

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 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 the 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

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

Resolution No. 2025-R-43 Resolution to Meet in Executive Session for the following:
Matters Relating to Employment Relations: Employee #099186 and Township Solicitor

Motion to Close 6:31pm: Nunes Second: Simonsick All in Favor: yes

Formal action may be taken upon the 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 6:55pm: Zahradnick Second: Nunes All in Favor: yes

Attorney McDowell reported an action approved in executive session pertaining to Mayor Talarico and read the affidavit into the minutes.

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PRESENTATION – UNLESS – The Student Climate Challenge

Three of the high school students belonging to the Unless Program presented their project and their mission to the council. Their 2024-2025 mission is to help save the McCord's Box Turtle. Their goals include focusing on reducing waste, conserving water, rebuilding habitats and policy implementations.

ORDINANCE(S) – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Ordinance No. 25-01 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARIES AND WAGES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

Motion for Introduction: Comments: Mr. Simonsick would like the ordinance tabled to look at the money spent on contractual contracts v. non-contractual employees Roll Call:

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

Publication Date: February 19, 2025

Public Hearing: March 13, 2025

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. No public participation

Motion to Close: Nunes

Second: Zahradnick

All in Favor: yes

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No. 2025-R-44 AUTHORIZE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH RAHMAN AS DEPUTY TAX ASSESSOR

Resolution No. 2025-R-45 AUTHORIZE FOR AERIAL LARVAL MOSQUITO CONTROL FOR THE YEAR 2025

Resolution No. 2025-R-46 AUTHORIZING GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LOCAL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT (LRIG) AND EXECUTION OF GRANT AGREEMENT

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Resolution No. 2025-R-47 RESOLUTION TO DECLARE BLOCK 41, LOT 7 AS TAX EXEMPT AND TO CANCEL TAXES FROM JANUARY 14, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

Resolution No 2025-R-48 AUTHORIZE ROAD CLOSINGS FOR MUNICIPAL EVENTS

Resolution No. 2025-R-49 APPROVE APPOINTMENTS TO PLANNING BOARD

Resolution No. 2025-R-50 RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MR. NICE GREENS, LLC TO IDENTIFY APPLICANT'S NAME CHANGE

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda: Comments: Mr. Simonsick requested to have new employees come before the council even though they are the manager's appointments. Manager Danson agreed. He questioned why the Holiday Fest was not part of resolution 48, Manager Danson explained a resolution will follow when the date and plans are set. Mr. Simonsick expressed concerns about the Buttonwood Avenue playground project, safety needs, and resident notifications. Manager Danson explained that that was why there was a public meeting, all the concerns were brought back to the engineers for consideration and the neighbors will have a chance to review the plans.

Roll Call:

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

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE LIST - \$6,739,385.77

CURRENT FUND	\$ 5,497,639.33
UTILITY FUND	\$ 324,454.61
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$ 178,586.11
UTILITY CAPITAL FUND	\$ 163,162.91
TRUST FUND	\$ 341,733.82
GRANT FUND	\$ 62,876.30

Motion to Approve:

Second:

Comments:

Roll Call:

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

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APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2024 MINUTES

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

PUBLIC PORTION – Mr. Stevens requested improvements to Maple Heights due to the abuse of large truck deliveries to the Sub Shoppe, cars running over the grass and pot holes. Emily Wallace, Alexander Avenue asked council to revisit Ordinance 2001-05 and allow hens in residential properties. She supplies ordinance from other municipalities as reference.

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

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS – Mr. Kauffman thanked everyone for their condolences, thoughts and prayers. The council reminded the public that Friday is Valentine’s Day and there are many festive places to eat in town. The Wellness Fair is on 2/21, from 10 to 1 at the township building and 2/20 bingo at the Firehouse. Maple Shade has been designated, “Healthy Town Up and Coming for 2024”. Recreation handles the Mayors Wellness campaign and is doing a great job.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Operations
 - a. It’s time again to register for your dogs and the free rabies clinic is March 15th
 - b. Rental renewals are underway, please remember to register at the township and get your annual inspection.
 - c. DPW has been busy with snow, clean up and road repairs
 - d. On February 27th we will host the winners of the fire prevention contest
 - e. The building will be closed Monday observing President’s Day.
2. Police Report
 - a. The chief thanked everyone for their well wishes while he was out.
 - b. 2/6 was a Career Fair at the high school
 - c. 2/7 Cocoa with a Cop – approximately 125 kids came by
 - d. 2/13 Pizza with Patrols at Crust N Fire
 - e. The Police Department responded to 26,541 calls in 2024, a 7% increase
 - f. The PD is participating in (CIT) Crisis Intervention Training
 - g. 2/25 is a fundraiser for the Chaplains -15% of your bill at Crust N Fire will be donated which helps pay for National Night Out
3. Site Plan

