoe Turf Farm and see the beautiful grass but that costs a lot of money, right? You know, when we're now talking about the equity and diversity and the access of the facilities, go up to Turkey Brook on any given day. If we don't have children playing soccer, you have kids just up there running around. I'd rather see them doing that than stuck inside playing on video games . . . being healthy outside, enjoying the facilities that we have invested in and whether it's the taxpayer dollar being used to fund their, you know, access to be in the soccer club, which does offer scholarships based on need based, so every child has an ability to participate and it's not just soccer using these fields. Lacross has 60 teams right now signed up for one tournament. They will probably be asking to use some of those fields as well. There are shared services that occur across all of our programs. That means you have thousands of kids accessing these fields and I may not sit on the soccer board here in Mount Olive any longer, I sit on another nonprofit soccer board and what I will say is we have actually rented that field out in the past. We've actually played against them. We've actually used it so it's not just Mount Olive Soccer Club that's using that field. It is other programs from outside the area that are having access to it and the leagues for which they participate in do does not allow them to play on grass fields. You see now, the top league in the country where most of our national players are, you know, coming out of requires that a program and a club that wants to belong to them has to have access to and utilize and play on turf fields and the reason for that is actually so that in inclement weather, it is safer to be playing on a turf field and so that it is actually safer because they don't know the maintenance of those grass fields and the potential dangers that can occur. Most injuries that have been noted in terms of injury were ACL, PCL, and MCL tears and they were due to Field Turf USA faulty product. We don't want faulty products here in Mount Olive. We want the safest and the best and that's what our taxpayers and our children deserve. So, you know, we can argue about a turf field for which the soccer club has always paid, you know, above and beyond but I would say, you know, take into consideration every child has access to that field in this Town, including us lazy adults who like to go up and kick a soccer ball on occasion too. So, thank you.

President Roman: Thank you, very much. Does anyone else from the public wish to be heard? Name and address for the record unless you're exempt from Daniel's Law.

Mr. Zawistowski: John Zawistowski, 5 Waterloo Road, Budd Lake. My only question is as far as the turf landing up in a landfill, does anybody from the Council know when they dispose of this turf, is it going to be recycled or is it going to a landfill? I am very heavy like the Governor is. I can't stand plastic. Okay. And I think that turf should be getting recycled instead of going into a landfill if that's the way the Council is going. I worked for a food manufacturing company for 15 years and when I first started working there, I investigated all the materials, packaging materials, cardboard, the garbage that was going out. It was originally, when I first started, it was being baled and then all the garbage was being baled and nothing was getting recycled except for the cardboard, okay. Because there was market money value in the cardboard and a year later, I started a recycle program at the place where I worked and the trashmen told me I'm the worst man going because they couldn't stand me. I reduced the manufacturing waste down to 90 percent. Everything turned out to be recycled. Polypropylene, packaging material, string wrap, everything and I got the garbage reduced from 30 yards every 12 days that was costing the company \$1,200.00 a pickup down to 18 yards a week and I achieved that by changing the policies in the company and I'm along with the Governor as far as it goes with plastic. I just please request that it get recycled if it's recyclable material and I believe it is. Thank you.

President Roman: Thank you for your comment. Does anyone else from the public wish to be heard? Okay, seeing none. I close to the public. I believe we've been seconded. Is there any Council discussion? Seeing none. Roll Call.

ROLL CALL: Passed with the exception of Mr. Ferrante, who abstained on Ordinance #7-2024

President Roman: Ordinance #7-2024 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. Okay, we're on to Ordinances for first reading with a second reading of March 19, 2024. Next item on the Agenda for first reading is Ordinance #9-2024 entitled,

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: (2nd reading March 19, 2024)

Ord.#9-2024 An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending Section 550-23, Zoning Permits and Certificates of Occupancy; Fees, of the Township Code to Require Certain Escrow Fees.

President Roman: Ms. Lalama.

Ms. Lalama: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that Ordinance #9-2024 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 March 19, 2024, 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 the law.

President Roman: Okay. Is there a second?

Mr. Mania: I'll second it. It's been seconded. Any Council discussion? Seeing none. Roll Call, please.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS AGENDA:

1. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive requesting NJDOT to consider safety improvements on Route 46 and Route 206
2. A resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, authorizing the execution of an amendment to a historic preservation easement for the property located at Block 7600, Lot 71, commonly known as The Seward House
3. Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, granting a permanent easement to JCP&L for the installation of a pole and electrical facilities along Naughtright Road
4. Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, authorizing a memorandum of understanding between the Township and Fratelli Beretta, USA
5. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the execution of an interlocal services agreement between the Township of Mount Olive and the Township of Chester for the provision of Plumbing/Mechanical Subcode Services
6. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive amending the 2024 temporary budget for the current fund and water utility
7. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing purchases with Verizon as a proprietary vendor for 2024
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 (Main Pool & Chemical Co.)
9. 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 (Stanley & Orke) Revised - Increasing contract amount
10. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a non-fair and open professional services agreement for Architecture & Historic Preservation Services to Connolly & Hickey Historical Architects, LLC (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024)

11. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a non-fair and open professional services agreement for Traffic Engineering Consulting to Lublanecki Engineering (January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)
12. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a non-fair and open professional services agreement for Traffic Engineering Consulting to Lublanecki Engineering (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024)
13. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a contract for Bid #01-2024 Removal and Disposal of Sludge from Mt. Olive Sewerage Treatment Plants (Coppola Services)
14. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a contract for turf field maintenance off the ESCNJ Co-op (Natural Green Lawn Care)
15. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive authorizing the award of a one-year contract extension (Year 1) for recycling commodity services (FCR Morris) Revised - increasing contract amount
16. A Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Execution of an Estoppel Certificate and Agreement for Bank OZK Related to Development of the Property Designated as Block 200, Lot 1 (3000 Continental Drive)
17. A Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Execution of an Estoppel Certificate and Agreement for Bank OZK Related to Development of the Property Designated as Block 202, Lot 1. (2000 International Drive)

Mr. Mania moves for the adoption of Consent Resolutions one through seventeen and **Mr. Stewart** seconds.

Irene Sergonis, 37 Mount Olive Road, discusses Resolution #15. She expresses her concerns about plastics being put into a landfill. **President Roman** asks Mr. Tatarenko if they're not making money now because they're not paying what they used to. **Mr. Tatarenko** confirms. He discusses the costs involved. **President Roman** asks if it's a market factor. **Mr. Tatarenko** confirms. **Mr. Aaron** asks if they're collecting less plastic. **Mr. Tatarenko** explains the volumes still there.

John Zawistowski, 5 Waterloo Road, discusses the recycling market, relating to Resolution #15.

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

MOTIONS

1. Bill List

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

ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor Nicastro reports he met with Congressman Tom Kean who has his office at Town Hall the first and third Tuesday of every month. He also goes over his tour of the food pantry, meeting with the Chief, Captains, and Interfaith Clergy to discuss bringing the community together, and he asks for volunteers to join the committee. He emphasizes the importance of registering for the Mount Olive alerts. He adds he'll be doing Coffee with the Mayor at the Budd Lake Diner on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, from 8:00am to 9:00am. He also reports visiting businesses to see what they need. He congratulates Tyler Bienus who won third place for the wrestling championship and Tyeler Hagensen who won the State Championship.

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none

LEGAL MATTERS - none

COUNCIL REPORTS

Board of Education Liaison Report

Mr. Aaron reports the Board of Education met on Monday, February 26, 2024, and there will be a meeting on March 19, 2024. He points out the core focus right now is the vacancy on the Board of Education. He explains they'll begin interviews at the regular meeting at 6:30pm. He reports they'll be honoring the wrestling team as well as presenting a preliminary budget. He also reports the NJSBA (New Jersey School Boards Association) representative will be there to go through the Superintendent's evaluation and that there will be a strategic planning meeting on March 19, 2024, that will be kicked off at the middle school.

Library Board Liaison
Recreation Liaison Report

Mr. Ferrante reports the Library meets next week and reminds everyone the Friends of the Library will hold their book donation day on Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 10:00am to 3:00pm in the back of the Library. He also reports Recreation will meet again in April.

Board of Health Report

Ms. Lalama reports the next meeting is in April.

Economic Development Committee Report

Mr. Stewart reports the EDC met on February 28, 2024, to finalize the newsletter for the current quarter and update the upcoming newsletter. He adds that the next meeting will be March 27, 2024.

Open Space Committee Report - none
Senior Citizen Liaison - none
Environmental Committee/Lake Issues – none

Legislative Committee Report - none
Planning Board Report - none

PUBLIC PORTION

Irene Sergonis, 37 Mount Olive Road, Budd Lake, announces the Senior Citizens are having a Saint Patrick's Day dinner on March 19, 2024. She adds the high school drama club will be having the seniors attend their dress rehearsal on March 20, 2024. She discusses Dr. Bangia connecting with the community. She then encourages people to buy puncheons for trails.

John Zawistowski, 5 Waterloo Road, Budd Lake, informs the Council that he's moving out of Mount Olive Township after being a resident for 22 years. He acknowledges Mayor Nicaastro and the Council for their service.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Nicaastro clarifies that Coffee with the Mayor is on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

Mr. Aaron congratulates the police on their promotions. He discusses their dedication to the Township. He asks for prayers for Councilwoman Labow and her family. He congratulates the high school wrestling team. He also congratulates Mr. Zawistowski on his move.

Ms. Lalama echoes Mr. Aaron's sentiments and thanks the public for attending and speaking at the meeting.

Mr. Mania congratulates the police on their promotions and wishes a speedy recovery to Howie Weiss, Chairman of the Planning Board.

Mr. Stewart echoes the previous comments. He also reminds everybody that the annual auction for the Hackettstown Medical Center ends Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES

March 5, 2024

Mr. Ferrante echoes the previous comments and extends his thoughts and prayers to Mrs. Labow and her family.

President Roman discusses how professional the police department is and expresses his gratitude for the current and previous Chiefs of Police. He then discusses being called for jury duty.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion made and seconded. All in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Alex Roman, 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 March 19, 2023.

Michelle Masser, Township Clerk

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