

Township of Maple Shade
Council Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2026 – 6:30 PM
Municipal Building, Maple Shade, New Jersey

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Maple Shade Township was called to order at **6:30 PM**. Present: Mayor Talarico, Deputy Mayor John Zahradnick, Councilman Kauffman, Councilwoman Nunes and Councilman Simonsick. Also present: Municipal Attorney Drollis, Municipal Manager Danson, and Municipal Clerk McVeigh.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Statement of Public Notice

Public notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the **Open Public Meetings Act**. Notice of the meeting was:

- Filed with the Township Clerk on **December 23, 2025**
- Sent to the **Carrier Post, Central Record, and Burlington County Times** on **December 23, 2025**
- Posted on the official Municipal Bulletin Board on **December 23, 2025**

A draft agenda was posted on the Township website and at the Municipal Building.

Members of the public wishing to speak were advised they would have **one opportunity to speak for up to five minutes during the designated public comment period**.

4. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by the Township Clerk.

Present:

- Mayor Talarico
- Councilman Kauffman
- Councilwoman Nunes
- Councilman Zahradnick
- Councilman Simonsick

5. Presentation and Public Hearing

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Woodlawn Sports Complex – Green Acres Grant Application

A presentation was provided by **Annie Oreo, Professional Engineer with Remington & Vernick Engineers**, regarding the **2026 Green Acres Local Government Park Development Application** for improvements to the Woodlawn Sports Complex.

Project Overview

The proposed improvements include:

- Replacement of the existing synthetic turf field
- Installation of new sports lighting at **Nolan Field**
- Parking lot milling, resurfacing, and delineation of parking spaces
- Construction of new concrete curbing
- Installation of accessible sidewalks and a secondary park access point
- Replacement of an existing failing timber retaining wall
- Landscaping improvements including new trees and shrubs

Background

The Woodlawn Sports Complex was originally funded through the Green Acres program in **2002**, with the synthetic turf field constructed in **October 2013**. The average lifespan of synthetic turf is approximately **8–10 years**, though maintenance can extend it to **12–15 years**.

Due to heavy usage from school athletics, youth sports, practices, and events, the existing turf has reached the end of its effective lifespan.

Parking Improvements

Parking improvements are proposed to address overflow during weekend sporting events. These improvements include striping spaces, improving circulation, and creating a secondary access point to help distribute parking demand.

Public Comment – Green Acres Presentation

Joanne Mortimer, 39 Lanci Road, inquired whether lighting would also be installed at the girls' softball fields.

Council responded that lighting is currently proposed only for **Nolan Field** as part of the first phase of improvements. Lighting for softball fields may be considered in future phases when the complex is fully redesigned.

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No additional public comments were received.

6. Ordinances – Introduction (First Reading)

Ordinance No. 2026-04

An ordinance repealing and replacing Article 21 (Affordable Housing) and Article 22 (Development Fees) of the Township Zoning Ordinance to address requirements of the **Fair Housing Act and Uniform Housing Affordability Controls**.

Motion: Introduce Ordinance -Kauffman

Second: Zahradnick

Prepared by:

- Michael Saranian
- William Olson
(Fair Share Housing)

Roll Call Vote

- Kauffman — Yes
- Nunes — Yes
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes
- Simonsick — No

Publication Date: February 27, 2026

Public Hearing: March 13, 2026

Ordinance No. 2026-05

An ordinance amending Chapter 205 (Zoning) to establish the **R-AH Residential Affordable Housing District**.

Roll Call Vote

- Kauffman — Yes
- Nunes — Yes
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes
- Simonsick — No

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Publication Date: February 27, 2026

Public Hearing: March 13, 2026

7. Ordinances – Second Reading and Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 2026-02

An ordinance amending salaries and wages of certain employees and officers of the Township effective January 1, 2026.

Public Hearing: No public comment.

Roll Call Vote (Adoption)

- Kauffman — Yes
- Nunes — Yes
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes
- Simonsick — No

Ordinance **adopted**.

Ordinance No. 2026-03

Bond ordinance amending Bond Ordinance No. 2024-14 related to capital improvements.

Public Hearing: Opened.

During discussion, Councilman Simon requested documentation regarding the original bonding authorization and expenditures related to the project.

