

**MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 25, 2019**

The meeting of the Manchester Township Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Council President Joan Brush. The following statement was read by Sabina T. Skibo, 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.”

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL**

The following roll call was taken by the Municipal Clerk:

Councilman Charles Frattini	- absent
Councilman James Vaccaro	- present
Councilwoman Joan Brush	- present
Councilman Sam Fusaro	- present
Councilman Craig Wallis	- present

The Municipal Clerk noted for the record that also present were Angela Koutsouris-Zografos, Township Attorney, James Gant, Assistant Business Administrator, Mayor Kenneth Palmer, Chief Lisa Parker, Captain Todd Malland and Lt. Robert Dolan.

**SUBMISSION OF BILLS**

**#19-119** – Authorizing payment of bills from the Current Fund in the amount of \$1,183,188.11 was offered by Councilman Fusaro, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Fusaro, Wallis and Brush; yea.

**#19-120** – Authorizing payment of bills from the Eastern Service Area in the amount of \$445,605.64 was offered by Councilman Fusaro, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Fusaro, Wallis and Brush; yea.

**#19-121** – Authorizing payment of bills from the Western Service Area in the amount of \$296,823.27 was offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilwoman Brush and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Fusaro, Wallis and Brush; yea.

**ORDINANCES – Second Reading, Public Hearing and Final Action**

**#19-005 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF VACANT LAND, A/K/A BLOCK 71, LOT 6.01; BLOCK 71.02, LOT 159.02; BLOCK 71.13, LOT 1; BLOCK 72, LOT 4 AND BLOCK 52, LOT 1, PURSUANT TO TH PROVIDSION OF N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13**

Councilwoman Brush asked if any Councilmembers had comments on this ordinance. Seeing no comments from Council, Mrs. Brush opened this portion of the meeting to the public.

Seeing no comments from the public, Councilwoman Brush closed this portion of the meeting.

The above ordinance was offered upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Fusaro and **adopted** by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Fusaro, Wallis and Brush; yea.

**#19-006 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A SALE OF VACANT LAND, A/K/A KNOWN AS LOT 1.01, BLOCK 71, MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP, NJ PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40a:12-13**

Councilwoman Brush asked if any Councilmembers had any comments on this ordinance. Seeing no comments from Council, Mrs. Brush opened this portion of the meeting to the public.

Seeing no comments from the public, Councilwoman Brush closed this portion of the meeting.

The above ordinance was offered upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Fusaro and **adopted** by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Fusaro, Wallis and Brush; yea.

**ORDINANCES – First Reading & Introduction**

**#19-007 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ACCEPTING THE LAND DONATION OF BLOCK 123.41, LOT 10 LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER  
(Pasadena Road)**

The above ordinance was offered upon a motion by Councilman Wallis, seconded by Councilman Vaccaro and adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Fusaro, Wallis and Brush; yea.

**#19-008 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER BY ADDING NEW SECTION 409-5 ENTITLED “SITING OF POLES, CABINETS AND ANTENNAS” OF CHAPTER 409 ENTITLED “UTILITY COMPANY WORK” AND ADDING NEW ARTICLE VII ENTITLED “SITING OF POLES, CABINETS AND ANTENNAS” TO CHAPTER 372 ENTITLED “STREETS AND SIDEWALKS”**

Ms. Skibo explained that at the last meeting an ordinance was introduced and Pinelands has now gotten back to us and made their recommendations. That ordinance is on the March 11, 2019 meeting and should be defeated at that time. This ordinance is a reintroduction of the previous ordinance with the changes Pinelands suggested pertaining to the nodes.

The above ordinance was offered upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Fusaro and adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Fusaro, Wallis and Brush; yea.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**The items listed 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.**

Councilwoman Brush asked if any member of Council had any comments on any item on the consent agenda. Seeing no comments from Council, Councilwoman Brush asked if there were any comments from the public on any items on the consent agenda.

