

**MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2025 – 6:00 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 -6:05				
Nunes			x				
Simonsick			x				
Zahradnick			x-6:11				
Talarico			x				

CAPITAL BUDGET DISCUSSION -CFO McKendry and Manager Danson reviewed the capital budget including road projects, the five-year plan, and capital requests by departments. The council agreed to move forward.

OPEN BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Reports – Manager Danson reported five calls: 2 sanitary, one dog, one insect and one miscellaneous. All resolved. Also reported were the bird flu and measles status.

Public Participation - none

Motion to Close: Kauffman Second: Nunes Comments: none All in Favor: yes

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

ORDINANCE(S) – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

**MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
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Ordinance No. 2025-02 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE, IN BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP CODE CHAPTER 114 “LICENSING AND PERMITS” TO ADD ARTICLE VI. “FILMMAKING”

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

Publication Date: March 19, 2025

Public Hearing: April 10, 2025

ORDINANCE(S) – SECOND READING ND PUBLIC HEARING

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

Open to Public: none

Motion to Close: Kauffman Second: Nunes Comments: none All in Favor: yes

Motion to Adopt: Comments: none Roll Call:

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

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 participation

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No. 2025-R-63 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE SETTING FORTH PROCEDURES FOR AGENDA POLICY FOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETINGS

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Resolution No. 2025-R-64 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW JERSEY CLIMATE SUPERFUND ACT

Resolution No. 2025-R-65 RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE LOCAL RAFFLE LICENSE FEE FOR THE MAPLE SHADE VFW POST #2445

Resolution No. 2025-R-66 AUTHORIZE THE INSTALLATION OF A SIGMA 20 GREENHOUSE IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN AT COLLINS PARK

Resolution No. 2025-R-67 AUTHORIZE DEFFERED SCHOOL TAX

Resolution No. 2025-R-68 AMEND CONTRACT WITH BOOTH MECHANICAL, INC. FOR ALEXANDER AVENUE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND APPROVE FINAL CHANGE ORDER NO. 1

Resolution No. 2025-R-69 AMEND CONTRACT WITH A.C. SCHULTES, INC. FOR WASTERWATER TREATMENT PLANT REPLACEMENT SLUDGE PUMPS AND DIGESTER BLOWERS AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda: Comments: Mr. Simonsick made the following comments on Resolution 2025-R-63: “I don’t know who’s writing these, I’m assuming you (Ellen) didn’t write these (Attorney response, no) whoever’s writing these are writing things that the Faulkner act is very clear on that. This ordinance is directly contradicting that. It’s basically taking my right as a council person away. All five of us have equal power. The Mayor is a weak mayor system in this township and the council sets the agenda, so far this to be introduced and it to be approved – it’s illegal – and anyone that’s gonna vote yes on it, at the end of the day, I’m gonna go file an ethics complaint about it to the state ‘cause the law is clear. So, I want it on record about that resolution.” Mayor Talarico and Manager Danson assured him the resolution was a policy resolution.

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 - \$5,193,490.69

CURRENT FUND	\$ 3,661,298.74
UTILITY FUND	\$ 880,031.88
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$ 8,504.15
UTILITY CAPITAL FUND	\$ 43,613.81
TRUST FUND	\$ 592,279.41
GRANT FUND	\$ 7,762.70

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Motion to Approve:

Comments: none

Roll Call:

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

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2025 MINUTES

Motion to Approve:

Comments: none

Roll Call:

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

PUBLIC PORTION – Emily Wallace, Jane Moxford and Amy Gordan spoke in support of a hen ordinance that is regulated by a hen committee and not the Zoning Board process. Council's comments included creating a committee while waiting for the bird flu resolve, suggesting the committee work in hand with the zoning regulations to give neighbors a voice in the process, and enforcement.

Dave Smith, 33 High Street, asked council to add the train station to the next agenda to discuss the creation of a Train Station Commission – yes

Gina Capate, 18 W. Woodlawn Avenue, asked if Attorney McDowell represents Mr. Simonsick in the IFC notice of motion a third amended verified complaint, which she read today. Ms. McDowell response was that her firm does not represent the IFC in this any longer and they don't represent Andrew Simonsick, Sr, they represent Tuckerton Volunteer Fire Company and Dale Eggert. The motion was just in response to an interchange between the township's lawyer and Amanda Hopkins, there was some confusion as to whether the township was still in this case and they are not.

Joanne Mortimer, 39 Lanci Road, notified the council of the difficulty businesses are having with the land use process, she would like the council to review the system for any possible improvements.

