

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 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, Business Administrator Carl Bloc, Capt. Vega and Chief Ellis.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENT – READ INTO RECORD

I am removing the following members from the Master Plan Committee:

- 1. Sandy Drake

I am appointing the following members to the Master Plan Committee:

- 1. Antonio Ellis, Chief of Police
- 2. Amanda Kisty, Planning Board Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The regular and Executive Session minutes of October 15, 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 Conniff; yea.

BEST PRACTICES

Diane Lapp, CFO, updated on Best Practices which determines future grant money. The minimum score should be 32 and Manchester Township scored a 42. She went over some of the survey questions.

SUBMISSION OF BILLS

Councilman Vaccaro stated that Councilman Hankins and himself reviewed the bills for tonight’s meeting.

#24-429 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Current Fund in the amount of \$2,464,587.25 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea. Zolezi abstained on check #74543 - \$4779.00.

#24-430 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Eastern Service Area in the amount of \$689,230.68 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea. Zolezi abstained from check #4185 - \$580.73.

#24-431 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Western Service Area in the amount of \$136,819.98 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Hankins and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff; yea.

ORDINANCES – First Reading and Introduction

#24-40 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 245 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. Councilman Vaccaro made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Hankins. Roll Call: Councilmembers Hankins, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi, and Conniff, yea.

#24-41 – ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, SATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 326 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER ENTITLED “RENT LEVELING” TO PROVIDE GREATER CLARITY AND TRANSPARENCY FOR LANDLORDS SEEKING TO INCREASE RENT OVER THE ANNUAL CAP SET BY THE RENT LEVELING BOARD

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.

ORDINANCES – Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Final Action

#24-38 - ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 430 WATER AND SEWER, ARTICLE VII, WATER AND SEWER RATES, SECTION 430-29 SCHEDULE OF WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR EASTERN SERVICE AREA AND SECTION 430-30 SCHEDULE OF WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR WESTERN SERVICE AREA

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.

#24-39 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, AMENDING CHAPTER 204 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, GOVERNING LEGALIZED RAFFLE AND BINGO LICENSES

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.

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.

Resolutions #24-432 - #24-440 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. MUNICIPAL CLERK

#24-432 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL CLERK TO EXECUTE NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

B. GRANTS

#24-433 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, SUPPORTING THE HTS FEDERAL HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT, SUSTAINED ENFORCEMENT 2025, AND ACCEPTING THE ENFORCEMENT GRANT FROM THE DHTS

C. PURCHASING

#24-434 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A STATE CONTRACT PURCHASE FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT THROUGH GENTILINI CHEVROLET NJ STATE CONTRACT T2776

#24-435 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID FOR 2024 MANCHESTER ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CHAMPLAIN STREET & LARCHMONT STREET

D. BONDS/ESCROW

#24-436 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING AN ESCROW POSTED FOR A PROPERTY LOCATED AT BLOCK 99.103 LOT 7 (1821 PATERSON AVENUE)

E. FINANCE

#24-437 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAXES AS TO BLOCK 1.145, LOT 15 FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN

F. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

#24-438 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF OCEAN FOR MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FUNDS PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT DEMAND REDUCTION ACT OF 1987

#24-439 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND THE COUNTY OF OCEAN FOR DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (D.W.I.E.P.) FY 2024/2025

#24-440 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND THE COUNTY OF OCEAN FOR DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT CALLOUT PROGRAM FY 2024/2025

REPORTS:

Roxy announced she would like to be the first to congratulate the Manchester Township football team.

Mr. Hankins – Yes, lets fill the bleachers on November 1st for the playoff game. I went to Trenton, and there is a cancer screening bill for volunteer and career firefighters for cancer screenings. There is an issue with wording, but hopefully it will move forward. Also, Bill #A1429 – eliminates taking money out for unemployment for stipends. It also eliminates gross income tax.

Mr. Vaccaro – Thank you Madam President. As always, I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone who came out tonight and thank you for your interest in your town. On 10/22 I attended with President Conniff the bi-weekly meeting. Also on 10/22, I attended the meeting at Crestwood on the evacuation plan. On 10/24, I attended the zoning board of adjustments. On 10/25 myself and Councilwoman Zolezi attended the tailgating event to welcome back the Manchester Township football team. It is Manchester's Township first Crown Award win since 1946. Tom Farrell and staff and all the players did a wonderful job. On 11/1 at 6:00 pm, there is a home game against W. Deptford. Along with being the Gemstone of the Jersey Shore, Manchester now has a championship football team. On Sunday, 10/27 – myself and Councilman Hankins reviewed the bills. 11/28 – I attended Manchester Township coordinating council meeting at Crestwood village 5. The superintendent of school was the speaker. I encourage everyone to shop and support local businesses. I would like to start discussing an ordinance waiving fees for small businesses to start up. Madam President, thank you and that concludes my report.

Mr. Wallis – none

Mrs. Zolezi – Everyone is so proud. Manchester is an absolutely amazing football team. They are bringing the community together in working with the senior programs. If you get a chance go out and see their games. A sincere thank you to the police department, fire, EMS and the Lakehurst PD for helping to welcome back the football team. If you have time, cheer them on. Thursday is trick and treating, so be safe and be aware. November 11th is the Veteran's Day ceremony.

Councilman Hankins – I have been just notified by Bobby Baran that Manchester EMS has been nominated for an award and I will let everyone know when we here if we won.

Mrs. Conniff – The EMS is an amazing team, and very professional. The clerk's office has been very busy with elections and calls regarding voting. Early voting is from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm and Sunday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Election days hours are 6:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Chief Ellis – I would also like to express congratulations to the Manchester Township football team. On 10/20 the Treat or Trunk event took place with over 900 participants. Lastly, Halloween is this week. We will additional patrol out to hand out candy and hand out tickets. Have a safe Halloween.

PUBLIC:

Judy Noonan – Stonybrook – Manchester has a new superintendent, and she is doing an excellent job. I know the school tax is the highest on your tax bill, but it is money well spent. I am very impressed with her. She is up to date on everything going on. I want to let everyone know there will be a Thanksgiving dinner free to anyone in need. Also, the Whiting Vet has closed. Anyone who needs records there, please call them by this week. Lastly, Channel 21 is up and running.

Gail Apgar – Columbus Blvd. – I attended the zoning board meeting. There was discussion when building these small houses and putting up fences. The neighbors were very upset at the situation and Mr. Jerman keeps building three bedrooms homes on undersized lots and with no garage the front of the house will be all parking and no lawn. Overbuilding.

Donna McGlashan – Medford Rd. – Chris Smith was here some time ago and said we should be getting money for our water system. Are we getting money? Our water is bad and looks yellow, can it be tested?

Carl – Chris Smith put in for funding. It went to senate and needs to be approved before it goes to the president. It times time. Are you in the western side? With public water, we are required to test the water, and the results are below the state requirements, but today we did have a break, so the water might be discolored.

Linda Chapman – 5th Ave. – who do I call regarding rental property maintenance? Code Enforcement. When the mayor gets elected at the county, who will be the next mayor?

Roxy explained the process of how council chooses an interim mayor in January and in November there will be a special election for mayor.

Chief – one more thing. Facebook live with Sgt. Fastige had a great presentation with parking advisory, legal vs illegal parking and title 39, especially parking in Pine Lake Park. If you see a problem, please call us.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or business to come before Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 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.

Roxy Conniff
Council President

Teri Giercyk, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

11/12/2024

Date Approved