

**RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING  
MINUTES**

The Re-Organization Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers and virtually on Zoom Tele-Conference and called to order at 12:00 PM. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale according to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Pastor Sam Goertz – Montvale Evangelical Free Church

**SWEARING IN OF COUNCILMEMBERS (3 YEAR TERM)**

Dieter Koelling

AnnMarie Russo-Vogelsang

County Commissioner, Tom Sullivan, presented a proclamation for Councilmembers Koelling and Russo-Vogelsang

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmember Arendacs

Councilmember Lane

Councilmember Cudequest

Councilmember Roche

Councilmember Koelling

Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

**Mayor Ghassali spoke briefly about former Councilmember Rose Curry:**

We lost a strong voice and a fierce fighter yesterday morning, former Councilwoman Rose Curry who resigned this past November. Serving as Montvale PTO President and VP, working in Broadway and regional productions, directing area high school musicals, volunteering with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Tri-Boro Food Pantry, and Meals on Wheels, and of course served as Councilwoman for the last decade. For her years of dedication and work for our community, the Montvale Public Library will now bears the honorary name of Rose S. Curry Montvale Public library. Our condolences to her husband Brian and to the entire family, may she rest in peace.

**ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**

(Council Appointment)

Motion by Councilmember Koelling to nominate Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang for Council President; seconded by Councilmember Lane - all ayes on roll call vote

**ELECTION OF PLANNING BOARD MEMBER:**

(Council appointment)

Motion by Councilmember Lane to nominate Councilmember Koelling for Planning Board Liaison seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - All ayes on roll call vote

**OATHS OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO OFFICERS OF MONTVALE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
SWEARING IN BY MAYOR MIKE GHASSALI**

Fire Chief, Geoffrey Gibbons

Deputy Fire Chief, Bruce Hopper

Captain, Michael Cintineo

Lieutenant, Richard Alton

NON-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS**00-2022 RE: Temporary Budget**

**WHEREAS**, 40A: 4-19 provides that where any contract, commitment or payment are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2022 budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purpose and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided; and

**WHEREAS**, the effective date of this resolution is January 1, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the total appropriations in the 2021 budget, exclusive of any appropriations for debt service, capital improvement fund and public assistance are as follows:

Current	\$18,303,547.00
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**WHEREAS**, 26.25 percent of the total appropriations in the 2021 budget, exclusive of any appropriations for debt service, capital improvement fund and public assistance in said 2021 budget is as follows:

Current	\$ 4,804,681.08
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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the following temporary appropriations be made and that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer for his records:

**General Appropriations****Operations – Within "CAPS"**

Administrative and Executive:	
Salaries and Wages	\$75,000.00
Other Expenses	50,000.00
Mayor and Council:	
Salaries and Wages	17,000.00
Other Expenses	4,000.00
Borough Clerk:	
Salaries and Wages	47,500.00
Other Expenses	7,000.00
Financial Administration:	
Salaries and Wages	68,000.00
Other Expenses	9,500.00
Tax Assessment Administration (Assessment of Taxes):	
Salaries and Wages	12,000.00
Other Expenses	8,500.00
Revenue Administration (Collection of Taxes):	
Salaries and Wages	21,000.00
Other Expenses	10,500.00
Legal Services and Costs:	
Other Expenses	100,000.00
Engineering Services and Costs:	
Other Expenses	50,000.00
Cable TV Committee:	
Salaries and Wages	2,500.00
Other Expenses	4,000.00
Planning Board:	
Salaries and Wages	31,000.00
Other Expenses	50,000.00
Zoning Official:	
Salaries and Wages	3,000.00
Property Maintenance:	
Salaries and Wages	7,000.00
Life Insurance	1,500.00
General Liability Insurance	125,000.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	100,000.00

**BOROUGH OF MONTVALE****JANUARY 2, 2022**

Employee Group Health	350,000.00
Employee Group Health - Waiver	10,000.00
Fire:	
Other Expenses	45,000.00
Fire Hydrant Service	60,000.00
Police:	
Salaries and Wages	1,200,000.00
Other Expenses	50,000.00
Acquisition of Police Vehicles	10,000.00
Police Dispatch / 911(Radio Communications):	
Other Expenses	10,000.00
First Aid Organization:	
Other Expenses	10,000.00
Emergency Management:	
Salaries and Wages	2,500.00
Other Expenses	2,500.00
Uniform Fire Safety:	
Salaries and Wages	37,000.00
Other Expenses	3,000.00
Prosecutor:	
Other Expenses	4,000.00
Road Repairs and Maintenance:	
Other Expenses	45,000.00
Sewer System:	
Other Expenses	40,000.00
Snow Removal/Storm Recovery:	
Other Expenses	50,000.00
Garbage and Trash Removal:	
Other Expenses	200,000.00
Public Buildings and Grounds:	
Salaries and Wages	7,000.00
Other Expenses	50,000.00
Maintenance of All Vehicles:	
Other Expenses	12,500.00
Municipal Services Act:	
Other Expenses	5,000.00
Public Health Services (Board of Health):	
Salaries and Wages	4,000.00
Other Expenses	25,000.00
Environmental Commission:	
Salaries and Wages	1,450.00
Other Expenses	500.00
Animal Control Services (Animal Regulation):	
Other Expenses	4,000.00
Welfare Administration (Public Assistance):	
Salaries and Wages	2,500.00
Other Expenses	200.00
Parks and Playground Maintenance:	
Other Expenses	1,000.00
Recreation:	
Salaries and Wages	22,000.00
Other Expenses	2,000.00
Senior Citizen:	
Salaries and Wages	6,000.00
Other Expenses	1,500.00
Municipal Court:	
Salaries and Wages	40,000.00
Other Expenses	3,000.00
Public Defender:	
Other Expenses	1,500.00
Construction Code Official:	
Salaries and Wages	65,000.00
Other Expenses	7,500.00
Building Sub-Code Official:	
Salaries and Wages	15,000.00
Plumbing Sub-Code Official:	
Salaries and Wages	10,000.00

