

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION**

The Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers and called to order at 7:32pm. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale. Roll call was taken.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to The Bergen Record and The Ridgewood News, informing the public of the time and place according to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

ROLL CALL:

Councilmember Curry - arrived 7:37	Councilmember LaMonica - absent
Councilmember Ghassali	Councilmember Lane
Councilmember Koelling	Councilmember Talarico

Also present: Mayor Roger Fyfe; Borough Attorney, Joe Voytus; Borough Engineer, Andy Hipolit; Municipal Clerk/Administrator, Maureen Iarossi-Alwan and Deputy Municipal Clerk, Fran Scordo

ORDINANCES:

None

MINUTES:

May 12, 2015

A motion to accept the minutes by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Talarico - all ayes with the exception of Councilmember Ghassali abstained

RESOLUTIONS:

**79-2015 Awarding Professional Service Contract/Planning Services/Housing Element/
Fair Share Plan/Vacant Land Assessment/Municipal Planner/D.Green/Maser Consulting
LLC**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale deems it necessary to engage the professional services of our Municipal Planner to provide services for the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan and Vacant Land Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is in the process of achieving constitutional compliance with its affordable housing mandate; and

WHEREAS, section N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 of the Local Public Contracts Law, (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) exempts such professional services from competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, Maser Consulting, Inc. 200 Valley Road, Suite 306, Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856 has submitted a detailed proposal dated May 7, 2015 which was previously discussed and approved at the Mayor & Council meeting held on May 13, 2015 which is attached to this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the cost detail breakdown is listed on page 6 of the attached proposal in a not to exceed amount of \$20,800 for these professional services other services will be billed at the hourly rate included in the Planner's professional service agreement between the Borough of Montvale and Maser Consulting; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer certifies funds are available said certification is hereto attached to the original of this resolution; and.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a copy of this resolution shall be published in an official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale, be on file, available for public inspection, in the office of the Municipal Clerk, 12 Mercedes Drive, Montvale, NJ 07645

Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Talarico - all ayes

80-2015 Authorize Settlement Tax Appeal/Corey & Sara Hirsch/Block 904/Lot 13

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale have been advised of the proposed settlement of a property Tax Appeal filed by Corey & Sara Hirsch (hereinafter the "Tax Appeal"), under Docket Numbers 003360-2014 and 004029-2015, and;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid tax appeal involves a residential property located at 18 Heather Ridge Lane, and is otherwise referred to as Block 904 Lot 13 on the tax assessment map of the Borough (hereinafter the "subject property"), and;

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has been advised as to the merits of the subject Tax Appeal by legal counsel and the Borough Tax Assessor, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed Tax Appeal settlement would adjust the subject properties' property tax assessment to \$870,700 for both years under appeal, and;

WHEREAS, the provisions of N.J.S.A. 54:51A-8 (the "Freeze Act") shall be applicable to the terms of this settlement, and;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Borough of Montvale to settle the subject Tax Appeal in accordance with the settlement proposal set forth hereinabove.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, that the settlement of the aforesaid Tax Appeal be hereby approved, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with respect to same, the Mayor, Borough Administrator, Tax Appeal Attorney and/or any other appropriate Borough official is hereby authorized to perform any act necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth in this Resolution.

Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Talarico - all ayes

81-2015 Authorize Settlement Tax Appeal/Hendi/Block 101/Lot 10

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale have been advised of the proposed settlement of a property Tax Appeal filed by Louis A. & Lise B. Hendi (hereinafter the "Tax Appeal"), under Docket Numbers 004007-2014 and 004027-2015, and;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid tax appeal involves a residential property located at 70 Valley View Terrace, and is otherwise referred to as Block 101 Lot 10 on the tax assessment map of the Borough (hereinafter the "subject property"), and;

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has been advised as to the merits of the subject Tax Appeal by legal counsel and the Borough Tax Assessor, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed Tax Appeal settlement would adjust the subject properties' property tax assessment to \$979,700 for both years under appeal, and;

WHEREAS, the provisions of N.J.S.A. 54:51A-8 (the "Freeze Act") shall be applicable to the terms of this settlement, and;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Borough of Montvale to settle the subject Tax Appeal in accordance with the settlement proposal set forth hereinabove.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, that the settlement of the aforesaid Tax Appeal be hereby approved, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with respect to same, the Mayor, Borough Administrator, Tax Appeal Attorney and/or any other appropriate Borough official is hereby authorized to perform any act necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth in this Resolution.

Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Talarico - all ayes

82-2015 Authorize Settlement Tax Appeal/Efrat/Block 1302/Lot 3

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale have been advised of the proposed settlement of a property Tax Appeal filed by Aviv Efrat (hereinafter the "Tax Appeal"), under Docket Numbers 003359-2014 and 004024-2015, and;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid tax appeal involves a residential property located at 39 Donnybrook Road, and is otherwise referred to as Block 1302 Lot 3 on the tax assessment map of the Borough (hereinafter the "subject property"), and;

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has been advised as to the merits of the subject Tax Appeal by legal counsel and the Borough Tax Assessor, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed Tax Appeal settlement would adjust the subject properties' property tax assessment to \$1,554,700 for both years under appeal, and;

WHEREAS, the provisions of N.J.S.A. 54:51A-8 (the "Freeze Act") shall be applicable to the terms of this settlement, and;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Borough of Montvale to settle the subject Tax Appeal in accordance with the settlement proposal set forth hereinabove.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, that the settlement of the aforesaid Tax Appeal be hereby approved, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with respect to same, the Mayor, Borough Administrator, Tax Appeal Attorney and/or any other appropriate Borough official is hereby authorized to perform any act necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth in this Resolution

Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Talarico - all ayes

83-2015 Authorize Release of Escrow/Block 2002/Lot 1/Benjamin Moore & Company

WHEREAS, the Borough Treasurer, recommends the release and takes no exception to the release of the escrow funds posted for Block 2002/Lot 1 as all inspections have been conducted; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale hereby release the remaining escrow funds in the amount of \$177.50 to Benjamin Moore & Co. 101 Paragon Drive, Montvale, NJ 07645 Attn: Andree Bacolo, Facilities Dept.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Borough Treasurer hereby receives a copy of this resolution for processing.

Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Talarico - all ayes

BILLS: Municipal Clerk read the Bill Report

Motion to pay bills by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Ghasali - All ayes

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Hipolit
Report/Update

- a. Update Road Program
Bids were advertised

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Joe Voytus, Esq.
Report/Update

- a. Solid waste contract will be advertised on Friday
- b. Short Avenue Ordinance should be ready for next meeting

Councilmember Ghassali asked for an update regarding the DePiero lawsuit. A & P appeal is still moving forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilmember Ghassali ask for an update on the boy scout and his eagle scout project. Mayor Fyfe stated that the project was completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Montvale Summer Camp Proposed Employee/Hiring List/Governing Body Review

Councilmember Lane needed clarification as to what was the role of councilmembers in regards to the hire of summer camp counsellors; the approval is based on the recommendation of the Director. After a brief discussion, it was decided that further information was needed and it will be further discussed at the next meeting.

COMMUNICATION CORRESPONDENCE:

None

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

HEARING OF CITIZENS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

Upon recognition by the Mayor, the person shall proceed to the floor and give his/her name and address in an audible tone of voice for the records. Unless further time is granted by the Council, he/she shall limit his/her statement to five (5) minutes. Statements shall be addressed to the Council as a body and not to any member thereof. No person, other than the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, without recognition by the Mayor.

A motion to open meeting to the public by Councilmember Ghassali; seconded by Councilmember Talarico – all ayes

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

A motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Ghassali; seconded by Councilmember Lane – all ayes

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Ghassali; seconded by Councilmember Talarico – all ayes

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

The next Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held June 9, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Fran Scordo, Deputy Municipal Clerk