

**Township of Mount Laurel
Regular Council Meeting
May 20, 2019
Mount Laurel Municipal Center
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Folcher called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance & Traditional Moment of Silence

ROLL CALL

Councilman Irwin Edelson – present, Councilman Kareem Pritchett – present,
Councilman Stephen Steglik – present, Deputy Mayor Linda Bobo - present, Mayor Kurt
Folcher - present, George Morris, Township Solicitor – present, Meredith Tomczyk,
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 \$1,291,693.60

Motion to Move: Deputy Mayor Bobo, 2nd Councilman Edelson
Roll Call 5 yes votes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

**RESOLUTION #116-2019: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF A
CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL AND SUPERIOR
OFFICERS’ ASSOCIATION FOR JANUARY 1, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #116-2019: Deputy Mayor Bobo, 2nd Councilman Edelson
Roll Call 5 yes votes

**RESOLUTION #117-2019: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH THE MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP LIBRARY FOR
FINANCE SERVICES**

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #117-2019: Councilman Steglik, 2nd Councilman Pritchett
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #118-2019: APPROVING NJDOT CHANGE ORDER #3, 2017
PROGRAM CONTRACT 2017-3

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #118-2019: Deputy Mayor Bobo, 2nd Councilman Edelson
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #119-2019: APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #1 FINAL
RESURFACING OF FUTSAL/BASKETBALL COURTS AT DEVONSHIRE

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #119-2019: Councilman Steglik, 2nd Councilman Pritchett
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #120-2019: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OR
CANCELLATION OF PROPERTY TAXES BLOCK 903.07, LOT 15, 502 MEADOW
COURT

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #120-2019: Councilman Pritchett, 2nd Councilman Edelson
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #121-2019: AUTHORIZING A PERSON TO PERSON TRANSFER
OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL CONSUMPTION LICENSE 0324-33-004-
003

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #121-2019: Deputy Mayor Bobo, 2nd Councilman Steglik
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #122-2019: MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR V & R
PROPERTY, LLC, BLOCK 304, LOT 1, ZB 18-D-02

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #122-2019: Deputy Mayor Bobo, 2nd Councilman Steglik
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #123-2019: ANTICIPATION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN
THE 2019 LOCAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87
(CHAPTER 159)

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #123-2019: Councilman Pritchett, 2nd Councilman Steglik
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #124-2019: AWARD PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS AT GEORGE SPENCER PARK FIELD COMPLEX BID

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #124-2019: Deputy Mayor Bobo, 2nd Councilman Pritchett
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #125-2019: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL AND AFSCME: NJ COUNCIL 63 FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2019 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #125-2019: Deputy Mayor Bobo, 2nd Councilman Pritchett
Roll Call 5 yes votes

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE #25-2019: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL SUBMITTING A PUBLIC REFERENDUM TO THE VOTERS OF MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP CONCERNING THE TOWNSHIP'S FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Clerk read Ordinance as entitled.

Motion to move Ordinance #25-2019: Councilman Edelson, 2nd Deputy Mayor Bobo
Roll Call 3 yes votes; Councilman Pritchett and Councilman Steglik voted nay.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Harriet Cohen, 10 Alderton Lane – The Mayor offended me by referring to me as a partisan Democratic. Republicans don't like everyday people coming to meetings and challenging them. They are hypocrites and telling untruths. This is a partisan move. Republicans don't want another Democratic on Council. Will educate the residents that this change will cost \$100,000.

Denise Campbell, 19 Biddle Way – Disgusted with what just happened here. Three Councilmembers going back and forth regarding referendum. Questioned the Ordinance.

George Duffield, 751 York Road – Thanked Council for parking lot at Spencer Park. This is crazy what is going on.

Mandy Skalski, 5149 Church Road – 2013 moved here. This is the craziest meeting. There should not be a May election. Partisan stops in this room. Thanked Councilman Steglik for going to daughter's school.

Dr. Peter Bilazarian, 51 Horseshoe Drive – Speak in opposition of Ordinance. Hopes Mayor reconsiders. Why is this being brought up now? If this goes through, there will not be primaries. Thinks this is voter suppression.

Renee Licagno, 34 Gardinia Drive – Thanked Council for dog park. Racist remarks need to stop. Stop name calling. Work together. Freedom of religion. Freedom of press. Freedom to vote. Ask the people. He said/she said. Let the voter decide. Need to have respect and kindness.

Larry Chatzidakis, 42 Stokes Road – Budget document affects everyone in township. This is the most important document. There were councilmembers who did not take this document serious.

Brian Sharp, 19 Biddle Way – Public government. Will knock on all residents doors to stop discrimination.

