

**PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held virtually by Zoom and also held in Council Chambers and called to order at 7:35PM. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale. David Hill 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; Borough Engineer, Andrew Hipolit; Administrator/Municipal Clerk, Maureen Iarossi-Alwan; and Deputy Municipal Clerk, Fran Scordo

ROLL CALL:

Councilmember Arendacs

Councilmember Lane

Councilmember Curry - absent

Councilmember Roche - absent

Councilmember Koelling

Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

PRESENTATION: Gail Artola, Mayor/Rochelle Park Mayor

Rochelle Park had about 650 homes damaged from Hurricane Ida. Montvale residents gave approximately \$4,000 worth of essentials supplies plus \$2,500 in monetary donations to buy more supplies needed. Mayor Ghassali presented Mayor Artola with a check in the amount of \$2,500

PROCLAMATION: Recognizing October 13, 2021 as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day**ORDINANCES:**

None

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

Motion to open meeting to the public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Koelling – all ayes

No Public Comment

Motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Koelling – all ayes

MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

MINUTES:

September 28, 2021

A motion to accept the minutes by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Arendacs – all ayes

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE MINUTES:

September 28, 2021

A motion to accept the closed session minutes by Councilmember Lane; 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.

147-2021 Refund Tax Overpayment / Block 902; Lot 8 / 10 Candlelight Drive

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing the Borough of Montvale to refund an overpayment of taxes; and
WHEREAS, the owners of the property located at 10 Candlelight Drive, and is otherwise referred to as Block 902, Lot 8 on the tax assessment map of the Borough in the name of Scott Kennis, have been successful in his Tax Court Appeal; and

WHEREAS, as a result in refund of an overpayment of property taxes for the year 2020 in the amount of \$243.10; 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 in the amount of \$243.10 payable to Spiotti & Associates, P.C. – Attorney Trust Account, 271 U.S. Highway 46, Suite F105, Fairfield, NJ 07004-2471

148-2021 Authorize Refund for Board of Health Permit / Street Fair

WHEREAS, that Kona Ice Fort Lee, with offices located at 109 Alexander Way, Edgewater, NJ 07020, will not be attending the Montvale Street Fair, therefore requesting a refund for a Board of Health permit; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that Kona Ice Fort Lee, is hereby granted a refund for \$100.00 for a Board of Health permit.

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

149-2021 Award Professional Service Contract /Engineering Services /Traffic Assessment

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale has deemed it necessary to engage the professional services of an Engineer to provide professional services to prepared a traffic assessment to evaluate the impact on school buses along Fox Hill Road with Wren Way, Fox Hill Road with Lark Lane and Wren Way with Lark Lane; 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, Colliers Engineering & Design, 400 Valley Road, Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856 has submitted a proposal dated October 6, 2021 to provide the engineering services for services which are detailed and attached to the original of this resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified funds are available certification hereto attached to the original of this resolution.

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

- 1) That the proposal for the scope of engineering services is attached to this resolution which is made part of this resolution shall be awarded to Colliers Engineering & Design.
- 2) That the following be provided: Traffic Assessment, Existing Investigation, Field Observation, Automatic Data Collection, Manual Data Collection, Data Summary & Recommendations
- 3) The cost not to exceed shall be \$14,500.00 The Engineer shall be required to submit itemized bills and payment shall be made based upon services rendered. The rates for this work are in accordance with the hourly contractual agreement with the Borough of Montvale.

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

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

150-2021 Authorizing Refund of Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #18-00001 for Block 2601; Lot 4 18 Lomas Lane

WHEREAS, at the Municipal Tax Sale held on October 24, 2019, a lien was sold on Block 2601, Lot 4, also known as 19 Lomas Lane for 2018 property taxes; and,

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate #18-00001, was sold to Robert Rothman Pension Plan at 0% interest rate and a premium in the amount of \$79,100.00; and

WHEREAS, Fortress Title Agency has affected redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #18-00001 in the amount of \$80,403.61; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized to Redeem Certificate #18-00001 and send payment of \$159,503.61 to Robert Rothman Pension Plan, 411 Grand Ave, Englewood, NJ 07631

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

BILLS: Municipal Clerk read the Bill Report.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Lane

Fire Dept

25 fire calls; 3 drills; 5 extra credits and one meeting; during Hurricane Ida they helped residents pumping out basements and responding to issues caused by the storm;

Diversity Inclusion Committee

Starting October 13 starting Diwali celebration

Finance

Will Be Starting the budget process – All meetings are open to the public

Councilmember Arendacs

DPW

Continuing maintenance of all borough properties are ongoing;

Councilmember Koelling

Police

Monthly report included in original minutes;

Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

Construction

There is supply chain issue so the big projects might slow down.

Regional BOE

School year is going well

Mayor

Street Fair on Sunday, October 17; Went to the Spanish Heritage celebration and learned Zumba dance; Mayor appointed Councilmembers Koelling and Arendacs as council liaisons along with Carolee Adams and possibly Bob Hanrahan to be part of the FAA committee to discuss flight paths at Teterboro

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Hipolit

Report/Update

- a. Bocce Ball courts should be completed by next week;
- b. Pascack Brook damage from Hurricane Ida will be worked in the coming weeks

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Joe Voytus, Esq.
Report/Update
No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. 2022 Health Benefits Determinations/Borough Employees/Open Enrollment/Percentage of Contributions Employees Contribute Towards Medical Plans/Health Savings Account (HSA) Contribution

Councilmember Lane stated this discussion will be postponed to the next meeting because the rates have not been issued as of yet

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 Lane; seconded by Councilmember Koelling - all ayes

David Hill, 8 Glen Lane

On September 30, his sons and his friends were playing Lacrosse at LaTrenta field and they were asked to leave because they did not have a permit; his concerns is why does his son need a permit to play open play on the field. After a brief discussion with the Mayor and Councilmembers it was decided they would speak with the Recreation Director to schedule a timeframe for open field play.

Motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Arendacs - all ayes

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn Public Meeting by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Koelling - all ayes

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm

Next Meeting of the Mayor & Council will be on October 26, 2021 at 7:30pm in person.

Respectfully submitted, Fran Scordo, Deputy Municipal Clerk