

**The Public Meeting of the Mount Olive Township Council was called to order at 7:08pm by President Nicastro.**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ANNOUNCEMENT**

**President Nicastro:** In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and the Emergency Remote Meeting Protocol for Local Public Bodies, adequate and electronic notice of this remote meeting has been provided by sending notice to the Daily Record and Mount Olive Chronicle, posting notice on the Township website and Facebook page, posting notice on the outside front door & bulletin board of the Municipal Building, 204 Flanders-Drakestown Road, Budd Lake, NJ, and sending notice to those individuals requesting same.

Members of the public will be kept on mute during the meeting. If you would like to speak during the designated public comment portion, press 9 on your telephone or the “raise hand” icon on the Zoom app and wait to be recognized by the host, who will unmute you to speak. When you are done commenting, you will be muted again. There is a 5-minute limit on all public comments.

**Present:** Mr. Amianda, Mr. Ferrante, Mrs. Labow, Mr. Mania, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Roman, and Mr. Nicastro

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Michelle Masser, Township Clerk; Fred Semrau, Township Attorney; Sue Sharpe, Township Attorney; Robert Greenbaum, Mayor; Andrew Tatarenko, Business Administrator; and Claudia Tomasello-Quinn, Assistant Business Administrator

**President Nicastro:** Mr. Ferrante, would you please approve the Minutes from the previous meeting July 26, 2022, Workshop and Public Meeting, please?

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**July 26, 2022 WS & PM**

**Mr. Ferrante:** Sure, I make a motion to approve the July 26, 2022, Workshop and Public Meeting Minutes.

**Mr. Mania:** Second.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Passed unanimously

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**LETTERS FROM RESIDENTS/ORGANIZATIONS/OTHER TOWNS**

1. Email received July 25, 2022, from Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding Happy Monday, Familia! How about adding these events to your calendar?
2. Publication received July 25, 2022, from Musconetcong Watershed Association regarding Musconetcong River News, Summer 2022.
3. Email received July 26, 2022, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: July 25, 2022.
4. Email received July 28, 2022, from Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce regarding Familia! Check out this amazing program by NJEDA!
5. Email received August 1, 2022, from NOFA NJ regarding NOFA NJ Weekly Email: August 1, 2022.
6. Email received August 4, 2022, from Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding This coming Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, enjoy the opportunity to network and the match at Red Bull Arena! Get your tickets now!
7. Email received August 5, 2022, from Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ regarding ChamberNews – Read & Share Our News!

**STATE AGENCIES/LOI/HIGHLANDS**

- 8. Email received July 25, 2022, from FEMA Region II Preparedness regarding Upcoming FEMA Region 2 Webinars.
- 9. Letter received July 27, 2022, from Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. regarding Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey. Overlook at Flanders – Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mechanical Bar Screen Improvements Project Block 4600, Lot 11. Highlands Exemption Determination Application No. 11. File No.: SCE-R11395.001.
- 10. Letter received August 1, 2022, from NJDEP regarding Extension – Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation Verification. File and Activity No.: 1427-06-0014.2 FWW220001. Blocks: 105,106,202 Lots: 1, 2&3, 1, Mount Olive Township, Morris County.
- 11. Email received August 5, 2022, from NJDEP regarding NJDEP Weekly Update.

**MORRIS COUNTY**

- 12. Email received July 26, 2022, from Morris County regarding Historic Morris Canal Restoration Will Be Dedicated at Wharton’s Canal Day.
- 13. Email received July 27, 2022, from Morris County regarding Morris County Documenting Veterans of the “Forgotten Wars”.
- 14. Email received July 28, 2022, from Morris County regarding Morris County Invites the Public to its 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony.
- 15. Email received August 1, 2022, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: 9/11 Observance Set for Sept. 11, 2022.
- 16. Email received August 3, 2022, from Morris County regarding Rosie’s Randolph Family Restaurant Receives Morris County Small Business Grant.
- 17. Email received August 5, 2022, from Morris County regarding This Week in Morris County: Deena Leary Unanimously Appointed Acting Administrator.

