

Township of Mantua
Committee Workshop Meeting
March 16, 2015
Mantua Township Municipal Building
7:00 P.M

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

Mayor Scirrotto called the meeting to order. The time was 7:00 p.m. Mayor Scirrotto asked everyone to rise for the Flag Salute and remain standing to observe a moment of silence.

Mayor Scirrotto delivered the Sunshine Notice as required by the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

Mayor Scirrotto called on Township Deputy Clerk Pamela LeVine to call roll. Present were Mr. Robert Zimmerman, Mr. Michael Silvanio, Mayor Pete Scirrotto, Deputy Mayor Sharon Lawrence, Mr. John Legge, Mrs. Jennica Bileci, Township Administrator, Mr. Michael Angelini, Esq., Chief Rodney Sawyer,

PROCLAMATION:

Recognizing Jessie MacGregor for her dedication and years of service on the Environmental Commission

Committeeman Legge read this Proclamation and honored Mrs. MacGregor for her years of service

PROMOTION:

Mayor Scirrotto swore in Patrolman William Murphy promoting him to the rank of Corporal within the Township of Mantua.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve March 2, 2015 minutes - Deputy Mayor Lawrence, 2nd Committeeman Zimmerman. All in Favor: 5 yes votes

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Motion to Open: Deputy Mayor Lawrence, 2nd Committeeman Zimmerman.
All were in favor.

James Moore – 20 Birchwood Lane, Mantua – Mr. Moore inquired about the purchase the Inversand property and what benefits would it have to Mantua Township. Mayor Scirrotto asked Dr. Lacovara of Drexel University to speak as to the vision of the Fossil Park. Dr. Lacovara advised that the site about would enhance the education in the science, engineering and math area or also known as the STEM programs that most schools are lacking in. He advised in conjunction with Drexel University, The Academy of Natural Sciences, South Jersey Land and Water as well as other entities are interested in preserving this property and turning it into a world class fossil park. He advised, that

before anything can be done about building the park, the property needs to be preserved. Dr. Lacovera explained that last year alone, there were over 7,000 students that came through the park from schools and since the inception of the fund, there has been 3 fossil digs that have brought in over 3,000 people. Mayor Scirrotto advised Mr. Moore that the first step is to purchase the property. Mayor Scirrotto advised that there are protections in the purchase agreement to ensure that if the funding is not received by the Township to purchase then the Township can back out of the deal. Mr. Moore inquired about the development plan and the cost of that as well. Mayor Scirrotto advised that the cost of developing the park has not been explored at this time. Mr. Moore stated that the taxes are still increasing. Mayor Scirrotto advised that we can only control the municipal taxes that you are charged. Committeeman Zimmerman stated that everyone at the Township lives in town and all have children within the schools systems and children in college. He stated that the Township Committee doesn't want to increase taxes, however, for the last 5 years there have been cuts at the state level and no increase in funding from the state. In addition he advised that the Township is operating with minimum staffing and is doing more with less. Committeeman Zimmerman advised that they are trying to do their best to keep costs and taxes down. Committeeman Zimmerman also commented that there is no Township monies being used to purchase the Inversand site. Mr. Moore then went to state that the consolidation of services is admirable, however what about just stop paying for things and the Township would be able to save quite a bit. Mayor Scirrotto advised that the Committee and various township departments are cutting in every area possible and getting to the 2 cents is very tough.

Robert Maier – 29 Silver Creek Road, Mantua - Mr. Maier inquired about a problem that he is having with the basin that is between his community and Cedar Grove Trailer Park. He advised that has also contact the land owner of the basin as his concern is that the basin is clogged and the water is sitting and not draining as it should thus allowing the basin to overflow and encroach on the homeowners property. He would like for the Township to come and take a look at it and see what can be done to ensure that the storm basin is kept clear and what could be done with the owner of the property, Administrator Bileci advised that the Public works department was out here today and had cleared the way for the water to recede and she will talk with Mr. Maier tomorrow about how to proceed going forward with the land owner.

