

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION**

The Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers and called to order at 7:37pm. 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 Koelling
Councilmember Curry	Councilmember Lane
Councilmember Gloeggler	Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

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

This is meeting was broadcast by Zoom Tele-Conference

ORDINANCES:

None

MINUTES:

April 28, 2020

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

May 12, 2020

A motion to accept the minutes by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang - all ayes

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE MINUTES:

None

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.

96-2020 Preparation of Estimated Tax Bills

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Board of Taxation is unable to certify the tax rate at this time and the municipal Tax Collector will be unable to mail the 2020 tax bills on a timely basis:

WHEREAS, the municipal Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer have computed an estimated tax levy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3, and have signed a certification showing the tax levies for the previous year, the tax rates and the range permitted estimated tax levies:

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter 72, P.L. 1994, the Governing Body requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the estimated tax levy which is below the 105% estimate of \$50,702,487.39. Approval will enable the municipality to meet its financial obligations, maintain the tax collection rate, provide uniformity for tax payments and save the unnecessary cost of interest expenses on borrowing.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF MONTVALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY on this 26th day of May, 2020 as follows:

1. The municipal tax collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the municipality for the third installment of 2020 taxes. The Tax Collector shall proceed and take such actions as permitted and required by P.L. 1994, c.72 (N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.2 and 54:4-66.3).
2. The entire estimated tax levy for 2020 is hereby set at \$49,548,150.95.
3. In accordance with law the third installment of 2020 taxes shall not be subject to interest until the later of; the end of the grace period, or the twenty-fifth calendar day after the date the estimated tax bills were mailed. The estimated tax bills shall contain a notice specifying the date on which interest may begin to accrue.

98-2020 Authorize Release Maintenance/Surety Bond/Life Time Fitness/10 Van Riper Road/Block 3302/Lot 2

WHEREAS, Life Time Fitness, 10 Van Riper Road, Montvale, NJ has requested a release of their maintenance surety bond in the amount of \$248,5566.00 Bond No. 106087534; and

WHEREAS, Maser Consulting P.A., which takes no exception to the release and all other Borough Professionals or Departments take no exception to the release; recommendations for release has been made a part of this resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale hereby authorized the release of maintenance/surety bond; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution and original bond are to be sent to Life Time Healthy Way of Life, Real Estate & Development, 2900 Corporate Place, Chanhassen, MN 55317 Attn: Justin Schmidt, PE Engineering Manager

99-2020 Refund Tax Overpayment / Block 302, Lot 1, C0042 / 49 Autumn Way

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing the Borough of Montvale to refund an overpayment of taxes for the property located at 49 Autumn Way, also known as Block 302, Lot 1, C0042;

WHEREAS, a duplicate payment was made by the mortgage company; and

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 refund Andrew Quelch, 702 SW Avon Glenn Place, Bentonville, Arkansas 72713 in the amount of \$2,841.00

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

97-2020 Authorize Refunds Montvale Recreation/Field Use Permit Fee/C. Roche/NJ Stallions

BE IT RESOLVED, the below named individual representing the NJ Stallions is hereby granted a refund for a Field Use Permit in the amount of \$2,450.00;

Carolyn Roche
5 Lark Lane
Montvale, NJ 07645

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Accounts Payable will process a Purchase Order for said refund.

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

100-2020 A Resolution Temporarily Extending and Expanding Permissible Temporary Signage in the Borough of Montvale due to COVID-19

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared both a National Emergency and a Public Health Emergency throughout the country as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy has similarly declared New Jersey to be in the midst of a Public Health Emergency and a State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, as a result thereof, Governor Murphy has issued a number of Executive Orders concerning COVID-19, which have, among other things, implemented certain restrictions on businesses and imposed social distancing requirements on individuals; and

WHEREAS, said restrictions have forced many businesses to close or temporarily suspend operations, or to instead offer only delivery or curbside pick-up; and

WHEREAS, the current restrictions have had a significant negative impact on the ability of these businesses to pay rent, taxes and mortgage payments, to maintain their staffing levels and to generate the income on which these business owners rely; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined that it is necessary and advisable during the current period of business restrictions to extend and expand the Borough's sign regulations related to temporary signage in order to allow more visible indications to the public that businesses are open for business; and

WHEREAS, during the present pandemic, many residents have also erected signs and banners supporting and lauding the efforts of doctors, nurses, hospital staff and other frontline workers who are playing a critical role in assisting individuals stricken by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, other signs have been erected praising the efforts of the essential workers employed in grocery stores, pharmacies, and other essential retail businesses, all of which are necessary to serve the general public during this difficult time; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to express their gratitude to all of these workers and to encourage the posting of signs, banners and other public displays of support during the present pandemic, and to temporarily relax existing sign regulations in order to allow same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, as follows:

