

BOROUGH OF MENDHAM
MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

February 24, 2020

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Christine Serrano-Glassner called the February 24, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 8:00 p.m. in the Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson Street, Mendham, New Jersey.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Serrano-Glassner led a moment of silence and then proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S OPENING STATEMENT

Notice of this meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mendham was published in the Daily Record and Star Ledger, posted in the Phoenix House, and was filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL

The following officials were present:

- Mayor Christine Serrano-Glassner
- Council Member Steven Andrew
- Council Member John Andrews
- Council Member James Kelly
- Council Member Mary Sue Martin
- Council Member Brennan Reilly.

Council President Brad Badal was absent.

Also present were:

- Fred Semrau, Esq., Borough Attorney
- Joyce Bushman, Borough Administrator
- Robin R. Kline, Borough Clerk

Mayor Serrano-Glassner proceeded with the presentation of commendations.

COMMENDATIONS

CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF A GAGA PIT AT BOROUGH PARK

Matthew Cantale and Matthew Kornick - IB Service Learning Project, West Morris Regional High School

Mayor Christine Serrano-Glassner read each of the commendations and presented them to Matthew Cantale and Matthew Kornick. She thanked both students for planning and organizing a Gaga Pit at the Borough Park playground, which she mentioned will be enjoyed by many children.

The Mayor, Borough Council and all in attendance applauded Matthew Cantale and Matthew Kornick on the completion of their community service project.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY POND PARK BENCH AND PICNIC TABLE RESTORATION PROJECT

Michael Bulzacchelli and Sebastian Pereira - IB Service Learning Project, West Morris Regional High School

Mayor Christine Serrano-Glassner read each of the commendations and presented them to Michael Bulzacchelli and Sebastian Pereira. She thanked both students for repairing and restoring the picnic table and a park bench at the Mountain Valley Pond, which she mentioned will be enjoyed by many residents.

The Mayor, Borough Council and all in attendance applauded Michael Bulzacchelli and Sebastian Pereira on the completion of their community service project.

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAMATION OF CONDOLENCE - REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF FORMER MENDHAM BOROUGH MAYOR REVEREND C. WILLIAM STEELMAN

Mayor Christine Serrano-Glassner read the proclamation honoring the public service of former Mendham Borough Mayor Reverend C. William Steelman. The proclamation will be presented to the family.

PRESENTATION – PUBLIC PROJECT PROPOSAL

TRANQUILITY GARDEN RENOVATIONS – The Mendham Girl Scout Cadets from Troop 95084 mentioned that part of scouting is giving back to the community. As 8th grade students at the Mendham Middle School, Rachel, Elizabeth, Katie and Alexa further mentioned that they are working on their Girl Scout Silver Award. To achieve their Silver Award, they proposed to make repairs and renovations to Tranquility Gardens, a small park located on Main Street between Orchard Street and Hillcrest Avenue. In 2010, the Boy Scouts redesigned and restored the English Garden that had been acquired by the Borough.

The Girl Scout Cadets stated that project would not only raise public awareness of this garden park but would also create a welcoming spot for residents of all ages to enjoy. Their proposed renovations include the addition of a new walkway and stone steps from Main Street, which would allow better public access the garden from Main Street; repair and paint the wooden trellis; install solar lighting for the existing “Tranquility Garden” sign; and create a “Garden Rule” sign for visitors. Upon completion of the renovations, the Girl Scouts will use the park to host the Girl Scout Bringing Ceremony and hope that other community events will be held there.

The Girl Scout Cadets from Troop 95084 sought permission from the Governing Body to begin renovations in early to mid-May of this year.

Council Member Reilly recommended that the ECOSST Committee and Public Works Department partner with the Girl Scouts in the review, assessment and completion of the proposed renovations.

Mayor Serrano-Glassner asked the Council for its informal approval of the proposed public project so that the Girl Scouts can begin the planning stages with the ECOSST Committee and the Borough’s Superintendent of Public Works.

