

**PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

The Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers and called to order at 7:35PM. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale. Master Sergeant Koelling led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and roll call was taken.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to The Bergen Record informing the public of the time and place according to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

Also Present: Mayor Mike Ghassali; Borough Attorney, Dave Lafferty; Administrator, Joe Voytus; Municipal Clerk, Fran Scordo and Deputy Clerk, Carol Manhart

ROLL CALL:

Councilmember Arendacs
Councilmember Cudequest
Councilmember Koelling

Councilmember Lane - absent
Councilmember Roche
Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

ORDINANCES:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2023-1539 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF MONTVALE APPROVING A NEW SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT
(public hearing 6-27-23)

A motion to Introduce Ordinance **2023-1539** for first reading was made by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Koelling; Clerk read by title only; Councilmember Roche made a motion that this ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised in The Bergen Record; seconded by Councilmember Koelling - a roll call was taken – all ayes

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2023-1540 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 170 OF THE BOROUGH CODE TO CLARIFY THE SENIOR FEE WAIVER
(public hearing 6-27-23)

A motion to Introduce Ordinance **2023-1540** for first reading was made by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang; Clerk read by title only; Councilmember Roche made a motion that this ordinance be passed on first reading and advertised in The Bergen Record; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - a roll call was taken – all ayes

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

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

No Public comment

Motion to close meeting to the public by Councilmember Roche; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest – all ayes

MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC:

Agenda Items Only

MINUTES:

May 30, 2023

A motion to accept minutes by Councilmember Koelling; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - all ayes with the exception of Councilmember Arendacs abstaining

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE MINUTES:

May 30, 2023

A motion to accept minutes by Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Koelling - all ayes with the exception of Councilmember Arendacs abstaining

RESOLUTIONS:

141-2023 Refund Overpayment of Taxes - Due to Veteran Exempt Status – Jeffrey Auer

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing the Borough of Montvale to refund the following overpayment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, the owner of 26 Cottage Ave., Jeffrey Auer, is totally exempt from taxes due to his Veteran status; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Auer paid the 1st and 2nd installments for the year 2023, which resulted in an overpayment of taxes in the amount of \$5,996.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized to refund in the amount of \$5,996.00 to Jeffrey Auer, 26 Cottage Ave., Montvale, NJ 07645

Introduced by: Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Roche - a roll call vote was taken - all ayes with the exception of Councilmember Koelling and Russo-Vogelsang abstaining

142-2023 Refund Overpayment of Taxes - Due to Veteran Exempt Status – Stephen Domenick

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing the Borough of Montvale to refund the following overpayment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, the owner of 59 Pennsylvania Ave., Stephen Domenick, is totally exempt from taxes due to his Veteran status; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Domenick paid the 1st and 2nd installments for the year 2023, which resulted in an overpayment of taxes in the amount of \$5,182.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Montvale, County of Bergen, New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized to refund in the amount of \$5,182.00 to Stephen Domenick, 59 Pennsylvania Ave., Montvale, NJ 07645

Introduced by: Councilmember Roche; seconded by Councilmember Cudequest - a roll call vote was taken - all ayes with the exception of Councilmember Koelling 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.

143-2023 Resolution Approving Renewal of Liquor License for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 License Terms ERA Hospitality LLC - Inactive License, Special Ruling Granted

WHEREAS, renewal applications have been filed or submitted through POSSE ABC portal as directed by the ABC; and,

WHEREAS, the submitted, renewal application has been accepted via POSSE ABC, the Municipal Fees have been paid and a Tax Clearance Certificate has been received for the following licensee; and,

WHEREAS, the submitted license renewal application received a special ruling pursuant to N.J.S.A. 33: 1-12.39 dated May 18, 2023 and was approved by the State Alcohol Beverage Control Director, a copy of which is annexed hereto; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed per standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated there under, and pertinent Borough Ordinances; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Montvale State of New Jersey, that the re-renewal of the following Liquor License for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 license terms be and are hereby authorized:

License Number	Licensee	Establishment
0236-33-004-009	ERA Hospitality, LLC	Inactive

