

**MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
MAY 8, 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				

OPEN BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING – For April

Reports – 2 sanitary, 3 dog bites and 1 dog waste: all were resolved

Public Participation - none

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

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

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: Nunes Second: Simonsick All in Favor: yes

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CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No. 2025-R-94 RESOLUTION TO DECLARE BLOCK 1.11, LOT 1 AS TAX EXEMPT AND TO CANCEL TAXES FROM APRIL 15, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

Resolution No. 2025-R-95 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2025 CHEVROLET MALIBU LS 1FL SEDAN POLICE VEHICLE UNDER NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT #19-FLEET-00953

Resolution No. 2025-R-96 APPOINTING DAVID SMITH AND REGINA CAPATE TO THE BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Resolution No. 2025-R-97 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN CHARGES WHICH THE TAX COLLECTOR DEEMS UNCOLLECTABLE

Resolution No. 2025-R-98 AWARD OF CONTRACT TO S. BATATA CONSTRUCTION FOR FORKLANDING ROAD AND HOWARD R. YOCUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$97,850.00

Resolution No. 2025-R-99 APPOINTMENT OF FIRE CHIEF OF THE MAPLE SHADE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Resolution No. 2025-R-100 AMEND CONTRACT WITH THINK PAVERS HARDSCAPING, LLC. FOR THE PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS AT ACE'S PARK AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1

Resolution No. 2025-R-101 AWARD OF CONTRACT TO PAVING PLUS, INC FOR FY 2023 NJDOT MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM & LAIF IMPROVEMENTS TO EAST FRONT STREET AND ALEXANDER AVE

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda:

Second:

Comments:

Roll Call:

COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYES	NAYS	RECUSE	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Kauffman							x
Nunes	x		x				
Simonsick			x		x-2025-R-99		
Zahradnick		x	x				
Talarico			x				

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE LIST - \$5,051,853.98

CURRENT FUND	\$ 4,616,102.54
UTILITY FUND	\$ 372,916.73
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$ 11,143.44
UTILITY CAPITAL FUND	\$ 34,519.84

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TRUST FUND
GRANT FUND

\$ 16,471.11
\$ 700.32

Motion to Approve:

Comments: none

Roll Call:

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

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2025 MINUTES

Motion to Approve:

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 –

Andrew Simonsick, Jr., 17 Overbrook Avenue, asked the Council to expedite the hiring process for his command staff at the fire department. Discussion included the timeframe for the process, Manager Danson explained that she would meet with the chief's recommendation of Deputy Chief next week and submit the resolution to council at the next council meeting, the process was different for Andrew because he was appointed by Judge Fickery not the municipality, and how our form of government works. Councilman Simonsick questioned why he was not copied on the emails and made a public statement, "my son was made the chief of the fire department without my being involved in that now that he is the chief of the fire department, as a councilmember, I have the right to participate in all that so if anyone in front of me right now wants to say that I – there's a conflict of interest there's gonna be a problem, I'm stating right now, in public, and it's being recorded, there is absolutely none, no conflict of interest for any of this, and all the games and charades are gonna start ending tonight, I'm tired of it. You serve at the pleasure of council and everyone in this building does."

Mike Stevens, 47 Cherry Avenue, agreed with the choice of deputy chief.

Debra Simonsick, 17 Overbrook Avenue, questioned the manager, "What makes you proficient in deciding about this fire department? What are your skills?" Manager Danson explained the process and that she is proficient in finding good leaders, it's her responsibility as the manager, and it's her name on the appointment.

Motion to Close: Nunes

Second: Zahradnick

All in Favor: yes

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS – Council wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day and announced two events tomorrow night: Soccer's annual basket auction

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and Girl's softball's event at the Alden. Mr. Simonsick made the following statement to the public, " well I've been quiet up until now, I haven't really made statements when it comes to professional and staff comments, um, but, in my opinion, nothing has gotten done in this township since we got here, now maybe other people feel differently, I don't know. However, I don't, um, I look at the um, the things that we ran on as a group of people, um, and I just want the people of this township to know that moving forward I'm going to bring them things up. I'm not going to be sittin around anymore and taking the abuse that I've been taking from this building, so I just want the people of the township to know that I'm one vote, that I'm going to do my best, I'm not going anywhere and I'm gonna deliver on my word with the things that I said that I was gonna do for them. Now whether that happens or not, I don't know, because I am only one vote, but I'm just letting everybody know."

