

**PUBLIC MEETING  
MINUTES**

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Council Chambers and called to order at 7:36PM. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale. West Point, graduate, Amaka Auer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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 - absent  
Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

**Diversity Committee Presentation:** Overview of Committee

Amaka Auer, Chairperson, spoke on behalf of the committee, the presentation is included with the original minutes

**ORDINANCES:**

None

**MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:**

Agenda Items Only

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

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

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

**MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC:**

Agenda Items Only

**MINUTES:**

September 29, 2020

A motion to accept minutes by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Koelling – all ayes with Councilmember Curry abstaining

**CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:**

September 29, 2020

A motion to accept minutes by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Arendacs – all ayes with Councilmember Curry abstaining

**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.

**158-2020 Authorize Refund of Recreation Program / Golf Lessons**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the below individual is hereby granted a refund for Golf Lessons

**Online Registration:** (NO Purchase Order Needed) Li Lin **Address:** 138 Demarest Lane **Amount:** \$109.58 **Program:** Golf Lesson

**159-2020 Special Item Of Revenue And Appropriation - Chapter 159**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item appropriation for an equal amount, and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale has been awarded \$17,028.78 from the State of New Jersey – Solid Waste Administration and wishes to amend its 2020 Budget to include this amount as a revenue;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2020 in the sum of \$17,028.78 which is now available as a revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Public and Private Revenues Off-Set with Appropriations

State of New Jersey – Solid Waste Administration: Clean Communities Program, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of \$17,028.78 be and hereby appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriations

(a) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"

Public and Private Programs Off-Set by Revenues:

State of New Jersey – Solid Waste Administration:

Clean Communities Program

**160-2020 Authorize Change Order No. 1/DLS Contracting Inc./2020 Road Improvement Program**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale awarded a contract via Resolution No.106-2020 on June 9, 2020 to DLS Contracting, Inc. for the 2020 Roadway Improvements Program in the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the original contract amount is \$765,466.25 including Alternate "A"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Engineer, in a letter dated August 6, 2020, which is attached to the original of this resolution has been monitoring the project and recommends in detail Change Order #1 in the amount of \$45,129.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough's Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds have been appropriated and are available for this project.

**Contractor**

DLS Contracting, Inc.

271 US Highway 46, Ste D-205

Fairfield, New Jersey 07004

**BOROUGH OF MONTVALE****OCTOBER 13, 2020**

Total Contract Amount	\$ 721,866.25 Resolution No.106-2020
Awarded Alternate "A"	\$ 43,600.00 Resolution No. 106-2020
Change Order #1	\$ 45,129.00 Resolution 160-2020
Adjusted Total Contract Amount	\$ 810,595.25

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, By the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale authorize Change Order #1 in the amount of \$45,129.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough has certified that funds have been appropriated and are available for this purpose, a copy of said certification attached to the original copy of this Resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the above reference change order #1 is hereby approved:

**161-2020 Authorize Change Order No. 1/Clear Span/Salt Shed Installation Services**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale awarded a contract via Resolution No.107-2020 to Clear Span for the Department of Public Works Salt Shed, Memorial Drive; and

**WHEREAS**, the original contract amount is \$75,504.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Engineer, in a letter dated October 2, which is attached to the original of this resolution has been monitoring the project and recommends in detail Change Order #1 in the amount of \$3,260.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough's Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds have been appropriated and are available for this project.

**Contractor**

Total Contract Amount	\$ 75,504.00
Change Order #1	\$ 3,260.00
Adjusted Total Contract Amount	\$ 78,764.00

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, By the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale authorize Change Order #1 in the amount of \$3,260.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough has certified that funds have been appropriated and are available for this purpose, a copy of said certification attached to the original copy of this Resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale that the above reference change order #1 is hereby approved:

**162-2020 Authorize Hiring FT/Administrative Employee/Floater/Admin. Asst. Planning Board/E. Davenport**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Montvale advertised and interviewed for the replacement position of Administrative Floater/Assistant to Planning Board position within the Administration Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Erica Davenport meets the qualifications for this position and agrees to the terms and conditions of employment, and has previously completed a satisfactory background investigation; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that the above-named individual is hereby appointed to this full time position which duties and responsibilities include Floater, Administrative Assistant To the Planning Board of the Borough of Montvale effective October 13, 2020.

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

**BILLS:** Municipal Clerk read the Bill Report.

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

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Council President Arendacs**

**Engineering**

LaTrenta field is completed; PSEG will start milling and paving next week; Salt Shed is completed; Philips Parkway and Paragon Drive paving will begin in the next few days.

**DPW**

Status quo; they are getting their equipment ready for winter

**Construction**

\$227,000 collected in revenue for the month of September; issued 135 new permits; received new plans for the Toll Brothers site; welcomed new Building Inspector, Robert Serrow, he will assume Chris Gruber's position and Chris Gruber will assume Jeff Fette's position as Construction Code Official as Jeff Fette will be retiring at the end of the year; 23 property maintenance violations and 6 summons were issued and 24 property maintenance violations were abated.

**Councilmember Koelling**

**Police**

Monthly report included in original minutes; The police officers are doing "No Shave November" fundraiser early this year and the proceeds will be donated to the former Lieutenant Don Boman fund who is having some serious health issues.

**Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang**

**Diversity Committee**

Planning a celebration of Diwali in November;

**Unity in the Valley**

Looking for diversity training either through the County or State programs

**BOE**

On Monday, October 12, 2020, staff had a professional development day. The professional development day kicked off with a keynote speaker, Mr. Patrick Fennell. Patrick Fennell is the Founder and President of Empowerment Solutions, LLC, and is the Founder and Executive Director of Empowerment Institute, Inc. With over three decades of diverse work in for-profit, non-profit, education, federal, state and local government, Mr. Fennell focused on building positive relationships, learning from each other, appreciating one another, developing a sense of connectedness and fulfilling their purpose in life together. This day was designed to provide professional development directly aligned to two of our district goals:

Goal #2: Advance the work of diversity and inclusion through collaboration, communication and resources.

Goal #3: Explore innovative and safe ways to meet the needs of students and staff through digital resources and virtual learning opportunities.

November 2 and 4 will be Parent/Teacher Conferences. November 3 is Election Day. Election Day will be a Professional Development Day for staff (no school for students).

**Historic Preservation Committee**

Completed the designation report for School #2, they will be sending it to Tom Toronto at United Way to see if they support it before we proceed.

**Councilmember Curry**

**Senior Club**

Box lunch picnic is scheduled for Friday, October 16

**Website**

Please contact Rose Curry at [rcurry@montvaleboro.org](mailto:rcurry@montvaleboro.org) or Carol Manhart at [cmahart@montvaleboro.org](mailto:cmahart@montvaleboro.org)

**TV Access**

Tune in for some good interviews this month.

**Councilmember Lane**

**Fire Dept**

13 fire calls; 2 drills; 2 extra credit and 2 meetings; won a scholarship for one night of live fire training at the Bergenfield Fire Training Center which was sponsored by the NY/NJ Volunteer Fire Association; Looking for volunteers

**Finance**

Looking to start budget season, mentioned that all budget meetings are open to the public

**MAYOR**

COVID numbers are on the rise in the State and a few in Montvale; Halloween is on for right now; thanked the residents for their patience with the replacement of the gas lines by PSEG; Shredding day will be Saturday, October 24 from 9am-1pm at Memorial Drive; had a meeting with the restaurant owners to find out their plans for the winter months, the borough is working with them, to allow them to have the tents going forward; the Mayor received a letter from Flight Center, the parent company of Liberty Travel, stating that they will be laying off half of their employees permanently; Dick Voorhees, will be retiring from the Library Board, he has long years of service in town, he was a councilman and served on many committees over the years. We are working on having a Dick Voorhees Service Award and continue it annually in his honor; seeing as how there is a vacancy on the Library Board, the Mayor would like to appoint Councilmember Rose Curry as the liaison;

Councilmember Lane suggested that Montvale should consider exploring through the State guidelines about travel outside of NJ and having quarantine protocols in place.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Andrew Hipolit

Report/Update

LaTrenta Field is completed, the field will remain closed until Spring 2021, urges residents to stay off the field so the sod can take; Paragon and Philips milling and paving will begin on Friday and Saturday;

Councilmember Curry asked about the engine breaking ordinance, Mr. Voytus stated the draft ordinance can be place on the agenda for discussion for the next meeting.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:**

Joe Voytus, Esq.

Report/Update

No Report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Re-Request Campout /Scout Authorization for Additional Night/Boy Scouts/Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>/ Rain Dates Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> depart Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>/ Vacant Lot Huff Park/Former Swim Club Property

Adding an additional day, Councilmembers all agreed

- b. Determination Health Benefits/Employee Contributions Rate & Health Savings Account/Prior To Open Enrollment Commencing 10/19 – 10/30

Councilmember Lane recommended that the employees' contribution to the High Deductible Plan will be 10% of the premium and all other medical plans the employee will contribute 15% of the premium; those employees choosing the High Deductible plan will receive a contribution towards their HSA account. A

motion to approve by Councilmember Lane; seconded by Councilmember Koelling - a roll call vote was taken – all ayes

**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 Koelling; seconded by Councilmember Lane - all ayes

**Jarret Schumacher**

Asked for clarification about School #2, Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang stated that the Historic Committee was preparing a report to declare School #2 a historical site; suggested to the Chamber about having a different type of restaurant week.

**Carolee Adams**

Today is the birthday of the United States Navy; October 2<sup>nd</sup> was Fireman Recognition Day, try to remember that for next year; With all the new developments in the surrounding towns like Park Ridge and Woodcliff Lake, Mrs. Adams, suggested the Mayor to discuss with the Mayor's Association to consider a paid fire and ambulance department for the three towns; mentioned to the Police Chief to have bicycle safety programs for kids and adults; Councilmember Arendacs stated he spoke with Chief Sanfilippo and he assigned two police officers to conduct a traffic and bicycle study. It will be in place for May, which is bicycle awareness month.

**Elizabeth Gloeggler**

Asked for clarification about the medical insurance for employees and the difference between the high deductible plan and the other plans. Councilmember Lane stated the borough makes a HSA contribution for the employees available to them in January

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

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The next Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held October 27, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

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