144-2023 Resolution Awarding a Contract to Nielson of Morristown Pursuant to State Contract #23-FLEET-34933 for the Purchase of a 2023 Dodge Durango (WDEE75) Pursuit AWD

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale has a need to acquire a 2023 Dodge Durango (WDEE75) Pursuit AWD for use by the Montvale Police Department; and

WHEREAS, this Dodge Durango shall replace the Chevy Tahoe approved in the 2023 Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined that the most convenient and cost-effective way to procure said vehicle is by State Contract pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a, and the Borough may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program for any State Contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the Borough did solicit a quote from Nielson of Morristown pursuant to State Contract #23-FLEET-34933 for said vehicle in the total amount of \$48,943.05; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is desirous of awarding this contract and purchasing said vehicle from Nielson of Morristown pursuant to the March 31, 2023 Proposal, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds have been appropriated and are available for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Montvale hereby accepts the March 31, 2023 Proposal from Nielson of Morristown, 200 Ridgedale Avenue, Morristown, New Jersey 07960, for the aforementioned vehicle and directs, authorizes and empowers all appropriate officials to execute an agreement and/or purchase order for this contract, subject to all the conditions applicable to State Contract #23-FLEET-34933 and subject to approval by the Borough Attorney.

145-2023 A Resolution Authorizing the Procurement of a Concession Contract for Borough Welcome Signs

WHEREAS, the Borough of Montvale is desirous of soliciting one or more concession contracts with interested vendors to fund and sponsor the fabrication, installation and maintenance of "Welcome Signs" for the Borough of Montvale, at various locations identified in the document entitled Borough of Montvale Welcome Sign Sponsorship Program, up to a maximum of fifteen (15) signs; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney has opined that this is an appropriate program for utilization of a concession contract; and

WHEREAS, this concession contract will allow for the installation of these signs without the need to expend public funds, and will further provide advertising for those vendors who ultimately sponsor said signs pursuant to this concession contract; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined that the total cost of such concession contract(s) will be six hundred dollars (\$600.00) per sign, inclusive of fabrication, installation and maintenance of said signs, for a total aggregate amount of approximately nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00); and

WHEREAS, the Borough does not anticipate generating revenue pursuant to this program beyond what is needed to purchase and maintain the signs; and

WHEREAS, the concession contract(s) shall be awarded to all interested vendors who express a willingness to pay the \$600.00 cost to fabricate, install and maintain a welcome sign; and in the event that more vendors are interested than there are sign locations available, the Borough will conduct a randomized lottery to determine which vendors will be permitted to sponsor said signs; and

WHEREAS, quotes will be solicited from interested parties for this program including through the Montvale Chamber of Commerce, and notice of the sign sponsorship program shall be posted on the municipal bulletin board and the municipal website with the deadline for submission of intent to participate in the sign sponsorship program prominently advertised.

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

1. The Borough does hereby authorize the solicitation of one or more concession contracts with interested vendors to fund and sponsor the fabrication, installation and maintenance of "Welcome Signs" for the Borough of Montvale.
2. The document entitled "Borough of Montvale Welcome Sign Sponsorship Program" is hereby adopted as the formal Borough policy concerning this concession contract.

Introduced by: Councilmember Cudequest; seconded by Councilmember Roche - a roll call vote was taken - all ayes

BILLS: Administrator read the Bill Report.

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

REPORT OF REVENUE: Administrator read the Report of Revenue – May

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council President Arendacs

DPW

Fields are under stress due to extreme weather conditions; clay work is be done at both fields; maintenance of the turf field are being done; due to extreme air quality conditions, the DPW workers did inside work; set up is being done for the Street Fair; DPW did a great job on Memorial Day in the center of town. Reminder recycling center is open during the summer on Tue, Wed and Saturday from 8-3pm.

Attended the DARE graduation with Mayor Ghassali and Councilmember Roche and would like to congratulate the 6th graders at Fieldstone

Engineering

Summit Ave from Spring Valley Road to the NY boarder is out for bid, construction should start in the summer; Terkuile Road is in design stages and is anticipated for fall construction.

Councilmember Koelling

Police

Monthly report included in original minutes. Internal interviews for the Lieutenant and Sergeant positions are being conducted.

