Township of Maple Shade
Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
M**arch 19, 2026 -6:30 PM**

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1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led.

3. Recess

Council briefly recessed to await the arrival of police personnel. The meeting resumed at approximately 6:38 PM.

4. Statement of Compliance

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, with notice given to the Township Clerk on December 23, 2025, and posted on the municipal website and official bulletin board.

5. Roll Call

Present:

Councilman Kaufman

Councilwoman Nunes

Councilman Simonsick

Councilman Zahradnick

Mayor Talarico

6. Ordinances

Ordinance #2026-06: A 2026 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Motion to Introduce by Kauffman and Seconded by Nunes

Kauffman – yes
Nunes – yes
Simonsick – no
Zahradnick – yes
Mayor Talarico – yes
Ordinance Approved

Public Hearing: April 16, 2026

Publication Date: March 20, 2026

7. Resolutions

Resolution No.2026-R-66: Certification of Compliance with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Guidance – Approved

Resolution No.2026-R-67: Deferred School Taxes – Approved

Resolution No.2026-R-68: Emergency Temporary Appropriations – Approved

Resolution No.2026-R-69: Introduction of 2026 Municipal Budget

Motion to Introduce by Nunes and Seconded by Kauffman

Kauffman – yes
Nunes – yes
Simonsick – no
Zahradnick – yes
Mayor Talarico – yes
Approved

Total Budget: $21,642,719

8. Consent Agenda

Resolution #2026-R-73 was removed.

Resolutions 2026-R-70, 71, 72, and 74 were approved.

9. Approval of Bills

Current Fund: $4,013,119.40

Utility Fund: $1,188,646.90

Capital Fund: $137,741.32

Utility Capital: $12,418.00

Trust Fund: $643,153.91

Grant Fund: $235.25

Motion to approve bills: Approved

10. Approval of Minutes

Kauffman abstained

February 2026 Minutes approved.

11. Public Comment

Multiple residents addressed Council regarding community events, municipal concerns, and Land Use Board matters. Including:

Jeffrey Nice, 103 S Maple Ave. I'm here to say that I'll be picketing on new Kings Three. That's Saturday. I'll be holding a picket sign that Gazebo park from noon until 1:00 PM.

Hello, Penny Tedesco, 528 N Coles Avenue. I wanted to address Mr. Simonsick specifically, please. Questions about what you had to say at the Friday special meeting about the housing ordinances. You had mentioned that you're very unhappy with how the state dealt with all of this. I'd like to know what representatives you have reached out to as a council person and spoken to in the state about your concerns about how the state is handling things. Have you reached out to any at this point in time. And you're getting all up at arms and all angry about things, but you're not actually doing anything to reach out and try to change how the state does things. Isn't that your job? You've got a year in the legislation of the of the entire state and the people that live here too. So if you have a problem with that, you can, you can go to the polls and vote.
Mr. Simonsick - And I'm just going to make a statement. You know, you're coming up here constantly attacking me. I've been up here twice. Go ahead. That's not you. You attack me on Social media, you attack me everywhere. I don't attack you. I made my statements OK, if you're coming up here to make me look bad and to embarrass me, I want to know you are also question. I don't know what you want me to say to you.
You represent our whole community that includes me whether or not but I want to know. I contact my state representatives when I disagree with something and I want to know as a council person who thinks that that state should be doing better and what they're doing is impacting our town. If you have reached out.

OK, that's what I want to know is whether you're just sitting here complaining about the state to Maple Shade or if you're actually speaking to the people who are making these decisions and letting them know how some of the people of Maple Shades feel. That's all I wanted to know. Thank you, everybody. Thank you. Andrew. I have a suggestion for it. I have AI have a representative in the governor's office and I can reach out to him and get you an appointment with the governor if you'd like me to do that. Is he with the new governor? Yes, he's with every governor. OK, I would gladly go talk to him. I will reach out to him and make sure that I give him your information and he'll reach out to you and make my information for me. You have my information. I appreciate that. Not a problem, Andrew. Good evening.

Good evening Mayor Council. It's nice to see everyone again. For your record, Brian Lozuke, Joint Land use Board Solicitor, I'm here on behalf of the Joint Land Use Board and Joint Land Use Board Chairman, I'm strongly urging, recommending that the Mayor Council formally condemn and censure Councilman Simonsick.
By adopting a resolution of censure condemning the unethical, disruptive and disability actions of the Councilman directed to the Joint Land Use Board.
Mr. Simonsick -Mr. Lozuke, I'm coming up there as a resident of Maple Shade.
Attorney Lozuke - Excuse me, I'm not finished.
OK, go ahead.
Attorney Lozuke - Under Robert's Rules of Order, which this town follows, the purpose of a formal censure is to correct conduct and behavior, which is certainly warranted for the reasons I will detail.

First and foremost, the powers of the Joint Land Use Board clearly prescribed by the statute under the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, the law is also clear that the Joint Land Use Board is a quasi judicial body that is in fact an independent entity from the Mayor and Township Council, which Councilman Simonsick has blatantly, callously ignored by his disruptive presence at the last two Joint Land Use Board meetings on February 18th and March 18th respectively.