Fire Sub-Code Official:	
Salaries and Wages	7,000.00
Electrical Sub-Code Official:	
Salaries and Wages	15,000.00
Elevator Sub-code Official:	
Other Expenses	10,000.00
Gasoline	20,000.00
Electricity	55,000.00
Telephone	15,000.00
Natural Gas	30,000.00
Street Lighting	40,000.00
<b>Deferred Charges and Statutory</b>	
<b>Expenditures - Municipal Within "CAPS"</b>	
<b>Statutory Expenditures:</b>	
Social Security System	60,000.00
Defined Contribution Retirement Program	4,000.00
	<u>3,475,650.00</u>
<b>Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"</b>	
Maintenance of Free Public Library	240,000.00
Sewer Processing and Disposal:	
Contractual	315,000.00
	<u>555,000.00</u>
<b>Shared Service Agreements:</b>	
Police Dispatch / 911:	
Other Expenses	55,000.00
Municipal Court Administration:	
Salaries and Wages	40,000.00
Other Expenses	20,000.00
Prosecutor:	
Other Expenses	4,000.00
Public Defender:	
Other Expenses	1,500.00
Pascack Valley Special Police Officers:	
Salaries & Wages	48,000.00
Other Expenses	5,500.00
Department of Public Works:	
Other Expenses	600,000.00
	<u>774,000.00</u>
	<u>4,804,650.00</u>
<b>Municipal Debt Service - Excluded from "CAPS"</b>	
Payment of Bond Principal	1,265,000.00
Interest on Bonds	344,515.00
	<u>1,609,515.00</u>
	<u>\$6,414,165.00</u>
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Introduced by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche – a roll call was taken - all ayes

#### **17-2022 Officers Fire Department**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the following Officers of the Montvale Fire Department be approved for the year 2022:

Fire Chief	-	Geoffrey Gibbons
Deputy Fire Chief	-	Bruce Hopper
Captain	-	Michael Cintineo
Lieutenant	-	Rick Alton

Introduced by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Lane – a roll call was taken - all ayes

**18-2022 Professional Service Contract Appointments 2021 / New Jersey Local Unit Pay to Play"****Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4**

**WHEREAS**, on January 2006, the "New Jersey Local Unit Pay to Play" Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et. seq., took effect; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale has a need to award certain professional contracts for services required by the municipality in calendar year 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pay to Play Law permits such services to be acquired through the "non-fair and open" process as declined in N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 or 20.5 on those contracts where it is anticipated that the total cost will exceed \$17,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the anticipated term of these contracts is 1 year; and

**WHEREAS**, the public good and interest of the citizens of the Borough of Montvale will best be served by the "alternative" process to secure experienced professional services, rather than the "fair and open" process awarding a contract to the lowest bidder; and

**WHEREAS**, each professional will be required to first complete and submit a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies these professionals have not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of Montvale in the previous one year, and that said professionals will be prohibited from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

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

The following professional 2022 contracts shall be awarded under the alternative process at the next regular meeting of the Governing Body:

*Borough Attorney:*

Joseph Voytus  
Boggia, Boggia, Betesh & Voytus, LLC  
71 Mt. Vernon Street  
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660

*Borough Engineer:*

Andrew Hipolit  
Colliers Engineering & Design  
400 Valley Road, Suite 304  
Mount Arlington, NJ 07856

*Auditor:*

Jeff Bliss  
Lerch, Vinci & Higgins  
1717 Route 208  
Fairlawn, NJ 07407

The said professionals, prior to securing such contract, shall execute and file with the Municipal Clerk, a 2022 *Business Entity Disclosure Certification* pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20-8.

Introduced by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest – a roll call was taken - 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 requests it, in which case, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

**\*CONSENT AGENDA****RESOLUTIONS 01-2022 THROUGH 16-2022, 19-2022, 20-2022 and 21-2022****01-2022 Cash Management Plan**

**WHEREAS**, P. L. 1983, Chapter 8, Local Fiscal Affairs Law; N.J.S. 40A:5-2, has been amended to require that each municipality designate a Cash Management Plan for the deposit of each local unit's monies,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following Cash Management Plan of the Borough of Montvale be and hereby is adopted:

**A. DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES:**

The following financial institutions are designated official depositories:

Bank of America  
Wells Fargo  
N.J. Cash Management Fund  
TD Bank

2. Designated Official depositories are required to submit to the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Montvale a copy of the State of New Jersey, Department of Banking, Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act Notification of eligibility, which must be filed semiannually in the Department of Banking as of June 30<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Said Notices must be available for annual audit.
3. Designated official depositories are required to submit to the Chief Financial Officer a copy of institution's "Annual Report" on an annual basis.

**B. DEPOSIT OF FUNDS**

All funds shall be deposited within Forty-Eight (48) hours of receipt in accordance with State statute.

1. Operating funds shall be deposited into interest bearing accounts to maximize interest earnings.
2. Capital and Debt service funds may be deposited into interest bearing accounts. Non-Interest bearing accounts shall be regularly monitored for the availability of funds for investment.
3. Trust funds may be deposited into interest bearing accounts in accordance with the State statutes regulating the deposit of developer's escrow deposits. Non-Interest bearing accounts should be regularly monitored for availability of funds for investment except where either State or Federal laws prohibit the earning of interest on such funds.
4. Payroll and agency remittance funds shall be maintained in regular checking accounts, only insofar as they serve to compensate the bank for payroll data processing services.

**C. DEFINITION OF ALLOWABLE INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS:**

The Borough may permit deposits and investments in such depositories as permitted in Section 4 of P.L. 1970, Chapter 236 (C.17:9-44) and other instruments specified below:

1. United States Treasury Bills (T-Bills)
2. Borough of Montvale Bonds or Notes
3. Commercial Bank Deposits and Certificates of Deposit (CD's)
4. Repurchase Agreements (Repo's)
5. Investments in Savings and Loan Association
6. United States Government Agency and Instrumentality Obligations
7. State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund
8. School District Obligations

**D. DEFINITION OF ACCEPTABLE COLLATERAL AND PROTECTION OF BOROUGH ASSETS**

1. All designated depositories must conform to all applicable State statutes concerning depositories of Public Funds.

2. All depositories shall obtain the highest amount possible F.D.I.C. and/or F.S.L.I.C. coverage of all Borough Assets (Demand and Certificate of Deposit)
3. Collateral will be required for all deposits and investments of the Borough, except for those in the State Cash Management Fund, collateral must have a market value of not less than 100 percent of all deposits and investments.
4. For pledges by depositories on Borough Funds, the following securities will be considered acceptable for pledges:
  - a. Any security backed by the U.S. Government
  - b. Any direct obligation of any taxing authority within the Borough of Montvale
  - c. Real Estate Mortgage Loans for Real Estate property located within the Montvale market area. Pledges of Real Estate Mortgage Loans shall be maintained at a market value of 115 percent of deposits
  - d. All pledges of collateral must be indicated on an advice copy of the investment instrument which shall be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer or Treasurer

E. COMPENSATING BALANCE AGREEMENTS:

Where compensating balances are used to offset bank expenses, an agreement between the bank and the Borough shall be executed, specifying the charge for each service. Said agreement shall be reviewed annually.

