

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 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 via Teams
Councilman James Vaccaro	- present
Councilman Craig Wallis	- present
Councilwoman Michele Zolezi	- present
Councilwoman Roxy Conniff	- present

The Municipal Clerk also noted for the record that also present were Mayor Arace, Township Attorney Lauren Staiger, Business Administrator Carl Block, Mayor Arace, CMFO Diane Lapp, and Chief Dolan.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Arace read POW-MIA Recognition Day and presented it to Robert Grenier.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Regular and Execution Meeting Minutes from August 28, 2023, were approved upon a motion made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Councilman Hankins abstained due to absence.

Special Meeting Minutes from September 6, 2023, were approved upon a motion made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

SUBMISSION OF BILLS

#23-352 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Current Fund in the amount of \$6,349,731.07. 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 Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Councilwoman Zolezi abstained from check #71979-\$142.51, check #72018-\$3,419.22, and check #2837-\$152,930.62.

#23-353 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Utility Fund – ESA in the amount of \$295,392.49 was approved upon a motion made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis, and approved upon the following roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

#23-354 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Utility Fund – WSA in the amount of \$122,414.27 was approved upon a motion made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis, and approved upon the following roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

ORDINANCES – First Reading and Introduction

#23-31 –ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BLOCK 99.17, LOT 2 ON THE MUNICIPAL TAX MAP TO ADAM AND SHELLY LOWE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40a:12-13 (b) AND N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 (451 FOSTER STREET; \$403.00)

Councilwoman Conniff asked if any member of Council had any comments on this ordinance. Seeing no comments from Council, Councilman Vaccaro made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Wallis. Roll Call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

#23-32 - ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BLOCK 99.17, LOT 36 ON THE MUNICIPAL TAX MAP TO ADAM AND SHELLY LOWE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 (b) AND N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 (400 BLEEKER STREET, \$672.00)

Councilwoman Conniff asked if any member of Council had any comments on this ordinance. Seeing no comments from Council, Councilman Vaccaro made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Wallis. Roll Call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

#23-33 - ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BLOCK 99.17, LOT 42 ON THE MUNICIPAL TAX MAP TO ADAM LOWE AND SHELLY LOWE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 (b) AND N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 (460 BLEEKER STREET; \$403.00)

Councilwoman Conniff asked if any member of Council had any comments on this ordinance. Seeing no comments from Council, Councilman Vaccaro made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Wallis. Roll Call: 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.

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

Resolutions #23-355 - #23-366 were offered by one motion by Councilman Zolezi, seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff, yea.

A. FINANCE

#23-355 - 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 54 FOR A WIDOW OF A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN (46 DRAYTON ROAD)

#23-356 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF OPEN TAXES FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP

#23-357 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDS REQUESTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR

#23-358 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDS REQUESTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR

B. MUNICIPAL CLERK

#23-359 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL CLERK TO EXECUTE TWO NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

C. PURCHASING

#23-360 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT FOR ENERGY AND ENERGY RELATED SERVICES WITH THE ALLIANCE FOR COMPETITIVE ENERGY SERVICES (ACES), AND AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ACESPLUS PROGRAM FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSULTING SERVICES

#23-361 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF COOPERATIVE CONTRACT WITH GABEL ASSOCIATES INC. CONSULTANT SERVICES THROUGH THE ACESPLUS PROGRAM IN THE ALLIANCE FOR COMPETITIVE ENERGY SERVICES NJSBA COOPERATIVE

D. BONDS/ESCROWS

#23-362 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING AN ESCROW POSTED BY US HOME, LLC, BLOCK 109 LOTS 14.01,14.02, & 15.01 (LACEY ROAD AND CHERRY STREET)

#23-363 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING AN ESCROW POSTED BY LEISURE VILLAGE WEST ASSOCIATION, BLOCK 38.75 LOT 1 (LED SIGN)

E. MISCELLANEOUS

#23-364 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, OPPOSING RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN BY NJBPU AND SENATE BILL 3672 / ASSEMBLY BILL 5591

#23-365 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING ACTIVITIES AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL PARK IN CONNECTION WITH ARISTACARE'S AWARENESS WALK

F. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

#23-366 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR SEWER INTERCONNECTION WITH THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST

REPORTS:

Councilman Hankins – No report.

Councilman Vaccaro – On 9/5 Council President Conniff and himself attended the bi-weekly meeting. On 9/5 in the evening, he attended the Planning Board meeting. On 9/6 Council members and himself attended the Special Council meeting for energy aggregation. There was a no-award resolution. All residents will go back to JCP&L, as they have the lower kilowatt rate. On Sunday, 9/10, Councilman Hankins and himself reviewed the bills. Today he attended the 9/11 ceremony. He thanked Tracey Lynch and staff at the recreation department for making a perfect tribute. He thanked my colleagues for passing resolutions opposing Senate bill 3672 and Assembly bill 5591. Reminder, tax bills are due September 15th. Also, a friendly reminder, be careful as school buses are loading and unloading, and children are walking.

Councilman Wallis – No report.

Councilwoman Zolezi – She agreed with everyone's sentiments, the 9/11 ceremony was wonderful. She stated that we all remember where we were on that date. Life is precious. We all worked together at that time. She thanked the 1st responders.

Council President Conniff – Mr. Vaccaro covered it all. She reminded the residents that you do not have to do anything, you will automatically go back to JCP&L regarding energy aggregation. We will go back out to bid in the spring. She thanked Tracey, the volunteers, and the 1st responders. It was a beautiful 9/11 ceremony. Welcome back to all students.

Mayor Arace – No report.

Chief Dolan – School is back in session. Today's 9/11 ceremony was well attended.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Donna McGlashan – Medford Rd. – Complaints regarding the water department and billing. She stated that she will be meeting with the Mayor on Wednesday.

With no other public comments, a motion to close public portion was made by Councilman Wallis, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro. Roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

#23-367 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2 OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, CHAPTER 231, PUBLIC LAWS OF 1975

Councilman Wallis made a motion to go into closed session at 6:25 p.m., seconded by Councilman Vaccaro. Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

Motion by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis to leave closed session and resume public session at 7:58 p.m. Roll call: Council Members Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

Motion was made to reconvene public session at 7:58 p.m. was made by Councilman Wallis, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro. Roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

Motion was made by Mr. Wallis to add resolutions #23-368 and #23-369 to the meeting agenda, seconded by Mr. Vaccaro. Roll call: Council Members Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

#23-368 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND OPEIU LOCAL 32 BLUE COLLAR EMPLOYEES

The above resolution was approved upon a motion made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis. Roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

#23-369 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER

The above resolution was approved upon a motion made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis. Roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further comments or business to come before Council at this time, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm was made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis, and approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

Roxy Conniff
Council President

Teri Giercyk, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

9/25/2023
Date Approved