Councilman Simonsick's disruptive actions have compromised the integrity of the Joint Land Use Board and are also violative of the New Jersey Local Government Ethics Law, the Township of the Maple Shade Handbook for Elected Officials, and more importantly, Resolution 2026-R-31, Governing Rules of Decorum for both Township Council and the Joint Land Use Board.

Again, it's important to note that that resolution covers the decorum at joint land use board meetings.

Under New Jersey law, specifically NJSA 40: 55D-23A, which I just distributed a copy of, the mayor and the mayor alone has exclusive power and authority to appoint the Class 2 member of the Planning Board, which Mr. Simonsick said has repeatedly argued is incorrect.
The Class 2 member, in most instances, is in fact a counter professional. The statute is clear that the Class 2 member is not, I repeat, not required to be a Township resident. Again, you have to look at the second line.
Mr. Simonsick -So the statute..
Attorney Lozuke - I'm not finished.
OK, finish.

The intent of the statute for Class 2 members is that Township officials have a special perspective on the community, which is highly valuable to the deliberations of the current Land Use Board.

With respect to specifics at the February 18th Joint Land Use Board hearing, which was a use variance application, and quite frankly that was the first application that the newly reconfigured Joint Land Use Board entertained. As the application was progressing, Mr. Simonsick, stood up, disrupted the meeting and called attention upon himself despite the protests of the Joint Land Use Board Chairperson, Mr. Simonsick was targeting the appointment of Susan Danson as the Class 2 Joint Land Use Board member because she was not a resident. Which again is contrary to the statute you have before you this evening, which specifically exempts and only exempts Class 2 members from a residency requirement.

Later during the same meeting, again a use variance application, Councilman Simonsick stood up during the public portion and stated quote, "he is here to speak on their behalf and in support of the use variance application," which is highly inappropriate, unethical and contrary to the municipal land use law where Class 1 and Class 3 members being the mayor and Councilmember cannot participate in use variance applications.

Councilman Simonsick's conduct is even, is potentially even more egregious if he was in fact engaged to be the builder of the addition that he was advocating for at 449 Euclid, which would clearly and unequivocally be a serious violation of the local government ethics law warrenting the formal filing of a complaint. By using his position as a Councilman for financial gain, even absent financial gain, council persons should not speak on any use variance application that does not concern their personal property. I would also point out that at the February meeting, Councilman Simonsick brought up litigation that the Township is currently embroidered, which I will not go into detail about, but again, highly inappropriate.

Last night at the March 18th meeting, Councilman Simonsick once again used his position as a council person to disrupt and influence the Joint Land Use Board members by disseminating false and misleading information, qualifying, quite frankly, as legal advice, distributed to board members, excluding the mayor, council person and board professionals and Manager Danson.

I'm distributing what Councilman Simonsick provided to the board members, which quite frankly was beyond troubling. At the March meeting again last night, Councilman Simonsick brought up litigation that Township was embroiled in, which is again highly inappropriate.

I'll just leave with, you know, councils consideration. New Jersey law is very clear with respect to ethical standards and codes of conduct. In fact, in Abraham versus Township at Teaneck, the court, you felt that she was quite clear that the New Jersey law prohibits a government officer from placing himself in a situation where there is a real or apparent conflict with his public duties. Also, would Gunther be planning board at Bay Head, the court rightly said it is not necessary to demonstrate actual proof of dishonesty to establish the public official has a conflict of interest as only the potential. I repeat that only the potential for conflict is necessary.

Now, I assume that we have here a rogue council person that this council and mayor did not authorize, Mr. Simonsick to appear before the Joint Land Use Board to try to sway influence, but I am again placing it on the record that it's highly inappropriate. The comments that were

disseminated should be retracted. I believe there should be a formal apology, and again, I would ask that mayor and council consider adopting a resolution of censure.
Mr. Simonsick -So are you finished now? So your Class 2 that you're talking about, and I'm going to ask Mr. Zahradnick right now, has there ever been a Township manager on the zoning board before this combination? Not the zoning board, no, there wasn't. And the reason that is because the zoning is separated for the protection of this town. I'm speaking now. You were dead wrong. You're not an attorney. You have to. You're an attorney and you're spinning words you're we're paying you to stand there and make up all these things and accusing me… I'm protecting this town.. I've lost my respect for you as a person that's professional okay and I'm going to say this for you that's a compliment he just all right fine take it as a compliment he just answered the question that class two that you're speaking about has to do with planning and you 2 are correct but you're sitting there making…

To the people that represent this town on that board and they're just following your lead, assuming that you're saying the right thing. I am the legal counsel. You are, Councilman, you are. And as far as I'm concerned, you're not protecting this Township either because you're allowing that. It clearly states that the that the zoning board duties will be obtained or taken over by the planning which was supposed to stay intact. That's what it says. That's what the law says. All right.