F. REPORTING PROCEDURES:

The Chief Financial Officer shall prepare for the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale the following investment reports:

1. MONTHLY REPORTING: A detailed listing of all investments purchased in the prior month, specifying the amount, interest percent per annum, number of days, period of investment and maturity date, interest amount at maturity and financial institutions with which investment is placed. This report shall be broken down by fund.
2. QUARTERLY REPORTING: A detailed summary analysis of all investments by fund, specifying the quarterly interest rate earned, quarterly interest earned on NOW and Savings Accounts and Year-To-Date total interest earnings.
3. The Treasurer shall prepare a schedule of outstanding investments for the independent auditors as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year and at other such times as required by the auditors.
4. The Treasurer shall also periodically provide analysis of average daily balances in interest bearing checking accounts vs. other investment vehicle potential.
5. All such reports may include a comparison of current investment income vs. forecast, prior year or market conditions.

G. DIVERSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer shall closely examine investments to guard against the effects of a financial institution going into default. This may be accomplished through the practice of spreading the investments around in various designated official depositories.

**H. MAXIMUM MATURITY POLICY:**

Investments shall be limited to a maturity not to exceed one year on all operating funds unless a longer maturity is permitted within the provision of regulation promulgated by either the Federal or State Governments.

**I. INVESTMENT PROCEDURES:**

Bids for Certificates of Deposit and Repurchase Agreements will be solicited of at least three (3) designated depositories only if the amount is \$100,000 or greater.

Telephone bids will be solicited of designated depositories by the Chief Financial Officer or Treasurer or designated staff member.

The depository shall specify the principal amount of the investment bid on, interest rate and number of days used to calculate the interest to be paid upon maturity.

Interest paid shall be from the date the bid was awarded to the date of maturity.

All bidders may request the results of the bid after the bid is formally awarded.

A check or wire transfer of funds will be made available to the winning bidder on the same business day the bid is awarded.

Each quotation shall be documented to record the date and time of quote, the parties in the discussion, the instrument(s), maturities and rates. A bid form of the Borough may be used.

**J. RETURN ON INVESTMENT:**

Where the return on a proposed investment does not exceed the cost of making said investment by a minimum amount the Chief Financial Officer and/or Treasurer will not make the investment. The Chief Financial Officer and/or Treasurer shall have the discretion to award an investment to the bank wherein the funds reside, should that bank's quoted rate be less than other quoted rates received in the event that the differential in interest rates is less than 25 basis points, and providing that the term of the investment is less than fifteen (15) days.

**K. CONTROLS:**

When possible, the internal controls should provide for a separation of the investment placement functions and the accounting activity. Controls must be designed for telephone orders, wire transfers and securities safekeeping. Only specifically designated personnel shall be allowed to conduct this part of the transactions, and all activity should be subject to immediate written confirmation by the designated depository. The Treasurer shall review each day's activity.

**L. BONDING:**

The following officials shall be covered by surety bonds; said surety bonds to be examined by the independent auditor to insure their proper execution:

Tax Collector  
Treasurer  
Municipal Court Administrator  
Deputy Municipal Court Administrator  
Magistrate



Staff members of the Department of Finance not covered by separate surety bonds shall be covered by a Public Employee's Faithful Performance Bond in the minimum amount of \$50,000.00

- M. COMPLIANCE:  
The Cash Management Plan of the Borough of Montvale shall be subject to the annual audit conducted pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:5-4.
- N. The official charged with the custody of the monies of the Borough of Montvale shall deposit them as designated by the Cash Management Plan and shall thereafter be
- O. relieved of any liability or loss of such monies due to the insolvency or closing of any depository designated in the Cash Management Plan pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:5-2.
- P. Where a conflict exists between this Cash Management Plan and State statute, the applicable State statute shall apply.
- Q. The Cash Management Plan shall be subject to the approval of the Borough Attorney.

**02-2022 Authorizing payment to the United States Postal Service to affect the use of a Postal Machine**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the Administrator be authorized to issue payment through appropriate methods, to the United States Postal Service, not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per month, to effect the use of a Postal Mailing System.

**03-2022 Establish 2022 Holiday Schedule For Administrative Non-Contractual Employees**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the following 2022 Holiday Schedule for eligible Administrative non-contractual employees be and is hereby established:

**SECTION 1.** Mandatory holidays during which Borough Hall Administrative Offices shall be closed:

<b><u>HOLIDAY</u></b>	<b><u>DAY OBSERVED</u></b>
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 17
President's Day	Monday, February 21
Memorial Day	Monday, May 30
Juneteenth	Monday, June 20 (observed)
Independence Day	Monday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 5
Columbus Day	Monday, October 10
Veterans Day	Friday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 24
and the Day After	Friday, November 25
Christmas Day	Monday, December 26 (observed)
New Year's Day	Monday, January 2, 2023 (observed)

**SECTION 2.** Two Floating Holidays to be taken any time during the year. If not used during the calendar year, it will be lost with no ability to be carried or receive pay.

**SECTION 3.** If any of the above holidays fall on Saturday, the holiday shall be observed on Friday. If any of the above holidays fall on Sunday, the holiday shall be observed on Monday.

If Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Saturday, these two holidays shall be observed on Friday. Therefore, the two-1/2 holidays shall be observed on the Thursday before the holidays.

If Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Sunday, these two holidays shall be observed on Monday. Therefore, the two-1/2 holidays shall be observed on the Friday before the holidays.

**SECTION 4.** Pursuant to the Personnel Policy, those employees classified as full-time employees (working 35 hours or more each week) shall be entitled to all days, as outlined above in Section 1 through Section 3. Pursuant to the Personnel Policy, all employees classified as part-time employees (working less than 35 hours per week) and eligible to receive holidays, shall only be entitled to the holidays listed in Section 1, and only when the holidays fall on their regularly scheduled days of work.

