

**Township of Mount Laurel
Regular Council Meeting
June 13, 2023
Mount Laurel Municipal Center**

Mayor Steglik called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance & Traditional Moment of Silence

ROLL CALL

Councilwoman Karen Cohen – present, Councilman Kareem Pritchett – present, Councilman Nick Moustakas – present, Deputy Mayor Fozia Janjua - present, Mayor Stephen Steglik - present, George Morris, Township Solicitor – present, Meredith Riculfy, Township Manager/Township Clerk - present

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Announcement, which is required by the “Open Public Meetings Act” of the State of New Jersey and read at every meeting of the Township Council was read by the Municipal Clerk.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,355,783.15

Motion to Move: Councilman Pritchett, 2nd Councilman Moustakas
Roll Call 5 yes votes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to Move: Deputy Mayor Janjua, 2nd Councilman Pritchett
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #112-2023: PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2023 AS PRIDE MONTH

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #112-2023: Councilwoman Cohen, 2nd Councilman Moustakas
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #113-2023: RECOGNIZING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE AS NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #113-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Councilman Pritchett
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #114-2023: ANTICIPATION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2023 LOCAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 CHAPTER 159

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #114-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #115-2023: ANTICIPATION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2023 LOCAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 CHAPTER 159

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #115-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #116-2023: ANTICIPATION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2023 LOCAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 CHAPTER 159

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #116-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #117-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OR CANCELLATION OF PROPERTY TAXES BLOCK 502.04, LOT 21

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #117-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #118-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OR CANCELLATION OF PROPERTY TAXES BLOCK 1005.01, LOT 5

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #118-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #119-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PLACING OF A LIEN AGAINST A CERTAIN PROPERTY PER CHAPTER 65 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #119-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor

Janjua

Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #120-2023: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH BURLINGTON COUNTY FOR COOPERATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #120-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor

Janjua

Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #121-2023: AWARD BID FOR ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CHARGING STATION COMMUNITY CENTER

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #121-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor

Janjua

Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #122-2023: RESOLUTION REJECTING SALE OF LAND

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #122-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor

Janjua

Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #123-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES TO REFUND PAYMENT TO THE LISTED TAXPAYER DUE TO AN OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES DUE TO A DUPLICATE PAYMENT

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #123-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor

Janjua

Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #124-2023: AUTHORIZATION TO INSTALL A FENCE WITHIN A 7.50' WIDE DRAINAGE EASEMENT AND A 50' WIDE BUFFER EASEMENT AREA FOR BLOCK 907.01, LOT 29

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #124-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #125-2023: AUTHORIZATION TO INSTALL A FENCE WITHIN A
20' WIDE DRAINAGE EASEMENT AREA FOR BLOCK 702.01, LOT 7

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #125-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #126-2023: AUTHORIZATION TO INSTALL A FENCE WITHIN A
20' WIDE DRAINAGE EASEMENT AREA FOR BLOCK 701.01, LOT 39

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #126-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #127-2023: APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #127-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #128-2023: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #128-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #129-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF A
MOU BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL AND SUPERIOR
OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #129-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #130-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT RENEWING MEMBERSHIP IN THE BURLINGTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #130-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua

Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #131-2023: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF OFFSHORE WIND AND ENCOURAGING ALL RESIDENTS TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #131-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua

Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #132-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP TO RELEASE TO FAIR SHARE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, INC. FOR THE ML SENIOR HOUSING PROJECT, PHASE II (58 RENTAL UNITS), ON BLOCK 302.15, LOT 3.01, THE SUM OF THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$350,000) IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES FOR THE PROJECT

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #132-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua

Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #133-2023: AUTHORIZATION FOR RENEWAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #133-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor
Janjua

Roll Call 5 yes votes

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE #7-2023: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL AT CHAPTER 154 "ZONING" TO REZONE CERTAIN PARCELS FROM THE 'O-2' OFFICE DISTRICT TO BE PLACED IN THE 'I' INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

Clerk read Ordinance as entitled.