12. Staff and Professional Comments

Council and staff provided updates and community remarks.

13. Old Business

- On March 4th, we had our first community Heart and Soul meet and greet. The event welcome 24 residents who shared their thoughts about getting different people in our community more involved. We are looking to host our next community Heart and soul event. And this one we're going to focus on our high school age students. So we're going to work with the school district and get those kids involved and hear what they would like.
-On March 11th we had another 20 plus residents who joined us here in the courtroom for a town hall meeting about the Master Plan ideas were shared about what things they like in town, don't like, what things they would like to see improve, All things that will help guide us as we work towards finalizing our 2026 Master Plan re examination. The ideas and comments shared will also be used to help draft part of that master plan.
-This past Tuesday we held a pre construction meeting for the Buttonwood Storm Water Drainage Project. This project has been designed to address flooding along the backside of Buttonwood Park. Our Police Department has deployed our sign board at Buttonwood Park
- March 25th, so that's next Wednesday, the stormwater drainage improvements will begin. We do not anticipate any road closures, but there will be disruptions during this work. Residents along this stretch are going to be receiving a door knocker that looks like this that'll be put on everybody's door along Buttonwood describes when the project will start, who the contractor is, what some of the disruptions may be, and then we have a number for questions in case they need to call somebody because that will be going out on every door.

- Department of Public Works has been actively addressing potholes and performing minor roadway repairs. This year. We have experienced an increase in potholes due to the repeated freeze and thaw cycles that we've seen. In addition, our staff is also preparing the 2026 Miscellaneous Paving program that's going to include just simple milling and overlay of select roadways to help extend their use of life.
-As mentioned to you all last week, the agreement with the MUSE for affordable housing assistance, which is funded through our KOA Trust funds, is set to expire. This subsidy program was originally put in place when the muse was constructed to help offset costs associated with the affordable housing units. Over the past two years, the Township has continued the practice of providing that financial assistance to help assistance to help offset those rising rents for those units. And these again, these funds are directly paid for our KOA fees. What I need to know from council this evening is if you want to continue with that program, in which case then I will negotiate with their management team and then provide them. Council agrees.
-We also met with the sidewalk sale committee a few weeks ago and the discussion surrounded mainly around the cost for overtime for our police and DPW and how and who how it would get funded. We're estimating to hold this event this year, we would probably just be shy about $30,000. That's what it would cost for our overtime costs. There needs to be some discussion amongst council too as to whether or not we would like to provide some assistance with that. Obviously that's going to go into their planning, but it is something that we promised that we would get back to them. I know that they're working diligently to work with different organizations throughout the towns and raising funds and whatnot, but there would need to be some sort of commitment from the Township to go forward. After a lengthy discussion, the CFO and Manager will revisit the budget for funds to contribute.

Engineer report -gave an update on some of the water and sewer projects and also on the recreation and the other projects we have with the service lines, EPA mandated that each town replace any letter galvanized lines for the residents. We do have a project under construction for that, there's 157 lines which we did not know whether they were LED or galvanized. So Roman, the contractors can be actually finishing up those investigations this week. We've only found 10 so far that of the ones we investigated. So that's going to reduce our cost a lot. We are getting 50% principal forgiveness to the state for this. But knowing this we have 130 known ones. So we have 10 more and we're going to finish it up this week. So it's been a very favorable.
Of the the lines that are known to be galvanized or, or or lead containing. And then there's like there's three water mains in town, West Front, Melrose and S Clinton sections of those that have old 2 inch galvanized water mains which are old. So we'll be replacing those with six inch ductile iron pipe also. So that all be taking place here coming the rest of the spring here into summer.

-Another project under contract is North Terrace Water Main Replacement that will probably be starting late April or May with that project to try and meet the EPA orders for eliminating extraneous flows. We have a lot of sump pumps tied into public sewer. So as we have the street open there and we're doing that street paving later through a NJDOT project which will be bidding later this spring, we're putting in pipes so that people can tie their sump pumps in. Now that the residents will be responsible for making connections where we'll be putting connection points for them. But rather than have the water go out in the street or into the

Sewer into the backyards, they'll have a connection point, but it's not going to be mandatory. But we would like everybody to consider doing that because that's we're, we're creating an opportunity for getting rid of those waters. And in the springtime when the groundwater is high, these things can run all a lot of water out into the street or into the public sewer.
-Kings Highway Water plant we did have a presentation from Congressman Norcross, we did receive a $1.2 million congressional grant and there was a ceremony with that presentation that was a 2026 funding we had previously received that 2024 appropriation of 150,000 were in design and permitting. Actually, it's up to the state. We're hoping to get authorization, a permit for that shortly, but that was going to replace well houses #9 and 10

-As far as recreation on municipal projects, the awarded the police building a renovation project tonight and that projects mainly to do improvements to bring it up to Department of Corrections standards of the number of you know, as codes change, things change, they're out of compliance. And Annie and the Chief Fletcher and the police staff really worked with the Department of Corrections the scope out the project and we're moving forward with that project.

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Municipal Clerk