

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 28, 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   | - absent  |
| 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, Mayor Arace, Chief Dolan, Tax Assessor Martin Lynch, and Director of Emergency Services Bobby Baran.

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

Mayor Arace read Constitution Week proclamation and presented it to Ginny Haines, Ocean County Commissioner, who is a member of the Daughter’s of the Revolution.

Mayor Arace read National Overdose Awareness proclamation and presented it to Barbara Sprechman, Municipal Alliance Coordinator.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Regular and Execution Meeting Minutes from August 14, 2023, were approved upon a motion made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis, and approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, and Conniff; yea. Zolezi abstained due to absence. Mr. Hankins, absent.

**SUBMISSION OF BILLS**

**#23-340** – Authorizing payment of bills from the Current Fund in the amount of \$1,188,068.99. Councilman Vaccaro stated he examined the bills with Councilman Hankins. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis, and were approved upon the following roll call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Mr. Hankins, absent.

**#23-341** – Authorizing payment of bills from the Utility Fund – ESA in the amount of \$548,108.56 was approved upon a motion made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis, and approved upon the following roll call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Mr. Hankins, absent.

**#23-342** – Authorizing payment of bills from the Utility Fund – WSA in the amount of \$465,601.19 was approved upon a motion made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis, and approved upon the following roll call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Mr. Hankins, absent.

**ORDINANCES - Second Reading, Public Hearing and Final Action**

**#23-25 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXCHANGE OF LANDS (BLOCK 1.327, LOTS 15 & 17 FOR BLOCK 1.21, LOT 30) BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND JEFFREY JERMAN PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-16**

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, Councilman Wallis made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro. Roll Call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Mr. Hankins absent.

**#23-26 - ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BLOCK 1.15, LOT 15 ON THE MUNICIPAL TAX MAP TO JEFFREY R. JERMAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 (b) AND N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 (2128 FIRST AVENUE; \$45,000.00)**

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, Councilman Vaccaro made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Wallis. Roll Call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Mr. Hankins absent.

**#23-27 - ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BLOCK 1.345, LOT 30 ON THE MUNICIPAL TAX MAP TO JEFFREY R. JERMAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 (b) AND N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 (833 ENGLEMERE AVENUE; \$45,000.00)**

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, Councilman Wallis made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro. Roll Call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Mr. Hankins absent.

**#23-28 - ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BLOCK 1.348, LOT 1 ON THE MUNICIPAL TAX MAP TO BRECKENRIDGE PROPERTIES, LLC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 (b) AND N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 (501 ENGLEMERE AVENUE; \$25,000.00)**

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, Councilman Vaccaro made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Wallis. Roll Call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Mr. Hankins absent.

**#23-29 - ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BLOCK 1.274, Lot 13 ON THE MUNICIPAL TAX MAP TO MOSHE WOLFSON IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 (b) AND N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 (MADISON AVENUE; \$9,800.00)**

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.

Edward Lynch – Bride Way- Mr. Lync want to confirm the specific property being sold. Teri read Martin Lynch’s letter stating, property is 49 x 100 irregular lot located at 533 Madison Avenue.

Seeing no other comments from public, Councilman Wallis made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro. Roll Call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Mr. Hankins absent.

**#23-30 - ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 7 TRAFFIC, SECTION 7- 24 MULTI-WAY STOP INTERSECTIONS**

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, Councilman Vaccaro made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Wallis. Roll Call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Mr. Hankins absent.

**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.

Seeing no comments from the public, Councilwoman Conniff closed this portion of the meeting.

**Resolutions #23-343-#23-350 were offered by one motion by Councilman Wallis, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro and approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff, yea. Mr. Hankins, absent.**

**A. FINANCE**

**#23-343 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAXES AS TO BLOCK 61.16 LOT 128 FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, 128 ELEANOR ROAD**

**#23-344 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAXES AS TO BLOCK 30 LOT 1.78 FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, 17 ARDEN DRIVE**

**#23-345 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAXES AS TO BLOCK 52.16 LOT 14 FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, 28 GLADSTONE AVENUE**

**#23-346 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAXES AS TO BLOCK 75.134 LOT 50 FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, 15 ASHLEY ROAD**

**#23-347 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAXES AS TO BLOCK 61.13 LOT 104 FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN, 2 ISABELLA DRIVE**

**#23-348 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDS REQUEST BY THE TAX COLLECTOR**

**#23-349 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF OPEN TAXES FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP**

## **B. RECREATION**

**#23-350 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT BETWEEN MANCHESTER RECREATION AND MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL**

### **REPORTS:**

**Councilman Vaccaro** – On August 22<sup>nd</sup> Council President Conniff and he attended the bi-weekly meeting. On August 23<sup>rd</sup> Council President Conniff, Mr. Block, and he attended a Citizens Advisory meeting. On August 24<sup>th</sup> he attended the zoning meeting. On August 25<sup>th</sup> along with Mr. Hankins, reviewed the monthly bills. On Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> Council President Conniff, Mr. & Mrs. Wallis, Councilwoman Zolezi, Councilman Hankins, Mayor Arace, and he attended Manchester Day.