The Council provided its informal approval to the Girl Scouts for the Tranquility Garden Renovation Project.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be acted upon by the Borough Council by a single vote unless a member of the Governing Body requests that an item be removed and considered separately.

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** February 12, 2020 Regular Meeting and Closed Session
- 2. Banner Display Applications:** Permit #04-2020 – Pastime Club
August 25, 2020 – September 8, 2020, Labor Day Carnival event
- 3. Raffle License Applications:** #08-2020 – Pastime Club
Off-Premise 50/50 Cash Prize Raffle
September 7, 2020
#09-2020 – Mendham Borough HSA
On-Premise Merchandise “Tricky Tray” Raffle
March 12, 2020
#10-2020 – St. Joseph Catholic Church
On-Premise Merchandise “Tricky Tray” Raffle
April 26, 2020

#11-2020 – Junior Women’s Club West Morris
On-Premise 50/50 Cash Prize Raffle
May 2, 2020

#12-2020 – Junior Women’s Club West Morris
On-Premise Merchandise “Tricky Tray” Raffle
May 2, 2020

4. Special Event Application:

#04-2020 - Pastime Club
Pastime Labor Day Carnival & Fireworks – Borough Park
September 4, 2020 – September 7, 2020

Motion to Approve: Council Member Kelly
Second: Council Member Martin
Ayes: Andrew, Andrews, Kelly, Martin, Reilly
Nays: None
Abstain: Council Member Reilly abstained on the approval of the February 12, 2020 minutes.
Council Member Andrew and Council Member Andrew abstained on the approval of the Pastime Club applications.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

None

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION

None

RESOLUTIONS

#016-2020 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE BOROUGH OF MENDHAM FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020 [Tabled from February 12, 2020]

Council Member Andrews moved to table Resolution #016-2020 to the March 11th meeting. Motion seconded by Council Member Andrew. A voice vote was taken with all in favor.

Resolution #016-2020 was tabled to the March 11, 2020 meeting. No action was taken by the Council.

#050-2020 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND FOR THE OVERPAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAX FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 18 GUNTHER STREET [BLOCK 401, LOT 8]

There was no Council discussion.

Motion to Approve: Council Member Andrews
Second: Council Member Martin
Ayes: Andrew, Andrews, Kelly, Martin, Reilly
Nays: None

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Ms. Bushman provided a copy of her Administrator’s Report dated February 24, 2020 to the Mayor and Council. She reminded everyone that Doug Wright’s retirement party will be held on Friday and introduced Brian Valliere, who was in attendance, as the Interim Superintendent of the Water Reclamation Facility. She mentioned that an appointing resolution will be on the March 11th agenda.

There was no Council discussion.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance [Standing Committee of the Council]

In Council Member Badal's absence, Council Member Andrews reported that all departments have submitted their budget requests, which the Finance Committee will be reviewing at its March 9th meeting. He further confirmed that the 2020 Budget will be introduced at the March 11th meeting.

Board of Health

Council Member Andrew reported that the Board of Health and the Bernards Township Health Department have been keeping current on the coronavirus. Currently 15 cases have been reported in the United States.

Recreation and Parks [Standing Committee of the Council]

Council Member Andrew reported that the 2020 recreation booklet has been finalized and will be available on April 1st and that the Recreation Committee is developing a policy that would allow open play on the new turf field one day a week. He further reported that hiring for Summer Camp Program has begun. Construction of the Westfield carriage house and the tennis court project is underway. The Food Truck Festival will be held on October 3rd.

Board of Education

Council Member Andrew had nothing new to report. The next meeting of the Mendham Borough Board of Education is scheduled for February 25th and the West Morris Regional School District Board of Education is scheduled to meet on March 9th.

Public Safety [Standing Committee of the Council]

Council Member Andrews reported that the OEM met tonight and is preparing a Coronavirus Plan and ordering needed equipment. He encouraged everyone to regularly wash their hands and disinfect their phones as a preemptive measure.

