

**MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC NOTICE of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given by the Township Council in the following manner:

1. Notifying the Township Clerk December 27, 2024.
2. Mailing Notice to the Courier Post, The Central Record and Burlington County Times on December 27, 2024.
3. Posting Notice on the Official Municipal Bulletin Board on December 27, 2024.

Anyone from the public wishing to speak will be permitted to address comments to the Council during public participation portions only. Those wishing to speak should stand up to the podium, state their name and their address prior to making any comment. Each member of the Public will be given one (1) opportunity and up to five (5) minutes, unless otherwise determined by Council, during each Public Portion to address comments to the Council. A draft agenda has been posted on the Township webpage and bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

Please place all phones on mute to alleviate the disruption of the meeting.

ROLL CALL -6:30 pm

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYES	NAYS	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kauffman							x
Nunes			x				
Simonsick			x				
Zahradnick			x				
Talarico			x				

Resolution No. 2025-R-30 Resolution to Meet in Executive Session,
Council did not motion to go into executive session and took a 20-minute recess

OPEN BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Reports – Manager Danson – No report

Public Participation – no participation

Motion to Close: Zahradnick Second: Simonsick Comments: none All in Favor: yes

Motion to Adjourn: Zahradnick Second: Nunes All in Favor: yes

Resolution No. 2025-R-31 APPOINT TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY FOR THE YEAR 2025

Motion to Approve Ellen McDowell:

Comments: none

Roll Call:

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYES	NAYS	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kauffman							x
Nunes				x			

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Simonsick		x	x				
Zahradnick	x		x				
Talarico			x				

PUBLIC HEARING TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION – Jake’s Law Playground,
525 Buttonwood Avenue

Annie Orio, of Remington & Vernick Engineers, presented a proposal for the Buttonwood Park playground renovations to include sensory play areas with new equipment, benches, sidewalk path, and two handicap parking spots. Also, an enclosed fence surrounding the new playground. Several residents expressed concerns with the safety of children, feeling it’s a busy street coming off Route 38 and there should be an increase in parking or a look at an alternate location.

PUBLIC PORTION (for Consent Agenda Items) - Members of the public wishing to speak will be permitted to address comments or questions to the Council regarding resolutions listed under the Consent Agenda only. Those wishing to speak should step up to the microphone and state their name and their address prior to making any comment. Each member of the public will be given one (1) opportunity and up to five (5) minutes during this Public Portion.

William Olsen of Surenian, Edwards, & Nolan, was present via zoom to explain to the public the 1975 Mount Laurel Doctrine, how the obligations evolved to the new round four and the need for the township council to adopt a resolution accepting the DCA number for Maple Shade. No public participation.

Motion to Close: Nunes Second: Zahradnick All in Favor: yes

Motion to Table Resolution 2025-R-34: Zahradnick Second: Simonsick Comments: none

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYES	NAYS	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kauffman							x
Nunes				x			
Simonsick			x				
Zahradnick			x				
Talarico			x				

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No. 2025-R-32 A RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE’S CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ALL OFFICIALS, APPOINTEES, EMPLOYEES, PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTERS, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT COME INTO CONTACT WITH MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS

Resolution No. 2025-R-33 RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES OF DECORUM FOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL AND BOARD MEETINGS

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Resolution No. 2025-R-34 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN AGENDA POLICY FOR MEETINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL (**TABLED**)

Resolution No. 2025-R-35 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS IN THE USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Resolution No. 2025-R-36 APPOINT GINA CAPATE TO THE MAPLE SHADE PLANNING BOARD TO FILL A VACANCY AS A CLASS IV WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND APPOINT BARBARA RATHGEB AS A CLASS IV WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

Resolution No. 2025-R-37 APPOINT LAURA KOZIERACHI TO THE MAPLE SHADE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT TO FILL A VACANCY AS A CLASS IV WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 2027, APPOINT DANIEL MCDONALD AS ALTERNATE #1 WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

Resolution No. 2025-R-38 AMEND CONTRACT FOR COUNTY AVENUE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,121.00