Covid is now spiking again with two new strains. With, he suggested to the public to protect yourself, family members and neighbors. If it continues to rise, he felt the Township should resume volunteer testing.

He suggested that the Council and administration oppose the NJ Bureau of Public Utilities and the new Senate bills. He further encouraged them to research to find federal funding with the kidney dialysis transportation program. It could be run out of Senior Services Department. Also, he recommended establishing a hospital and healthcare facility in Manchester. No one should have to travel for healthcare. It would also create new jobs. Atlantic Care in Manahawkin just opened a 40,000 sq. ft. center creating employment for 100 people. He wished everyone a great and healthy Labor Day.

**Councilman Wallis** – Mr. Wallis mentioned that the Veterans Committee flags of honor finally came in. They will be up for the various seasons and events. \$100.00 each and they are not making any money as the cost was \$96.00. They are 4x6 flags. Get one to support the veterans. Tracy and the recreation department worked very hard the last few weeks putting everything together, along with the Public Works Department and the Police Department. He mentioned that Congressman Smith was at Manchester Day.

**Councilwoman Zolezi** – Manchester Day was a great event. All the groups do a wonderful job, and we are proud of them. It was Tracy's birthday, and she changed her plans with the rescheduled date of Manchester Day. She was walking around near the Police tent and overheard a resident expressing to the police what a great job they do. She commended the Chief and the police department. She is grateful to the police and EMS. It is sad that summer is ending, but Happy Labor Day. Sports season is starting, congratulations to Manchester HS football team on their season opener win.

**Council President Conniff** – She would like to echo everyone's sentiments on Manchester Day. Great job by the recreation department. Per Mr. Vaccaro's report, she also attended the planned endorsement meeting last week, and we are planning a resolution for next month opposing the senate bills. We will be having community input meetings coming up in the fall, please come out.

**Mayor Arace** – As the council commented, Manchester Day was wonderful. There also was a car show in the Whiting Town Center. It was a great event for local businesses.

**Chief Dolan** – There are two Scott pack devices that are being donated to the fire department. They were bought with American Rescue Plan funds. Along with Bobby Baran's efforts and Council, we were able to obtain a \$34,000.00 grant. With the grant, the Township matches funds. We were able to purchase 8 new SCBA.

All fire companies have been very busy. Since the start of the pandemic, the Manchester fire companies have responded to over 2500 calls. The Mayor and Chief presented the Scott pack to the assist chief at Manchester Fire Company. September 7<sup>th</sup>, school is opening. We will be putting the signboards out.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Judy Noonan – Stoneybrook Rd. – She stated that she is here as a resident. The Recreation Department does a great job but also thanked the EMT’s. She went over a movie and a short story. She stated that she is at the end of the line with BPU, Governor Murphy, and Biden. It is time to stand up and push back. People need to start paying attention: electric bills, windmills, etc. When does it end?

Gail Abgar – Columbus Blvd. – Since speaking with the Mayor, the petition for the parkway got squashed, since it’s going through. She wanted to make sure the police knew about the rumors going around that people are breaking into air conditioning lines to inhale the gas.

Joe Markowski – Eleanor Rd. – He stated that he is new to town and asked how long it takes for ordinance #23-30 to go into effect. When will the signs go up in Holly Oaks? Mayor said DPW will give him an approximate date for the signage. He will keep the residents informed. Lauren mentioned that the ordinance does not go into effect until 20 days after adoption.

Judy Kuhmichel – Winkle Court – At the new Dollar Tree, there is a chain link fence separating the property next door at the doctor’s office. It is falling apart and is an eyesore. The Mayor stated that he will have someone go and look at it.

Mr. Vaccaro made a motion to close to the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Mr. Wallis. All in favor.

Mayor – A few more comments, at the Whiting EMS, we are rolling out community services. Judy will be working with the county, and they will have someone there three days a week helping with pension questions. Also, we have now preserved 35 acres of land at Cherry Street. There will be four single family homes being built to be donated to veterans.

**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 6:45 pm was made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis, and approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Mr. Hankins, absent.

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Roxy Conniff  
Council President

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Teri Giercyk, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk

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9/11/2023  
Date Approved