

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 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	- present
Councilwoman Michele Zolezi	- present
Councilwoman Roxy Conniff	- present

The Municipal Clerk noted for the record that also present were Attorney Chris Dasti and Brigit Zahler from his office, Business Administrator Carl Block, Mayor Robert Arace, Chief Dolan, Capt. Manco, and Mark Rohmeyer from Morgan Engineering.

Mayoral Appointments – Read into Record

Economic Development Committee:

Member – Paula Fazio-Escuerdo

Member – Felicia Finn

PRESENTATION

Habitat for Humanity Award Presentation – (house located at 1709 Highway 539). Kristine Novakowski presented the plaque to the Mayor and Council. She thanked the Mayor and Council for their support.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The regular meeting minutes of February 12, 2024 was offered upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Coniff, yea.

SUBMISSION OF BILLS

#23-128– Authorizing payment of bills from the Current Fund in the amount of \$2,149,354.46 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Coniff, yea.

#23-129 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Eastern Service Area in the amount of \$429,582.43 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Coniff, yea.

#23-130 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Western Service Area in the amount of \$26,201.30 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Coniff, yea.

ORDINANCES – Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Final Action

#24-03 – ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BLOCK 1.21, LOT 30 ON THE MUNICIPAL TAX MAP TO KRISTINE LAPORTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 (b) AND N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 (2033 First Avenue; \$20,000.00)

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

#24-04 - ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF BLOCK 54, LOT 1, TO THE COUNTY OF OCEAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 ET SEQ. (3145 RIDGEWAY ROAD)

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, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

#24-05 - ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT"

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, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

#24-06 - 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, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

ORDINANCES – First Reading and Introduction

#24-07 - ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF BLOCK 108.01, LOT 4 ON THE MUNICIPAL TAX MAP TO PATRICIA A. FARRO and MICHAEL FARRO JR., IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 (b) AND N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.2 (4 DIAMOND ROAD; \$12,400.00)

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

#24-08 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 430 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, ENTITLED "WATER AND SEWER"

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

#24-09 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AMEND APPENDIX OF CHAPTER 245, ENTITLED ZONING MAP

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 Hankins. Roll Call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea. Mark Rohmeyer, Morgan Engineering was present if anyone had any questions.

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 #24-131 - #24-150, 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, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

A. FINANCE

#24-131 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDS REQUESTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR

#24-132 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDS REQUESTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR

B. LICENSING

#24-133- RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING PRECIOUS GEM LICENSES FOR CRESTWOOD JEWELERS FOR LOCATIONS LOCATED AT 108 LACEY ROAD AND 1009 ROUTE 70

C. GRANTS

#24-134 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR FY 2023 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG)

#24-135 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO OBTAIN A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR THE MANCHESTER LITTLE LEAGUE COMPLEX

#24-136 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION TO THE NJ CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

D. RECREATION

#24-137 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP & CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS APPLICATION FROM FIRSTENERGY CORPORATION

#24-138 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH JOEY ARMINIO & “THE FAMILY”, LLP IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 7TH, 2024 CONCERT BY “STILETTO & THE SAXMAN”

#24-139 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE CAMEOS IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 7TH, 2024 CONCERT

#24-140 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AWARDING A CONTRACT TO D&M FIREWORKS, LLC FOR A FIREWORKS EXHIBITION TO BE CONDUCTED ON BEHALF OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER

E. PURCHASING

#24-141 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF AWARD OF BID 23-06 CHEMICAL SUPPLY BID WATER UTILITY TO MIRACLE CHEMICAL COMPANY

#24-142 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AWARDING RFP 23RR-15 TO REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS FOR CERTIFIED TAX MAP PREPARATION IN A FAIR AND OPEN MANNER

F. BONDS/ESCROWS

#24-143 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING ESCROWS POSTED BY TFE&U CORP. FOR VARIOUS PROPERTIES

#24-144 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING RESOLUTION #24-102 RELEASING PERFORMANCE BOND AND CASH ESCROW FOR AN ENTITY KNOWN AS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TOMS RIVER FOR BLOCK 1 LOT 3 (1681 RIDGEWAY ROAD)

