

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 12, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Manchester Township Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Roxy Conniff, Council President. The following statement was read by Teri Giercyk, Municipal Clerk:

STATEMENT

“Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice was advertised in the Asbury Park Press, Star Ledger and was posted in the lobby of the Municipal Building.”

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

The following roll call was taken by the Municipal Clerk.

Councilman Joseph Hankins	- present
Councilman James Vaccaro	- present
Councilman Craig Wallis	- present
Councilwoman Michele Zolezi	- present
Councilwoman Roxy Conniff	- present

The Municipal Clerk noted for the record that also present were Mayor Arace, Township Attorney Lauren Staiger, Business Administrator Carl Block, CMFO Diane Lapp, Auditor Andy Zabiega, Captain Komsa, Sgt. Sharry, and Lt. Hemhauser.

Council President Conniff announced that if anyone is here for Ordinances #23-08 and #23-09, they are not on the agenda tonight, but you are welcome to ask questions. They will be on the June 26th meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Arace presented a Proclamation for Flag Day.

BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mayor Arace gave a budget presentation for the public.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2023 BUDGET

Councilwoman Conniff asked if any member of Council had any comments on the 2023 Budget. Seeing no comments from Council, Councilwoman Conniff asked if there were any comments from the public.

Ms. Perry – Thornberry Lane – Mrs. Perry commented on the Manchester Times article and the statements made by the Mayor about the prior administration. She asked that the Mayor and Council move forward and not backwards. Mrs. Perry suggested that the budget adoption be tabled.

Andrew Passman – Appleby Place – Mr. Passman commented that we the residents voted for a new Mayor, and thanked Mayor Arace.

Motion to close public comment was made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins. All in favor, yea.

BUDGET ADOPTION

#23-258 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING READING THE CY2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BY TITLE

Councilwoman Zolezi commented that she does not have confidence in the current budget as presented. She stated that she felt it could be setting the Township up for future increases. Concerned that we are over estimating revenue. Therefore, in good faith she can not support the budget as proposed, and will be voting no.

The above resolution was introduced upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro and seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, and Conniff; yea. Councilwoman Zolezi, no.

#23-259 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, RESOLUTION TO AMEND BUDGET

The above resolution was introduced upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro and seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

#23-260 – BUDGET ADOPTION RESOLUTION

Sheet 41 from the 2023 Budget was read into the record by the Municipal Clerk.

The above budget resolution was introduced upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro and seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, and Conniff; yea. Councilwoman Zolezi, no.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Executive Session Minutes from May 22, 2023 were offered upon a motion made by Councilman Hankins, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro and approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff. Yea.

Regular Minutes from May 22, 2023 were offered upon a motion made by Councilman Hankins, seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Conniff. Yea. Councilwoman Zolezi abstained due to absence.

SUBMISSION OF BILLS

#23-261 - Authorizing payment of bills from the Current Fund in the amount of \$6,724,715.17 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis and were approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff. Yea. Councilwoman Zolezi abstained from Check 71346 for \$543.12.

#23-262 - Authorizing Utility Fund – ESA in the amount of \$208,836.51 were offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis and were approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff. Yea

#23-263 - Authorizing Utility Fund – WSA in the amount of \$152,195.33 were offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis and were approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff. Yea

ORDINANCES - Second Reading, Public Hearing and Final Action

#23-11 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF PORTIONS OF BURNSIDE STREET ABUTTING BLOCK 1.339, LOT 5 AND BLOCK 1.340, LOTS 22-25

Councilwoman Conniff asked if any member of Council had any comments on this ordinance. Seeing no comments from Council, Councilwoman Conniff asked if there were any comments from the public.

John Robinson – Birmingham Drive – Mr. Robinson asked for clarification regarding this ordinance.

The comment period was closed, and the ordinance was approved upon a motion made by Councilman Hankins, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro and was approved by the following roll call: Councilman Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff. Yea

#23-15- ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BLOCK 1.23, LOTS 11, 12 & 13 ON THE MUNICIPAL TAX MAP TO BRAIAN NAVARRO GRANADOS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 (b) AND N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 (SECOND AVENUE; \$57,070.00)

Councilwoman Conniff asked if any member of Council had any comments on this ordinance. Seeing no comments from Council, Councilwoman Conniff asked if there were any comments from the public. Seeing no comments from public.