George Schramm, 306 Stamford Drive – Democracy not pretty. Sometimes we get uncomfortable with each other. Sometimes we yell at each other and get angry with each other.

Adam Wright, 208 Kingsley Court – In favor of referendum. Restricts voters. Gives them chance to learn about candidates and not vote party line. Steglik involved in Mt. Laurel.

Karen Cohen, 15 Winterberry Court – Against Ordinance. Why suddenly now after all these years.

Edward Cohen, 15 Winterberry Court – Opposite effect. Reduce tension. Not approve the Ordinance. People here don't represent majority of Mt. Laurel. Feels Council disregards people who come to meetings and that he doesn't have a voice.

Harriet Insler, 4 Witherod Court – Proud to vote for Councilman Steglik and Pritchett. Anyone can change party and join those who work with people.

Brian List, 504 Meadow Court – Lived here 20 years. Thanked Council for efforts with rental properties. Agrees with referendum. He believes in democracy.

Michael Muller, 43 Overlook Drive – Look at school election where it is on ballots. 40,000 unaffiliated.

Andrew Gaus, 154 Kettlebrook Drive – In favor of the Ordinance.

Jessica Lake, 166 Knotty Oak Drive – Resident of Mt. Laurel for 28 years. Embarrassed by people in this room. Doesn't understand all the hatred. People need to work together for this community. Need Ordinance to stop partisan. Wants name calling to stop. Asked Councilman Pritchett why he doesn't want referendum.

Nicole Moore Samson – 1323 Hainesport-Mt. Laurel Road – 1979 resident. Student, teacher, mother, principal. Don't have time for monkey show. The screaming, accusations and not working together is disgraceful. Not for Ordinance. Angry. I'm a busy person. Didn't know this was going on. It was working. Doesn't need to change. Need to do better. Will bring lots of people on the 24th. County will notify township of cost if election is changed. Glad she didn't bring her child to meeting. Need to be respectful of each other.

Denise Gamble, 19 Biddle Way – Agrees with what two ladies prior to her said but disagrees as to why. Voters oppression is far more complicated than what people think.

Shruti Bhankharia, 54 Broadacre Drive – Never saw Linda Bobo knock on doors. Doesn't trust Linda Bobo at all.

Joe Gheen, 714 Lincoln Drive – Doesn't like politics but people should be able to vote. May elections are a waste of tax payers' money and everything should be in November. If you don't vote, taxes double.

Ed Cohen, 15 Winterberry Court – How many people gave feedback?

Brian Sharp, 19 Biddle Way – Are there other changes to government that can be considered? Each form of government. Open up. Change.

Douglas Nieto, 201 Chaucer Court – Problems addressed. Work together. Let them vote. Let's move forward.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL

Manager Tomczyk – Memorial Day services are May 30th at 6PM at Laurel Acres Park

Councilman Pritchett – Thanked everyone for coming out. Good to hear both sides of people. Glad he has thick skin. Other 3 Council people didn't like that Councilman Steglik and Pritchett were elected. Those 3 are not truthful. Will do what he was elected to do and represent all residents.

Deputy Mayor Bobo – No comments but has thick skin as well.

Councilman Steglik – It does take thick skin for everybody to be up here. Statistics show that nonpartisan is not good. He is not in favor of it. We can all work harder together. Fight for your cause. Thanked Mayor for acknowledging that they worked hard on knocking on doors. Had an amazing campaign team. Acknowledged Assemblywoman Murphy. Have a safe Memorial Day weekend.

Councilman Edelson – Newark and Jersey City are nonpartisan and just went to November elections to save money. Wants to see poster that Kareem has to see whose name is on it. Please come to Memorial Day celebration.

Mayor Folcher – Thanked Police and Public Works for agreeing to contracts that satisfies everyone. Doing shared services with library. EMS is looking for volunteers. Mt. Laurel Rotary will be having 5-K race on father's day and Police have 5-K on Labor Day.

RESOLUTION #126-2019: 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 #94-2019: Councilman Edelson, 2nd Deputy Mayor Bobo
Roll Call 5 yes votes

Motion to open: Deputy Mayor Bobo, 2nd Councilman Pritchett

All in favor.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE #26-2019: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 154 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL DESIGNATING ENTIRELY THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 309, LOT 1, 1.01, AS BEING WITHIN THE INDUSTRIAL ZONE

Clerk read Ordinance as entitled.

Motion to move Ordinance #26-2019: Deputy Mayor Bobo, 2nd Councilman Edelson
Roll Call 5 yes votes

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Edelson, 2nd Councilman Pritchett

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Meredith Tomczyk, RMC
Township Clerk