**04-2022 Designating the Mayor, Municipal Clerk, Administrator, Chief Municipal Financial Officer and Treasurer as Official signatories on Borough Warrants and the Judge, Municipal Court Administrator and Deputy Court Administrator as Official signatories on Municipal Court Accounts**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the Mayor, Municipal Clerk, Treasurer, Borough Administrator, Certified Municipal Finance Officer are hereby designated as the official signatories on Borough Warrants.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Judge, Municipal Court Administrator and Deputy Court Administrator are hereby designated as the official signatories on all Municipal Court accounts.

**05-2022 Roll Call of the Council members to be called in alphabetical order**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J. that a Roll Call of the Council Members at the Council meetings is to be taken in alphabetical order.

**06-2022 Authorizing the Mayor, Clerk and Collector to issue warrants for certain items with ratification at the following meeting**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the Mayor, Clerk and Collector be authorized to issue warrants for the following purposes, with ratification at the following meeting, on due dates for the following items:

- Board of Education, Montvale, NJ
- Pascack Valley Regional Board of Education
- County Tax
- Bergen County Sewer Authority
- Medical Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Bond and Note Payments
- Interest on Bonds and Notes
- Payrolls
- Investments
- Gasoline
- Scavenger Service

**07-2022 All bills to be presented in proper form to the Finance Department no later than the 25th of each month**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that all bills must be presented in proper form to the Finance Department no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any bills received later than this date shall be held over for payment until the following month.

**08-2022 Change Fund in the amount of \$150.00 front counter Administration; Municipal Clerk petty cash \$500.00; Municipal Court \$150.00 each for a total of \$450.00; and \$300.00 for the Police Department**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the governing body approves the establishment of "a general change fund at the front counter in the municipal

building in the amount of \$150.00, the Municipal Clerk/Deputy Municipal Clerk has a petty cash fund in the amount of \$500.00, the Joint Municipal Court Violations Clerks (3) have a change fund in the amount of \$450.00 or \$150.00 each; and the Police Department has a petty cash fund in the amount of \$300.00.

**09-2022 Designation of official newspapers for advertising for the Borough of Montvale**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the following newspapers are hereby designated as the official newspapers for advertising for the Borough of Montvale, NJ for the year 2022:

The Bergen Record – Hackensack, N.J.  
The Ridgewood News – Hackensack, N.J.  
The Star Ledger – Newark, NJ

**10-2022 Fixing the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes, assessments and excess sewer fees**

**WHEREAS**, R.S. 54:4-67 permits the governing body of each municipality to fix the rate of interest to be charged for nonpayment of taxes, assessments and excess sewer fees subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of taxes, assessments and excess sewer fees as provided by law; and

**WHEREAS**, R.S. 54:4-67 has been amended to permit the fixing of said rate of 8% per annum of the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to charge 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of taxes and excess sewer fees becoming delinquent after due date and 18% per annum on any amount of taxes and excess sewer fees in excess of \$1,500.00 becoming delinquent after due date, subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of taxes and excess sewer fees as provided by law.
2. Re Chapter 72 laws of 94 CTC 94-3. If the new tax bills are not in the mail by June 14, interest will then be charged 25 calendar days after the bills were mailed. Interest shall be calculated from August 1.
3. No interest shall be charged if payment of any quarterly tax payment and bi-annual excess sewer fees is received within ten (10) days of the date upon which the same becomes payable.
4. In connection with any delinquency of taxes, assessments or municipal charges in excess of \$10,000 which has not been paid prior to the end of a calendar year, there shall be imposed a penalty in a sum equal to six (6%) percent of the delinquency in excess of \$10,000.
5. With respect to tax certificates in excess of the sum of \$200 the following additional penalties shall be charged: two (2%) percent on the amount due over \$200 up to \$5,000; four (4%) percent of the amount due over \$5,000 up to \$10,000; and six (6%) percent on the amount in excess of \$10,000; plus cost 2% and \$25.00 per Title 54.
6. Any payments not made in accordance with Paragraph Two of this resolution shall be charged interest from the due date, as set forth in Paragraph One of this resolution.
7. The Tax Collector is authorized to hold a tax sale for unpaid taxes and/or excess sewer charges.
8. This resolution shall be published in its entirety once in the newspaper.
9. A certified copy of this resolution shall be provided by the Office of the Municipal Clerk to each of the following officials: Tax Collector; Borough Attorney; Borough Auditor; Chief Financial Officer.

**11-2022 Order of business to be followed at all regular meetings of the Mayor and Council**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., the agenda to the extent known will be established and printed for each regular meeting of the Council.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the agenda is subject to amendments by a majority vote of the council and action may be taken on issues that are not listed on the agenda, as authorized by the Open Public Meetings Act.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following order of business shall be followed at all public meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J.

1. Roll Call
2. Reading and/or approval of all unapproved minutes
3. Second reading, public hearing and final passage of ordinances and introduction of ordinances
4. Presentation of resolutions/consent resolutions

5. Presentation of bills
6. Reports of committees, Mayor, Treasurer and Administrator
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Reading of all communications, petitions, etc.
10. Both Public and Workshop Meetings are opened to the public to speak
11. Adjournment

The Borough Council will conduct a meeting on the last Tuesday of each month, which will serve as workshop sessions. Action may be taken at this meeting. The public is invited to attend all meetings and speak at all public and workshop sessions of the Mayor & Council.

**12-2022 All monies collected by any Borough Official or Employee of the Borough shall be turned over the Borough Treasurer within 48 hours**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that all monies collected by any Borough Official or Employee of the Borough of Montvale, N.J. shall be turned over to the Borough Treasurer, in full, within forty-eight (48) hours, without any fees being deducted; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Tax Collector or Borough Treasurer shall deposit funds collected within forty-eight (48) hours, as required by law; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, all cash receivables will be posted and recorded; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any fees to which any Borough Official or Employee is entitled shall be set forth in detail on a regular Borough Voucher and presented for payment in the same manner as all bills are submitted.

