

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 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	- present
Councilwoman Michele Zolezi	- present
Councilwoman Roxy Conniff	- present

The Municipal Clerk noted for the record that also present were Township Attorney Lauren Staiger, Mayor Robert Arace, Business Administrator Carl Block, CFO Diane Lapp, Al Yodakis, Tracy Lynch, Mark Rohmeyer of Morgan Engineering, Chief Dolan, and Lt. Ellis.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Mayor Arace read and presented the following proclamations:

Silver Star Banner Day (5/1) award to Roger Grenier

Professional Municipal Clerks Week (5/5-5/11) award to Teri Giercyk

Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (4/15-4/19) award to Chief Dolan

Teri Giercyk read the Budget Introduction Resolution into the record. The public hearing will be Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

Motion to introduce budget was made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Coniff, yea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The regular meeting minutes of April 8, 2024, were 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

#24-205 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Current Fund in the amount of \$7,403,837.68 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. Ms. Zolezi abstained from check #73334 in the amount of \$679.80.

#24-206 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Eastern Service Area in the amount of \$147,657.73 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.

#24-207 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Western Service Area in the amount of \$111,379.42 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

#24-16 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 245, LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER

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 close public comments and approve, seconded by Councilman Hankins. 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.

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 #24-208 - #24-221, 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

#24-208 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDS REQUESTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR

#24-209 – 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 1.18 FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN

#24-210 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING THE CIRCULATION OF A PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT AND FINAL OFFICIAL STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF CERTAIN OF THE TOWNSHIP'S BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES AND APPROVING A CONTINUING DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATE WITH RESPECT TO SAID NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP, AND AUTHORIZING AND/OR RATIFYING OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

#24-211 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SOFTWARE AGREEMENT WITH EDMUNDS GOVTECH FOR SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE OF FINANCE, TAX, RECREATION AND UTILITY PACKAGE

B. RECREATION

#24-212 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE

#24-213 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND THE MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

#24-214 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SCHOOL USE PERMITS BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND THE MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

#24-215 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITYPASS FOR A POINT OF SALE BEACH PASS PACKAGE

C. PURCHASING

#24-216 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO BLAZE EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT THROUGH HOUSTON GALVESTON AREA COOPERATIVE (HGAC) NATIONAL COOPERATIVE CONTRACT #AM-10-23 FOR AMBULANCE

#24-217 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONTRACT WITH DERSTINE COMPANY LLC FOR PLYMOUTH BOOSTER PUMP INSTALLATION RFQ 24-12 PROJECT NO. 1519-T-024

D. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

#24-218 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR WATER CONNECTION FEES

#24-219 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER CENTER

E. MISCELLANEOUS

#24-220 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL CLERK TO EXECUTE THREE NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

#24-221 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS UNDER THE DENTAL PLAN OF BENEFITS

REPORTS:

Mr. Hankins: Jim went everywhere I went, so I am sure he will cover it.

Mr. Vaccaro: Thank you, Council President, and welcome everyone. Our residents should be proud, I maintain that Manchester Township is the best place to live. It is the Gemstone of Ocean County. On 4/9, I attended the Senior Advocacy meeting. (4/23 will be in Crestwood Village 5 and on 4/24 in the Civic Center). The presentation was Fall Prevention and Pedestrian safety. Senior Services received a grant and will be having Monday and Friday programs for people 60 and older for Manchester and Lakehurst residents. On 4/16 I conducted the bi-weekly meeting to prepare for tonight’s meeting. On 4/17 I attended, with Mayor Arace, the Renaissance Men’s meeting on the financial and infrastructure of towns. On 4/20 myself and Councilman Hankins reviewed the bills. On 4/22 Councilman Hankins and I attended the Manchester Township coordinating meeting. The speakers were Karen Argenti of the Environmental Commission and a representative from Save the Barnegat Bay. Madam President, thank you and that concludes my report.

Mr. Wallis: I just want to thank the Municipal Clerk’s office for everything they do; they do an excellent job. I have worked with many Clerks in the past, and we currently have the best team. Thank you.

