

**PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers and called to order at 7:33PM. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale. Master Sergeant Dieter Koelling led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and roll call was taken.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

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

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

ROLL CALL:

Councilmember Arendacs	Councilmember Lane - absent
Councilmember Cudequest	Councilmember Roche
Councilmember Koelling	Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang - via telephone

Police Chief Joe Sanfilippo said a few words regarding his 36 year career here at the Borough. He thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers for their support over years. Montvale was one of the first towns to get body cameras and it is a great tool to have. The move to use Tasers has been useful. We will continue to be on the cutting edge of all things to come. We have a fantastic police force.

ORDINANCES:

INTRODUCTION ORDINANCE NO. 2022-1528 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2022-1516 TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE, AMOUNT AND METHOD OF PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO PERSONS HOLDING CERTAIN OFFICES AND POSITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE BOROUGH OF MONTVALE, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE YEAR 2023

(Public Hearing 12-27-22)

A motion to Introduce Ordinance **2022-1528** for first reading was made by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Koelling; Clerk read by title only; Councilmember Roche made a motion that this ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised in The Bergen Record; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - a roll call was taken – all ayes

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

Motion to open meeting to the public by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Roche - all ayes

No public comment

Motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Roche – all ayes

MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

MINUTES:

November 29, 2022

A motion to accept minutes by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Koelling – all ayes

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE MINUTES:

November 29, 2022

A motion to accept closed minutes by Councilmember Koelling; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest – 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.

176-2022 Cancellation Of Improvement Authorizations

WHEREAS, there exists unexpended improvement authorization balances on the balance sheet of the General Capital Fund; and

WHEREAS, the unexpended improvement authorization balances remain dedicated to projects now completed or the balances are determined to be in excess of the amounts necessary for the completion of the projects; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the unexpended balances may be credited to deferred charges to future taxation unfunded, reserve for payment of debt or fund balance and the unused debt authorizations may be cancelled;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the following unexpended improvement authorization balances be cancelled:

GENERAL CAPITAL FUND:

<u>ORDINANCE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FUNDED</u>	<u>UNFUNDED</u>
2016-1413	Various Capital Improvements	\$187,016.27	
2017-1430	Acquisition of Property	10,761.83	
2020-1482	Various Capital Improvements	357,888.87	
2021-1497	Various Capital Improvements	60,630.51	
		\$616,297.48	\$0.00
		=====	=====

177-2022 Cancellation Of Prior Year Outstanding Checks

WHEREAS, there exists outstanding checks from the prior year drawn against the General Checking Account and Payroll Account, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the outstanding checks from the prior year be cancelled to Current Fund Surplus;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, that the following outstanding checks from the prior year be cancelled:

GENERAL CHECKING ACCOUNT

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHECK NUMBER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>ACCOUNT</u>
05/11/21	19278	\$59.75	Current	Surplus
09/14/21	19776	150.00	Current	Surplus
12/10/21	20150	63.00	Current	Surplus
		\$272.75		

PAYROLL ACCOUNT

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHECK NUMBER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>ACCCOUNT</u>
06/30/21	81648	\$246.63 =====	Current	Surplus

178-2022 Cancellation Of Various Balances

WHEREAS, there exists receivable balances and a reserve balance on the Current Fund balance sheet of the Borough of Montvale; and

WHEREAS, the funds creating the receivable balances and reserve balance have been investigated, and it has been determined that the receivable balances and reserve balance should be cancelled; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the uncollected receivable balances may be charged to fund balance and the unexpended reserve balance may be credited to fund balance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, that the following receivable balances and reserve balance may be cancelled:

<u>Current Fund</u>	<u><CHARGES>/ CREDITS</u>
Grants Receivable:	
NJDOT: Various Street Improvements - 2019	<\$16,651.62>
Municipal Alliance Program	< <u>1,964.39</u> >
	< <u>\$18,616.01</u> >
Reserve for Grants - Appropriated:	
Donation - Police (Wegmans)	<u>\$18.75</u>

179-2022 Cancellation Of 2021 Current Fund Appropriation Reserve Balance

WHEREAS, there exists an unexpended 2021 Current Fund budget appropriation reserve balance; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balance so that the unexpended balance may be credited to surplus;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the following unexpended 2021 Current Fund budget appropriation reserve balance be cancelled:

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS

Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"	
Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues	
Municipal Alliance Program	\$3,126.15 =====

180-2022 Transfer Of 2022 Current Fund Appropriation Balance

WHEREAS, there exists an unexpended 2022 Current Fund budget appropriation balance, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-62.1 permits the Borough to transfer such unexpended balance into the Reserve for Storm Recovery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale Bergen County, New Jersey that the following unexpended 2022 Current Fund budget appropriation balance be transferred into the Reserve for Storm Recovery in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-62.1.

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS

Operations - within "CAPS"	
Snow Removal/Storm Recovery:	
Other Expenses	\$25,000.00

181-2022 A Resolution Of The Borough Of Montvale Of The Borough Of Montvale Adopting A Form Required To Be Used For The Filing Of Notices Of Tort Claims Against The Borough Of Montvale In Accordance The Provisions Of The New Jersey Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:8-6.