**13-2022 Establish Mayor & Council Meeting Schedule for the Year 2022**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that public meetings of the Mayor and Borough Council shall be held on the following dates for the year 2022:

<b>*January 2 (Sunday)</b>	Organization Meeting
January 11	Public Meeting
January 25	Workshop Session
February 8	Public Meeting
February 22	Workshop Session
March 8	Public Meeting
March 29	Workshop Session
April 12	Public Meeting
April 26	Workshop Session
May 10	Public Meeting
May 31	Workshop Session
June 14	Public Meeting
June 28	Workshop Session
July 12	Public Meeting
July 26	Workshop Session
August 9	Public Meeting
<b>Cancelled</b>	Workshop Session
September 13	Public Meeting
September 27	Workshop Session
October 11	Public Meeting
October 25	Workshop Session
<b>*November 10(Thursday)</b>	Public Meeting
November 29	Workshop Session
December 13	Public Meeting
December 27	Workshop Session

Due to the current Public Health Emergency, and in accordance with the Division of Local Government Services Remote Meeting Protocol for Local Public Bodies During Declared Emergency New Rules,

N.J.A.C. 5:39, the meeting will be held either remotely via Zoom or in-person at the Borough of Montvale Municipal Complex, 12 Mercedes Drive, 2<sup>ND</sup> Floor, Montvale, New Jersey, as conditions dictate.

ZOOM information is as follows:

Topic: M&C Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88491084325?pwd=L2U5RVpYMGIMeFdaNzdGcFFWUTd3UT09>

Passcode: 222775

By phone: 1 929 436 2866

Webinar ID: 884 9108 4325

Passcode: 222775

Documents for each meeting will be posted on the website, and members of the public shall be allowed to make public comment during remote meetings by audio only or by audio and video. In advance of the remote meeting, public comments may be submitted to [miarossi@montvaleboro.org](mailto:miarossi@montvaleboro.org) by email or by written letter no later than 12:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting. In the event that it is determined that meetings can be safely held in-person at the Municipal Complex instead of via Zoom, notice of this determination will be posted on the Borough website [www.montvale.org](http://www.montvale.org). All posted agendas for scheduled meetings will indicate whether the meeting is being held remotely or in-person.

All meetings will commence at 7:30 p.m. except where noted. Closed sessions of the Mayor and Council may commence before 7:30 p.m. as indicated on the agenda for the meeting.

Meeting dates are subject to change. 48-hour notification will be provided as per N.J.S.A. 10:4-18.

**ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT BOTH PUBLIC AND WORKSHOP MEETINGS.**

#### **14-2022 Procedure for the Periodic Release of Closed Session Minutes**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale periodically conducts executive session meetings pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council is desirous of establishing a procedure for the periodic release of minutes of executive session meetings.

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

- Borough Council Minutes Review Committee. There shall be a minutes review committee (MRC) consisting of the Borough Administrator, the Borough Attorney and the Municipal Clerk, whose job shall be to periodically review the minutes of closed sessions of the Borough Council and make recommendations to the Borough Council which minutes should be made public. The MRC shall have no power and shall not be a "public body" within the meaning of the Open Public Meetings Act.
- Meetings of MRC. The MRC shall meet on an as-needed basis. Meetings of the MRC shall be as scheduled at the convenience of the MRC members by the Borough Administrator.
- Preparatory staff work. Prior to each meeting of the MRC, the Borough Attorney shall prepare a list of all closed sessions minutes which have been prepared by the Borough Attorney that have not been made public. The list and the minutes listed shall be made available to the MRC at their meetings.
- Basis for recommendation. Recommendations to make minutes public shall be on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration both the interest in maintaining confidentiality set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and the interest in prompt disclosure set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-14. The applicable guidelines set forth in paragraph 7 of this resolution may be considered as a general standard.

- Decision. The decision to make public the minutes of any closed session shall be made only by the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale and shall be based on a finding that public disclosure of the matters discussed at such closed session will not be detrimental to the public interest. In making this finding, the public body shall take into consideration, but need not agree with, the recommendation of the MRC and the basis for the recommendation as set forth in paragraph 4 above. In cases where more than one matter was discussed in closed session, the public body may elect to make public only the minutes pertaining to certain of those matters, and to keep the remaining portion(s) of the minutes confidential. Should the minutes contain any material entitled to protection, the public body shall excise or redact such protected matter, provided, that all materials required to be contained in the minutes by N.J.S.A. 10:4-14 shall be set forth.
- Once public, always public. Minutes which are made public shall not thereafter be treated as confidential, but may be seen and copied by any person in the same manner as minutes of open meetings.
- Guidelines. The following general guidelines pertaining to the nine purposes for closed meetings set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.B, may be considered in recommending and deciding when to make public minutes of closed session;
  - (a) Matters required by law to be confidential. When the need to preserve the secrecy of the confidential information discussed no longer exists; provided, that material entitled to court protection shall not be disclosed.
  - (b) Matters affecting the right to receive federal funds. When disclosure would no longer impair the right to receive funds or cause funds already received to be forfeited.
  - (c) Matters involving individual privacy. Such matters shall not be disclosed except as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, or with the written consent of all of the individual(s) concerned.
  - (d) Matters relating to collective bargaining agreements. When the collective bargaining agreement has been made, executed, and ratified.
  - (e) Certain matters involving public funds. After the transaction involving the public funds has been made.
  - (f) Matters affecting public safety and property. When the disclosure would no longer impair the safety and property of the public or the conduct of any investigation.
  - (g) Litigation, contract negotiation and certain privileged matters. As to litigation, when a final decision has been rendered and all rights of appeal are exhausted; as to anticipated litigation, when the statute of limitations has been made as to contract negotiation, when either the contract has been made and is binding on all parties or if not made, when negotiation is terminated; as to matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, at such time, if ever, that disclosure would not violate the attorney's ethical duties.
  - (h) Employment matters. When the employment decision has been made and all rights to litigate or appeal are exhausted; provided, that material entitled to court protection shall not be disclosed.
  - (i) Deliberations after hearing in penalty matters. After the decision of whether to impose the penalty has been made and all rights to litigate or appeal are exhausted; provided, that material entitled to court protection shall not be disclosed.

