

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 2024**

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

“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	- absent
Councilwoman Michele Zolezi	- present
Councilwoman Roxy Conniff	- present

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

Council President Conniff noted for the record that Congressman Chris Smith was in attendance in the audience.

MAYOR APPOINTMENTS

Mayor appointments read into the record by Teri Giercyk.

Appointing the following members to the Planning Board:

1. Class II Member: Sandy Drake

Appointing the following members to the Zoning Board of Adjustment:

1. Alternate 1 Member: Dominick Tedeschi
2. Alternate 2 Member: Gina Georgiano

Appointing the following members to the Rent Leveling Board:

1. Landlord Representative Member: Diane Oresto
2. Landlord Representative Alternate: Erich Gordon

PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation for Four Chaplains Day read by Mayor Arace and presented to Roger Grenier.

STATE OF MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP STATEMENT

Mayor Arace gave the State of the Township Address.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The regular meeting minutes of December 18, 2023 was offered upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilwoman Zolezi and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, and Zolezi; yea. Mr. Hankins and Mrs. Conniff abstain due to absence. Mr. Wallis, absent.

The reorganization meeting minutes of January 2, 2024 was offered upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea. Mr. Wallis, absent.

SUBMISSION OF BILLS

#23-68– Authorizing payment of bills from the Current Fund in the amount of \$2,926,987.26 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea. Mr. Wallis, absent.

#23-69 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Eastern Service Area in the amount of \$57,801.67 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea. Mr. Wallis, absent.

#23-70 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Western Service Area in the amount of \$56,332.70 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea. Mr. Wallis, absent.

ORDINANCES – Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Final Action

#24-01 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING SALARY RANGES AND POSITIONS OF NON –BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES

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 Hankins. Roll Call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea. Mr. Wallis, absent.

#24-02 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 62, LOTS 30 & 31.01

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 Hankins. Roll Call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea. Mr. Wallis, 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.

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

Seeing no comments from Council, Council President 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 #24-71 - #24-88, were considered routine by the Manchester Township Council and were enacted by one motion offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins and adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea. Mr. Wallis, absent.

A. FINANCE

#24-71 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAXES AS TO BLOCK 1.27, LOT 34 FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN

#24-72 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ADOPTING AN UPDATED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH EMPOWER 457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

B. RECREATION

#24-73 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

C. PURCHASING

#24-74 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, GRANTING AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL OF CERTAIN PURCHASES THROUGH NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASING COOPERATIVES FOR 2024

#24-75 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, GRANTING AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL OF CERTAIN PURCHASES IN EXCESS OF THE BID THRESHOLD THROUGH NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACTS AND/OR PURCHASING COOPERATIVES FOR 2024

D. BONDS/ESCROWS

#24-76 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING AN ESCROW POSTED BY LESLIE RAMDEEN FOR A PROJECT LOCATED AT BLOCK 1.072 LOT 23 (940 BROADWAY BLVD)

#24-77 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING ESCROWS POSTED BY JEFFREY R. JERMAN FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS

#24-78 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING AN ESCROW POSTED BY SUNCREST VILLAGE AT MANCHESTER FOR A PROJECT LOCATED AT BLOCK 44 LOT 20 (2218 BENCHLEY COURT)

#24-79 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING AN ESCROW POSTED BY EMIL HARTEL FOR A PROJECT LOCATED AT BLOCK 70 LOTS 14&15 (ALBA'S RESTAURANT)

#24-80 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING ESCROWS POSTED BY MARK PROPERTIES, LLC FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS

#24-81 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING AN ESCROW POSTED BY AMERCO REAL ESTATE (BLOCK 15 LOT 1.02) 2317 HIGHWAY 70

#24-82 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING AN ESCROW POSTED BY DEREK ARNOLD FOR A PROJECT LOCATED AT BLOCK 1.41 LOT 11 (1316 THIRD AVENUE)

E. APPOINTMENT

#24-83 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO BRUNO ASSOCIATES, INC. AS GRANTS CONSULTANT PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 ET SEQ

#24-84 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPOINTING ROXANNE CONNIFF AND MICHELE ZOLEZI AS TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

F. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

#24-85 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AMENDED AGREEMENT FOR A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF OCEAN COUNTY ROUTE 530 (PINEWALD-KESWICK ROAD) AND CONGASIA ROAD