**UTILITIES**

- 18. Email received July 27, 2022, from New Jersey Natural Gas regarding New Jersey Natural Gas Public Hearing Notices (3) to Municipalities.
- 19. Email received August 5, 2022, from SJ Industries regarding Elizabethtown Gas Company Notice of Public Hearings 8-30-2022.

**President Nicastro:** We have 19 pieces of Correspondence. Does anyone have anything on those they’d like to say? Seeing none. I will open the hearing, I’m sorry, I was just going back . . . okay. I was trying to find the one sheet. I open the hearing to the public on Ordinance #22-2022,

**ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Ord.#22-2022** An Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 302 Property Maintenance to Establish Article IV Vacant and Abandoned Properties, Property Registration Program, of the Township Code.  
**AMENDED 8/9/2022**

**President Nicastro:** Mrs. Labow.

**Mrs. Labow:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance #22-2022.

**Mr. Roman:** Second.

**President Nicastro:** Does anyone from the public wish to be heard at this time? Raise your hand. I don’t see

anyone from the public. So, I will ask for anyone from Council? Seeing none. Roll Call, please.

**ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously**

**President Nicastro:** Ordinance #22-2022, 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 #23-2022,

**Ord.#23-2022** Ordinance Amending Section 3(f)(iv) of Bond Ordinance #6-2019 of the Township of Mount Olive, In the County of Morris, New Jersey, Finally Adopted March 6, 2019, as Amended by Ordinance #12-2022, Adopted April 19, 2022 In Order to Include an Additional Project, Decrease the Useful Live and Revise the Average Useful Life.

**President Nicastro:** Mr. Mania.

**Mr. Mania:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance #23-2022.

**Mr. Stewart:** Second.

**President Nicastro:** Second. Does anyone from the public wish to be heard on this Ordinance? Raise your hand. Seeing none. Any Council discussion? Seeing none. Roll Call, please.

**ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously**

**President Nicastro:** Ordinance #23-2022 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.

**Mr. Stewart:** This time Colleen didn't say anything to him, and he froze.

**Mrs. Labow:** It's not my fault. I'm innocent.

**President Nicastro:** Am I frozen again?

**Mrs. Labow:** Yeah, you were.

**President Nicastro:** Okay. So, I open the hearing to the public on Ordinance #24-2022,

**Ord.#24-2022** Ordinance of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 347, Streets and Sidewalks, of the Township Code to Establish a Limited Reimbursement Program for Shade Tree Removal and Sidewalk Repair In the Clover Hill Development.

**President Nicastro:** Mr. Stewart.

**Mr. Stewart:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move for adoption and final passage of Ordinance #24-2022.

**Mr. Mania:** Second.

**President Nicastro:** Anyone from the public wish to be heard at this time? Seeing none. Any Council discussion?

**Mr. Roman:** Yes.

**President Nicastro:** Yup. Does someone have something? Or . . .

**Mr. Roman:** Yeah, I just want to just point out that this Ordinance #24-2022, is one of those Ordinances that I think we should look back and say that this is the stuff that we affect residents' lives and it's going to improve that area immensely and also makes a needed effort . . . needed help for those residents that took it upon themselves to benefit their property for their neighbors and I'm glad that we were able to do something for them. Thank you.

**President Nicastro:** Thank you. Anyone else have any comments? Seeing none. Roll Call, please.

**ROLL CALL:**       **Passed unanimously**

**President Nicastro:** Ordinance #24-2022 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.

**Mr. Mania:** You froze again, Joe.

**President Nicastro:** And it's very hot in here but we have 12 Consent Resolutions. Does anyone wish to move any to Non-Consent?

**Mr. Roman:** Forgive me, does he need to reread that?

**Mrs. Labow:** Yeah, that's what I wanted to know too.

**President Nicastro:** What do I need to read again? The . . . it didn't go through?

**Mr. Roman:** It didn't go through. The last part where you were . . .

**Mrs. Labow:** I think Michelle might be frozen.

**President Nicastro:** Michelle.

**Mrs. Labow:** Are you frozen?

**President Nicastro:** Did you get mine or do I have to redo it?

**Miss Masser:** I would just . . . I would just . . .

**President Nicastro:** State . . .

**Miss Masser:** I got . . . I got half of it. So, just . . .

**President Nicastro:** All right. I'll try it again. Ordinance #24-2022 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. Got that?