**15-2022 Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 of Public Laws of the State of New Jersey Closed Executive Sessions of the Montvale Governing Body**

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale to discuss matters relating to such matters and which matters are permitted by Section 7.b of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of the State of New Jersey for 1975 to be discussed in closed session in the absence of the public from time to time:

- 1.) Any matter considered confidential by federal law, state statute, or court rule;
- 2.) Any matter in which the release of information would impair the receipt of federal funds;

- 3.) Any material which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy if disclosed;
- 4.) Any collective bargaining agreements or other discussion of the terms and conditions of a collective bargaining agreement, including negotiations leading up to such an agreement.
- 5.) Any matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds where disclosure of such matter could adversely affect the public interest.
- 6.) Any tactics and techniques used in protecting the safety and property of the public and investigations of violations or possible violations of the law.
- 7.) Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations in which the public body is or may become a party, and any matter falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required to preserve the attorney-client relationship.
- 8) Personnel matters related to the employment, appointment or termination of current or prospective employees, unless all individuals who could be adversely affected request, in writing, that the matter be discussed at a public meeting.
- 9.) Any deliberations of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a fine upon an individual or the suspension or the loss of license or permit belonging to an individual.

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale have determined that it is necessary in the public interest that the matters in fact be discussed in closed session, and has estimated that as nearly as can now be ascertained, the results of the discussion can be disclosed to the public at the conclusion of such matters; and

**WHEREAS**, any motion to go into closed session will be deemed to include a motion that the matters discussed at such closed session will be disclosed to the public when such matters are finally determined and there is no further reason to prohibit the public disclosure of information relating to such matters; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that any motion to go into closed session shall have the same effect as this resolution being adopted; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from said portions of the meetings, when said closed session is deemed necessary and the appropriate motion adopted.

#### **16-2022 Adoption of year 2022 By-Laws of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, N.J., that the By-laws of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale are hereby adopted.

#### **19-2022 Adoption Borough Policy & Procedures Manual / Administration**

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality has a Policies & Procedures Manual which has been established to ensure Employees and prospective Employees are treated in a manner consistent with all applicable employment laws, regulations and protocols; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough places great value and consideration in relation to the health, well-being and safety of its Employees.

**WHEREAS**, said Manual is also in accordance with the requirements promulgated by the Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund and under the auspices of the New Jersey Municipal Excess Liability Fund; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey the Manual previously adopted by Resolution is hereby reaffirmed to serve as the Borough's Policies and Procedures serving and applying to every Employee, Volunteer, Elected & Appointed Official and Independent Contractor(s) serving the Municipality; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Borough will continue to monitor changes in Federal and State Statutes and Regulations to ensure continued compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policies that impact the employment practices of the Municipality; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a certified copy of this Resolution shall be maintained on file in the Clerk's office and shall also be forwarded to Professional Insurance Associates, 429 Hackensack Street, P.O. Box 818 Carlstadt, NJ 07072, Risk Management Consultant to the Municipality.

#### **20-2022 Re-affirming the Borough's Existing Policy For Eligible Municipal Employee To Voluntarily Waive The Medical & Prescription Coverages Provided Through The Employee Benefits Program Calendar Year 2022**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale provides a comprehensive health benefits program comprised of medical, prescription, dental and vision coverages for eligible municipal employees, dependents and retirees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body desires the continuance of the program offering for the 2022 Calendar Year.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, hereby re-authorizes the offering of the Borough's "Opt – Out" Program to municipal employees/Plan participants

eligible for health benefits coverage through the Borough Employee Health Benefit Program, whereby the employee/plan participant can voluntarily waive participation in consideration of an annual financial incentive; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the waiver of benefits financial incentive shall be set on an annual basis, such incentive set for the 2022 calendar year as follows:

**FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES/PLAN PARTICIPANTS PARTICIPATING IN THE OPT-OUT  
AFTER MAY, 21, 2010**

<b>ELIGIBLE COVERAGE</b>	<b>ANNUAL FINANCIAL INCENTIVE (2022)</b>
Single	25% of the Net Savings to the Borough of Montvale or \$5,000, whichever is less
Employee/Spouse	
Parent/Child	
Family	

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the above schedules are consistent with the amounts set forth by the Borough and in accordance with the provisions set forth by the NJ Divisions of Local Government Services, as established by Chapter 2, P.L. 2010.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the specific terms and conditions of said waiver of coverage are contained within the "Waiver of Coverage Offer and Agreement," a copy attached herewith and affirmed by this Resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Borough Finance Officer, Health Benefits Consultant and Borough Attorney.

**21-2022 A Resolution To Affirm The Borough Of Montvale's Civil Rights Policy With Respect To All Officials, Appointees, Employees, Prospective Employees, Volunteers, Independent Contractors, And Members Of The Public That Come Into Contact With Municipal Employees, Officials And Volunteers**

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the Borough of Montvale to treat the public, employees, prospective employees, appointees, volunteers and contractors in a manner consistent with all applicable civil rights laws and regulations including, but not limited to the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 as subsequently amended, the New Jersey Law against Discrimination, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Conscientious Employee Protection Act, and

**WHEREAS**, the governing body of the Borough of Montvale has determined that certain procedures need to be established to accomplish this policy

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ADOPTED** by the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale that:

**Section 1:** No official, employee, appointee or volunteer of the Borough of Montvale by whatever title known, or any entity that is in any way a part of the Borough of Montvale shall engage, either directly or indirectly in any act including the failure to act that constitutes discrimination, harassment or a violation of any person's constitutional rights while such official, employee, appointee volunteer, or entity is engaged in or acting on behalf of the Borough of Montvale's business or using the facilities or property of the Borough of Montvale.

**Section 2:** The prohibitions and requirements of this resolution shall extend to any person or entity, including but not limited to any volunteer organization or inter-local organization, whether structured as a governmental entity or a private entity, that receives authorization or support in any way from the Borough of Montvale to provide services that otherwise could be performed by the Borough of Montvale.

**Section 3:** Discrimination, harassment and civil rights shall be defined for purposes of this resolution using the latest definitions contained in the applicable Federal and State laws concerning discrimination, harassment and civil rights.

**Section 4:** The Governing Body shall establish written procedures for any person to report alleged discrimination, harassment and violations of civil rights prohibited by this resolution. Such procedures shall include alternate ways to report a complaint so that the person making the complaint need not communicate with the alleged violator in the event the alleged violator would be the normal contact for such complaints.

**Section 5:** No person shall retaliate against any person who reports any alleged discrimination, harassment or violation of civil rights, provided however, that any person who reports alleged violations in bad faith shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

**Section 6:** The Governing Body shall establish written procedures that require all officials, employees, appointees and volunteers of the Borough of Montvale as well as all other entities subject to this



resolution to periodically complete training concerning their duties, responsibilities and rights pursuant to this resolution.

