MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2026

The regular meeting of the Manchester Township Council was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Council President, Michele Zolezi. 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."

MOMENT OF SILENCE
The Council opened by honoring Chief Brian Flanagan of Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Company, a moment of silence was observed. Council President Michele Zolezi added he was more than just a fire Chief, he was a loving husband, father, friend, and a dedicated member of our community. His loss will be deeply felt throughout our Manchester family.

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 Judy Noonan	- present
Councilwoman Michele Zolezi	- present

The Municipal Clerk noted for the record that also present were Mayor Hankins, Township Attorney Brandon DeJesus, Chief Ellis and members of the Police Department, Business Administrator Carl Block, and CMFO Jeannette Larrison.

PROCLAMATIONS
Friends of Libraries Week-Presented by Mayor Hankins, proclaiming October 18th – 24th as Friends of the Library Week in Manchester Township. They raise money and provide resources for additional programming, equipment, support for children's summer reading, and special events throughout the year. I urge everyone to join Friends of the Library and thank you for all they do.

Honoring Joseph Griscavage, Jr. Recipient of the Manchester Police Department Civilian Service Award-Presented by Chief Antonio Ellis. July 30th 2025, Manchester PD and Emergency Services responded to a report of a 16 yr old male who was unconscious. The difficult terrain made it difficult to late the juvenile, but with the help of Joseph Griscavage they were able to reach him. Joseph continued to assist when emergency vehicles became stuck in the difficult terrain, pulling them out with his jeep. Other civilians playing important roles were Noah Desimone, Dylan Verge, Sydney Reilly, and Makenzie Vulgaris. These individuals also received a Civilian Service Award. The Whiting Volunteer Fire Company received the Manchester Township Police Department Chief's Recognition Award for their contributions in saving the juvenile's life. When residents, volunteers and first responders come together, extraordinary things can happen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The regular and executive session meeting minutes from September 28, 2026, were offered upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro seconded by Councilwoman Noonan and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Wallis, Noonan, and Zolezi; yea. Councilwoman Drake abstained due to absence.

SUBMISSION OF BILLS

Councilwoman Drake stated the bills have reviewed for tonight's meeting.

#26-443 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Current Fund in the amount of $7,327,484.80 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro seconded by Councilwoman Drake and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Drake, Wallis, Noonan, and Zolezi; yea. Councilwoman Zolezi abstained from checks #3093 in the amount of $2,830.66 and #3094 in the amount of $20,096.02.

#26-444 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Eastern Service Area in the amount of $285,265.20 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro and seconded by Councilwoman Drake and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Drake, Wallis, Noonan, and Zolezi; yea.

#26-445 – Authorizing payment of bills from the Western Service Area in the amount of $198,326.42 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro seconded by Councilwoman Drake and approved by the following roll call: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Drake, Wallis, Noonan, and Zolezi; yea.

ORDINANCES – Second Reading, Public Hearing and Final Action

#26-9 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REPEALING ORDINANCE 2024-40 IN ITS ENTIRETY

Council President asked for a motion to carry the ordinance until the November 9, 2026 Council meeting. Councilman Vaccaro made a motion to carry, seconded by Councilwoman Noonan. Roll Call: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, Wallis, Noonan, and Zolezi; yea.

#26-49 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE SALARY RANGES AND POSITIONS OF BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES

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

#26-50 - REFUNDING ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE REFUNDING OF A TEMPORARY EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION OF THE TOWNSHIP, APPROPRIATING A COMBINED AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING $575,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED $575,000 AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS AND/OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER FOR FINANCING THE COST THEREOF

Council President asked for a motion to carry the ordinance until the October 14th 2026 Special Council meeting. Councilman Vaccaro made a motion to carry, seconded by Councilwoman Drake. Roll Call: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, Wallis, Noonan, and Zolezi; yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

The items 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 Zolezi asked if any member of Council had any comments on any item on the consent agenda.

Seeing no comments from Council, Council President Zolezi asked if there were any comments from the public on any items on the consent agenda. No comments from the public.

Resolutions #26-446 - #26-454 were considered routine by the Manchester Township Council and were enacted by one motion offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilwoman Drake and adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Drake, Wallis, Noonan, and Zolezi; yea.

