

**PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers and called to order at 7:33PM. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to The Bergen Record and/or 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).

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 Curry
Councilmember Koelling

Councilmember Lane
Councilmember Roche
Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

This meeting was done through Zoom teleconference.

ANNUAL UPDATE: Dr. P. Erik Gundersen, Superintendent of Schools for the Pascack Valley Regional HS District.

Thanked Mayor and Council for all they do; a couple of administrative changes to talk about; a new principal search was held for Pascack Valley HS, a candidate was chosen, however the candidate change his mind, therefore leaving the board in a difficult situation during these times; Dr. Gundersen asked Mr. DeMarrais if he would consider postponing his retirement and serve as the Principal at Pascack Valley; also Mr. Timothy Wieland was hired for Principal at Pascack Hills; some renovations that are scheduled this summer consist of new roof, security systems and air conditioning; lastly, as for closing schools, the Governor holds that authority, we are waiting for his decision.

ORDINANCES:

PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE NO: 2020-1480 CALENDAR YEAR 2020 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% or the cost of living adjustment, whichever is less, unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of living adjustment for calendar year 2020 budgets is calculated at 2.5% pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and amounts to \$289,275; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale in the County of Bergen finds it's advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2020 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council hereby determines that an additional 1.0% increase in the budget of said year, amounting to \$115,710 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Montvale, in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the 2020 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Montvale shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$404,985, and that the 2020 municipal budget for the Borough of Montvale be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

A motion Introduced for second reading Ordinance No 2020-1480 by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; seconded by Councilmember Lane; Clerk read by title only.

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

Jarret Schumacher

What is the purpose of this ordinance; Councilmember Lane explained it is used as an accounting method to be flexible with spending for the future.

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

Motion to adopt on Second and Final Reading in Bergen Record by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Arendacs - All ayes on a roll call vote

PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-1481 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2020-1477 TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE, AMOUNT AND METHOD OF PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO PERSONS HOLDING CERTAIN OFFICES AND POSITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE BOROUGH OF MONTVALE, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

BE IT ORDAINED BY the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale as follows:

SECTION 1. Each of the offices and positions of employment hereinafter named that are not established or created by virtue of any statutes or of any ordinance, resolution, or other lawful authority heretofore exercised by the Borough of Montvale, is hereby established, created, ratified and confirmed.

SECTION 2. The rate of compensation of the persons holding any of the hereinafter named offices and positions of employment whose compensation shall be on an annual basis and shall be payable semi-monthly is hereby fixed and determined to be as set opposite the title of each of the hereinafter named offices and positions of employment.

Title	2020 Salary Range
1. Deputy Construction Code Official	\$75,000 - 85,000

SECTION 5. The Borough Treasurer shall present semi-monthly or as established by Resolution to the Governing Body for approval warrants drawn to the order of the Borough of Montvale Payroll Account and the Borough of Montvale Salary Account.

At the first meeting of the Governing Body in January of each year, there shall be approved accounts to be designated "The Borough of Montvale Payroll Account" and "The Borough of Montvale Salary Account" and from time to time the Borough Treasurer upon receipt of a warrant for the amount due each Payroll, shall deposit the same to the credit of these accounts, charging the appropriate budgetary accounts therewith. The Borough Treasurer shall thereafter draw checks on said accounts to the employees entitled to payment therefrom.

Any employee hired under the terms of a Special Library Grants, salary will be determined by the Authority making such grant.

The Mayor and Borough Council may by adoption of a resolution and by approved payroll advice, increase compensation (base wage adjustment or one-time merit/bonus increase) of any salaried employee in the above schedule, who has reached their maximum, up to 10% above the pay range maximum.

At each regular meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale, the Treasurer shall submit for the approval or ratification as the case may be, the necessary payroll amounts due to the several officers and employees for compensation.

Such officers as may be determined by the Governing Body, as established by resolution, shall be authorized to sign warrants drawn in favor of the Payroll Account, upon due notice that the payrolls have been approved by the proper certifying authorities.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall be operative as of January 1, 2020, and salaries paid shall be adjusted in accordance with the terms of this ordinance.

SECTION 7. All other ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby appealed.

SECTION 8. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication in the manner provided by Law.

A motion Introduced for second reading Ordinance No 2020-1481 by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; seconded by Councilmember Lane; Clerk read by title only.

Motion to open meeting to public by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Roche -

All ayes

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Curry; seconded by Councilmember Lane -

All ayes

Motion to adopt on Second and Final Reading in Ridgewood News by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Arendacs - All ayes on a roll call vote

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

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

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

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

MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

MINUTES:**MARCH 31, 2020**

A motion to accept 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.

85-2020 Emergency Temporary Appropriation

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen with respect to certain budget appropriations and no adequate provision has been made in the 2020 temporary budget, and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of emergency temporary appropriations for said purpose; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary resolutions adopted in the year 2020 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 (Chapter 96, P.L. 1951) including this resolution total:

Current Fund \$1,629,954.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

1. An emergency temporary appropriation be and the same is hereby made in the total amount of:

Current Fund \$1,629,954.00

2. That said emergency temporary appropriation (will be) provided in the 2020 budget;
3. That one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of Local Government Services.