Seeing no comments from the public, Councilwoman Brush closed this portion of the meeting.

**Resolutions #19-122 through #19-138 were considered routine by the Manchester Township Council and were enacted by one motion offered by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilman Fusaro and adopted by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Fusaro, Wallis and Brush; yea.**

**A. LAND USE**

**#19-122 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS CONCERNING COSTS INCURRED IN THE CLEAN UP OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 87 SUNSET ROAD (BLOCK 75.100, LOT 159), AND AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A LIEN AGAINST SAID PROPERTY FOR SAID COSTS**

**B. FINANCE**

**#19-123 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDS REQUESTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR**

**#19-124 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL TAXES AS TO BLOCK 61.21, LOT 11 FOR A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN**

**#19-125 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR CALENDAR YEAR AUDIT 2017**

**C. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS**

**#19-126 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF 18 PATROL PC MOBILE DATA TERMINALS UNDER NJ STATE CONTRACT**

**D. LICENSING**

**#19-127 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING SENIOR CITIZEN MOBILE HOME PARK LICENSES FOR THE YEAR 2019 FOR PINE RIDGE AT CRESTWOOD AND PINE RIDGE SOUTH MOBILE HOME PARKS**

**#19-128 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING A CAMPGROUND LICENSE FOR 2019 FOR SURF & STREAM CAMPGROUND**

**#19-129 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING FAMILY MOBILE HOME PARK LICENSES FOR THE YEAR 2019 FOR COLONIAL MOBILE HOME COURT, PINE ACRES MANOR MOBILE HOME PARK AND RIDGEWAY MOBILE HOME PARK**

#### **E. GRANTS**

**#19-130 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR AN OCEAN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT**

**#19-131 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR THE YEAR 2019**

#### **F. RECREATON**

**#19-132 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH LAGUARDIA AND ASSOCIATES**

**#19-133 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL**

#### **G. PURCHASING**

**#19-134 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS LAKE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.**

**#19-135 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A LAWN IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND WATER WELL FOR BOWKER BASEBALL FIELDS**

#### **H. BONDS/ESCROWS**

**#19-136 - RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, RELEASING ESCROWS POSTED BY ARYA PROPERTIES FOR VARIOUS ROAD OPENINGS**

#### **I. MISCELLANEOUS**

**#19-137 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, URGING NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY TO INCLUDE THE DESIGNATION OF MANCHESTER TOWNSHP ON THE SIGNAGE OF EXIT 89 OF THE GARDEN STATE PARKWAY SOUTH**

**#19-138 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDING LIMIT WAIVER FOR MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM CASE #MAN-1844**

#### **REPORTS**

**Mr. Vaccaro:** Mr. Vaccaro attended various events including the PBA awards and Manchester Coordinating Council meeting. He congratulated the Manchester Lady Hawks basketball team on their latest victory as well

as Destiny Adams the MVP. Mr. Vaccaro commended the team, coaches and the athletic program for a job well done.

**Mr. Wallis:** Mr. Wallis requested that Diane Lapp, CFO look into the effect of the new minimum wage on the Township. Ms. Lapp said it will pertain mostly to seasonal employees and there may be approximately a \$15,000 difference. Mr. Wallis commented on the upcoming new marijuana legislation and he is opposed and would like Council to pass a resolution opposing it, if possible. Mr. Wallis also feels that the Township should be reimbursed by the State for the training of dogs, vehicles and officer training.

**Mr. Fusaro:** Mr. Fusaro said that the Manchester Coordinating Council is very concerned about the Route 70 and Beckerville Road intersection eastbound visibility. The County did an evaluation and said a sign is not needed. Mr. Fusaro asked the Chief to see if there is possibly a safety triangle issue.

**Mrs. Brush:** Mrs. Brush thanked the Manchester Police Department PBA for their generosity. They have donated over \$41,000.00 to various community projects, programs and charities.