Motion to move Ordinance #7-2023: Councilman Pritchett, 2nd Councilman Moustakas
Roll Call 5 yes votes

ORDINANCE #8-2023: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 95A
“LICENSING” TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY STANDARDS, LIMIT AVAILABLE
LICENSES AND INCREASE SECURITY STANDARDS AS A CONDITION TO
RENEW LICENSES

Clerk read Ordinance as entitled.

Motion to move Ordinance #8-2023: Deputy Mayor Janjua, 2nd Councilman Pritchett
Roll Call 5 yes votes

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE #6-2023: BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION
OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF
\$5,621,000 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL
OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
MOUNT LAUREL, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY, IN THE
AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$5,339,950; MAKING CERTAIN
DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN
RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

Clerk read Ordinance as entitled.

Mayor opened public participation.

Kelly Fifer, Moorestown - spoke about the Larchmont Courts and how they are not using them anymore because of the disrepair, but would like to go back. Asked for the people building the courts to tweak a few things to benefit the players.

Mayor closed public participation.

Motion to move Ordinance #6-2023: Councilwoman Cohen, 2nd Councilman Pritchett
Roll Call 5 yes votes

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Harriet Insler, 4 Witherod Court – Asked if the ordinance introduced today will bring another warehouse into the town. Also had questions about how to get a permit for her hot water heater.

Township Attorney George Morris responded that it will not be another warehouse.

Meghan Forzani, 2 Naples Lane – Stated that she lives in Signature Place and is having issues with Metropolitan taking care of their development. Expressed her worry for safety issues within the neighborhood.

Rene Baker, 15 Turin Way – Expressed her disappointment in the developer for dumping dirt and covering the green open spaces in their neighborhood. Questioned the responsibilities of the developer compared to the builder.

Kathleen, 2208 Bluegrass Drive – Asked how many cannabis facilities there will be in Mount Laurel. Also asked if other surrounding towns will have these facilities as well. Expressed her concerns with the cannabis facilities. Had additional questions about the process with overgrown properties and the upkeep of them.

Mayor Steglik responded that the council is taking action to limit the number of cannabis licenses allowed.

Resident, Knox Way – Stated that he is thankful for the pre-k program. Asked if there were plans for the students still on the waitlist.

Peter O'Connor, Fair Share Housing – Thanked the council for their support with the senior housing project. Explained that phase 1 is about 60% complete.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL

Meredith Riculfy, Township Manager/Clerk – Reminded everyone about the Juneteenth event coming up at Laurel Acres Park on June 17 from 12-3.

Councilman Moustakas – Thanked everyone for coming out. Expressed gratitude for all of the teachers at the end of the school year. Wished everyone a happy Fourth of July and thanked the military.

Councilwoman Cohen – Thanked everyone for their comments. Spoke about the Juneteenth event coming up. Wished everyone a Happy Father's Day and a Happy Fourth of July. Discussed a food drive she is coordinating on June 24 and asked to consider donating. Brought up the electrical vehicle charging station resolution, along with the offshore wind farms resolution, and expressed her gratitude for these resolutions being implemented. Explained the dangerous air quality and climate change and is happy that this community is taking it seriously and making changes.

Councilman Pritchett – Thanked everyone for coming out and speaking about concerns. Announced that he became a grandfather again. Reminded everyone about the Juneteenth event on Saturday.

Deputy Mayor Janjua – Thanked everyone for their concerns. Let everyone know about the Discussions and Desserts event hosted by the Diversity and Inclusion Board on Thursday. Wished everyone a safe and happy summer and a happy Pride Month. Thanked the moms that demand action against gun violence for all of the work that they do to spread awareness.

Mayor Steglik – Spoke about the Memorial Day event and thanked the township employees for helping with that. Recognized the police department for their hard work. Thanked all of the residents for coming to the meeting and stating their concerns. Mentioned the Juneteenth event. Wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July and Father's Day.

RESOLUTION #134-2023: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CLOSED SESSION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL TO DISCUSS PENDING OR ANTICIPATED LITIGATION, CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND/OR PERSONNEL MATTERS

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #134-2023: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor Janjua

Roll Call 5 yes votes

Return to open: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor Janjua

All in favor.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Deputy Mayor Janjua

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Meredith Riculfy, RMC
Township Clerk