George Downing – 214 W. Morris Ave, Sewell – He addressed the Committee and applauded their efforts for taking the steps to purchase the Inversand site. He advised the he is a retired college professor and is glad to hear that the Inversand site could be an education place for science and history and hopes that the committee will approve this ordinance. He was also glad to hear that should the Township be unable to obtain funding to purchase this property then there is a way out at no cost to the tax payer.

Michael Maher – 333 Main Street, Mantua – Mr. Maher commended the Public Works department for all their hard work during the snow, and ice problems that we had this past winter. In addition he noted that there is a drainage/grading problem from Evergreen Road to Main Street where the water isn't draining off property and he would like someone to look at this. In addition, when the snow is plowed they are cover the handicap ramps and there is nowhere for the children and/or people to sue these ramps if it is covered in snow.

Donald Gehring – 106 Vermont Avenue, Mantua – He asked the Committee if there is any way to get Vermont Avenue milled and graded properly to ensure that there are no large pot holes in the roadway anymore. He advised that he has spoken with Public

Works and would like something to be done. He has taken care of the road since he has lived there and feels that the township should address this problem.

Donna Ward – 99 Candlewood Drive, Mantua – Ms. Ward spoke about the potential purchase of the Inversand site and inquired as to how many investors would be interested in this purchase. She also inquired about posting all back up documents and attachments for the Resolutions and Ordinances on the website.

ORDINANCE O-1-2015 - AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 242, LOT 7 PURSUANT TO THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

Motion to introduce Ordinance 1-2015: Deputy Mayor Lawrence, 2nd Committeeman Zimmerman,
All were in favor.

ORDINANCE O-2-2015- AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 2013-03 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, ABOLISHING THE MANTUA JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AND THE BOROUGH OF PITMAN, AND ESTABLISHING A MANTUA JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA, THE BOROUGH OF PITMAN AND THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS AND THE BOROUGH OF WENONAH

Motion to open to the Public: Deputy Mayor Lawrence, 2nd Committeeman Zimmerman
Roll Call: 5 yes votes
There was no public participation for this Ordinance.

Motion to Close: Deputy Mayor Lawrence, 2nd Committeeman Zimmerman
Roll Call: 5 yes votes

Motion to adopt Ordinance #2-2015: Deputy Mayor Lawrence, 2nd Committeeman Legge
Roll Call: 3 yes votes, 2 abstentions – Committeeman Silvanio and Committeeman Zimmerman

RESOLUTION R-49-2015: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING TAX AND PREMIUM REFUNDS

Motion to approve: Deputy Mayor Lawrence, 2nd Committeeman Zimmerman,
All were in favor.

RESOLUTION -R-50-2015: RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA ,THE BOROUGH OF PITMAN, THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS AND THE BOROUGH OF WENONAH TO ESTABLISH THE MANTUA JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT

Motion to approve: Deputy Mayor Lawrence, 2nd Committeeman Legge,
Roll Call: 3 yes votes, Committeeman Zimmerman and Committeeman Silvanio
Abstained.

RESOLUTION R-51-2015: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA , GLOUCESTER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE CUSTODIAL SERVICES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA

Motion to approve: Deputy Mayor Lawrence, 2nd Committeeman Zimmerman,
All were in favor.

RESOLUTION R-52-2015: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

Motion to approve: Deputy Mayor Lawrence, 2nd Committeeman Zimmerman,
All were in favor.

RESOLUTION R-53-2015: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) VEHICLE FOR THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT UNDER STATE CONTRACT NO. A82925 IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$32,000.00 FROM WINNER FORD

Motion to approve: Deputy Mayor Lawrence, 2nd Committeeman Zimmerman,
All were in favor.

RESOLUTION R-54-2015: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE PROMOTING PATROLMAN WILLIAM MURPHY TO THE RANK OF CORPORAL OF THE MANTUA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Motion to move: Deputy Mayor Lawrence, 2nd Committeeman Zimmerman,
All were in favor.

Approval of the Bill List:

Deputy Mayor Lawrence made a motion to approve the bills; it was seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in Favor

Deputy Mayor Lawrence made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Committeeman Zimmerman. All were in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela LeVine, Deputy Clerk