#24-86 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND THE COUNTY OF OCEAN FOR FY2024 FOR CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINT PROGRAM

#24-87 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE, 1033 PROGRAM TO ENABLE THE MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST AND ACQUIRE EXCESS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT

#24-88 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION CODE SERVICES BETWEEN MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP AND THE BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST

REPORTS:

Mr. Hankins: Mr. Hankins gave an update regarding the fire sprinkler bill signed by the Governor. He mentioned that there were some updates to the property tax credit program for seniors. Mr. Hankins informed the public that our Tax Assessor Martin Lynch will be hosting informational sessions for the residents. Dates are listed on our website.

Mr. Vaccaro: Mr. Vaccaro attended various meetings including the Planning Board, Bi-weekly, and the Police Department awards ceremony, at which he congratulated everyone. He attended the Ridgeway Volunteer Fire installation on 1/20, 1/21 reviewed the bills with Hankins, 1/22 Manchester Coordinating Council meeting at Crestwood Village 5 club; where Martin Lynch was present to discuss the reassessment, and Rob Sharry and county OES were also present. Thanked the Mayor for his informative State of the Township address and thanked everyone for the time allowed to speak.

Ms. Zolezi: Mrs. Zolezi attended the Police Department awards ceremony and congratulated everyone. She mentioned that our officers deal with a lot of serious situations daily, and all our emergency services do an excellent job. Ms. Zolezi commented on the passing of Mr. B and stated that we have a wonderful community with wonderful people who try to make the town and people better. She thanked the Mayor for his State of the Township address.

Mrs. Conniff: Mrs. Conniff expressed her condolences for the passing of Mr. B and sentiments, and stated he was a fantastic bus driver.

Chief Dolan: Chief Dolan reminded the public to monitor our social media pages for information on events. He stated that the 2023 annual report will be on the website soon, we answered over 1000 more calls this year, accidents were down, and our dispatchers handled 710,000 pieces of radio traffic. Chief Dolan thanked everyone for their support.

PUBLIC:

Mark King, Montgomery Ave.: Mr. King commented on some plowing issues he had during the most recent snowstorm. He moved his vehicles as requested, but then had an emergency and could not get out, because his road was not plowed. He was told by a Township employee that dead ends and cul-de-sacs were not a priority.

Mayor responded that he would follow up with Al Yodakis, and thanked Mr. King for bringing it to our attention.

Donna McGlashan, Medford Road: Ms. McGlashan commented on various issues including water department billing, and EMS billing. Please address these issues.

Gail Apgar, Columbus Blvd.: Ms. Apgar commented on the recent accidents of people driving into buildings all the time and inquired about the building requirements to protect them.

Councilwoman Zolezi commented that the bollard requirements for properties, is brought up at the Planning Board meetings.

William Barron, Parkview Blvd. Mr. Barron inquired when the sprinklers law would go into effect.

Councilman Hankins responded that there is no specific date, and there will be further discussions with sprinkler fitters.

Kevin McGuire, Drake Street: Mr. McGuire spoke regarding the correspondence he sent to Council regarding a dog issue. He is aware that he may need to take Civil action against the dog owner. He stated he was not too happy about the court process. He thanked everyone for their time.

Lauren Staiger commented that she cannot give legal advice to individuals and stated that there are various steps that need to be taken to enforce the vicious dog statute.

Congressman Chris Smith, Molly Pitcher Blvd.: Congressman thanked the Mayor and Council for their leadership and stated that he works very closely with the Township. His office is currently working on funding the base water issues, and for the Manchester Police Department. He stated that Manchester has a great Mayor and Council.

Jen Emer, Riverside Avenue: Ms. Emer had some reassessment questions. She asked if there will be informational sessions regarding the reassessment.

Mayor stated that every home will be paying taxes, and the acreage does not exist for religious house exception in Pine Lake Park. Residential cannot be used for commercial, TDVs approved with proof.

Councilwoman Zolezi commented that it is important to remember that the information provided on social media may not be the correct information, and please reach out for the correct information from the Township.

Kevin McGuire, Drake Street: Mr. Drake voiced his displeasure about the situation in the Gaza Strip.

No further public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or business to come before Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following Roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea. Mr. Wallis, absent.

Roxanne Conniff
Council President

Teri Giercyk, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

2/12/2024
Date Approved