**Mr. Roman:** Good.

**Miss Masser:** Yes.

**President Nicastro:** So, we have 12 Resolutions. Does anyone wish to move any to Non-Consent? Seeing none. Mr. Roman, would you please move Consent Resolutions one through twelve.

**CONSENT RESOLUTIONS AGENDA:**

**PUBLIC PORTION ON CONSENT RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive Opposing the proposed Rate Increases to the State Health Benefits Program.
2. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive, County of Morris, and State of New Jersey Authorizing the Settlement of Litigation Entitled "Howard Schier V. Mount Olive Township and Mount Olive Planning Board, "Filed in Federal District Court for the District of New Jersey, Bearing Civil Action No. 2:19-CV-17705.
3. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive Authorizing a 2022 Grant Contract With Morris County Historic Preservation Trust for the Seward House – Construction Documents.
4. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive Authorizing a 2022 Grant Contract With Morris County Historic Preservation Trust for the Seward House – Construction.

- 5. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive Closing Rolling Hills DR Between Tall Oaks Lane and Connelly Ave August 20<sup>th</sup> 2022, Between 2PM and 8PM For the Purpose of Holding a Block Party. (Rain Date – None)
- 6. 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 2022 Municipal Budget. (\$10,735.44 for National Opioid Settlement Grant)
- 7. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive to Cancel Taxes on Block 8200, Lot 28 for Disabled Veteran Declared 100% Totally & Permanently Disabled by the Tax Assessor.
- 8. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive Authorizing the use of Open Space Funds For Phase I/II Environmental Site Assessments, Remedial Investigation and Reporting and Regulatory Closure at 5 Pondview Lane. (First Environment) REVISED – Increase in Contract Amount & Description.
- 9. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive Authorizing participation in the American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant.
- 10. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive Waiving Construction Permit Fees to Procomm Systems (Or Subcontractors) Related to the Radio Upgrade Project at the Gail Drive Water Tank.
- 11. Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Mount Olive Authorizing the Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for the 2022-2023 Licensing Period. (Kennedy’s Pub and Restaurant LLC)
- 12. A Resolution of the Township of Mount Olive, in the County of Morris and State of new Jersey, Authorizing the Execution of a Contract and Use of Open Space Funds for the Purchase 5 Pondview Lane (Block 6900, Lot 26) Located in the Township of Mount Olive, Morris County, New Jersey.  
**Added 8/9/2022**

**Mr. Roman:** I move for approval, Consent Resolutions one through twelve.

**Mr. Mania:** Second.

**Mrs. Labow:** Second.

**President Nicastro:** Anyone from the public have any questions on the Resolutions? Raise your hand. Seeing none. I’ll close it to the public. Any Council discussion? Seeing none. Roll Call, please.

**ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously**

**President Nicastro:** Mr. Ferrante, would you please move the Bill List?

**MOTIONS**

- 1. Bill List

**Mr. Ferrante:** Sure, I make a motion to move the Bill List, please.

**Mrs. Labow:** Second.

**President Nicastro:** Anyone from the public have any questions on the Bill List? Raise your hand. Seeing none. Anyone from Council have anything? Seeing none. Roll Call, please.

**ROLL CALL: Passed unanimously**

**President Nicastro:** Where are we? Administrative Reports. Mayor and Andrew?

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Mayor Greenbaum:** Yes, I’ll start. This Saturday at Turkey Brook from 9:00am to 12:00pm is Touch A Truck.