**Ms. Zografos: None**

**Mr. Gant: None.**

**Ms. Skibo: None.**

**Mayor Palmer:** Mayor Palmer talked about the nice welcome for the Lady Hawks. The families, Police and Fire Departments all greeted them. The Renaissance secondary access road will be completed in the spring and a new gate will be installed.

#### **PUBLIC:**

**Judy Kuhmichael:** 55 Winkle Court, Country Walk – Mrs. Kuhmichael inquired as to energy savings figures. She feels having this information will be a good way to encourage residents to get into the program and more will participate. Ms. Skibo said she will try to get an estimated figure from Gabel Associates.

**Brian Klimakowski** – Manchester First Aid Squad – Mr. Klimakowski commented that his presence before Council was advertised on social media. He came to address issues brought up at the last Council meeting. There were only a few people from the squad at the last meeting and he feels that when things get relayed back through the channels, sometimes it loses its intent or content, whichever the case may be. He checked and obviously the minutes from the last meeting are not up and will not be ready for some time. He said he thinks they are about six months behind. It is his understanding that the Council was briefed on the potential of having a paid squad come into town, based on the fact that the Chief feels the local EMS (Manchester and Whiting) can no longer handle the call volume coming in each day. Mr. Klimakowski said that obviously, he hates to come before Council without all the facts, but will shoot from what he has. He asked to be corrected if inaccurate. He said both squads, Whiting - 45 years and Manchester - 48 years have been serving the community answering thousands upon thousands of calls. He stated that people do not have the time to volunteer like they used to and certainly some of the certifications make it tougher every day. He said that the volunteers sitting here today are not being paid and if the bell goes off during this meeting, some of them will get up and leave to respond to the call. Mr. Klimakowski feels it is an important role and it is not recognized by the Township.

Mr. Klimakowski questioned the overall reason for moving to a paid squad. Attorney Zografos responded that there was not a presentation for a paid squad at the previous meeting. There was discussion regarding concerns for the citizens – making sure that we have proper coverage. There was comment that Quality Medical Transport is covering without a contract. There was no solution presented. The Council reiterated to Chief Parker to please come up with a solution and present it to Council. At this point, there has been no presentation

of a solution. Mr. Klimakowski responded that obviously, Quality Medical Transport has been assisting the residents of Manchester at no charge for over fifteen years. He can list a number of municipalities they currently assist, including Stafford Township, Barnegat Township, Waretown and many more. He inquired as to why, suddenly after fifteen years this is not acceptable. Attorney Zografos' understanding is that residents have a fear about balance billing. They will call for assistance and request volunteers only and there is concern residents won't get the help they need because a volunteer is not available. Mr. Klimakowski is concerned for the squad. He stated that the budget will increase exponentially with a paid squad and cited some examples of the costs of vehicles, employees and equipment. He stated that eventually the taxpayers will bear the burden. Mr. Klimakowski wants the Council and Mayor to be aware of the costs and to know that the volunteers are here and have voices and will speak up. He is disappointed the squads were not advised of the last meeting and feels they should be at the table, unless you want a complete hostile takeover. The members and the community want to be heard. Mr. Klimakowski said this will be a hot button issue. He said it is crazy how the volunteers are being treated. Councilwoman Brush said we are not blaming the volunteers; they are very good. We just don't have enough and the call volume keeps going up. We have an issue or concern, and are just reaching out and trying to resolve the issue. Mr. Klimakowski has spoken with various volunteer organizations and they are all having a hard time. He stated that part of the problem is the town. The background checks have been denied to non-residents. Councilman Fusaro found this hard to believe, as there are non-resident volunteers. Mr. Klimakowski feels ordinance needs to be amended.

Mr. Klimakowski spoke regarding assistance with repair of a vehicle. They spent \$80.00 having it towed to the Township garage. Public Works provided a list of parts needed and the squad spent a couple thousand dollars for parts. Then, the squad was informed there wasn't time to repair the vehicle as they were paving Pine Lake Park and wanted the vehicle removed. It was towed back to their building and then the next thing was there was no time as preparations were being made for the snow. This was followed by an e-mail basically saying the mechanic is not going to fix it.