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- a. Buena Vista Avenue – wanted to convert one family dwelling into two
 - b. Route 38 Storage is installing solar
 - c. Eastern Lift is expanding into 14 Morris Avenue
 - d. A large garage is proposed on Mill Road, going to Zoning Board
 - e. A large garage is proposed on Alexander Avenue, going to Zoning Board
4. BEDC Report
- a. The paver program will continue
 - b. Ordinances are being reviewed for updates to support businesses
 - c. Working on an outreach program
 - d. Fund raising ideas
 - e. Reviewing the master plan
5. MS Green Team/Sustainable Report
- a. Clothing drive is 2/23 at town hall, 9-11 and 24th in Fox Meadows 5:30 to 7:30
 - b. Opening of the Community Garden is 3/23
 - c. Next meeting is 3/11
6. Trash Collection – the bid specifications will be sent to the state for approval then back to council for discussion

NEW BUSINESS

1. Conflicts Township Attorney – Mr. Simonsick wants an RFP for an at will conflicts attorney, it doesn't cost anything. Attorney McDowell explained that there will be conflict issues she would have to recuse from and would want someone in place. The council can use the old RFPs. Manager Danson explained that the law allows the township attorney to bring an attorney on when a conflict warrants same. Mr. Simonsick made a motion to appoint a conflict attorney using the old RFPs: no Second: motion dies.
2. Purchase Generator for DPW -this is a capital purchase under the bid threshold -it is a safety need at the DPW building -yes
3. SCBA replacements for Fire Department – this is also a capital purchase under state contract and is a safety need for the fire department – 50 units are being replaced -yes
4. Mattress Disposal -it is important to educate the residents that this is a mandated change that costs the township \$13.50 per mattress, and we will put a plan in place and report back
5. Closed Session Agenda Change -Mr. Simonsick made a motion to change the start time for the council meetings to 7:00 pm and have the executive session at the end of the meetings. The motion included moving the public portion to the end of New Business and taking out the 5 five-minute speaking restriction and the repeat appearance restriction: no Second: motion dies. Mr. Zahradnick made a motion to leave the meeting start time at 6:30 pm and move closed session to the end of the meeting: Second by Simonsick: Kauffman/Nunes – No; Simonsick/Zahradnick/Talarico – Yes

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Motion carries. The council then discussed moving the public portion to the end of the new business and decided to leave it as is for now.

6. RFPs for Grant Writer, Road Engineer, and Forensic Auditor – Mr. Simonsick made a motion to go out for RFPs for a Township Engineer, Grant Writer and Forensic Auditor; no Second; motion dies. Manager Danson will gather information in regard to what the township funds through grants and the costs of grant projects.
7. Ongoing projects from 2023-2024 – Mr. Simonsick asked for completed and on-going projects, they will be circulated tomorrow.
8. Master Plan Review – the township planner is compiling a summary of committee plans and goals

ADDITIONAL:

1. Mr. Simonsick made a motion to appoint Jeff Booth to Site Plan Review Board – he is not on a land use board and cannot serve.
2. Mr. Simonsick discussed the closing of a nursing home in town that the council should take at fair market value and level it to give to the school for parking and outbuildings. Manager Danson explained that the township has not received official notice but that inquiring about their status is doable as was done in the past and there may be outstanding liens that would need to be satisfied.
3. Mr. Simonsick asked about High Street – Chief Fletcher is looking into options – it's a volume issue not a speeding issue
4. Mr. Simonsick would like to appointment Fred Turek Consulting as a second Planner, his RFP was overlooked during the process
5. Mr. Simonsick made a motion to create an ordinance for the Fire Department. Attorney McDowell was asked if there was a conflict of interest – no. Having open court cases does not prevent the council from working on a new ordinance.
Second: Zahradnick: Kauffman/Nunes/Talarico -No Zahradnick/Simonsick -Yes
No motion carries.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNTIL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
FEBRUARY 27, 2025, AT 6:30 PM

Motion: Kauffman Second: Zahradnick All in Favor: yes

Notice is being forwarded in accordance with The Open Public Meetings Act – 2/11/25.

Andrea T. McVeigh, RMC
Maple Shade Township