G. APPOINTMENT

#24-145 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPOINTING CONNER R. FERINO TO FILL A VACANT FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER POSITIONS WITHIN THE DIVISION OF POLICE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER

H. MISCELLANEOUS

#24-146 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, OPPOSING THE MARCH 2024 TOLL HIKE BY THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

I. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

#24-147 – RESOLUTION OF THE MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF VARIOUS DOCUMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP IN CONNECTION WITH THE LANDFILL SOLAR PROJECT

#24-148 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND OPEIU LOCAL 32 WHITE COLLAR UNIT

#24-149 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SIDE LETTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND OPEIU LOCAL 32 WHITE COLLAR UNIT REGARDING MUNICIPAL COURT SHARED SERVICES

#24-150 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SIDE LETTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND OPEIU LOCAL 32 SUPERVISORY UNIT REGARDING MUNICIPAL COURT SHARED SERVICES

REPORTS:

Mr. Hankins: On February 22nd I had the opportunity to speak at the state assembly on public safety. Assembly Danielson is willing to help and maybe we can start keeping volunteers. Also, Congressman Chris Smith and I spoke about Safer grants, and he is in support of grants.

Mr. Vaccaro: Thank you, Council President Conniff. On February 15th, myself, Councilman Hankins, and Mayor Arace attended the ceremony honoring Lt. Komsa's retirement. February 22nd myself and Council President Conniff attended the bi-weekly meeting to prepare for tonight's meeting. February 24th myself and Councilman Hankins reviewed the bills. February 26th I attended the coordinating council meeting. Melissa DePalma from senior outreach was the speaker. We were honored to have Legislators Amato, Rumpf and Myhre attend. I want to thank Council for passing resolution #24-146 opposing toll increases. I would ask that the council look into future grants for senior services center/youth center. I would also ask that Council support marketing Manchester Township to secure businesses, health care village, etc. while keeping the rural feel of Manchester Township.

Mr. Wallis: I would like to add to Councilman's Vaccaro's report. In regard to a senior/youth center, my suggestion would be that council president form a committee to the need, and location to where it would go.

Ms. Zolezi: I attended a US EPA Meeting and was just re-appointed to a two-year term to the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) - Small Community Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS) which is an independent, policy-oriented advisory committee that provides advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on critical environmental issues impacting local governments. The mission is to improve and protect the health of people and the environment in which they live. We deal with sustainability and influence funding. Discussion on lead and cooper rule and will attend a meeting in Washington. I want to thank the Police Department and EMS who do an excellent job.

Mrs. Conniff: The Habitat for Humanity did an amazing job with the house project. It was an incredible job.

Chief Dolan: I want to thank the council for appointing Connor Ferino who will be sworn in on March 4th. He is a Manchester resident. On March 20th from 9 to 11 am, we will be having coffee with a cop at the Whiting

Starbucks. Also on April 3rd, we are having pizza with the police from 5-7 pm at Café Napoli in the Shoprite Plaza.

PUBLIC:

Donna McGlashon – Medford Rd. – I wanted to talk about the EMT bill that I should not have received. They did correct it. I am concerned that other residents are getting bills they shouldn't be. Also, I am concerned about the water quality in Manchester. Can we look at windmills or solar to help offset costs? Also, I am disappointed that the Mayor is thinking about leaving.

Mayor – We have implemented a 10-year water plan. Also, I do not feel I am leaving. In 30 years, no one from Manchester has been at the County level. The Council and I have a vision. We are looking into a solar plan at the landfill.

Councilman Hankins – you should ask the residents of Ocean Gate about windmills. They have issues.

Gail Apgar – Columbus Blvd. – I am against windmills. I think they belong in Europe where they have no gas. We are doing something now with some solar at the dumps. I didn't hear the Mayor was leaving, will a new Mayor be appointed or elected if that happens?

Mayor – Council will appoint a new Mayor and in the following year an election for Mayor.

With no further public comments, Council President Conniff asked for a motion to close public comment. A motion was made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins. All yeas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

#24-151 - 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

A motion was made to go into executive session by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following Roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

A motion was made to come out of executive session by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following 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, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. upon a motion by Councilman Wallis, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro and approved by the following Roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

Roxanne Conniff
Council President

Teri Giercyk, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

3/11/2024
Date Approved