CURRENT FUND

General Appropriations

Operations – Within “CAPS”

Administrative and Executive	
Salaries and Wages	\$10,000.00
Mayor and Council	
Other Expenses	2,000.00
Borough Clerk	
Salaries and Wages	3,000.00
Legal Services and Costs	
Other Expenses	25,000.00
Engineering Services and Costs	
Other Expenses	25,000.00
Employee Group Health	40,000.00
Fire Hydrant Service	16,000.00
Police	
Salaries and Wages	20,000.00
Other Expenses	10,000.00
Garbage and Trash Removal	
Other Expenses	50,000.00
Public Health Services (Board of Health)	
Other Expenses	10,000.00
Welfare Administration (Public Assistance)	
Other Expenses	200.00
Parks & Playground Maintenance	
Other Expenses	1,000.00
Construction Code Official	
Salaries and Wages	10,000.00
Other Expenses	6,000.00

Excluded from Caps:

BOROUGH OF MONTVALE**APRIL 14, 2020**

Police Dispatch/911	50,000.00
Department of Public Works	
Shared Service	150,000.00
Municipal Debt Service	
Capital Improvement Fund	125,000.00
	=====
	\$553,200.00

86-2020 Award Professional Service Contract /Engineering Services/Authorization To Bid/ Design & Specifications FY2020 NJDOT Municipal Aid Paragon Drive & Philips Parkway Maser Consulting

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale has deemed it necessary to engage the professional services of an Engineer to provide professional services to design, and bidding specifications for the FY2020 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program for Paragon Drive & Philips Parkway Road; 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, Maser Consulting, 400 Valley Road, Suite 304, Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856 has submitted a proposal dated March 24, 2020 to provide the engineering 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 Maser Consulting.
- 2) That the following be provided: Design Specification/ Bidding Services
 - 1) Design, Specification & Bidding \$35,000.00
- 3) The cost not to exceed shall be \$35,000.00 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 Curry - a roll call was taken - all ayes

BILLS: Municipal Clerk read the Bill Report.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Council President Arendacs

Montvale held a blood drive at the high school 76 resident donated blood;

Engineering

2020 road program bids will be out next week; salt shed is scheduled to start by the end of May; Fieldstone turf installation may start sooner than expected;

DPW

BOROUGH OF MONTVALE

APRIL 14, 2020

Cleaned up after storm – 4 or 5 trees fell; maintaining fields and parks; de-sanitizing of the train station and municipal building is on going;

Councilmember Koelling

Police

Monthly report included in original minutes

Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

Local BOE

Remote learning will continue until further notice

Councilmember Curry

Website

Please contact Rose Curry at rcurry@montvaleboro.org or Carol Manhart at cmanhart@montvaleboro.org

Planning Board

All meetings in April have been cancelled possible meetings in May

TV Access

Updating the channels with announcements

Councilmember Roche

Chamber of Commerce

New date for the Street Fair is October 18

Environmental Commission

New date for the Clean-Up day is September 19

Councilmember Lane

Fire Dept

The firehouse has been de-sanitized; 2 brush fire calls; 2 elevator calls; a few gas leaks caused by PSEG; Fire Commissioner, Al Nagy, passed away, thoughts and prayers are with the family;

Finance

Public Hearing of budget will be on April 28

The councilmembers wanted to thank all the first responders, medical staff, Mayor Ghassali and the residents for all their donations and for doing their part in this crisis.

MAYOR

The borough has received donations of masks and gloves which have been given to the residents; taking part in the birthday parades around town.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Hipolit

Report/Update

The DOT projects should start this summer;

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Joe Voytus, Esq.

Report/Update

Submitted the plans to the Planning Board for 26 N Kinderkamack Road; bids went out for the waste collection

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

COMMUNICATION CORRESPONDENCE:

None

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**HEARING OF CITIZENS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

Upon recognition by the Mayor, the person shall proceed to the floor and give his/her name and address in an audible tone of voice for the records. Unless further time is granted by the Council, he/she shall limit his/her statement to five (5) minutes. Statements shall be addressed to the Council as a body and not to any member thereof. No person, other than the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, without recognition by the Mayor.

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

Carolee Adams

Mentioned it is nice to have conversations with old and new neighbors while on walks, as well as seeing families together again (like the man with his 2 sons on a bicycle built for 3) have been blessings - where good has come of this evil. And, praying daily for all who serve as "essentials" like our garbage men, and the many "heroes" previously referenced by members of the Council tonight. Mrs. Adams continued by asking the following questions:

As banks and other lenders are allowing a 3-month deferral of mortgage payments, (repayment of such depends upon the lender), when these mortgage payments include escrow paid directly by the lender to the Borough, and Montvale's next tax payments are due May 1, (and stated previously by the Administration that such will still be due by May 11), the escrow remaining in the borrower's accounts may, and probably will, fall short of the required tax payment. The concern is that the property owners will then be considered delinquent, paying a fee for the late payment, and adding to the financial distress Montvale home owners are already facing and which many in governance have expressed their thoughts and prayers. Further, this will continue for several months, late fees may explode, and the borrower run the risk of foreclosure - just because of the deferred mortgage payments, easily and legally granted by the lender, that will be added to the mortgage balance when the maturity of the mortgage is due. (That could be years away.) The Borrower must commence monthly payments after the 3-month deferral. Any late payment fees should be waived! And, no foreclosure should commence due to this situation.*

(And, will the lack of tax payments, whether due to the above or the serious financial challenges we face, adversely affect Montvale's budget plans?)

Moody's lowered New Jersey's Bond Rating to Negative. In effect, NJ was already fiscally insolvent, and this dramatically adds to the financial distress. Despite our borough's excellent bond rating, will NJ's continued downturn adversely affect Montvale plans for growth and/or normal expense, and/or Montvale citizens (no homestead rebate/no Senior Freeze) - and to be considered in any and all budget changes/expenses/planned building, etc. we are now addressing so as not to dig a hole we cannot escape in the near future?

Sandra Martin

Wanted to know if Montvale has any plans to ban leaf blowers because of the noise

BOROUGH OF MONTVALE

APRIL 14, 2020

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

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm

ADJOURNMENT:

The next Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held April 28th, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING:

April 28th, 2020 – PowerPoint Presentation

Respectfully submitted, Fran Scordo, Deputy Municipal Clerk