Ms. Zolezi: Councilman Wallis and I are like minded. I want to thank the clerks; they do a great job. Today is Earth Day, and Earth week is from April 22 through April 26th. I want to acknowledge and say Happy Passover to anyone who celebrates. I want to thank the police, EMS, and Fire for always doing a great job. Fire season is approaching, please be careful.

Mrs. Conniff: I was away but want to thank Teri and Maria for everything they do.

Chief Dolan: On 4/23 is Touch a Truck at the Whiting Assembly of God from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.

PUBLIC:

Judy Kuhmichel – Countrywalk – She showed a picture to the Mayor and Council regarding a property in Whiting. She showed a picture of how bad it looks near the fence of the Dollar General. The Mayor took the picture and will forward it to code enforcement for follow up.

Tom Farrell – Hudson Pkwy. – This room we are in now is also the court room. The court now has Plumsted and on court day it is standing room only. I think it is a disgrace with people being subject to long lines. Also expensive, as a Police Sergeant stands in the back, an officer stands in the front and one or two more officers are in the room. The citizens shouldn’t have to wait four or five hours.

Mayor – I haven’t heard of any long lines, but now that you have brought it up, I will speak with the court administrator and see what can be done.

Carl – everyone waiting in line decided to make a plea and wait until that morning to do so. They have to wait in line and speak to the prosecutor.

Diane Lapp – courts are never at the same time. Lakehurst and Plumsted are at different times.

Linda Chapman – 5th Ave. PLP – The house on 11th and Champlain, is it a house, office, group home business, what is it?

Mayor – code officials went out there and it is a single-family home, not a commercial property.

Linda – there has been talk about a school.

Mayor – it is a residential home.

Linda – At 513 Larchmont, there is rental property that the landlord is not maintaining.

Mayor – Please call code enforcement/building department. You can speak with Matt or Amanda.

Gail Apgar – Columbus Blvd. – I want to commend the police department. I had a neighbor who had an issue with a man who did work on her house. When she went into her house, he followed her in the house and said very inappropriate things. He finally left but when the neighbor told me, I spoke with our HOA, and we decided to call the police. The police came out and was wonderful. Maybe the police can come out and attend our village meetings.

Bob Vosseller – Manchester Times – I normally don't get up to speak but I wanted to thank the clerk's office for all their help. It is a pleasure reporting here in Manchester – the Gemstone of Ocean County.

Tom Farrell – I would like to praise the clerk's office. I am a poll worker and on election day, they are there all day and work hard and they stay very late.

Tonya Bacon (with her father) – Ridgeway Rd. – I spoke to the Mayor, and I wanted to address Council. I would like a dedication for my mother, Williamae Bacon. She lived in Manchester for over 40 years. Everyone knew who she was. She lived on the corner of Rt. 571 and Cedar and always had her door open for the children and everyone. She was a childcare provider, and she for an advocate for the students at the school. I would like to honor her and have her name dedicated on a street. We are having a celebration of her life on May 18th at the Tuskegee park. She passed away on May 18, 2023 and it will be her one-year anniversary. She left an informational flyer. Thank you for your time.

A motion was made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins to close public portion and approved by the following: Roll Call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

#24-222 - 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 at 6:42 pm 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 and reconvene to regular session at 7:08 pm was made by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following Roll Call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

ADD OF RESOLUTION

#24-223 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE AND A PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR

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

Carl congratulated the new chief, Antonio Ellis. The swearing in will be May 1st at 8:00 am.

Michele – Thank you Chief Dolan for your service.

Mayor – sad to see you go. Thank you, I appreciate everything you did.

Antonio Ellis – Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to serving and following in the footsteps of others. Thank you, Chief Dolan, for guiding and preparing me.

Carl – I worked with many chiefs, and Chief Dolan was not only an excellent chief but accompanying. Thank you.

Chief Dolan – thank you Mayor and Council.

Council President Conniff – I will miss having you around, especially since you were my DARE officer in high school. I look forward to having incoming Chief Ellis.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or business to come before Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins 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

5/13/2024
Date Approved