A. PURCHASING

#26-446 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REJECTING CERTAIN RESPONSES TO COMPETITIVE CONTRACT CC# 26-14 – 5G WIRELESS & CELL TOWER CONSULTANT COMPETITIVE CONTRACT

#26-447 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER 5G SITING AND CAPABILITY MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROCESS CC# 26-14

#26-448 - 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 IN A REQUIRED DISCLOSURE MANNER

B. BONDS/ESCROWS

#26-449 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING ESCROW POSTED FOR MULTIPLE PROJECTS

C. FINANCE

#26-450 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING TO RE-FORECLOSE ON CERTIFICATES HELD BY MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP

#26-451 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING TO FORECLOSE ON CERTIFICATES HELD BY MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP

D. CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

#26-452 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER AND THE COUNTY OF OCEAN FOR A DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (DWIEP) FY 2026/2027

#26-453 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AWARDING AN ENGINEERING SERVICE AGREEMENT UNDER THE TOWNSHIP'S CURRENT CONTRACT WITH REMINGTON AND VERNICK ENGINEERS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR A CONNECTION FEE AND USER RATE STUDY FOR 2027 FOR THE WESTERN SERVICE AREA

#26-454 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AWARDING AN ENGINEERING SERVICE AGREEMENT UNDER THE TOWNSHIP'S CURRENT CONTRACT WITH REMINGTON AND VERNICK ENGINEERS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR A CONNECTION FEE AND USER RATE STUDY FOR 2027 FOR THE EASTERN SERVICE AREA

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mrs. Drake – I knew Brian Flanagan personally, my condolences to his fire company, our emergency services and his family. He was instrumental in our Little League. There's a pasta dinner at Whiting Fire Department on 10-18-2026. We had the annual Little League auction and Whiting Fire Department donated their building to have it. Environmental cleanup in town on 11/14 and 11/ 21 around the lake behind the football field. Contact Amanda Kisty @ extension 3911 for more information.

Mr. Vaccaro – A warm welcome to everyone, thank you for your continued concern and interest that you've shown. Continue to take great pride in Manchester, it is our home and residence. Let it be known that Manchester Township is known as the gemstone of the Jersey Shore and the gateway to the Jersey Shore. On 9/29 I attended Village 2 with Councilwoman Noonan and the Mayor. On 10/5 I attended the planning board meeting as council's representative. We currently have two resident housing developments on Wilbur Ave. R40 Zone which is still under discussion. On 10/6 President Zolezi and I attended the bi-weekly meeting to discuss tonight's items. Congratulations to everyone that received an award tonight. I continue to urge my council to consider and pursue the possibility of establishing in Manchester Township a much-needed medical health care village for our residents and service to the surrounding communities. Remember one act of kindness can change the complexion of Manchester Township. May God Bless America and the residents of Manchester Township.

Mr. Wallace – I went to high school and graduated from Jr. High with Brain's uncle and father. He was a good man, a great father, son, an outstanding brother, a good friend, and someone that dedicated his life to this county. He checked all the boxes that a good person should check off, because that was Brian. He would do anything for anybody.

Ms. Noonan – To all the people that helped saved this young man, I'm so proud of the people, fireman, 1st responders, and civilians to go out of their way to help. I couldn't be prouder to live in this town. For growth, we need to show we are willing to spend money. The Council and Mayor are all trying to bring in new businesses. To our Chief, thank you to you and to the men/women that serve.

Ms. Zolezi – Chiefs awards, sincere appreciation for all of Manchester EMER services. Manchester Fire Department is having an open house on 10/17 from 11am-1pm. Municipal Alliance is hosting a trunk or treat at the high school on Saturday 10/24. To the Veteran's a continued thank you. You can have a flag dedicated

to them for the Manchester High School or the Township and you can find that application on our website or at the Clerk's office.

Mayor Hankins - If anyone wants to report a pothole or a streetlight that is out, there are tabs on the homepage of the Manchester Township website that you can use to do that.

C. Block – Any township information you are looking for, please contact us at the municipal building or use the Township website. Facebook does not have accurate information. Manchester Endorsement Survey you may find on our website, please take part.

M. Zolezi – Yes, this is a great way for those that want to participate more.

Chief Ellis – Tragic news regarding Brian Flanagan, I have worked with him for 26 years. We will be doing our best to honor him in the coming days. Whiting Fire Department is also having an open house on October 17th in the afternoon from 12pm-5pm. On October 28th Lieutenant Chuck Brooks will be retired with over 26 years of service.

CMFO Larrison- Tax bills are not going out just yet; you can make the same payment as the last quarter if you like. There will be a grace period, and you will get an adjustment.

Mrs. Drake- Mrs. Pellington, thank you so much for the kind letter.

PUBLIC:

Gail Apgar Columbus Blvd. - The video the Chief showed of the rescue was so great. We applaud them. Thank you.

Ernest Renaissance – Asked for an update on redevelopment plan for Block 62 Lots 30 & 31.01. When are the 15 warehouses starting to get built?

Carl Block - Next year at earliest, they are still getting signed approvals.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

#26-455 - 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 enter into executive session at 6:53 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Noonan and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Drake, Wallis, Noonan and Zolezi; yea.

Councilwoman Noonan made a motion to close executive session at 8:21 pm and return to public meeting, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro and approved 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 adjourn meeting at 8:22 p.m. upon a motion by Councilwoman Noonan, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro and approved by the following Roll call vote: Councilmembers Drake, Vaccaro, Wallis, Noonan and Zolezi; yea.

Michele Zolezi
Council President

Teri Giercyk, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

10/26/2026
Date Approved