

**Township of Mount Laurel
Regular Council Meeting
March 22, 2021
Via Zoom**

Mayor Steglik called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance & Traditional Moment of Silence

ROLL CALL

Councilwoman Karen Cohen – present, Councilwoman Fozia Janjua – present,
Councilman Nick Moustakas – present, Deputy Mayor Kareem Pritchett - present, Mayor
Stephen Steglik - 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 \$884,755.41

Motion to Move: Councilwoman Cohen, 2nd Deputy Mayor Pritchett
Roll Call 5 yes votes

**RESOLUTION #66-2021: PROCLAMATION EXPRESSING COMMENDATION TO
ROB AUSTIN FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY**

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #66-2021: Deputy Mayor Pritchett, 2nd Councilwoman
Cohen
Roll Call 5 yes votes

**RESOLUTION #67-2021: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OR
CANCELLATION OF PROPERTY TAXES BLOCK 903.07, LOT 37**

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #67-2021: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Councilwoman
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

**RESOLUTION #68-2021: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OR
CANCELLATION OF PROPERTY TAXES BLOCK 302.09, LOT 13**

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #68-2021: Deputy Mayor Pritchett, 2nd Councilman
Moustakas
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #69-2021: RESOLUTION EXTENDING TEMPORARY BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2021

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #69-2021: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Councilwoman
Cohen
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #70-2021: RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALTERNATE FUND
COMMISSIONER TO THE BURLINGTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT
INSURANCE FUND

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #70-2021: Deputy Mayor Pritchett, 2nd Councilwoman
Cohen
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #71-2021: AUTHORIZING THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS
FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND PURSUANT TO COURT
ORDER

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #71-2021: Deputy Mayor Pritchett, 2nd Councilwoman
Cohen
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #72-2021: RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING BUS STOPS IN MOUNT
LAUREL

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.
Motion to Move Resolution #72-2021: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Councilwoman
Janjua
Roll Call 5 yes votes

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE #7-2021: 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 TO DELETE
IN ITS ENTIRETY CHAPTER 22 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AND TO
REPLACE IT WITH A NEW CHAPTER 22 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AS
SET FORTH HEREIN PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:56A-1 ET SEQ.

Clerk read Ordinance as entitled.

Motion to move Ordinance #7-2021: Councilman Moustakas, 2nd Councilwoman Cohen
Roll Call 5 yes votes

ORDINANCE #8-2021: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-6,
ARTICLE III, CONCERNING CONTINUING CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY

Clerk read Ordinance as entitled.

Motion to move Ordinance #8-2021: Councilwoman Cohen, 2nd Deputy Mayor Pritchett
Roll Call 5 yes votes

ORDINANCE #9-2021: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT

Clerk read Ordinance as entitled.

Motion to move Ordinance #9-2021: Councilwoman Cohen, 2nd Deputy Mayor Pritchett
Roll Call 5 yes votes

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Linda Bobo, 47 Abington Road – Ms. Bobo questioned the fair share housing payout. She expressed concern with Environmental Commission expenses and other aspects of it. Explained that she was happy to see recommendations were incorporated into Ordinance 8-2021, but still has concerns with it. The Township attorney explained there is a public hearing for the ordinances at the next meeting.

Andrew Gaus – Mr. Gaus asked why the minutes were not posted. The Township Clerk explained they are not completed at this time. Mr. Gaus stated his concerns about the fees for Ordinance 8-2021. He also asked why the Environmental Commission is being replaced. The Township Attorney explained.

Maria Giarratano – Thanked Council for revisiting the CCO Ordinance and asked them to provide a list on the website.

Dawn Hogan, 105 Yorktown Drive – Thanked Council for reconsidering issues from the previous meeting. Concerned about cleanliness of homes and gray areas with inspection requirements.

Cynthia Astrom, 165 Memorial Lane – Ms. Astrom questioned the process of inspections with condos and townhomes.

Linda Bobo – Ms. Bobo asked about the cost of the Environmental Commission.

Peter Bilazarian – Requested an update on the amount the Township will receive for the American Rescue Plan Act.

Sean Murphy, 13 Devonshire Road – Mr. Murphy asked if there have been any updates on the Route 38 ramp to 295.

Jackie Tsiartas, 169 Memorial Lane – Ms. Tsiartas expressed appreciation for the changes made with Ordinance 8-2021, but is concerned with why it was passed during a difficult time with Covid.

Tracy Sullivan, 45 Brookwood Road – Ms. Sullivan expressed that she wants to get kids back to school full time and asked if the Township has had any dialogue with the elementary school district.

Andrew Gaus – Asked the Attorney to clarify whether the international property code applies to Ordinance 8-2021. Mr. Gaus also questioned what reimbursements Environmental Commission members will receive.

Linda Bobo – Expressed concerns with inspection schedules.

Maria Giarratano - Ms. Giarratano explained that she has noticed more littering lately and asked what could be done about this. Councilwoman Cohen explained that the Green Team is planning various community cleanups.

Robin Marino, Preamble Drive – Expressed concern with the school district, online learning, and the impact it is having on students.

James Hogan, 105 Yorktown Drive – Mr. Hogan asked about the decrease in tax revenue, along with the hiring/reduction of employees.

David Marques, 499 Garden Way – Mr. Marques stated that inspections can sometimes take 2 to 3 weeks and requested an inspection checklist.

Barbara Ferrera, 22 Wembly Drive – Ms. Ferrera stated that she opposes Ordinance 8-2021. She also expressed concerns with safety at the intersection at Union Mill and Ark Road and requested a sidewalk there.

Cynthia Astrom – Requested a copy of the updated spread sheet.

Linda Bobo – Questioned new hires, along with hiring police and the budget.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL

Mayor Steglik – Thanked everyone for coming and for speaking. Congratulated and thanked the Larchmont Jogger.

Deputy Mayor Pritchett – Thanked everyone for participating. Enjoy your loved ones and continue to stay safe.

Councilwoman Janjua – Thanked everyone for coming. Urged residents to reach out to Asian American neighbors.

Councilwoman Cohen – Reiterated to residents to reach out to Asian residents or anyone feeling hatred at this time. Congratulated the Green Team on becoming certified by Sustainable Jersey. Announced that tree saplings will be distributed at Laurel Acres on May 8th. Explained pizza box recycling. Thanked everyone for participating.

Councilman Moustakas – Thanked everyone for their participation and expressed that residents' opinions matter. Acknowledged the Asian American attacks.

RESOLUTION #73-2021: 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 #73-2020: Councilwoman Cohen, 2nd Councilman Moustakas

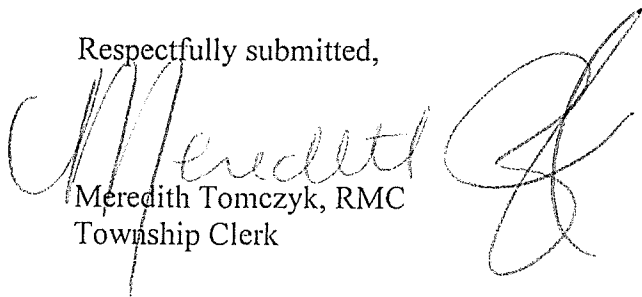
Roll Call 5 yes votes

Return to Open

Motion to adjourn: Deputy Mayor Pritchett, 2nd Councilwoman Janjua

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Meredith Tomczyk, RMC
Township Clerk