Steve Schmidt, 520 Sunset Avenue, asked why was the lease of the schoolhouse and the fire department ordinance on Attorney McDowell's January bill prior to the council discussing the issues? He made comments about the township buying back the fire truck that was sold at auction, which included the truck is 27 years old, it was used by the political candidates in a parade, the manufacturing company has been out of business for nine years, and he feels it's a conflict for Mr. Simonsick to push the buying of the truck. The DPW asked for a back up generator for their facility which is responsible for fuel for all emergency service vehicles, it was approved, but Mr. Simonsick voted no, it should be known.

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Mr. Malone, 83 W. Woodcrest Avenue, supports the rebuying of the fire truck, stating the IFC needs it, and it was needed during a recent accident on Route 73. Mr. Stevens, 47 Cherry Avenue, also supported the purchase.

Motion to Close:

Second:

All in Favor:

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS – Announcements included: Rabies Clinic, Saturday 10 to noon, Main Street bingo 3/20, Fire Department Craft Show 3/29, and Student in Government Day 4/10

OLD BUSINESS

1. Operations
 - a. Aces park improvements starting shortly, residents will be notified, 90 days to complete
 - b. Looking into some type of parking relief in the municipal lot behind Fontanas, possible short-term metering
 - c. Jerry McHale was brought in to determine the fair market value for the Sterling Manor property. Possible joint venture with the schools and township
 - d. COAH report is due in June, the township will be responsible for finding 78 additional units, there will be a conference call on fair share housing.
2. Police Report
 - a. Carrabba Cares event from February 25th was a success earning over \$900
 - b. The show of force report was submitted to the AG – out of 26,541 calls last year, 19 were force calls
3. Site Plan – one application, Uhaul will return April 1st
4. BEDC Report – next meeting is Tuesday
5. MS Green Team/Sustainable Report – Water Department tour is Saturday at 10am, March 23rd is the community garden opening, the Farmer's Market will begin May 30th
6. Hen Ordinance – discussed during the public portion, additionally council approved the creation of the committee, but it must have township people on it and Mr. Zahradnick requested membership.
7. Mattress Surcharge – waiting for county to give us the numbers of how many have been picked up thus far
8. Request to Repurchase Fire Truck – two similar trucks were advertised on GovDeals with costs between \$6,000 and \$7,000, Manager Danson, as the township's Qualified Purchasing Agent cannot put her license behind the purchase. A municipal vehicle can only be sold to and from another government agency. Mr. Simonsick asked for the replacement strategy for the vehicle. The truck was sold by the previous council with the recommendation of, at the time, Fire Administrator and the current interim Fire Chief, Dan Kerr. Mr. Simonsick argues it was a mistake, and Mr. Walters did the township of favor by buying that truck with the intent for it to come back here and he is going to ask the attorney to look into it. He also stated, "This is getting drug out on purpose and I'm making a statement to the people of this town – enough is enough –

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with the fire department. People put the three of us here because of what happened, the lies that were told to them and you and I had a meeting a long time ago that I taped and the meeting that we had was about (Ms. Danson, I didn't tape it) we did – we have it (Ms. Danson – thank you for letting me know that) so, and I asked you before we started the meeting and in that meeting you said, and it's something I didn't even know if they know it, the people that were on council, that that we knew there was a problem -that we wanted to start a stipend program during the day and the words out of your mouth was the township council won't go for that and my response was well it's your job to sell it to them.

Manager Danson – so, Mr. Simonsick, I'm going to respectfully not get into this with you because you do have a legal action pending against me. However, (Mr. Simonsick – I Do) you are absolutely correct you do. The previous council was very well aware of all of our conversations. As for the truck, my job is to come to you (this council) and ask if that truck can be purchased back from Mr. Walters – it cannot. If this council chooses to purchase that vehicle back it will not be made by this QPA. I'm not losing my license for it.

Attorney McDowell asked if Mr. Walters sells the truck to his LLC, can it be sold to the township then? Manager Danson explained that the quote process is still in play, and she will not sign off on it as the QPA if it's a work around. Ms. McDowell said she is just exploring the process.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mr. Simonsick wants to discuss the McClure property sale, Manager Danson explained that this issue is in negotiations and cannot be discussed in public at this time.
2. Mayor Talarico would like the cannabis ordinance listed on the next agenda for discussion, she expressed concerns with the zoning distances.
3. Mr. Simonsick asked for the summary sheet for the projects, Ms. Danson emailed all of council and placed it in Mr. Simonsick's mailbox.

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

Motion 8:15pm: Zahradnick

Second: Nunes

All in Favor: yes

Notice is being forwarded in accordance with The Open Public Meetings Act – 3/11/25.