1. The regulations set forth in this resolution shall be effective immediately and shall expire on July 1, 2020, unless extended by resolution of the Governing Body.
2. Borough Code §128-9.7A.8(A)(6) is hereby temporarily relaxed to allow for temporary signage in non-residential districts for a period of up to 60 days
3. Borough Code §128-9.7A.8(A)(6) is hereby extended to include the following in the list of permissible temporary signs:

- a. Signs or banners indicating that a business is open or indicating changes in hours or days of operation
 - b. Signs or banners indicating that said business is offering delivery or curbside pickup
 - c. Signs or banners offering support to frontline workers, essential workers, or expressing support for those affected by COVID-19 (e.g., "Montvale Strong")
4. All signs and banners permitted by this resolution and Borough Code §128-9.7A.8(A)(6) shall continue to comply with the sizing, color, and other requirements of Borough Code §128-9.7A.6 and all other applicable regulations, including the requirement that such signs may not be placed in such a manner as to impede sight triangles or otherwise cause a hazard to pedestrians or vehicular traffic.
 5. Business owners shall still be required to submit permit applications to the Building Department for such temporary signs, but all fees shall be waived for such applications.
 6. The erection of signs on residential properties supporting frontline workers, essential workers, or otherwise expressing support for those affected by COVID-19, is hereby authorized and encouraged, provided, however, that such signs may not be placed in such a manner as to impede sight triangles or otherwise cause a hazard to pedestrians or vehicular traffic.

Introduced by: Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang - a roll call was taken - all ayes Councilmember Curry ask for an explanation, Mr. Voytus, Borough Attorney, gave a brief explanation stating some businesses have been asking to put up signs to let customers know that they are open, etc. This will be temporary. Mayor Ghassali added that every month it will be re-evaluated to see if an extension will be warranted. Councilmember Curry added that all fees will be waived.

BILLS: Municipal Clerk read the Bill Report

Motion to pay bills by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang - all ayes

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Hipolit
Report/Update

Received bids for the 2020 Road Program and DOT Edgren Way would like to get the projects done before school starts

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Joe Voytus, Esq.
Report/Update

- a. Report Receipt of Bids Solid Waste & Recyclables Materials Collection & Disposal/Review of Bids
Alternates Discussion: Commence **September 1st, 2020 – August 31, 2023**
Alternate A During the months of June, July & August, collection of Solid Waste increase to two (2) times weekly

Alternate B During the entire year, collection of recyclable materials one (1) time weekly (in lieu of collection once every two weeks).

Mr. Voytus, Borough Attorney, explained the bids came in with an increase of 14% which really is not that bad; Alternate A cost \$70,000 and Alternate B cost \$95,000; Mayor Ghassali asked when does a decision have to be made; Mr. Voytus stated 60 days. Mayor Ghassali suggested that the finance committee run the numbers and come back to the rest of the council for further discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Ghassali stated the Governor will be giving guidance regarding day care centers and outdoor dining; Outside graduations will be starting on July 6; held a modified Memorial Day service;

NEW BUSINESS:

Lisa Dent, Recreation Director, gave an update regarding summer camp; they are waiting on the State for guidelines; A possible option could be to split camp into two sessions, a morning session then have a break in between then an afternoon session. This will limit how many campers will be there at each session. Between sessions sanitizing will take place; all events will be outdoors and masks will be optional.

Councilmember Curry mentioned about the noise of diesel trucks breaking on County roads as well as some borough roads; Mainly Grand Ave, Kinderkamack Road and Spring Valley Road; After a brief discussion it was decided to further discuss with the Police Chief to see how this would be enforced. Mr. Voytus stated on County roads you would need the County for approval.

COMMUNICATION CORRESPONDENCE:

Mayor Ghassali stated the last birthday parade will be on June 6;

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 Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche – all ayes

Carolee Adams

Mentioned to consider opening the recycle center on Saturdays; With CityMD coming to town, will it be a burden for Tri-Boro ambulance? Does the other establishments know about CityMD? Will garage sales be permitted? College and High School students don't have jobs, is there some we can do? Thankful about hearing graduations can be held; Lastly, would like to thank Councilmember Curry for the digital photos, the residents were very pleased on how well done it was, it was a well-deserved boost to the community. Mayor Ghassali responded, by saying the recycle center will now be open on Saturdays, CityMD was approved and will be moving in October 20, garage sales can be held up to 25 people with masks, the Chamber and the Economic Committee are reaching out to businesses to see who is hiring, may have a virtual job fair. Shout out to Frank DiPalma and the astronomy club, they are excited about the upcoming launch.

Jarret Schumacher

Regarding resolution 100-2020, why is it limited to a two weeks period for a sign and/or banner? Mayor Ghassali stated that currently the ordinance states for a two week period. This will expand it for a month, you will need a permit but no fees; On Highland Road there are a lot of blind curves, what would the criteria be to put up signs like “slow down curve ahead” due to more people and children are walking; Mayor Ghassali stated a request can be sent to the Police Chief for review. In speaking about the garbage contract, he suggested to maybe look into composting.

A motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang – all ayes

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm

The next Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held June 9, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Fran Scordo, Deputy Municipal Clerk