Always a very popular event. It's supposed to be a beautiful day. I'm sure that we will have a large turnout. If you haven't been up to the park recently; it is abuzz with activity. They continue working on the Seward House. The chimneys look like they're pretty much completed, and the next phase of work is about to begin. The detention pond behind the All Veterans Memorial; a fountain was put in. So, that should add both to beauty and to the benefit of whatever algae is forming on the pond as a result of the stagnant water. Turkey Brook field #3 is cleared of grass. It's pretty much starting to look like a turf field. Very exciting news. The basketball courts I saw today were painted. Looks beautiful and I'm sure will be ready to be used, I think the date was the 11<sup>th</sup>, if I'm not mistaken, as well as the tennis courts down off of Glendale. Further back, it looked like football was putting up a new scoreboard. If I'm not mistaken, I saw them working over there and the steel is up on the large gazebo. It is an incredibly beautiful structure, even at this point, to see that it's going to benefit all of the residents of Mount Olive for many, many, many years to come. So, all good in Mount Olive currently. As I indicated previously, Budd Lake, I believe, was sent down to Newark as a result of a water main break and I think Flanders is going to follow them at some point based upon coverage. I'm sure that many of the surrounding municipalities have provided fire coverage during the timeframe that the water main breaking in the park and I saw pictures on News Channel 12. It looked like it was a very, very, very substantial water break. Other than that, things seem to be moving along very well in Mount Olive. Andrew, do you have anything?

**Mr. Tatarenko:** Thank you, Mayor. I do have a handful and since you mentioned the fountain in the Turkey Brook detention pond, I would like to add I was just notified, I believe yesterday. We purchased this piece of equipment through our Lake Consultant and during the installation he was so moved by what he saw at the AVM that he actually decided to do a \$10,000.00 contribution towards the purchase of that fountain. So, . . .

**Mrs. Labow:** Oh, nice.

**Mr. Tatarenko:** Yes, he was very moved by the entire, you know, the environment there and the atmosphere. He called Claudia and said I want to, you know, pick up most the tab on this. So, I think at the next meeting we could recognize him or however you want, however you would, you know, see fit. Some other items, I'll just give you an update on the EV charging stations. Things are moving along there as well. Our contractor has applied for all of the grants needed through the DEP. They have their own bid process to find subcontractors to do the installation. We have one more site visit with them next week but they're confident that the site should be ready by yearend. So, that's moving along nicely. Also, just to give Council an update on the Carlton Water System, we have received a proposal and entered into a contract with a vendor to do the emergency tank cleaning. We need to drain the tank, set up a temporary water facility, then get in the tank and power wash it, clean it, and that should resolve the issue. That work is anticipated to start in a few weeks. Also, it's that time of year for our Gypsy Moth Survey. Unfortunately, the Department of Agriculture again notified us that there is some defoliation throughout Town. So, I filled out the paperwork to participate in the survey and depending on that result, they'll be back in touch with us to see if there needs to be any spraying or any other services that need to be done to assist with that. Also, just to give you an update on the Health and Wellness Center, we have had an updated meeting with our architect a few weeks ago. Things there as well are moving along nicely. They did present several concept plans based on the programming needs of what the Health Department needs. We still have a couple things to finetune. Some of the things that came up during this conversation since we're going through this effort of potentially building a new building, you know, does it make sense to add a second level for recreational space, should we be building a basement for storage space? So, those are all things that we're kind of brainstorming now because we don't want to, you know, kick ourselves in the foot . . . or in the butt in a couple years from now and say, "You know, we should've done that." So, once I have a more definitive plan, I will present in front of everybody. That's all that I have.

**President Nicastro:** Yeah, Andrew, I just want to say on that, thank you because I know you talked about that about a month ago. The big concern with the Health and Wellness Center I mentioned was can we do something to at least facilitate adding a second floor at some point? Because otherwise we're stuck like we are with the other buildings. So, I'm glad we're looking into that because, like you said, we've got to think down the road. Not just one story. You never know what's going to happen. So, I'm glad they brought that up. Thanks. Okay. Any Old Business from anyone? Seeing none. Any New Business from anyone? Seeing none. Any Legal Matters?