The comment period was closed, and the ordinance was approved upon a motion made by Councilman Hankins, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro by the following roll call: Councilman Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff. Yea

#23-16 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP CODE CHAPTER 396, ENTITLED “TOWING”

Councilwoman Conniff asked if any member of Council had any comments on this ordinance. Seeing no comments from Council, Councilwoman Conniff asked if there were any comments from the public.

Gail Apgar – Columbus Drive – Ms. Apgar asked for clarification regarding this ordinance.

The comment period was closed, and the ordinance was approved upon a motion made Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis and was approved by the following roll call: Councilman Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff. Yea

#23-17 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF AN EASEMENT ON A PORTION OF BLOCK 75, LOT 82.02, TO JCP&L AND VERIZON, IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 ET SEQ.

Councilwoman Conniff asked if any member of Council had any comments on this ordinance. Seeing no comments from Council, Councilwoman Conniff asked if there were any comments from the public. Seeing no comments from public.

The comment period was closed, and the ordinance was approved upon a motion made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis by the following roll call: Councilman Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff. Yea

#23-18 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING, SUPPLEMENTING AND REPEALING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 316 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, ENTITLED “INVASIVE PLANTS”

Councilwoman Conniff asked if any member of Council had any comments on this ordinance. Seeing no comments from Council, Councilwoman Conniff asked if there were any comments from the public. Seeing no comments from public.

The comment period was closed, and the ordinance was approved upon a motion made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis by the following roll call: Councilman Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff. Yea

ORDINANCES – First Reading & Introduction

#23-19 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 313 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED “PROPERTY MAINTENANCE,” SO AS TO CREATE ARTICLE V, WHICH SHALL BE ENTITLED “RENTAL REGULATIONS; BONDING REQUIREMENTS”

The above ordinance was introduced upon a motion by Councilman Hankins and seconded by Councilman Vaccaro and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

#23-20 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF Ocean, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 242 of the Township code entitled “LANDLORD REGISTRATION”

The above ordinance was introduced upon a motion by Councilman Wallis, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro and approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

#23-21 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 326 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED “RENT LEVELING”

The above ordinance was introduced upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro and seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

#23-22 - BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, APPROPRIATING \$2,000,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,900,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY

The above ordinance was introduced upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro and seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

The items listed below are considered to be routine by the Township of Manchester and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Councilwoman Conniff asked if any member of Council had any comments on any item on the consent agenda.

Seeing no comments from Council, Councilwoman Conniff asked if there were any comments from the public on any items on the consent agenda. No comments from the public.

Resolutions #23-264 - #23-274 were considered routine by the Manchester Township Council and were enacted by one motion offered by Councilman Hankins, seconded by Councilman Wallis and adopted by the following roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff, yea

A. FINANCE

#23-264 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDS REQUESTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR

B. LICENSING

#23-265 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A NEW PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LIQUOR LICENSE TO MORDECHAI EICHORN OF MANCHESTER LIQUORS LLC

C. RECREATION

#23-266 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND THE MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

D. PURCHASING

#23-267 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF BID 21R-10 AWARD FOR UNIFORM SUPPLY AND CLEANING SERVICES TO AMERICAN WEAR UNIFORMS INC.

#23-268 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OR SALVAGE OF A FORFEITED/SEIZED VEHICLE(S) IN THE POSSESSION OF THE TOWNSHIP AT AUCTION ON GOVDEALS.COM

#23-269 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CC# 23-10 TO GABLE ASSOCIATES INC. FOR ENERGY AGGREGATION CONSULTANT COMPETITIVE CONTRACT IN A FAIR AND OPEN MANNER

E. MISCELLANEOUS

#23-270 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE OCEAN COUNTY NATURAL LANDS TRUST PURCHASE (BLOCK 99.346 LOT 2.01)

#23-271 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE GRANT WITH THE OWNER OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT LOCATED AT BIRCHWOOD AT WHITING

#23-272 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE GRANT WITH THE OWNER OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT LOCATED AT BIRCHWOOD AT WHITING

#23-273 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE GRANT WITH THE OWNER OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNIT LOCATED AT BIRCHWOOD AT WHITING

F. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

#23-274 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER CENTER

REPORTS:

Councilman Hankins – Mr. Hankins reminded the public that Manchester Day is on 24th. He commented on recent bear activity, there are flyers in the lobby. Mr. Hankins mentioned that on June 17th & 18th there will be an event at Fort Monmouth, the battle at Monmouth.