OLD BUSINESS

1. Operations –
 - a. The Broadway sewer main project was completed on Monday, but due to found issues there will be a follow up project that will include piping and a manhole
 - b. Fireworks will be on June 28th at the High School with the parade starting at noon
 - c. The township hosted 20 students today for "Student in Government", it was a great event. Thank you to Jen Nixon for organizing the event, well done.
 - d. Manager Danson read a statement to counter concerns that have been raised regarding the preparation of our ordinances and resolutions and the role that the township clerk and township manager play in the process.
 2. Police Report – the chief reported and few recent incidents and thanked the officers involved. He also reported on the events at the football carnival which spread to the Forklanding Road Wawa and asked council to consider an ordinance that addressed the use of backpacks and face coverings at public events. Lastly, the "Bring your kid to Work" went well this year and the kids really enjoy the events.
 3. Site Plan – Seven applications including a concept for Park Crossing, front porch on Windsor Avenue, garage on West Woodlawn Avenue and Hot dog business at Dr. Brewlittle's.
 4. MS Green Team/Sustainable Report meeting next Tuesday
- Additional – Mr. Simonsick – Any word from the Appraiser for the nursing home? No
Mr. Zahradnick – Is the grass supposed to being cut at the nursing home? yes

NEW BUSINESS

1. Water/Sewer Fees – Manager Danson, brought to council details for the previously discussed possible non-profit property water and sewer fees, including schools. If they were charged the minimum, it would cost them \$16,600 a quarter. Council will consider the program, Mr. Simonsick feels it's moving money around, Mr. Zahradnick feels it would show accountability.
2. Fire Department command staff discussion continued, the interview process will take place this week, the job will be posted as per civil service regulations, and the position will be filled by resolution at the next council meeting.

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3. Mr. Simonsick –

-At the next meeting he will have a statement of the fire department and history of things to protect this township.

-At the next meeting he will be making a motion to change the ordinance that if you're going to be a township manager you have to reside in the town

-At the next meeting he will be making a motion to change the ordinance that Township Council will appoint the township clerk because, "to me there's a conflict of loyalty, when you get right down to it."

-He is bringing back the Recreation Board because, "we have a recreational director and God knows what she even does, I think we need to get her in here and have her tell us what she's done for the year so far. She doesn't, apparently, work with the sports organizations, um, and I just feel if we're gonna be paying this money for something like that that she needs to get involved and we need to get our moneys worth out of her position."

-Questioned the three 2025 ordinances, two of which were introduced prior to Ms. McDowell's appointment and the duties of the attorney under our form of government.

-Clarified emails

-Questioned a 2023 Merchantville Overhead bill that was not forwarded to the township until 2024 with seven past due notices. And a NAPA bill. Mr. Simonsick gave Manager Danson two ways to pay the bills, "there's two simple solutions to this, it's done all the time, you can call Merchantville overhead, and you say, "can you rebill that with this current date and then the dates done. Or you can just pay the bill with a note on it so if the state comes down here or whoever wants to look at it it's a legitimate bill." Manager Danson requested authorization from the council to pay.

-“ Lastly, for you to imply that I need to apologize to you when I'm doing my job and basically threaten me in an email saying that you're going to call the state on me, um, it's just, it it, to me that's ridiculous. My job is to make sure you do your job and again if you don't like that there's the door. Nah, at the end of the day, Susan, I'm done playing games, everybody might think that, you know, this is all peaches and cream up here, but I know different. I was put here by the people of this town and I'm start going what I said I was gonna do at the end of the day the council is responsible for running this town, to give you the marching orders of what we would like to have done, that's how it works, and all the things that you're saying in here, it's the other way around, basically, you threatened me, that's the way I see it, and I'm not apologizing for doing my job, at the end of the day, I think you need to apologize to the people of this town for the things that you keep doing and the games you keep playing, that's my opinion and I'm entitled to it. So, I'm airing this out, I'm not going to take this abuse anymore, I'm not going to take emails like this, I'm not gonna hear that I can't have something – you said at the last meeting I can't see the reports from the building – everything in this town is public. I can come up here and get inspection reports from somebody that built a house thirty years ago. It's all public knowledge and for you to tell that I can't see something is like the president being elected and him being told he can't look at something. I'm done playing games, everybody's been put on notice.”

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Resolution No. 2025-R-102 Resolution to Meet in Executive Session for the following:
Matters relating to litigation / Independent Fire Company vs. Maple Shade
Matters relating to the Employment Relationship – Township Solicitor

Mr.Simonsick- Before we go into session I'm going to make a statement – I'm going in for the first part of it but as a courtesy I'm walking out for the Fire Department thing but I'm putting it on record right now there's no, absolutely no, conflict of interest, none.

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

Formal action may be taken upon the conclusion of the 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 (9:06pm): Zahradnick Second: Nunes All in Favor: yes

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNTIL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
MAY 22, 2025, AT 6:30 PM

Motion (9:10pm): Zahradnick Second: Nunes All in Favor: yes

Notice is being forwarded in accordance with The Open Public Meetings Act – 5/6/25.