**OLD BUSINESS - none**

**NEW BUSINESS - none**

**LEGAL MATTERS**

**Mr. Semrau:** If I may, Council President, just a couple things. Quickly, as Andrew pointed out, Pondview, we're moving forward now with a closing. So, I think the Administration has done a terrific job to get to this

point and we're ready to close, hopefully as soon as next week. On 57 Acres, that's a project that there was a successful bidder. We're waiting for a decision from the DEP. We are attempting to essentially force a decision from the DEP as we want to weigh our options at that point. The DEP has a restriction on the property. We've been trying to work that out with them and get the approval for them to be compensated for that restriction. That's all part of the actual proposal and winning bid for the property. So, we're really trying to make that front and center to get to the bottom of that and get that acquisition, that sale, in place. On Red Maple Lane, that was Resolution number two tonight that was approved by this governing body. That has to do with a matter that . . . a property on Red Maple Lane which is a cooperative sober living residence. A lot of municipalities throughout the State are trying to deal with the various issues that are raised but it's the federal law that really dictates the fact that local government has very limited involvement in regulations involving such facilities and they have certain rights. However, the Township has taken numerous steps to try to address a reasonable, workable solution with respect to this matter and I just want to report to the governing body that the settlement that's been approved and we've discussed in Executive Session, last night, the Mayor, the Council President, the Administrator, John Testa of our office who you know, and Jon worked a tremendous amount of time on this case to bring it to the point where we could hopefully negotiate and have negotiated a settlement. We met with residents to answer their questions, their concerns. We wanted them to understand in an informal form and answer those questions for over an hour and, you know, assuring them that going forward, notwithstanding the settlement, a few things will happen. There'll still be a Planning Board Hearing, a public hearing, for final approval, which is part of the settlement and at the same time, we've advised residents through the Administration, how we can be certain that we want the terms of this settlement enforced and followed through and we're assuring them that there's ways for them to communicate with the Township and the Administration so that we can certainly be part of making this settlement a success story as opposed to something that just was not addressed by a community, which has happened throughout the State. So, I thank the Mayor, Council President, and Andrew for meeting with us and the residents so that we can answer those questions last night. The last thing I just want to mention is, quickly, is one, you know we read about these cases and Sue Sharpe and I have seen this still, about Minutes for meetings and it's just routine now. Your Minutes from the last meeting are always available and approved the next meeting and just a . . . just want to extend appreciation for Andrew. It takes a lot of us in our office to keep up with him but no matter what we bring back to his attention, he's, as you know, well-versed and ready to answer and give us his thoughts. I just wanted to say that because all of these issues . . . this is probably just about, what do you say, Sue Sharpe? Five items on a list that Claudia has, you know, running for us of about 50. So, and, you know, we're grateful, we like . . . we're very grateful for the work and the direction. Thanks, Council President.

**President Nicastro:** Thank you, Fred. Appreciate all the work you guys do as well. Thank you.

**Mrs. Sharpe:** Can I . . . Council President. Can I add one more item?

**President Nicastro:** That, you can.

**Mrs. Sharpe:** Just to keep the governing body apprised. There was a new law that was enacted recently that goes into effect in 90 days and it requires that business owners and owners of rental units, multiple dwellings, maintain a certain amount of liability insurance and there's a registration process and unfortunately, initially, DCA was going to be the entity that would handle that, but they've eliminated that portion of it and put it on the municipalities to take care of that. We can charge a reasonable fee for that administration; we can do that by Ordinance. So, we'll be working with Administration on drafting an Ordinance for that. So, I just wanted to let you know that's on the horizon.

**President Nicastro:** All right and that's multiple family, not single-family rentals.

**Mrs. Sharpe:** Yes, correct.

**President Nicastro:** Okay. Thank you.

**Mr. Roman:** Forgive me, but business owners as well, correct?

**Mrs. Sharpe:** Yes.

**Mr. Roman:** So, I would expect that when that is coming up before we discuss it in public, that we should send out to the Chamber of Commerce for their input once we have language lined up so we can get their input.