**Section 7:** The Governing Body shall establish a system to monitor compliance and shall report at least annually to the governing body the results of the monitoring.

**Section 8:** At least annually, the Governing Body shall cause a summary of this resolution and the procedures established pursuant to this resolution to be communicated within the Borough of Montvale. This communication shall include a statement from the governing body expressing its unequivocal commitment to enforce this resolution. This summary shall also be posted on the Borough of Montvale web site.

**Section 9:** This resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Section 10:** A copy of this resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale in order for the public to be made aware of this policy and the Borough of Montvale's commitment to the implementation and enforcement of this policy.

Introduced by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - all ayes on a roll call vote

### **MAYOR & GOVERNING BODY APPOINTMENTS, 2022 STAFF, BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Ghassali read the staff, board and committee appointments into the record. (Listing attached to original minutes).

A motion by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Roche - all ayes on a roll call vote

### **OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC:**

Motion to open meeting to the public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - All ayes

### **NO PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **CLOSE MEETING TO PUBLIC:**

Motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche - All ayes

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

#### **Councilmember President Russo-Vogelsang**

I want to start by wishing all of the people of Montvale a Happy New Year. I wish all of you joy, peace, love, happiness, health and good luck this year. Thank you for your trust and faith in re-electing me to a second term. I also want to thank my colleagues for your vote of confidence in my ability to lead the council for the upcoming year. I am honored to be your Council President. Congratulations to Theresa Cudequest for being appointed to the council. I would like to thank all of our committees and volunteers, especially the Montvale Fire Department, Tri-Boro, and Police department who all work tirelessly for us. I look forward to working with all my committees, Municipal Alliance, Economic Development, Local BOE, The senior club, Local Assistance, Historic Preservation, Construction and the Montvale Fire Dept. This past year was an especially hard one for us as we have lost and almost lost some very special people that I have known most of my life. For those we have lost, my life is better for having known you and we will always remember you. Lastly, I would like to thank my family for their love and support with all that I do. I will continue to do my best for the people of Montvale and wish you all continued success for the coming year.

**Councilmember Koelling**

It's an honor to serve this town and it will be a continuing honor to serve this town in the coming years. Thank you for the confidence in re-electing myself and Councilwoman AnnMarie Russo-Vogelsang and look forward to this year. Thank You.

**Councilmember Arendacs**

Thank you Mayor and Council, I would like to start off by wishing everyone a Happy & Healthy 2022! I would like to thank Councilman Tim Lane for a job well done during his role as our 2021 Council President and I would like to congratulate our new Council President, Annmarie Russo-Vogelsang and wish her the best in her new role. Congratulations to Councilmembers Dieter Koelling and Annmarie Russo-Vogelsang on your re-election. Congratulations to all the fire officers who were just sworn in to their newly elected positions.

**PV DPW**

I would like to thank, PV DPW Superintendent Rich Campanelli and his crew for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year. During this new wave of illness and being short up to 7 members at one point, they were still out there working, checking and maintaining sewers, pump stations, cleaning / sanitizing playground areas, emptying trash cans, raking the turf fields, cleaning a conditioning ball fields, lawn maintenance, filling potholes, lining roadways for traffic, repairing / replacing street signs, assisting construction crews around the borough and the preparation and maintaining all their equipment that is sound and ready to go for any upcoming winter storms. It's imperative and a pleasure to communicate with the Superintendent directly so he can relay information to road crews to respond to areas that are in need of special attention especially during the winter season.

**POLICE**

As the Deputy Police Commissioner, it has been an honor working alongside once again Our Police Commissioner Dieter Koelling, Our Police Chief and his command staff as they are always searching for new ways to keep our community proactively safe. I know their number 1 goal is to keep all our residents and businesses safe, including all our roadways for pedestrian and vehicular traffic while answering calls for service. Also like to acknowledge Officer Brian Lamendola as he is responsible for important Community oriented programs, sponsored by County Grants, such as the Municipal Alliance, this is also overseen by Council Member Russo-Vogelsang. This grant just received a total of \$4,000. For this upcoming year. The grant is broken down equally in two areas, prevention education and community awareness. These funds help fund school organized events such as DARE, the junior police academy and I know they are planning on utilizing the funds for a drunk driving simulator at the high school and pairing with the Woodcliff Lk PD on lectures during drivers Ed courses this month. I just want to thank all the first responders, our police, firefighters and Tri borough EMTs. I know the entire governing body is proud of our first responders, as we will always will have your back!

**MAYOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

I would like to thank all the members of the Mayors advisory committee who volunteer their time, to go out and seek residents valuable ideas and thoughts on how we can improve our community. They then bring these ideas back to the council were we can have an open dialoged and act on it.

**FAA - new**

Recently the Mayor assigned Council Member Koelling and I to attend the Federal Aviation Administration meetings in Teterboro as many residents are concerned with the change in the direct flight path over our borough. I know with several concerned surrounding towns and the help of our state and county officials we will be able to get some answers to questions and work toward a resolution.

**ENGINEERING**

With the hard work of our Borough engineer, Mr. Hipolit of Collier Engineering several key borough projects were completed this past year:

The Borough received \$520,000 in NJDOT Grants for roadway improvements.

PSE&G milled and paved 43 roads (approximately 30 miles).

Memorial Bocce Ball Courts were completed, under continued 2019 Count Grant.

Under current design is the LaTrenta field parking lot including disability improvements and Craig Road construction (\$210,000 grant received) scheduled for late Spring.

Summit Ave and several roadways will be repaved this year (also under the 2022 NJ DOT Grant)

I look forward to working alongside Mr. Hipolit on additional projects that will immensely benefit our town. In addition, these grants were obtained by his firm. We are lucky to have him in Montvale.

I would like to thank everyone sitting up here on the dais, The Mayor, Council members, our Administrator, Deputy Clerk and Borough Attorney, also to all our borough employees and our volunteers that make Montvale truly a wonderful town. I will continue to work hard for all residents and make you proud of our community where we all live together.

I will also continue to reach out to residents and I would hope you will do the same when there is a question or concern in town. Being a proud resident of our community, I only expect the best.

On a sad note, at the start of 2022 we lost our dear friend Councilwomen Rose Curry. She was my mentor and taught me many valuable lessons on serving the people in our community while we campaigned together. My condolences to the entire Curry family.