Mr. Klimakowski feels the way the volunteers are treated here is not good. A patient (cardiac call) refused treatment and two members were brought in and mirandized and then interrogated. It was later turned over to the State and dismissed as the patient refused.

Mr. Klimakowski spoke about accident reports. When a volunteer has an accident with another vehicle, there is a four-page narrative, single spaced. The attorney for the squad said he has never seen anything like this for a two car accident with no injuries. He feels it looks like someone is out to get you. Mr. Klimakowski never saw anything like it while he was working as Chief or Business Administrator. Fatal accidents, DWI's, absolutely, but never for a two car accident with no injuries.

Mr. Klimakowski feels there is no support of the volunteers; we should be helping them find members. No one comes to the dinners. Everyone used to come and recognize the volunteers for their service. Mr. Klimakowski said if there are problems or complaints, we should hear about them. He brought letters of appreciation from many citizens. He feels if it is not broken, it does not need to be fixed. Mr. Klimakowski requested that the squads be included in the dialog pertaining to paid EMS.

**Jennifer White** - 58 Cabot Avenue – Ms. White attended the OEM meeting approximately six weeks ago. Chief Parker said let's get together and see what we can do to help each other. We have problems here – we're looking at 80% of calls. She and Joan Tarr thought about how to be proactive and serve our citizens better. Ms. White then sent an e-mail to Art Abline, asking for police officers to respond first to lift assist calls with no injuries. The police officers are often there and could evaluate whether the squad needs to be dispatched. Ms. White asked for data to be pulled to see where calls are being missed, so a schedule can be made to accommodate the needs. To date, there has been no response to her request. Ms. White also cited the costs of responding to a call, equipment costs, etc. She said they are very active with the State getting funding for the EMT's., but it is not enough. They need some help with the work and the data.

John Ponticello – 14 Meadowlark Lane – Mr. Ponticello feels the time has come for a paid first aid squad – we cannot depend on volunteers. They are doing a great job, but do not get enough volunteers to help. His brother died waiting for assistance three years ago due to a broken system. Mr. Ponticello does not want it to be his fate. He is a heart patient, as was his brother. Three calls were made for his brother and it took 38 minutes for assistance to arrive. Family members arrived from Bayville and Waretown before anyone responded. Mr. Ponticello questioned why there is a difference between the east and west side of town; they should pool their resources and merge. He feels the system should be made to work. Let’s get people to do this so we can rely on them in our time of need. It should not be about money. Mr. Ponticello provided copies of a letter from the State pertaining to his brother’s case. Mr. Ponticello stated that Quality Medical Transport also failed his brother; they are not in the lifesaving business – just transport. They are like a taxi service. Mr. Ponticello suggested paying our volunteers. Mr. Klimakowski commented that what happened is unfortunate and we never want to lose a resident. He stated that Mr. Ponticello’s report is factually inaccurate. There are a lot more details and he will leave it at that. Mr. Ponticello called out and was told to come up to the mike. He wanted to know who Mr. Klimakowski is and was informed he is representing the first aid squad. Mr. Ponticello apologized to Council for the disruption.

Councilwoman Brush said we do not have a solution, but the situation needs to be addressed. We want more for our residents. Councilman Fusaro stated that he is not sure what is on social media, but the Chief spoke at the last meeting. No decision has been made nor action taken. The matter needs to be looked into and data gathered – there is a lot to evaluate. We are here to help our residents and hopefully come up with a solution to benefit residents. Councilman Wallis said this is not a judgment of volunteers at all. Do not think of this as an attack on volunteers - but we need to do something.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further comments or business to come before Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m. upon a motion by Councilman Vaccaro, seconded by Councilwoman Brush and approved by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Vaccaro, Fusaro, Wallis and Brush; yea.

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Joan Brush  
Council President

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Sabina T. Skibo, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

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Date Approved