**Miss Masser:** Can I just ask real quick? Sue, on the . . . my understanding is that it's four unit's owner occupied and right now, like we do Landlord Registration and it's two units or less and it doesn't have to be owner occupied. Does this fall with the Landlord Registration?

**Mrs. Sharpe:** I'll have to look at that level of detail and see if there's crossover. So, we'll have to make sure to distinguish if, you know, if there's a difference.

**Miss Masser:** Okay.

**President Nicastro:** You got it? Okay. Thank you. Anything else? That's it. Thank you, Sue. Thank you, Fred. Next item up is the Council Reports. We have Board of Education and Senior Citizens. Mr. Amianda.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

Board of Education Liaison Report  
Senior Citizen Liaison

**Mr. Amianda:** Yes, Mr. President. Mount Olive Board of Education has been in summer recession since the end of May 2022 and the beginning of June 1, 2022. This will change when schools reopen after Labor Day and the Board of Education will be in full swing. When you come to Mount Olive Senior Citizens, Mount Olive Senior Citizens held its business meeting today, August 10, 2022. Membership has increased to 124 members today. As a matter of fact, the Senior Citizens registered nine new members. This is showing that most of the senior citizens are now appreciating the importance of having a group and sharing their news. I wanted to say that the Seniors Meeting also had an outside speaker from the Valley National Bank. The speaker was very good. Senior Citizens Meeting in August and September will continue. Mount Olive Seniors Newsletter will be announced and later . . . August and Senior Citizens Social Meeting will be held on August 16, 2022 and I think that's the end of the Senior Citizens are really not very active in . . . in the Town.

**President Nicastro:** Okay. Thank you, Mr. Amianda. Mr. Ferrante, anything on Environmental, Lake, or Library?

Environmental Committee  
Lake Issues – none  
Library Board Liaison

**Mr. Ferrante:** Library would've been today. They cancelled their meeting so the next meeting will be in September. Environmental, we met last week. There were a couple of Planning Board items that we spoke about in depth and will be providing an Environmental Impact Statement back to the Planning Board. We did have a conversation about the health of Budd Lake and so, we've arranged to have the Lake Consultant, Larry Kovar, to come to our next meeting in September as well. So, that'll give a good presentation on the health of the Lake and the treatment plans that they've been providing throughout the spring and summer. So, once we get that, I'll give an update from that presentation as well. That is all I have.

**President Nicastro:** Okay. Thank you. Mrs. Labow, anything on Open Space, Board of Health, or Stigma?

Open Space Committee Report – none  
Board of Health Report – none  
Stigma Committee – none

**Mrs. Labow:** Nope. No meetings.

**President Nicastro:** No meetings . . . in the summer. Mr. Mania, anything on Legislative or Planning?

Legislative Committee Report – none  
Planning Board Report

**Mr. Mania:** Planning Board has a meeting this coming Thursday. There's only one application on the Agenda and that's a d variance of which I am not able to participate in.

**President Nicastro:** Okay. Thank you. Mr. Stewart, anything on Economic Development?

Economic Development Committee Report – none  
Community Action Panel Report – none

**Mr. Stewart:** No. No meetings this month.

**President Nicastro:** Thank you and Mr. Roman, anything on Recreation?

Recreation Liaison Report – none

**Mr. Roman:** Nothing to report.

**President Nicaastro:** Thank you. Does anyone from the public wish to be heard at this time? You can raise your hand or press nine to be recognized. Irene Sergonis. We'll unmute you and please state your name and address for the record, please.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