Let's have a Happy, Healthy New Year and God Bless Montvale.

### **Councilmember Cudequest**

I would like to thank council for nominating me to fill the vacant seat on council. I am honored to have been asked and feel privileged to serve Montvale in this capacity. When I first ran for council in 2010, my platform was safety; Safety for both our families and residents as well as the many who work here Monday through Friday. Safety is still my concern today, especially with the growth of our town is seeing. For 2022, I'm thrilled to be back on the Board of Health committee. I look forward to working side by side with a very experienced and knowledgeable group of volunteers. I look forward to the Stigma Free committee, as this too, relates to safety within our community. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteers throughout the town, from our fire men and woman, to Tri-Boro ambulance, to those who share their time and talents on the many committees we have. It's because of you and what you give to Montvale, that makes Montvale the special town it is. I'd like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

### **Councilmember Roche**

Thank you to Mayor Ghassali and the members of the Council who continue to do the good and responsible work for the Borough. Congratulations to Councilmembers Koelling and Russo-Vogelsang on being elected for another three (3) year term. Welcome back Councilmember Cudequest as a member of council. I would like to start off by wishing everyone a Happy & Healthy New Year. I would like to thank all of those who volunteer in our community to aid and protect our residents. A special thanks to our volunteers on both Tri-Borough Ambulance and the Montvale Fire Department. I am eager to work this upcoming year with Chamber of Commerce, Regional Board of Education, Our Recreation Department, Montvale Athletic League, Special Events and Environmental Commission. I would like to thank my family for their continued support and look forward to working together with all this year. Stay healthy and safe. God Bless

### **Councilmember Lane**

Happy New Year

I'd like to congratulate Council Members Koelling and Russo-Vogelsang on their re-election to the Council, and thank Council Member Cudequest for filling the position vacated by the resignation of Rose Curry.

I'd like to say just a few words about Rose Curry on her passing. We will certainly miss her in so many ways:

- Her commitment to always doing the right thing for Montvale;
- Her wonderful sense of humor;

- Rose was just a good overall person and this Council, this town, and this country is lessened because of her loss.

Most of all, Rose demonstrated a commitment to fairness and above all common sense.

With that I want to thank this Council for selecting me to serve as Council President for the past year, and I wish Ann Marie the best for that role in 2022. I'd also like to thank the people of Montvale for electing me to serve as a Council Member.

When I was sworn in for my most recent term in January 2020, we had no idea what was coming with COVID. Since then we have had to adjust our lives to a new reality. It has affected so many things, but we have tried to make the best of it for Montvale. Hopefully the current surge will be a short-term issue and we can get back to normal, whatever that is.

I want to thank all our volunteers for their service and commitment, and I look forward to working with my liaison assignments. I have worked with the Montvale Fire Department for 14 years; I am impressed by the professionalism and dedication of our Borough Administration; and I thank the Diversity Committee for their efforts to make Montvale a better place.

Earlier I mentioned Rose Curry's fairness and common sense, and I think there's something in Rose's example we can follow. If you watch the national news, it seems that politicians would rather win an argument than lead and govern. In contrast, you have elected us to do a job, and that's how we operate as a Council. As we enter the budget season, I welcome your involvement and ideas as we seek to keep moving Montvale forward.

Thank you.

### **Mayor Ghassali**

I want to thank all the first responders, paid and volunteers, council members, members of the boards and commissions, staff and professionals and everyone who is involved in making our town great and runs as smoothly as it does.

On normal days, I get anywhere between 5-10 calls of messages directly to me and another 5-10 calls at the office. I respond to each and every one of them, and often I get messages back of how prompt I was, the truth is, if I don't do it right away I will forget. About 80% of the calls are questions about services and where and how to do certain things, about 10% are general comments and 10% are ideas for how to make our town even better, and I find that fascinating. It tells me that our residents really care about our town and not afraid to speak up and I appreciate that. To me that is motivating. I am asking the council liaisons and all the boards and staff to work together to look into our processes and the day to day activities and give recommendations to better streamline the process and reduce the red tape, to make it easier for residents and businesses to do work with borough hall.

2021 was challenging in many ways. We lost 55 businesses, some lost their lifetime saving. I met and spoke with most of the business owners as they were shutting down, and to see a grown man telling me his story with tears his eyes, it's heart breaking, but then followed by a frantic call from a resident about a pothole.

Choose Montvale is our banner program to attract and retain businesses. Working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Committee, we will roll out a schedule of meetings and business breakfasts throughout the year to listen to the business owners and to help them succeed.

This year we have a new committee chaired by our own veteran Dieter Koelling, the Veterans Affairs Committee. They will be holding monthly meetings with veterans and come up with ways to help them where needed and to celebrate and show our appreciation through activities and events.

I am also proud that we have one of the first Diversity and Inclusion committee in the Pascack Valley. We have new members and they are eager to showcase our diverse culture from the 55 countries we represent in this 4 square town, with events and activities throughout the year.

Looking ahead, I intend on calling the County mayors and forming our own multi-town, county-wide 2025 Council on Affordable Housing, to plan and prepare for the 4th round of affordable housing obligations together. We have met our obligation and already building what we agreed to, and I will ask this council's support, to stand firm, to ask the courts to look into our history of meeting our obligations.

I took on a challenge this year, and that is to shed 1000 pounds together in 2022. You pledge how many pounds you want to lose and will work together to achieve it. I already have commitments from gyms, dietitians, personal trainers, and yoga and dance instructors to help me. So because I like to see you all healthy, every council member will pledge at least 5 pounds, and seeing members of our fire department here and I know they like to eat healthy, they too will have to pledge at least 5 pounds, and I look forward to seeing Chief Gibbons and Tom Sullivan doing yoga and Zumba with me.

I am proud to be living in the greatest country on earth, I thank all the veterans, all the soldier and all those without uniforms keeping us safe and risking their lives around the globe while we sit here in peace. I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year and may Peace be on Earth. Thank you.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Closing Prayer given by Pastor Sam Goertz – Montvale Evangelical Free Church

Motion to adjourn Re-Organization meeting by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - all ayes

Meeting adjourned at 12:45PM

Budget Meeting will be held January 10, 2022 at 6:00pm

Next scheduled Mayor and Council meeting will be held January 11, 2022 at 7:30PM

**Respectfully submitted, Fran Scordo, Deputy Municipal Clerk**