

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 25, 2025**

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:

Councilwoman Sandy Drake	- 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 Block, CMFO Jeannette Larrison and Chief Ellis.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The regular and executive meeting minutes from August 11, 2025, were offered upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilwoman Drake and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, and Conniff; yea. Abstain: Wallis, Zolezi

**SUBMISSION OF BILLS**

Councilman Vaccaro stated that Councilwoman Drake have reviewed the bills for tonight’s meeting.

**#25-344** – Authorizing payment of bills from the Current Fund in the amount of \$8,755,579.88 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Zolezi abstain on ck.#76493 for \$1131.72.

**#25-345** – Authorizing payment of bills from the Eastern Service Area in the amount of \$496,979.81 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

**#25-346** – Authorizing payment of bills from the Western Service Area in the amount of \$463,325.26 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Drake and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Zolezi abstain on ck. #12164 for \$916.44.

**ORDINANCES – Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Final Action**

**#25-31 - BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO BLOCK 1.371 AND LOT 1 AND THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING \$1,150,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,092,500 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY**

Council President Conniff asked to carry ordinance until September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

**#25-32 – BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING \$2,500,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,375,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY**

Council President Conniff asked if any member of Council had any comments on this ordinance. Seeing no comments from Council, Council President Conniff asked if there were any comments from the public.

Bill Foor – Wilbur Ave. – What equipment is this for?

Carl – Firetruck, equipment, etc.

Bill Foor – Can you remove the word improvements?

Lauren – It is just a title, noted.

Seeing no comments from public, Councilman Vaccaro made a motion to close public comments and approve seconded by Councilman Wallis. Roll Call: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

**#25-33 – BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE EAST AND WEST WATER UTILITIES, APPROPRIATING \$550,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$500,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY**

Council President Conniff asked if any member of Council had any comments on this ordinance. Seeing no comments from Council, Council President 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 Wallis. Roll Call: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

**ORDINANCES – First Reading & Introduction**

**#25-34 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT”**

Council President 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 Wallis. Roll Call: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, and Conniff; yea. Absent: Wallis, Zolezi

**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 #25-347 – #25-355 were considered routine by the Manchester Township Council and were enacted by one motion offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Wallis and adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea. Abstain: Zolezi on #25-352.**

**A. FINANCE**

**#25-347 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDS REQUESTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR**

**#25-348 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING 38.57, LOT 755.01 FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN**

**#25-349 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING 42.02, LOT 8 FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN**

**#25-350 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE FOR THE FEDERAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT GRANT**

## **B. RECREATION**

**#25-351 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SIGNATURE OF AN ARCHIVAL RECORDING LICENSE AND A PRODUCTION SCORE MUSIC LICENSE AGREEMENT**

## **C. PURCHASING**

**#25-352 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF FY2025 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID IMPROVEMENTS TO CONGASIA ROAD**

**#25-353 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING #25-250 AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO BLUUM USA INC. THROUGH OMNIA NATIONAL COOPERATIVE CONTRACT #01-150 FOR TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

**#25-354 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF BID 25-17 – WELL DRILLING, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR TO A.C. SCHULTES INC.**

## **D. CONTRACTS /AGREEMENTS**

**#25-355 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY FOR UCC CODE SERVICES**

### **REPORTS:**

**Mrs. Drake** – On September 14<sup>th</sup> we are having a fundraiser pasta dinner for the K-9 units. Luigi's is donating the food. Joe and I are paying for the rest. Happy Birthday Carl.

**Mr. Vaccaro** – Thank you madam president, and as always, a warm welcome and thank you for your attendance and pride, interest and operational aspects in our town. Please remember we have pride in Manchester Township, your home and are the Gemstone of the Jersey Shore bar none. On 8/12 – Councilwoman Drake, Judy Noonan, and myself attended the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Social Security enactment at Someone Cares. On 8/13 – I attended the zoning board meeting. 8/19 I attended the bi-weekly meeting with Council President Conniff. On 8/20 Councilwomen Drake and Zolezi, and myself attended the special energy aggregation meeting. Thank you, Carl and Teri, for all your hard work. On 8/21- we celebrated Carl's birthday. On 8/23 - I reviewed bills with Councilwoman Drake. I encourage everyone to shop locally. I would continue aggressively pursuing a medical health care village and senior service and youth center. I would like to expend a much-needed senior services and seek county grants. I urge the council to pass an ordinance to waive fees to fill vacant properties in Manchester Township. Thank you, madam president, and God Bless America and the residents of Manchester Township!

**Mr. Wallis** – Thank you to the clerk and deputy clerk. They are the best.

**Mrs. Zolezi** – We have wonderful people that work here. I extend welcoming the new officers. All the police and emergency services are doing a great job. With the holiday weekend coming up, be cautious and courtesy. I want to wish the students and sports teams a good year.

**Carl Block** – Energy Aggregation – The Mayor and Council went out to bid. Last year, there were no bids to review. This time we had two bidders, but only one qualified bidder. 1.466 KW per hour. 5.1% decrease seen in the winter months with the tariff rates. The rebates coming out will still be received. This is an opt out program. Everyone is in unless you opt out. It does not interfere with the solar program. He clarified the equipment on ordinance.

**Chief** – Thank you for being here tonight. Holiday weekend coming up, drive safely. This Thursday, we are having Goal Zero, high visibility. Ocean County has 39 fatalities and 33 crashes this year alone. At the last meeting, we hired two new officers. They are in service training and already on the road. We did application for drone license. We are proceeding with the radio system upgrade. DPW also uses our radio system. The car show was well attended. Back to school is next week. Children and their safety are our top priority.

Councilwoman Drake – The car show had a 50/50 and proceeds went the youth football.

**PUBLIC:**

Karen Perry – Thornbury Ln. – To Chief Ellis, with car accidents, is there any communication with county on Route 539?

Chief Ellis – We are working with the county. It is difficult with passing and roads up and down, and truck traffic. It is hard to enforce. Route 539 is part of Goal Zero, because of those issues. We are fortunate to have grant money for extra officers.

Laura Mezzoline – Quaker – Here is a list of addresses who had work done.

Maureen Capuzzo – Constitution Blvd. – With permit issue, Jack Ciattarelli agrees that Gary Loftus should have shut down a job. Why is he still employed?

Carl – It would have been helpful if I had this list ahead of the meeting. There is a process, violation then court.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**#25-356- 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**

Councilman Vaccaro made a motion to close public session and go into executive session at 6:34 p.m. seconded by Councilwoman Drake and approved upon the following roll call: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff, yea.

Councilman Vaccaro made a motion to close executive session at 7:24 pm and return to public meeting, seconded by Councilman Wallis and approve upon the following roll call: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff, yea.

There being no further comments or business to come before Council at this time, motion to close public and adjourn meeting at 7:25 p.m. upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilwoman Drake and approved by the following Roll call vote: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, Wallis, Zolezi and Conniff; yea.

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Roxanne Conniff  
President

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Teri Giercyk, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk

9/8/2025  
Date Approved