

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
 REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
 JUNE 2, 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				

ORDINANCE(S) INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Ordinance No. 2025-05 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 142 (PEACE AND GOOD ORDER) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY REGARDING PROHIBITED ITEMS AT TOWNSHIP SPONSORED EVENTS

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: June 6, 2025

Public Hearing: June 26, 2025

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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-104 RESOLUTION APPROVING APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE INSPECTOR

Resolution No. 2025-R-105 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF OF THE MAPLE SHADE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Resolution No. 2025-R-106 RESOLUTION TO DECLARE BLOCK 196.01, LOT 185, CU035 AS TAX EXEMPT AND TO CANCEL TAXES FROM APRIL 30, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

Resolution No. 2025-R-107 AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF 2025-2026 LIQUOR LICENSES

Resolution No. 2025-R-108 RESCINDING THE 2024-2025 LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR LIN AND ONG PLAZA, LLC T/A OCEANCRAT SEAFOOD BOIL & BAR

Resolution No. 2025-R-109 AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF 2023-2024 LIQUOR LICENSE FOR LIN AND ONG PLAZA, LLC T/A OCEANCRAT SEAFOOD BOIL & BAR

Resolution No. 2025-R-110 AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF 2024-2025 LIQUOR LICENSE FOR LIN AND ONG PLAZA, LLC T/A OCEANCRAT SEAFOOD BOIL & BAR

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda:

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 EXPENDITURE LIST - \$3,907,293.31

CURRENT FUND	\$ 3,728,805.81
UTILITY FUND	\$ 127,197.20
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$ 10,458.40
UTILITY CAPITAL FUND	\$ 18,759.80
TRUST FUND	\$ 19,198.50
GRANT FUND	\$ 2,873.60

Motion to Approve: Comments: none Roll Call:

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

PUBLIC PORTION – Bobbilynn Loomis, S. Fellowship Road, expressed concerns with the conduct during council meetings due to Mr. Simonsick’s statements at the previous meeting. She spoke of strong leadership requiring integrity, compassion and a willingness to serve all residents. Linda Marryott Wiest, N Chestnut Avenue, spoke of comments made about employees at the previous meeting which, she felt, were out of order and putting the township at risk for possible lawsuits.

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

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS – Council congratulated the children for getting through the school year and reminded drivers that the kids are out and about for the summer. The concert in the park and farmer’s market were popular so far, the next concert is June 10th and the farmer’s market is June 13th. The food truck festival is on June 9th. The Memorial Day celebration was a good event and well attended, and please do not graffiti the light posts at the parks, the township works hard to keep the public areas nice for our residents. Mr. Simonsick responded to the public comments, which included that he wasn’t elected to do pleasant things or do things that are rubber stamped, he’s here defending the things that this town needs, for the best interest of this town, and transparency. A rebuttal statement was read by the Township Clerk in reference to the statement made by Mr. Simonsick at the May 8th meeting which partially read, “to me there’s a conflict of loyalty”. (statement attached to the minutes)

OLD BUSINESS

1. Operations
 - a. NJDEP and Garden State Preservation Trust have approved our application for a green acre’s grant of \$740,250 and loan of \$9,750 to create the ADA park on Buttonwood.

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- b. The Council discussed with Alaimo the 2026 NJDOT grant application. If the council does not have an issue with our recommendation to apply for funding for Thomas Avenue, we'll move forward.
 - c. We would like to apply for the \$250,000 grant from BC Municipal Park Development Program to install pickleball courts at the site of the former tennis courts at Woodlawn
 - d. Sewer main work is complete at Forklanding and Broadway, however the repairs to the roadway will be fully completed once the storm sewer plans are finalized. Continued discussions about the flooding and maintenance issues.
 - e. The hen committee met on Monday and is currently reviewing existing ordinances and ways to integrate new ideas into the township's current policies.
 - f. Rose Avenue water main replacement project has begun
 - g. Two bids were received for the solid waste collection and sent to the attorney for review. Recommendation will be forwarded and listed for the next meeting.
 - h. Saturday was the annual township shredding event and was very successful, filling 15 of the vendors' large carts
 - i. The council was provided with the proposed additions to our rental ordinance that addresses the prohibition of short-term rentals
 - j. June 5th is the bid opening for N. Coles from Park Avenue to Lanci Road including improvement to Roland Avenue
 - k. In discussions with R&V the need for water line connections for sump pumps were addressed starting with N. Terrace Avenue, a template letter is being drafted for the residents.
 - l. The basketball court is sealed and Aces park, awaiting the completion of the punch list.
 - m. Summer hours will start for the administrative offices on June 23rd.
2. BEDC – the committee welcomed two new members: Dave Smith and Gina Capate, also an interested student representative was in attendance. The subcommittees are hard at work with plans to paint the train bridge, mural on main and an event calendar.
 3. MS Green Team/Sustainable Report – the next farmers market is June 13th
 4. Mr. Simonsick responded to my statement, "I'm sorry that, ah, you feel that way or misunderstood what I was trying to say." Then continued to explain that, the way he saw it, if I have one person that is my boss when I could have five and I could probably withstand a 3 to 5, have the votes I need to stay here instead of worrying about being fired or misplaced or whatever the case is. He expressed his concern that one person to obtain that much power in a town where their hiring and firing, is not the way he sees it to run. And, "by us picking you – you understand that you have a better chance with five people voting then one? To have, to keep a job, or lose it or get it? You have a board of people here that is responsible for putting you in power, which has always been the case, and I think your chances for survival are pretty – the longevity of that is a good thing." Mr. Simonsick then asked council their thoughts on changing the township ordinance to have the Clerk be appointed by the governing

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body. It was explained, again, that it is state and local law and our ordinance reflects that.

5. Mr. Simonsick reminded the council he wanted to discuss the recreation board and asked if that was something they wanted to move forward. Mayor Talarico produced a draft ordinance creating a Recreation Committee for council review. It includes oversight, membership, fundraising efforts, terms of office, and meeting schedules. The ordinance would also be all inclusive, sports organizations, dog park, new club houses, town theatre, and redesigned skatepark. The mayor will circulate for council review.
6. Lastly, Mr. Simonsick asked if the council will change the ordinance to state that the Township Manager is to live in town, Council was not interested in a new ordinance. It was asked if the ordinance was already in place? Yes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Abatement Ordinance – Manager Danson explained that the abatement ordinance that was in the code expired in 2021 and there has been recent inquiries about abatements. Does council want to have an abatement program? Yes. The manager will work with the attorney to create a readoption ordinance with any current changes necessary.
2. 2025 Burlington County Municipal Parks Grant – Council agreed to use the \$250,000 grant to create pickleball courts at the Woodlawn complex where the tennis courts were located many years ago. We will seek additional grants to offset the cost.

Resolution No. 2025-R-111 Resolution to Meet in Executive Session for the following:
Matters relating to the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property – 794 Forklanding Road

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

Formal action may be taken at 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: Kauffman Second: Nunes All in Favor: yes

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNTIL TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
JUNE 26, 2025, AT 6:30 PM

Motion: Nunes Second: Zahradnick All in Favor: yes

Notice is being forwarded in accordance with The Open Public Meetings Act – 5/30/25.