**Mrs. Sergonis:** Irene Sergonis, 37 Mount Olive Road, Budd Lake, New Jersey.

**President Nicaastro:** Thank you.

**Mrs. Sergonis:** Today, I was volunteering at the Sussex County Fair in a booth and there were a lot of booths there; different community organizations just to reach out to the public as well as all the rides. Unfortunately, we did have a power outage and we had to leave, you know, in the middle of the afternoon. So, that reminded me when I was in Mount Olive Partners, we had a booth when Turkey Brook Park first opened and, you know, we hosted our booth for free and we were able to reach out to the community and get ideas from the community. In 2017, my work with Mount Olive Democrats, we started hosting booths at the carnival in different community events to register voters and to tell them about our candidates and some community issues. So, we've been doing that since 2017 and I've had some different people, you know, sitting next to me while I was hosting the booth. We had Autism Speaks, we had Pastor Matt Jones, the Health Department, MORT, the Republican Club, Kiwanis, the Historical Society, various Board of Education candidates, and then we had EDGE New Jersey and the PRIDE Mount Olive Group. So, we had all different organizations. As Mount Olive Democrats, I did have to pay \$100.00 to host a booth and I'm assuming all the other organizations had to pay that money. So, I sent an email to the Rec Department asking to rent a booth for the Food Trucks and Fireworks Festival on August 27, 2022, and the Oktoberfest on October 8, 2022, and I was told that the Mayor and Administration have determined that only businesses will be allowed to be vendors and no nonprofits or other organizations will be allowed to host booths at these community events. Now, you know, I've lived here for 42 years. I recall, as I've volunteered in many different organizations, we used to have like indoor volunteer fairs for us to reach out to the public. We don't have that anymore. You know, we had all kinds . . . you know, we had other venues in order to do that. So, right now we're limited to actually paying to get some sort of access to the public to put out our message and I really don't think it's fair. I would just like you to look into it. We, us volunteer associations, we have a hard time getting people and we need to get our message out. We need to be out there, and you know, if you want to have a separate area like when the park first opened and it was Mount Olive Park partners, there was a separate area for nonprofits, and we did not pay a dime. We just had our table and our chairs there. So, you know, I think this is something that we should look into and that's all I have to say. And just . . . Colleen, I hope you get well, you know, just be strong and if you need a ride around, I'm here. Okay? And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

**Mrs. Labow:** Thanks, Irene.

**President Nicaastro:** Thank you, Irene. Appreciate it. Thank you.

**Mrs. Labow:** Thank you.

**President Nicaastro:** Does anyone else from the public wish to be heard at this time?

**Mr. Roman:** Joe, I'd like to comment. This is the first time I heard about this that we're not allowing our volunteer organizations to purchase a booth and just limiting it to businesses, so, I'd like to know when this was decided and the premise for it.

**Mayor Greenbaum:** I made the decision based upon circumstances which were made after our last event where I understood that at our events we're not able to control the activities that go on if we open it to some of the nonprofit organizations. Our effort to date has been to try and be as inclusive a community and cohesive community and I recognized that there is a potential for different types of groups which would take away from that cohesiveness and so I didn't exclude any groups. I excluded all nonprofits from participation at our recreation events. They're more than welcome to have their own events. They're more than welcome to participate in other people's events but when the Township is running a recreation event, it needs to be cohesive rather than issue-related adversity. So, that's why the decision was made. It had nothing to do with excluding Democrats or excluding Republicans. It's just better for the rec events that we run.

**Mr. Roman:** I mean, obviously I disagree wholeheartedly. I think that in order to be inclusive, we shouldn't be exclusive. There are many messages out there that people want to get across that are not necessarily political in nature. Correct me if I'm wrong in assuming this is an Administration only event . . . I mean, Administration only purview and this is not within the purview of Council.

**Mayor Greenbaum:** I'm sure that you would be very unhappy, Alex, if there was a group that came up as a nonprofit and decided that they were going to protest against having Hispanics in our school system in Mount Olive and I just use that as a hypothetical example of what we can't control in our events if we don't know basically what we are allowing at our events. Now, there's nothing to stop the Democrats from coming to an event and handing out flyers. We're just not having a booth and we're not going to allow different types of entertainment to happen, different than our express purpose of what the event is. For instance, at Touch A Truck, we're not having booths there for, you know, Jews for Israel. I can't give you an example without sounding incredibly prejudicial, but the bottom line is that we want our recreation events to focus on the express purpose of what our recreation is doing and so, it's, while I understand that these groups have the desire to attend our events and to get their message out, they can have their own events. That's the bottom line. When we have a rec event, it's meant for recreation purposes, and it's meant for the purpose of which the event was originally scheduled for.