Council Member Andrews further reported that Chief Camoia verified that JCP&L installed a new street light at the intersection of Main Street and Orchard Street to illuminate the pedestrian crosswalk and lastly reported that the Public Safety Committee is scheduled to meet next week.

Personnel [Standing Committee of the Council]

Member Martin reported that interviews are being scheduled for the tax collector position.

Public Works and Utilities [Standing Committee of the Council]

Council Member Kelly reported that it has been a light winter, saving on snow removal costs. He further reported that the design phase for the Garabrant Center HVAC project is underway and on schedule and mentioned that the building framing for the Botti Pavilion is nearly completed. Both projects are on schedule.

Land Use [Standing Committee of the Council]

Council Member Reilly reported that the 6 East Main Street application is being reviewed.

ECOSST Committee

Council Member Reilly opened his report by thanking the Mendham First Aid Squad for hosting the Cub Scout Den meeting. The scouts enjoyed the tour of the facility and equipment demonstrations. He reported that the membership of the ECOSST Committee is being reviewed relative to legislative changes made over the past 2-3 years concerning the Environmental Commission, the Open Space Committee and the Shade Tree Committee.

Council Member Reilly further reported that the ECOSST Committee is planning a cleanup of the Raritan headwaters and additional recycling events are being organized with Mendham Township. More information will be provided.

ATTORNEY'S ITEMS

Mr. Semrau advised that for each elected official completing the Morris County Joint Insurance Fund (MCJIF) training presentation, the municipality would receive a \$250 deduction towards its insurance premium. Seeing there was interest from the governing body in attending a presentation, Mr. Semrau offered to schedule a MCJIF training presentation at 7:00 p.m. before the March 11th Mayor and Council meeting.

MAYOR’S ITEMS

Mayor Serrano-Glassner had nothing new to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mayor Serrano-Glassner opened the meeting for public comment and invited any member of the public to be heard.

Robert Manthey, 69 Dean Road, commented that JCP&L has provided notice to Dean Road residents (addresses 69 Dean Road to 75 Dean Road) that ten street trees will be removed by its contractor NG Gilbert and inquired why the trees cannot be trimmed and saved. Mayor Serrano-Glassner responded that Borough officials were not notified of the tree work to be done by JCP&L but will be looking into the matter. Mr. Semrau advised that the utility company has discretion in maintaining the right-of-ways along power lines and expressed interest in reviewing the notice provided by JCP&L.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Serrano-Glassner closed public comment and proceeded with the next agenda item.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Bills List prepared by the Chief Financial Officer dated February 24, 2020.

Motion to Approve: Council Member Kelly
Second: Council Member Andrews
Ayes: Andrew, Andrews, Kelly, Martin, Reilly
Nays: None
Abstain: Council Member Andrews abstained on vouchers concerning “Aid to Volunteer Ambulance Squad.”

The Bills List dated February 24, 2020 was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

#051-2020 A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A CLOSED SESSION NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b

The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mendham will adjourn into closed session to discuss the following subject matter without the presence of the public in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act exemptions, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b:

- 1. Attorney-Client Privilege – Discussion concerning Borough property

Following the closed session, the Borough Council will reconvene into public session for purposes of adjourning the public meeting. No other matters will be discussed or acted upon.

Motion to Approve: Council Member Andrew
Second: Council Member Reilly
Ayes: Andrew, Andrews, Kelly, Martin, Reilly
Nays: None

The Mayor and Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:46 p.m.

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The Mayor and Council returned to Open Session at 9:11 p.m.

Having no further business to conduct, Mayor Serrano-Glassner asked for a motion to adjourn.

Council Member Andrew made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Reilly seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

The next meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mendham will be held on March 11, 2020 at 8:00 PM in the Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson Street, Mendham.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robin R. Kline, MAS, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk
BOROUGH OF MENDHAM