

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2026 – 6:30 PM
Municipal Building, Maple Shade, New Jersey

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Session Meeting of the Maple Shade Township Council was called to order at 6:30 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice of this meeting was provided pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act by notifying the Township Clerk, mailing notice to the Carrier Post, Central Record, and Burlington County Times on December 23, 2025, and posting notice on the official Municipal Bulletin Board on December 23, 2025.

4. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Heather Talarico; Deputy Mayor Zahradnick; Councilwoman Nunes; Councilman Simonsick; Absent: Councilman Kauffman

Also Present: Township Manager, Township Solicitor, Chief of Police, Township Clerk.

BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT

Four reports of unsanitary conditions were received including issues involving bugs and mold, lack of hot water, a trash hoarding situation, and a roach/leaking ceiling complaint. All matters are being monitored in coordination with the County Board of Health and Code Enforcement. One idling complaint was addressed by the Police Department.

The public portion was opened and closed with no comment. The Board of Health meeting was adjourned.

PROCLAMATION – TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

Council proclaimed March 31, 2026 as Transgender Day of Visibility in the Township of Maple Shade, affirming its commitment to equality, dignity, and inclusion for all residents.

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GREEN ACRES – WOODLAWN SPORTS COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS

Presentation provided regarding proposed 2026 Green Acres improvements including synthetic turf replacement, parking lot striping and improvements, sidewalk additions, retaining wall replacement, lighting at Nolan Field, and tree plantings. Maple Shade is eligible for a 50% matching grant. Estimated project cost is approximately \$1.7 million.

Council discussion included funding sources, capital allocations, and long-term planning considerations. Public comment was received regarding outreach and equitable improvements for various sports programs.

COMMUNITY HEART & SOUL PRESENTATION

A presentation was provided outlining a resident-driven community engagement initiative. The program includes eligibility for a \$10,000 matching seed grant and a projected 12–18 month engagement process. A community introduction session is scheduled for March 4, 2026.

ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Ordinance 2026-02 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, 2026 – Introduced by: Nunes Second: Zahradnick; Simonsick opposed. Public Hearing scheduled for March 5, 2026.

Ordinance 2026-03 BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-14 (WHICH PROVIDES FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS) HERETOFORE FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2024, TO AMEND THE DESCRIPTION SET FORTH THEREIN – Introduced by: Zahradnick Second: Nunes; Public Hearing scheduled for March 5, 2026.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING & ADOPTION

Ordinance 2026-01 AN ORDINANCE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, AMENDING CHAPTER 181 “TAXATION OF CANNABIS” SECTION 22 “ESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSFER AND USER TAXES” AND SECTION 23 “ADMINISTRATION OF TRANSFER AND USER TAXES” – Public portion opened, no participation, and closed; Ordinance adopted by: Nunes Second: Zahradnick; Simonsick opposed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No. 2026-R-44 AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF ANNUAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY ON JUNE 27, 2026 (RAIN DATE JUNE 28, 2026)

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Resolution No. 2026-R-45 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING STEWARDSHIP GRANT FUNDING FROM NEW JERSEY URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT IDENTIFIER GC2024-00087-PI

Resolution No. 2026-R-46 AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE MUNICIPAL LOT, GAZEBO PARK AND TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURE FOR THE 2026 FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL HOSTED BY MAIN STREET MAPLE SHADE, INC.

Resolution No. 2026-R-47 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT TO GARDEN STATE FIREWORKS, INC. FOR THE 2026 INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVITIES

Resolution No. 2026-R-48 RESOLUTION TO DECLARE BLOCK 129.04, LOT 8 AS TAX EXEMPT AND TO CANCEL TAXES FROM JANUARY 7, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026

Resolution No. 2026-R-49 RESOLUTION TO DECLARE BLOCK 209, LOT 5 AS TAX EXEMPT AND TO CANCEL TAXES FROM DECEMBER 31, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026

Resolution No. 2026-R-50 AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENT WITH SUNESYS TO INSTALL FIBER OPTIC NETWORK

Resolution No. 2026-R-51 RESOLUTION TO DECLARE BLOCK 17, LOT 11 AS TAX EXEMPT AND TO CANCEL TAXES FROM JANUARY 27, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026

Resolution No. 2026-R-52 AUTHORIZE THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BURLINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE FOR OPERATION HELPING HAND PROGRAM

Resolution No. 2026-R-53 RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE 2026 SUSTAINABLE JERSEY-PSE&G SUSTAINABLE GRANT FOR A FLEET FUEL ACCOUNTABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY PILOT PROGRAM

Resolution No. 2026-R-54 AUTHORIZING GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION FOR THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LOCAL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT (LRIG) AND EXECUTION OF GRANT AGREEMENT
Consent Agenda Approved by Nunes, Second: Zahradnick, Simonsick opposed Resolution No. 2026-R-54.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Current Fund: \$5,039,596.38; Utility Fund: \$565,556.51; Capital Fund: \$286,466.08; Utility Capital: \$10,757.98; Trust Fund: \$28,293.19; Grant Fund: \$789.27.
Approved by: Zahradnick Second: Nunes

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2026 MINUTES

Approved by: Nunes Second: Zahradnick

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PUBLIC PORTION

Public comments included concerns regarding outreach for Green Acres funding, support for open public spaces, and appreciation for environmental and walking trail initiatives.

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Council extended condolences to the Bennett Family and the family of retired Officer Joe 'Danny' Hassan. Council acknowledged federal funding secured for Kings Highway Treatment Plant improvements. Operational updates included snow removal efforts, budget preparation, assistance programs, and dog licensing reminders. Police report included the Chief's retirement announcement, his last day is June 30th. Council discussed and agreed to appoint Kevin Jacoby as an alternate to the Joint Land Use Board at the next council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Township Clerk

Date: _____

Mayor

Date: _____

Proclamation

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE PROCLAMATION HONORING LAURELEI FOX

WHEREAS, Irish heritage and culture have profoundly shaped communities through storytelling, music, dance, faith, scholarship, and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of Irish storytelling preserves history, honors perseverance through hardship, and passes cultural identity from generation to generation; and

WHEREAS, Laurelei Fox has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the preservation and celebration of Irish history and culture through scholarship, artistic expression, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fox is the creator of the internationally award-winning philatelic exhibit *The Life of St. Patrick*, exhibited throughout the United States and internationally, including in Ireland, and recognized for its historical accuracy and storytelling excellence; and

WHEREAS, she further expanded this work through her historical novel, *The Children Who Became St. Patrick*, bringing awareness to lesser-known aspects of St. Patrick's life and Ireland's enduring spiritual and cultural legacy; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fox has devoted nine years to the study and performance of Irish dance, strengthening her connection to Irish culture while demonstrating discipline, commitment, and artistic achievement; and

WHEREAS, her living connection to Irish heritage, rooted in family history and ongoing ties to Ireland, reflects a deep respect for tradition and cultural continuity; and

WHEREAS, through her achievements and character, Ms. Fox exemplifies the values of leadership, education, and cultural stewardship befitting an ambassador of Irish heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Township Council of the Township of Maple Shade, County of Burlington State of New Jersey, hereby recognizes and commends Laurelei Fox for her outstanding contributions to Irish history, culture, and education, and extends its congratulations and best wishes as she is honored as Miss St. Patrick of Burlington County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Township Council of the Township of Maple Shade has caused this Proclamation to be issued this 12th day of February, 2026.

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
Township of Maple Shade, New Jersey