Public hearing closed.

Roll Call Vote (Adoption)

- Kauffman — Yes
- Nunes — Yes
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes
- Simonsick — No

Ordinance **adopted**.

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8. Consent Agenda

Resolutions **2026-R-55 through 2026-R-62** were presented for approval.

Resolution No. 2026-R-55 AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF 3 FORD POLICE VEHICLES FROM WINNER FORD UNDER NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT #20-FLEET-01189

Resolution No. 2026-R-56 AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF 1 FORD F250 FROM WINNER FORD UNDER NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT #24-FLEET-103120

Resolution No. 2026-R-57 APPOINTMENT OF KEVIN JACOBY AS ALTERNATE #3 ON MAPLE SHADE JOINT LAND USE BOARD WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 2026

Resolution No. 2026-R-58 RESOLUTION TO DECLARE BLOCK 89, LOT 19 AS TAX EXEMPT AND TO CANCEL TAXES FROM FEBRUARY 11, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026

Resolution No. 2026-R-59 RESOLUTION TO DECLARE BLOCK 116, LOT 5 AS TAX EXEMPT AND TO CANCEL TAXES FROM FEBRUARY 9, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026

Resolution No. 2026-R-60 AUTHORIZING FINAL PAYMENT OF \$155,330.00 TO BOOTH MECHANICAL, AND AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A TWO-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND FOR HYDRANT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Resolution No. 2026-R-61 STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GREEN ACRES PROGRAM ENABLING RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2026-R-62 AWARD OF CONTRACT TO RAMBONE CONCRETE, LLC FOR THE BUTTONWOOD PARK DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Public Comment – Consent Agenda

Joanne Mortimer, 39 Lanci Road, questioned the appointment process for the Joint Land Use Board.

Council indicated the board was newly formed and appointments were discussed during a previous meeting.

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Motion

Motion to approve consent agenda resolutions.

Roll Call Vote

- Kauffman — Yes
- Nunes — Yes
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes
- Simonsick – Yes (No to 2026-R-61)

Resolutions **approved**.

9. Approval of Bills / Expenditure List

Fund	Amount
Current Fund	\$356,587.99
Utility Fund	\$55,884.87
Capital Fund	\$775.00
Utility Capital	\$155,330.00
Trust Fund	\$15,719.55
Grant Fund	None

Motion to approve payment when funds are available.

Roll Call Vote

Approved unanimously.

10. Public Comment

AARP Driver Safety Program

Dave Levay, Edgewater Park, representing the **AARP Driver Safety Program**, presented information about hosting driver safety courses aimed at older adults.

The six-hour course provides:

- Defensive driving education
- Insurance discounts mandated by the State of New Jersey

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- Possible reduction of points on driver licenses

Council agreed to share the information with the Township Recreation Department.

Dawn Burn, South Poplar Avenue, raised concerns regarding potential privatization of the Township's water system and asked Council to commit to retaining municipal control.

Council responded that federal funding recently secured for infrastructure improvements is unrelated to any private company involvement.

Public Works Commendation

Residents including **Tony Egner** and **Joanne Mortimer** commended the Department of Public Works for their response to recent snowstorms.

Council echoed appreciation for DPW staff and Township employees involved in snow removal.

11. Staff and Professional Reports

Township Administration

The Township Manager reported:

- The **Buttonwood drainage project** has been awarded.
- Budget presentation will occur at the **March 5 Council meeting**.
- Grant applications were submitted for improvements to the **Gazebo Park** area.
- Community events scheduled:
 - Master Plan Re-examination Town Hall – March 11
 - Community Heart & Soul Meet and Greet – March 4

Engineering Report

Updates were provided on multiple infrastructure projects including:

- MS4 watershed inventory report submission
- Buttonwood Park drainage improvements
- Thomas Avenue drainage inspection
- Broadway and North Fork Landing drainage design
- North Coles Avenue roadway improvements
- Maple Heights Road improvements
- Fernwood and Farnsworth Avenue storm pipe televising
- Glendale Avenue storm sewer replacement

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Council also discussed a potential traffic study related to speeding concerns along High Street.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Andrea T. McVeigh, RMC
Township Clerk

Mayor Talarico
Mayor
