

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 6, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Manchester Township Council was called to order at 2:00 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.”

ROLL CALL

The following roll call was taken by the Municipal Clerk.

Councilman Hankins	- present
Councilman Vaccaro	- present
Councilman Wallis	- present
Councilwoman Zolezi	- present
Council President Conniff	- present

The Municipal Clerk noted for the record that also present were attorney Lauren Staiger, Administrator Carl Block, Loren Altshuler and Bob Chilton from Gabel Associates.

Loren Altshuler gave a brief summary regarding the bid for energy aggregation. There were two eligible bidders. 11.595 cents per kilowatt per hour. JCP&L is currently a little over 10 cents. The old contract was 8.58 cents. Gabel recommended denying the bid and approving the no award resolution. The bid can be kept open for 90 days, but we don't see a better rate being submitted.

Mr. Wallis – Since there were two bidders, how do you determine who is qualified? Loren Altshuler explained the process for eligibility. Also, anyone who has been previously qualified can bid within the 90-day period.

RESOLUTIONS:

PURCHASING:

#23-351 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO A THIRD PARTY POWER SUPPLIER TO PROVIDE ELECTRIC GENERATION SERVICE TO MANCHESTER ENERGY AGGREGATION PROCUREMENT COOPERATIVE (MEAPC) PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT ENERGY AGGREGATION SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MEAPC PROGRAM PURSUANT TO N.J.A.C. 14:4-6.1 ET. SEQ.

Teri read Resolution #23-351 approving no contract being awarded and was approved upon a motion made by Councilman Wallis, seconded by Councilwoman Zolezi. Roll Call: Council Members: Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nancy Hysing – Hollybrook Rd – When does the contract and pricing end? Loren responded in December with the meter read, automatically all accounts go back to JCP&L.

Councilwoman Zolezi – Do the residents start with a clean balance with JCP&L? Loren explained that if the customer is on a budget plan, they will have to pay any balance owed.

Councilman Vaccaro – Will JCP&L require a security deposit if money is owed? Bob Chilton responded, no additional security, as they are existing customers.

Michael – California Drive – Rates controlled by BPU, so in January, we won't get a large increase. Residents get inundated with literature from other companies for better rates, but it is only for a short time then the rates go up. The residents need to be cautious.

Councilman Vaccaro – Some senior residents have no technology or cellphones? Can something be sent via snail mail? Loren stated that once she writes up the statement for the website, the Township can do whatever they like with the statement. Mr. Vaccaro said even if every clubhouse could post it, that would help.

Kathy Langenbacher – Montgomery – I am a senior and have a cellphone and can use technology. Two questions, if I get an estimated bill, which rate will I be paying? Also, can I presume since JCP&L price is lower, we are all going to JCP&L? Loren answered.

Louisa – Crestwood Village 2 – Whose here is from Gabel? She asked them directly, if I get a better rate, would you negotiate? Bob explained the bid process and how Gabel works for the Township.

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 2:28 pm was made by Councilman Hankins, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro, 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

9/11/2023
Date Approved