

SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

On the above date, the Township Committee of the Township of Mantua held its monthly Regular Meeting in the Mantua Township Municipal Building, 401 Main Street, Mantua, NJ 08051.

Mayor Timothy W. Chell called the meeting to order. The time was 7:30 p.m. Mayor Chell asked for everyone to rise for the flag salute and remain standing for a moment of silence. Mantua Township Police Explorers Post 329 presented the Colors and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Chell then read aloud the Statement of the Presiding Officer: "As required by the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by adopting a schedule of regular meetings for the year 2008. The schedule was posted on the bulletin board of the Municipal Building and mailed to the Gloucester County Times and Courier-Post newspapers on January 2, 2008."

Mayor Chell called on Township Clerk Shawn Menzies to perform a roll call of present officials. Present were Committeeman Robert Zimmerman, Committeewoman Lorraine Beckett, Deputy Mayor Peter Scirrotto, Mayor Chell, August Knestaut, Esquire, Township Solicitor, Michael Datz, Township Administrator and Shawn G. Menzies, Township Clerk. Committeewoman Sharon Lawrence was absent, to which Mayor Chell noted her daughter-in-law was in labor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Township Committee's September 8, 2008 Workshop Meeting, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

Mayor Chell announced the presentation of proclamations.

Mayor Chell read aloud a proclamation proclaiming October 19 through 25th as Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in the Township of Mantua. He added free lead test kits are available in the Clerk's Office during business hours for anyone whose home was built before 1978.

Mayor Chell read aloud a proclamation proclaiming October 10, 2008 as Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day in the Township of Mantua.

Deputy Mayor Pete Scirrotto read aloud a proclamation honoring Captain Edward Powell for his Dedication and Volunteerism for the annual Mantua-Harrison Night Out event.

Committeeman Zimmerman read aloud a proclamation honoring A Better Janitorial, Home Depot of Mantua, the Telford Inn, J.R.. Drywall, Neena's Brick Oven, Di Agostini's Liquors and Santini's II Pizzeria for their contribution to the 2008 Mantua-Harrison Night Out event. Representatives from several of the businesses were present and were presented with individual proclamations.

Committeewoman Beckett made a motion to open for its public hearing Ordinance O-13-2008, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

As no one wished to address O-13-2008, Committeewoman Beckett made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-13-2008, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

ORDINANCE O-13-2008
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2008 SALARY
ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE THE POSITION OF STAFF SERGEANT
OF THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

All members voted in the affirmative to a roll call vote to adopt, 4-0.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to open for a public hearing Ordinance O-14-2008, seconded by Committeeman Beckett. All were in favor.

As no one wished to address O-14-2008, Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to close the public hearing. All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-14-2008, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

ORDINANCE O-14-2008
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 38, "POLICE DEPARTMENT"
OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

All members voted in the affirmative to a roll call vote to adopt, 4-0.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-153-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-153-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION PROMOTING SERGEANT PAUL
COLEMAN TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT FIRST (1st.) CLASS
WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

All members were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Pete Scirrotto, Public Safety Director, administered the Oath of Office to Sgt. 1st. Class Paul Coleman.

It was at this time did Mayor Chell make a motion for a brief recess, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor. The time was 7:45 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to return to the meeting, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor. The time was 7:49 p.m.

Deputy Mayor made a motion to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor.

Debbie Baldasarre, 688 Main Street, asked why Mantua Township does not offer a recycling incentive program?

Mayor Chell explained prior to the new recycling program started it was discussed, but the Township of Mantua wanted to get its baseline recycling numbers higher before a program like this would start to better benefit all residents. He further explained that while there is always room for improvement in having the Township of Mantua's baseline recycling numbers higher, it is a good time to revisit the incentive program for 2009.

Debbie Baldasarre asked if the Township of Mantua gets feedback from the recycling center on how it the recycling program is doing.

Mayor Chell said the Township of Mantua takes its recyclables to Omni Recycling located in Mantua Township. He added that there is a quality control officer who offers feedback to the Township of Mantua. Mayor Chell said it is important for all residents to be educated about recycling which will give the Township of Mantua higher recycling numbers in the future.

Mr. Datz added the trash and recycling trucks are outfitted with cameras and if it is detected that something was placed in the recycle bin that should not be the address of the property is taken down and a supervisor will go to the address the next week to check if it was a one-time issue or a continuing issue and it will be brought to the attention of the homeowner.

Mr. Datz further explained that in regards to the recycling incentive program, the recycling bank charges \$2.88 per household monthly and unless the baseline recycling figure is high for each household it is the Township of Mantua which ends up owing for this and no one benefits.

James Slemph, Mount Royal Road, asked that in the bill list there is a listing for the fire district and if it was something brought current since March? Mayor Chell explained that it is taxes owed just like what is owed to the school districts and the county which must be paid when they are due and at 100 percent.

Mr. Slemph asked if the Committee has a liaison or a fire district oversight committee, to which Mayor Chell reported the liaison is Deputy Mayor Scirrotto who is the Public Safety Director which oversees fire and police.

Mr. Slempp asked if he needs to ask the Township or the Fire District questions in regards to the taxes collected, not necessarily what it was spent on. Mayor Chell said what funds are spent on is the District and that was collected is the finance office or tax office.

