

**Township of Mount Laurel  
Regular Council Meeting  
April 4, 2022  
Mount Laurel Municipal Center**

Mayor Pritchett 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 Stephen Steglik - present, Mayor  
Kareem Pritchett - 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 \$1,304,259.26**

Motion to Move: Deputy Mayor Steglik, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to Move: Deputy Mayor Steglik, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Cohen; Councilman  
Moustakas abstained  
Roll Call 4 yes votes

**2022 BUDGET PRESENTATION – Township Manager**

**RESOLUTION #95-2022: RESOLUTION TO READ BUDGET BY TITLE ONLY**

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #95-2022: Deputy Mayor Steglik, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilman  
Moustakas  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION 22-R-96**

**RESOLUTION #96-2022: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2022  
MOUNT LAUREL MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #96-2022: Deputy Mayor Steglik, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Janjua  
Roll Call 5 yes votes  
Bob Reillo, 676 Cascade Drive South and Andrew Gaus, 154 Kettlebrook Drive various  
questions.

RESOLUTION #97-2022: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OR CANCELLATION  
OF PROPERTY TAXES BLOCK 304.01 LOT 12

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.  
Motion to Move Resolution #97-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman  
Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #98-2022: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OR CANCELLATION  
OF PROPERTY TAXES BLOCK 1417 LOT 18

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.  
Motion to Move Resolution #98-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman  
Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #99-2022: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT  
LAUREL TO ACCEPT A SUBGRANT AWARD OF THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
AGENCY ASSISTANCE

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.  
Motion to Move Resolution #99-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman  
Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #100-2022: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP  
POLICE DEPARTMENT TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF K-9 EQUIPMENT TO HUDSON  
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.  
Motion to Move Resolution #100-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman  
Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #101-2022: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR  
LAUREL HOUSE FLOORING THROUGH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY COOPERATIVE  
PURCHASING PROGRAM

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #101-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #102-2022: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR LAUREL HOUSE STAIRS THROUGH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.  
Motion to Move Resolution #102-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #103-2022: ANTICIPATION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2022 LOCAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159) ANTICIPATION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2022 LOCAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159)

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.  
Motion to Move Resolution #103-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #104-2022: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL AND THE BURLINGTON COUNTY PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, I.A.F.F. LOCAL 3091 (EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS)

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.  
Motion to Move Resolution #104-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #105-2022: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT OF SALE FOR THE PURCHASE OF BLOCK 800, LOTS 3 & 4 COMMONLY KNOWN AS "THE BACK 40" PARCEL

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.  
Motion to Move Resolution #105-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #106-2022: RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR COUNTY PROJECT

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.

Motion to Move Resolution #106-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #107-2022: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS FOR PLANNING BOARD

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.  
Motion to Move Resolution #107-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #108-2022: RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE TAX ASSESSOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.  
Motion to Move Resolution #108-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

RESOLUTION #109-2022: RESOLUTION EXTINGUISHING A DRAINAGE EASEMENT UNDER 103-105 GAITHER DRIVE, BLOCK 1201.05, LOT 1.01

Township Clerk read Resolution as entitled.  
Motion to Move Resolution #109-2022: Councilman Moustakas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilwoman Cohen  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING

ORDINANCE #10-2022: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 61 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL ENTITLED "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES" TO IMPLEMENT PUBLIC LAW 2021, C.395 PROMOTING RESTRICTIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE RANCOCAS WOODS SHOPPING DISTRICT

Clerk read Ordinance as entitled.  
Motion to move Ordinance #10-2022: Councilwoman Cohen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Mayor Steglik  
Roll Call 5 yes votes

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gloria Stephens, 515 Hartford Road, currently President of Mt. Laurel Garden Club. They maintain Veteran Memorial/911 Memorial, other garden areas in township, Paws Farm butterfly garden. Give at least one sometimes three scholarships to graduating seniors. Arbor Day tree dedication near 911 Memorial.

Brian Sharp, 19 Biddle Way – Question on Ordinance.

Caroline Ellis, 570 Walton Avenue – Member of group that restored PAWS Farm. Questioned when it would be open again. Deputy Mayor looking for partnership to pay for employees. Went there in 1980 as volunteer. What the Tweetys have put in the farm. Don't care about money. Care about kids. Special education. Special place in the township. Deputy Mayor explained about money. Mayor will keep trying to find money. Tax increase. Not going to hire employees. Government looking out for taxpayer. Need fiscally responsible solution.

Gloria Stephens, 515 Hartford Road – Children athletic fields are paid for and maintained by township. Nothing else quite along these lines anywhere else. PAWS should be supported by the township.

Ann Rosenberg – Volunteer at PAWS Farm. Over \$250,000 spent on property. The property is up to code. Tweetys fronted the money. Township benefits. Everything is fixed, ready for animals and ready to open.

Deputy Mayor – We will do this in the most fiscally responsible way.

George Morris – 180 animals transferred. Township has no money. RFP's very clear that township would not pay for staff. Financial responsibility on the township.

Councilman Moustakas concerned. Will try to find solution. Sustainable solution.

Charles Tweety – great-full of administration. Have to open to ask for money. Employee living there. 30/40/50 animals no one to look after them is the real liability. Money from donations/administration/birthday parties go to the township. Very generous township. Look at performance. June/July to open.

Loretta Poinsett, 102 Rancocas Boulevard – Taxpayer asked for a budget line item in the budget. I'm frustrated that we are asking for help. We can do better.

Sharon, Moorestown – highly emotional. Family owned before the Tweetys. There is money for a good cause. Gift to the township. Shocked township can't chip in more. Asset to have someone live there.

Carey – partnership facebook group. Fundraiser can't happen until opened. Tweetys have invested so much work. Darnell history through PAWS. Lots of volunteers.

Caroline Ellis – not that easy. It is that easy. Sustainable. Hear everyone.

Ann Rosenberg – Should open now. Spring is here. May/June open.

Deputy Mayor – It's not that easy. We are still trying. Wants sure thing for funding. Sustainable, long term.

Dr. Tweety – No way to predict amount of money that will be needed to run PAWS. PAWS will bring in money. We kept our end of bargain.

Christine Atkins – Cedar Run, Medford. Making money.

#### COMMENTS BY COUNCIL

Manager – Congratulations to Dennis DeClerk.

Councilwoman Cohen – Thanked everyone for comments. Congratulations to Adrienne Lewis, Ronald Lieberman and Susan Sant for serving on Planning Board. Congratulations to Dennis DeClerk and continued service as Tax Assessor. Thanked employees for budget. Thanked Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Council for continued services to community. Plant swap on Saturday. Events on website. National library week. Open space purchase.

Councilwoman Janjua – Thanked everyone for coming and volunteers. Birthday parties at PAWS. Special place. Heard everything. Trying our best for PAWS Farm. Happy Ramada.

Councilman Moustakas – We all feel the emotion for PAWS. Priority. Greek Independence Day. Thanked everyone who attended. Enjoy weather.

Deputy Mayor Steglik – Thanked everyone for coming out and for work on budget. Great Greek festival. Happy Ramada. PAWS is an ongoing project.

Mayor Pritchett – Baseball opened on Saturday. Website has upcoming events. We will continue to try for a solution for PAWS.

Motion to adjourn: Deputy Mayor Steglik, 2<sup>nd</sup> Councilman Moustakas

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Tomczyk, RMC  
Township Clerk