Councilman Vaccaro – Mr. Vaccaro thanked our CMFO, Diane and auditor for work on budget. Compliments to the Mayor for his hard work. On May 29th myself, Council and Mayor attended Memorial Day service. Tracy Lynch and staff, It and DPW thanks for all your effort. June 5th attended Planning Board meeting and there was extended discussion regarding ordinances #23-08 and #23-09 which is remanded to council. June 6th Council President and himself attended bi-weekly meeting. On June 7th Councilman Hankins, Mr. Block, CMFO, Chief Dolan, and himself met and reviewed bond ordinance. June 10th myself and Councilman Hankins reviewed bills. He requested again for an update on SAFER grants, EV charging stations, alternative renewal energy and the possibilities of carports over the parking lots with solar. He hoped to have the update by the June 26th Council Meeting.

Councilman Wallis - Mr. Wallis attended the Memorial Day service and thanked Tracy and her staff who did a great job. It was nice to see everyone that came out. Thanked Diane Lapp for her hard work on the budget.

Councilwoman Zolezi – Ms. Zolezi apologize for not being here on May 22nd as she was in Washington, DC as the appointed EPA representative on the Local Government Affairs Committee (LGAC). They had discussions on grant liaisons, collaboration with federal government. Congratulations on the Police promotions, great job. She has the same sentiments with Memorial Day Service, it was a great day and well attended. Manchester Day coming up June 24th. Reminder, with day weather -be conscientious. Check neighbors fire pit and remind them of dry surroundings. Graduations coming up – wishing everyone at school a wonderful summer.

Councilwoman Conniff – Mrs. Conniff acknowledged the work done by Whiting and Ridgeway Fire Company Volunteers. Echo everyone sentiments regarding Memorial Day Service, it was a fantastic event.

Mayor Arace – Everyone has been busy with fires and thanked and commended fire and police especially with the recent bias incident. The owner that lost their house to fire was doing the work themselves, and did not have insurance. \$160,000.00 loss. Habitat for Humanity and community helping out. They do have a go fund me account set up.

Captain Komsa – Capt. Komsa commented that the Police Department have opened up our entrance test. We are looking for a good turnout.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Lynch – Bridle Way – Mr. Lynch read aloud a poem that referenced peace and respect.

Terri Miles – Wellington Avenue – Mrs. Miles states that she attended the Planning Board meeting and felt the language on the ordinance is vague. Regular meetings and small gatherings should be refined. She asked who we report to when a town ordinance is being violated.

Vanessa Cisneros – Midway Ave. – Ms. Cisnero inquired about the enforcement of the rental ordinances. Mayor responded and clarified ordinances. She feels her neighbors are now retaliating with throwing garbage over the fence on her property and there was a physical altercation between them and her minor child.

Stephanie Herburger - Somebody Cares Executive Director – Mrs. Herburger read several pages with all the work and description of what Somebody Cares does and continued to complain that about the legal advisors that are on the board. She said she checked into legal action but no one will take on the case. Council President asked if legal council could speak to her after the meeting.

Gail Apgar – Mrs. Apgar defended lawyer from Somebody Cares, and stated they are very helpful to the residents.

Tom Donner – Whiting Fire Department – Mr. Donner stated that he has concerns regarding the 2023 budget and the money for equipment and gear that was already spent. He felt the volunteers do not get respect they deserve compared to the paid employees. He has 22-year-old tires that still need to be replaced on a fire department vehicle.

Mayor Arace responded. The \$45,000.00 in the capitol budget is there, there must be miscommunication.

Councilman Hankins stated we are working on addressing the issues, please give them time. The Mayor and two other Council members have only been on the Governing Body for six months, and they are trying to work on the issues.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further comments or business to come before Council at this time, a motion to close to public comments and adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm was made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis approved by the following roll call: Councilman Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff.

Roxy Conniff
Council President

Teri Giercyk, RMC, CMC
Municipal Clerk

6/26/2023
Date Approved