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:8-6, provides that a public entity may adopt a form to be completed by claimants seeking to file a Notice of Tort Claim against the public entity; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale is a public entity covered by the provisions of the New Jersey Tort Claims Act; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale deems it advisable, necessary, and in the public interests to adopt a Notice of Tort Claim form in the form attached hereto and made a part hereof.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale of the assembled in public session the 13th day of December, 2022, that the attached Notice of Tort Claim form be and hereby is adopted as the official Notice of Tort Claim form for the Borough of Montvale; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all persons making claims against the Borough of Montvale, pursuant to the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:8-1, et. seq., be required to complete the form herein adopted as a condition of compliance with the notice requirement of the New Jersey Tort Claims Act.

182-2022 Cancellation of Tax and Excess Sewer Overpayments or Delinquent Amounts Less than \$10.00

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-17 allows for the cancellation of property tax and excess sewer overpayments or delinquent amounts in the amount of less than \$10.00; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council may authorize the Tax Collector to process, without further action on their part, any cancellation of property tax and excess sewer overpayments or delinquencies of less than \$10.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby authorize the Tax Collector to cancel said property tax and excess sewer amounts as deemed necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector and Chief Finance Officer.

Introduced by: Councilmember Roche; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - a roll call was taken - all ayes

183-2022 Authorize Hiring / Full Time / Construction Clerk / Roseann Crisafi

WHEREAS, Roseann Crisafi meets the qualifications for the position of Construction Clerk and agrees to the terms and conditions of employment, and has previously completed a satisfactory background investigation; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLEVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the above named individual is hereby appointed to the position of a full-time Construction Clerk, effective December 5, 2022.

Introduced by: Councilmember Koelling; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - a roll call was taken - all ayes

BILLS: Municipal Clerk read the Bill Report.

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

REPORT OF REVENUE: Municipal Clerk read the Report of Revenue – November

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council President Russo-Vogelsang

Local BOE

Upcoming winter concerts at Memorial and Fieldstone; wished everyone Happy Holidays

Councilmember Koelling

Police

Monthly report included in original minutes;

Councilmember Arendacs

DPW

Leaf season has ended – snow season is upon us; thanked Bill Mulholland for the donation of hot chocolate for the tree lighting ceremony

Engineering

Magnolia bridge is still on schedule to be completed in mid January

Councilmember Cudequest

Fire Department

31 fires, 2 drills, 7 extra credits, 1 chief's call and 1 meeting;

Library

Working on budgets including some improvements such as carpet cleaning, painting and outside reading garden; the Director reached out to the coordinator at Thrive for some programs and give book recommendations.

TV Access

Upcoming shows, Bob Widmer and Tony Salerno; 2 new editions of My Montvale

Board of Health

Leigh Hopper is resigning, he has almost 30 years of service; the BOH presented him a proclamation and plaque; the rabies clinic had approximately 40-50 dogs and cats; the members are working on revising an ordinance regarding feeding wildlife.

Councilmember Cudequest wished everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season

Councilmember Roche

Environmental Commission

Working with the Land Conservatory and Colliers on an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) which will be used with our master plan

Regional BOE

Received their fiscal audit which was in good standing

Recreation

Tree lighting, thanked high school band and choir, Ms Elkin and Mr. Dore for directing, Wegmans donating cookies and candy canes, Mr & Mrs Mulholland from Montvale Dunkin Donuts for the hot chocolate and DPW for setting it all up. This coming Sunday will be the Menorah lighting.

Mayor

Variety of new business coming to the borough; possibly one new business will be taking 25,000 sq ft for expensive art for storage and possible studio, will be going to the planning board in the next several weeks. Pleased to announce new staff changes, Captain Doug McDowell will be the new Police Chief, Joe Voytus will be new borough administrator, Dave Lafferty will be the borough attorney. These appointments will be made at the re-organization scheduled for January 1st for council approval. December 18th Menorah lighting and Santa will arrive on December 24th. Mayor Ghassali wished everyone Happy Holidays.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Hipolit
Report/Update

On TV Access, My Montvale, in January, will be speaking about Stormwater then later in the year will do another My Montvale about sanitary sewers; Magnolia bridge is scheduled to be completed mid January

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Joe Voytus, Esq.
Report/Update

Will prepare a memo of understanding for the next meeting in regards to 26 N Kinderkamack Road in regards to the proposed Veterans home

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

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.

Motion to open meeting to the public by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Koelling - all ayes

David Lafferty

Introduced himself to councilmembers, as of January 1, 2023 he will be the new borough attorney; he has lived in Montvale for 21 years and has practice law over 20 years

Motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Koelling - all ayes

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Koelling – all ayes

The Next Regular Public Meeting of the Mayor & Council to be held at 7:30pm on December 27, 2022.

Re-Organization Meeting - Sunday January 1st at 12:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully submitted, Fran Scordo, Deputy Municipal Clerk