**Mr. Roman:** Well, I'm saddened to hear that the organizations like the Kiwanis or any other of those civic organizations will no longer be able to mingle with the public. I understand what you're saying, making . . . yeah, there could be hateful messages out there but, . . .

**Mayor Greenbaum:** It's not only just . . .

**Mr. Roman:** I'm very . . .

**Mayor Greenbaum:** It's not only just hateful messages though. It's a message which is divisive within the community that we're trying to exclude from . . .

**Mr. Roman:** Well, I mean . . .

**Mayor Greenbaum:** The purpose . . .

**Mr. Roman:** . . . your example of Hispanics, you know, wanting no Hispanics, that sounds like a hateful message but that's an example.

**Mayor Greenbaum:** Look, the bottom line is if there was a Hispanic group that came to Touch A Truck and they wanted to run an event that has a big dance and is a different recreation type activity then, the recreation event which we are planning, that's not the purpose of our rec department. So, we made the decision, and it is . . . we excluded all nonprofits because that's . . .

**Mr. Roman:** I understand.

**Mayor Greenbaum:** . . . the only way . . . that's the only way that you can do it. Yes, I agree that, you know, we'll revisit it down the road but that's the Administration policy going forward.

**Mr. Roman:** Now, is this . . . did this come up because of something that was, you know, proposed? Or was there an impetus to this? Are you free to speak on this issue as to what brought this about?

**Mayor Greenbaum:** Only the recognition that the way that we were handling our booths in the past potentially could be divisive and harmful to the event itself.

**Mr. Roman:** Okay. All right. No problem. Thank you, very much.

**President Nicastro:** Thank you. Anyone . . . oh, we have Alan Fulton. Please state your name and address for the record, Alan.

**Mr. Fulton:** Hi, good evening. Alan Fulton, Waterloo Road, Budd Lake. My great pleasure to talk with everybody tonight.

**President Nicastro:** Hey there, Alan.

**Mr. Fulton:** Hey. So, back to this. Only nonprofits will be excluded. I just want to make sure I understand it correctly. Because we have a booth up there as well quite often and we've had a lot of fun with it.

**President Nicastro:** What kind of booth?

**Mr. Fulton:** Oh, the official Team No Pants booth. Clearly, you've seen us.

**President Nicastro:** I don't know.

**Mr. Roman:** That definitely is considered nonprofit.

**Mr. Fulton:** To what extent though? They're not a 501c3. They're not charitable. So, I really have to ask that, that way, right? Because that's a nonprofit organization or not a nonprofit organization. Apparently, it was horrible at making a profit, but that's regardless.

**President Nicastro:** Mhm.

**Mayor Greenbaum:** You'd have to run it through the Rec Department. They'd be able to give you an answer.

**Mr. Fulton:** Okay, because, you know, I heard it up here and just wanted to get some clarity around it.

**Mr. Roman:** Thank you.

**Mr. Fulton:** Okay, thanks guys.

**President Nicastro:** Thank you, Alan. Does anyone else have anything from the public? I don't see anyone from the public, so I will close it to the public and I will go around for Council Comments. Mr. Mania, any comments?

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mr. Mania:** Yes. Stay healthy and God bless.

**President Nicastro:** Mr. Amianda, anything?

**Mr. Amianda:** No comment.

**President Nicastro:** Mrs. Labow.

**Mrs. Labow:** I'm good. Everybody stay safe and healthy.

**President Nicastro:** Mr. Stewart.

**Mr. Stewart:** None tonight.

**President Nicastro:** Mr. Ferrante.

**Mr. Ferrante:** No comments tonight.

**President Nicastro:** Mr. Roman.

**Mr. Roman:** I think I will comment when I have my words properly formulated.

**President Nicastro:** On that note, I have no comment, so, I will ask for a motion to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Motion made and seconded. All in favor, none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

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Alex Roman, Council Vice 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 August 23, 2022.

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Michelle Masser, Township Clerk