Would like to thank the American Legion and Bob Widmer for organizing the Memorial Day Parade

Councilmember Russo-Vogelsang

Local BOE

Teachers of the Year - Mrs. Katz for Memorial & Ms. Golden for FMS

Retirees: Geralyn Westervelt Memorial, Doris Bartel at FMS and Barbara Nolan in the Board Office

Montvale Essential Learning Summer Program:

This summer, funding is again available to us to address learning loss in students. While we will prioritize our most affected and/or most at-risk learners, we hope to support as many students as possible with in-person learning cohorts in each grade level. We are looking to run at least one section per grade level for students entering Grades 1-4, and one section in Math and LA for students entering grades 5-8.

Athletics Update:

Boys Track Team were league champions

Softball made playoffs

K Enrollment for 2023-24:

The enrollment for next year's K class currently sits at 101.

There will be a kindergarten orientation and tour later in the summer on Tuesday, August 29. Times and additional info will be shared over the summer.

Upcoming Dates:

June 8: STEAM Fair at FMS, 8th Grade Dance

June 9: 8th Grade BBQ, 4th Grade Picnic

June 12: 7th Grade Trip to West Point

June 13: 8th Grade Breakfast

June 14: 8th Grade Graduation

June 15: Move-up Day; Single-Session Day

June 16: 4th Grade Clap-out; Last Day of School; Single-Session Day

Construction

All is moving well and they are aware of the current issues and are diligently working to correct them. Current projects are ahead of schedule and with few issues.

Economic Committee

Currently having meetings with medical companies to try to attract new businesses

Councilmember Cudequest

Board of Health

Received 4 complaints, all were inspected and abated. Several inspections were done throughout the town. Rabies clinic is scheduled for Saturday, November 18th, from 12-1:30pm at the DPW; there has been an increase on attacks on deer possibly by coyotes or foxes, Tyco has been notified and has submitted some information which will be in the next newsletter. Please do not leave small dogs and children outside unattended .

Library

Ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Reading Garden will be held on Saturday, June 17 at 12:30pm. On Thursday, June 29, there will be a live concert by Forever Young at 7pm in the Reading Garden. Online registration for the summer reading program begins on June 15th. The program runs from June 15 through August 4th. Museum passes are available at the Library.

Fire Department

20 fires, 2 drills, 2 work details, 2 Chief calls and 1 meeting;

Councilmember Roche

Recreation

Pride in Park had about 100 people in attendance. Day in the Park is scheduled for September 9th. Lisa Lorenger will be going out on maternity leave and Cassidy Strauss will be filling in.

MAL

Fall sports registration has opened; Old Man softball tournament will be on Sunday, June 11 at LaTrenta field at 3pm.

Environmental Commission

Bob Hanrahan will be on My Montvale starting on June 23rd

Chamber of Commerce

Street fair Sunday, June 11 from 10am-5pm

MAYOR

No Report

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Hipolit - absent

Report/Update

No Report

ATTORNEY REPORT:

David Lafferty, Esq.

Report/Update

No report

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Joe Voytus

Report/Update

Earlier this year we received a few violations from PEOSHA at the DPW garage, had the re-inspection today, and everything passed, violations were abated. Went to Octagon House with Dick Voorhees and Dawn Hopper from the Historic Preservation to see the inside of the house to get it designated. New sprinklers for the Reading Garden will be installed next week. At that time the DPW will sod the dirt area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Approval of Summer Camp Hires

Councilmembers approved all hires

b. Senior BBQ – waiver of fees – September 21st
Councilmembers approved to waive all fees.

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 Roche; seconded by Councilmember Koelling - all ayes

Estelle Markowitz, Valley View Terrace

Came before the council last month and mentioned that the builder next door is encroaching on her property. Rocks on her property from builder. After a brief discussion, the administrator and engineer will go to the see the property.

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

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm

Regular Workshop Meeting of the Mayor & Council to be held at 7:30pm on June 27, 2023

Special Town Hall meeting June 12th at 6:30pm at Senior Community Center for all Senior Citizens

Respectfully submitted, Frances Scordo, Municipal Clerk