Resolution No. 2025-R-39 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT TO JAN-PRO FRANCHISE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH JERSEY FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING CLEANING

Resolution No. 2025-R-40 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GREEN ACRES APPLICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BUTTONWOOD PARK FOR AN INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

Resolution No. 2025-R-41 RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE COMMITTING TO ROUND 4 PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda:

Second:

Comments: none

Roll Call:

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYES	NAYS	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kauffman							x
Nunes			x				
Simonsick		x	x				
Zahradnick	x		x				
Talarico			x				

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE LIST -\$3,095,359.47

CURRENT FUND

\$ 914,425.14

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UTILITY FUND	\$ 670,720.90
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$ 332,908.60
UTILITY CAPITAL FUND	\$ 490,850.04
TRUST FUND	\$ 680,989.91
GRANT FUND	\$ 5,464.88

Motion to Approve:		Second:		Comments:		Roll Call:	
COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYES	NAYS	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kauffman							x
Nunes	x		x				
Simonsick			x				
Zahradnick		x	x				
Talarico			x				

PUBLIC PORTION –

Dennis Weaver, 324 S. Lippincott Avenue, reported that he was the president of the Historical Society since June of 2023 and expressed issued with the property which included the need for a new lease with the township and the desire to move the fire box and any lights/strobes from the front of the building.

Steve Schmidt, 520 Sunset Avenue, sent condolences to the Kauffman family and expressed his concern with hiring an attorney that is on the opposition side of the township and representing (as of last Friday) Mr. Simonsick in the lawsuits. Believes there is a conflict of interest.

Brian Lozuke, of Mattleman, Weinroth & Miller, asked Manager Danson if there was a bid summary available for the attorney RFPs, yes, they can be provided. He expressed concerns that the appointment was made without deliberation and asked Ms. McDowell about her experience in Maple Shade and experience as a municipal attorney.

Lou Manchello, 19 Boulevard Avenue, commented that council made a wonderful decision with their appointment of Ellen McDowell.

Motion to Close: Zahradnick Second: Simonsick All in Favor: yes

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Council expressed their condolences to the Kauffman family and the Todd family for their losses. Mr. Zahradnick expressed his utmost confidence in Ms. McDowell. Ms. Nunes thanked Joe Dugan for his 50+ years in Maple Shade government, as Council and on Planning Board. Stay warm and safe.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Operations
 - a. The food bank project is close to finished, just some trim work to complete
 - b. BEDC had their first meeting of the year, the members discussed their short and long term goals and decided to continue the paver program.

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- c. DPW is in full snow operations, doing a great job. Please keep vehicles off the road during snowfall.
- d. EMS answered 3,409 calls, 3,144 in 2023, Construction had 1,845 inspections and 730 permits, Police Department had 26,531 calls, 24,913 in 2023
Fire Department had 473 incidents
- 2. Site Plan – no meeting
- 3. Trash Collection – Manager Danson spoke of the increases for trash collection going anywhere from 15 to 45% and ways for the township to counter the costs. One way would be to reduce bulk pick up to once a month but having two week-long drop off times a year and the ability to take bulk items to the DPW. More discussion is needed in order to write the appropriate specifications for the bid process.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Council discussed the appointment of a Conflicts Township Attorney. The decision was to list for old business at the next meeting.

Attorney McDowell requested closed session, discussion concluded that it would be for the ordinance 2023-12 litigation.

Motion to go into Close: Zahradnick Second: Simonsick All in Favor: yes

Formal action may be taken upon conclusion of Closed Session

(Mayor of the Township Council then declares the meeting closed and directs that the tape be shut off. At conclusion of closed portion, Mayor of Township Council calls for a motion to reopen the meeting and turn the tape on.)

Motion to Open: Zahradnick Second: Simonsick All in Favor: yes

**MOTION TO ADJOURN UNTIL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
FEBRUARY 13, 2025, AT 6:30 PM**

Motion (7:55 pm): Zahradnick Second: Nunes All in Favor: yes

Notice is being forwarded in accordance with The Open Public Meetings Act – 1/21/25.