

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION**

The Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council was in the Council Chambers and called to order at 7:33 pm. 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 Arendacs	Councilmember Lane - absent
Councilmember Cudequest - absent	Councilmember Roche
Councilmember Koelling	Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang - via telephone

Also Present: Mayor Ghassali; Borough Attorney, Joe Voytus; Administrator/Municipal Clerk, Maureen Iarossi-Alwan; and Deputy Municipal Clerk, Fran Scordo

ORDINANCES:

None

MINUTES:

September 27, 2022

A motion to accept the minutes by Councilmember Roche; seconded by Councilmember Koelling - all ayes

RESOLUTIONS: (CONSENT AGENDA*)

All items listed on a consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Borough Council and will be approved by a motion, seconded and a roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Council member(s) so request it, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

161-2022 Authorize The Cancellation of 4th Quarter Property Taxes and All Future Taxes Due To Granting Of Totally Disabled Veteran Status By Department Of Veterans Affairs

WHEREAS, this resolution authorizes the municipality to cancel property taxes for the 4th quarter of 2022 and for all future taxes due to the granting of totally disabled veteran status by the Department of Veterans Affairs per the Department's letter attached to the original resolution, for John Jeen Ahn. Mr. Ahn is the owner of 20 North Ave., Block 402, Lot 17.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized to cancel 4th quarter property taxes and all future taxes as per the above.

Introduced by: Councilmember Roche; seconded by Councilmember Arendacs - a roll call was taken - all ayes with the exception of Councilmember Koelling abstaining

BILLS: *Municipal Clerk read the Bill Report*

Motion to pay bills by Councilmember Koelling; seconded by Councilmember Roche - all ayes

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Hipolit

Report/Update

No Report

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Joe Voytus, Esq.

Report/Update

No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Review/Comments/RecommendationsAN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF MONTVALE, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 326 ENTITLED "SITE PLANS," AND AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 400, "ZONING," OF THE BOROUGH CODE TO TRANSFER THE BOROUGH'S SITE PLAN REQUIREMENTS FROM CHAPTER 400 TO A NEW CHAPTER 326, AND ESTABLISHING CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATED TO OBTAINING WAIVERS FROM THE BOROUGH'S SITE PLAN REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Montvale Planning Board Recommendation

Mr. Voytus explained that this will take out the chapter regarding Site Plans and make it its own chapter. This will allow to formalize the use permit procedure. After a brief discussion, the councilmembers agreed to introduce the ordinance at the next schedule meeting on November 10th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. 2023 Health Benefits Determination/Borough Employees/Open Enrollment/Percentage of Contributions Employee Contributions Toward Medical Plans/Determination Health Savings Account (HSA) Contribution Limits

Frank Covelli gave an overview of the health plans that BMED offers. He stated that the premiums did increase approximately 7.78%. Montvale's rates increased by 7.5%. Montvale received a dividend of \$64,000.00.

A motion to open the discussion to the public by Councilmember Koelling; seconded by Councilmember Roche – all ayes

No Public Comment

A motion to close to the public by Councilmember Koelling; seconded by Councilmember Roche – all ayes

Councilmember Roche stated that the Finance committee has determined that the borough will contribute towards the HSA \$3,850 for single coverage and \$7,750 for family coverage for those employees who choose the High Deductible Plan. Employees will contribute 10% towards the HD plan and 15% towards all other plans. A motion by Councilmember Roche to approve the health benefits and seconded by Councilmember Arendacs – a roll call was taken – all ayes

b. Certificate of Determination & Award

This is for informational purposes only

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 Koelling; seconded by Councilmember Arendacs – all ayes

Frank DiPalma

Wanted to know if anyone has heard any update with the train traffic. Mayor Ghassali stated that he spoke with NJ Transit and that are aware of the gates going down in Montvale when the train pulls into Park Ridge. They will look into it.

A motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Koelling; seconded by Councilmember Arendacs – all ayes

A motion to go into closed session by Councilmember Roche; seconded Councilmember Koelling – all ayes

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Roche; seconded by Councilmember Koelling – all ayes

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

The next Regular Public Regular Meeting of the Mayor & Council to be held on **Thursday, November 10th, 2022 at 7:30 pm. (due to Election Day being held on Tue. November 8)**

Respectfully submitted, Fran Scordo, Deputy Municipal Clerk