Mr. Slempp asked if all the fees have been collected from the Lowes and Target projects, has any of it been spent yet, particularly the tree fund. Mayor Chell said a project to add buffering to the Sheffield Walk development along Woodbury-Glassboro Road was approved and the project was awarded to Exley's Landscaping.

Mr. Slempp asked if the fees collected under the Council on Affordable Housing rules from the target/Lowes project would be enough to build an affordable unit. Mayor Chell said he agrees that the fees imposed under the guidelines are too low.

Mr. Slempp asked if any COAH fees have been spent, to which Mayor Chell said no fees have been spent except for the monitoring of affordable units already constructed, particularly to review re-sales of COAH units.

Mr. Slempp asked if the Township of Mantua is COAH certified, to which Mayor Chell said yes, but that no New Jersey municipality has had its Round Three Plans approved.

Mr. Slempp asked if a developer comes in and wants to build 50 to 100 units are they bound by COAH rules even with the Third Round Plan not approved. Mayor Chell said the question is a legal question, but that a developer with final approval has legal protection and the Township of Mantua still has an obligation to provide affordable housing. Mayor Chell said he does not favor the latest rules signed into law as it places a burden on the tax payers of a municipality and the Township of Mantua has joined with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities to challenge the latest COAH law.

Mr. Slempp asked if it would be possible for on the bill list to have items spelled out instead of having initials. Mayor Chell said he would check with the Finance Office.

As no one else wished to comment, Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to close the public portion, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to open for a public hearing Ordinance O-15-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor. Mayor Chell explained some items included in the Bond Ordinance includes the Township Road Program, equipment for public works, speeding indicator signs, police department equipment and \$700,000.00 to put towards the purchase of 50 acres of adjacent land next to the Chestnut Branch Park.

James Slempp asked if the Township of Mantua has had any problems getting the bonds as he recently read a news story about the county having placed funds aside for bonds. Mayor Chell explained about Bond Anticipation Notes which go up for auction, and in some areas of the State there are problems finding buyers for those bonds, but the Township of Mantua is not having that problem.

As no one else wished speak on Ordinance O-15-2008, Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-15-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

ORDINANCE O-15-2008

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**

**RE: A BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COMPLETETION OF
VARIOUS GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION
OF VARIOUS PIECES OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT IN AND FOR THE
TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW
JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$1,945,700.00 THEREFORE
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR
BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA IN THE
AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$1,783,414.00; MAKING
CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING
CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING**

All members voted in the affirmative to a roll call vote to adopt, 4-0.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-154-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-154-2008

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**

**RE: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF MANTUA APPROVING COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE FOR AREA DESIGNATION, PLANNING AND CONTRACTS**

All members were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-155-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-155-2008

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA**

**RE: A RESOLUTION EXTENDING TIME FOR THE TOWNSHIP AND
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT STRATEGIES (“CIS”), AS AFFORDABLE
HOUSING DEVELOPER FOR BLOCK 253.01, LOTS 38.01 AND 39, A
DESIGNATED REDEVELOPMENT AREA, TO ENTER INTO
DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND RELATED PROJECT AGREEMENTS**

All were in favor.

Committeeman Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-156-2008, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

RESOLUTION R-156-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND ACCEPTING A
GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,686.30 FROM THE NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

All members voted in the affirmative to a roll call vote to approve, 4-0.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-157-2008, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett.

RESOLUTION R-157-2008
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A
MECHANICS LIEN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$90.32 ON REAL PROPERTY
LOCATED AT 245 COLUMBUS DRIVE, BLOCK 28, LOT 4 OF THE OFFICIAL
TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA FOR MAINTENANCE WORK
PERFORMED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to approve Resolution R-158-2008, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman.

RESOLUTION R-158-2007
A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
RE: A RESOLUTION FOR ENFORCING A
HALLOWEEN CURFEW IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA
COMMENCING OCTOBER 29, 2008 UNTIL OCTOBER 31, 2008

All were in favor.

Under Committee Reports, Committeewoman Beckett reported the annual Fall Festival will be held at 6:00 p.m. on October 11, 2008 at the Chestnut Branch Park and that the Township of Mantua is seeking donations to its annual Thanksgiving Baskets and to contact Township Clerk Shawn Menzies.

Mr. Zimmerman said he received complaints of speeding vehicles on Mantua Boulevard and with Deputy Mayor Scirrotto's help the police department placed out on that road and Center Street, the Police's road sign which has worked to cut down on speeders. He thanked Deputy Mayor Scirrotto and the Mantua Township Police Department.

Mayor Chell informed the Township Committee that Lowes has offered to donate \$1,000.00 to local organization or charity and that he spoke with Committeewoman Lawrence about possibly having the funds donated evenly to the VFW and AMVETS. The Committee believes it is a good idea and Mr. Menzies will follow this up further with Lowes to check on its guidelines and rules pertaining to them donating to organizations. The Grand Opening Ceremony is 10:00 a.m. October 2, 2008. Target has scheduled its grand opening on October 12, 2008 and asked if everyone from the Committee to try and attend.

Mayor Chell said he is excited with the support received for the Township Committee's Open Space program and how it is working to preserve the 50 acres right next to the Chestnut Branch Park as it was approved for single family homes and now will be a better use when it is preserved. Mayor Chell thanked the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders as the Township of Mantua will fund 24 percent of the cost of the land and the County funding the remaining balance.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Committeewoman Beckett. All were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Scirrotto made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in favor. The time was 8:18 p.m.