

Maple Shade Township Council
Regular Session Agenda Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2026
Municipal Building, Maple Shade Township, New Jersey

Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Township Clerk confirmed that notice of the meeting had been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The draft agenda had been posted on the Township website and municipal bulletin board.

Board of Health

No Board of Health report was presented.

Upon motion and second, the Board of Health portion was closed by unanimous voice vote. Upon motion and second, the Board of Health meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote.

Ordinances Introduced

Ordinance 2026-12

Title: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 194, “Vehicles and Traffic,” of the Maple Shade Township Code to designate a new bus stop.

A motion was made and seconded to introduce Ordinance 2026-12 on first reading.

Vote: Adopted on first reading by roll-call vote.

Recorded vote: Kauffman—Yes; Nunes—Yes; Simonsick—Yes; Zahradnick—Yes; Mayor Talarico—Yes.

Next step: Publication scheduled for August 10, 2026; public hearing scheduled for September 10, 2026.

Ordinance 2026-13

Title: An Ordinance amending Chapter 138 of the Township Code concerning Parks and Recreation Areas and Synthetic Athletic-Field Use.

A motion was made and seconded to introduce Ordinance 2026-13 on first reading.

Vote: Adopted on first reading by roll-call vote.

Recorded vote: Kauffman—Yes; Nunes—Yes; Simonsick—Yes; Zahradnick—Yes; Mayor Talarico—Yes.

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Next step: Publication scheduled for August 10, 2026; public hearing scheduled for September 10, 2026.

Ordinance 2026-14

Title: An Ordinance amending Chapter 194, “Vehicles and Traffic,” to establish additional parking restrictions and traffic regulations.

A motion was made and seconded to introduce Ordinance 2026-14 on first reading.

Vote: Adopted on first reading by roll-call vote.

Recorded vote: Kauffman—Yes; Nunes—Yes; Simonsick—Yes; Zahradnick—Yes; Mayor Talarico—Yes.

Next step: Publication scheduled for August 10, 2026; public hearing scheduled for September 10, 2026.

Ordinance 2026-15

Title: A Reappropriation Ordinance providing for various Capital Improvements and Reappropriating \$134,142.10 of excess bond proceeds from prior bond ordinances.

A motion was made and seconded to introduce Ordinance 2026-15 on first reading. Council discussed the source and intended reuse of proceeds from older bond ordinances. Staff advised that the amended version also included authorization for potential land acquisition, should Council elect to pursue it.

Vote: Adopted on first reading by roll-call vote.

Recorded vote: Kauffman—Yes; Nunes—Yes; Simonsick—No; Zahradnick—Yes; Mayor Talarico—Yes.

Next step: Publication scheduled for August 10, 2026; public hearing scheduled for September 10, 2026.

Ordinances Adopted

Ordinance 2026-08

Title: Bond Ordinance providing for 2026 General Capital Improvements, appropriating \$2,572,779, including grants totaling \$1,027,779, and authorizing issuance of up to \$1,471,135 in bonds or notes.

The public hearing was opened. One resident asked whether the ordinance concerned land acquisition; staff clarified that it was the Township’s 2026 general capital ordinance and was

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separate from the reappropriation ordinance. The public hearing was closed by motion, second, and unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt Ordinance 2026-08.

Vote: Adopted by roll-call vote

Recorded vote: Kauffman—Yes; Nunes—Yes; Simonsick—No; Zahradnick—Yes; Mayor Talarico—Yes.

Ordinance 2026-09

Title: Bond Ordinance providing for 2026 Utility Capital Improvements, appropriating \$2,092,000, including a \$1,092,000 grant, and authorizing issuance of up to \$952,276 in bonds or notes.

The public hearing was opened and closed with no public comment. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the ordinance.

Vote: Adopted by roll-call vote.

Recorded vote: Kauffman—Yes; Nunes—Yes; Simonsick—No; Zahradnick—Yes; Mayor Talarico—Yes.

Ordinance 2026-10

Title: Bond Ordinance for water-system equipment, appropriating \$1,400,000 and authorizing issuance of up to \$1,000,400 in bonds or notes.

The public hearing was opened and closed with no public comment. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the ordinance.

During discussion, one Council member stated an intention to vote no, citing concern that capital projects and grants could increase the local taxpayer burden.

Vote: Adopted by roll-call vote, with at least one dissenting vote.

Recorded vote: Kauffman—Yes; Nunes—Yes; Simonsick—No; Zahradnick—Yes; Mayor Talarico—Yes.

Ordinance 2026-11

Title: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 205 to establish updated outdoor-lighting standards.

The public hearing was opened. A representative of the Maple Shade High School environmental group spoke in support, noting that dark-sky standards and reduced light trespass would help protect local nocturnal species. The public hearing was closed by motion, second, and unanimous voice vote.

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A motion was made and seconded to adopt Ordinance 2026-11.

Vote: Adopted by roll-call vote.

Recorded vote: Kauffman—Yes; Nunes—Yes; Simonsick—Yes; Zahradnick—Yes; Mayor Talarico—Yes.

Consent Agenda

The public hearing on the consent agenda was opened and closed with no public comment.

A motion was made and seconded to approve **Resolutions 2026-R-133 through 2026-R-143**. During discussion, Council asked about Resolution 2026-R-137. Staff explained that the referenced tanker/utility truck would be used by the Water and Sewer Department.

Resolution No. 2026-R-133 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF LIEN FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FOR BLOCK 113 Lot 1.01

Resolution No. 2026-R-134 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF LIEN FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FOR BLOCK 103 Lot 7.02

Resolution No. 2026-R-135 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS AND REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION – N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 NJDEP – RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT

Resolution No. 2026-R-136 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF THE GRACE PERIOD FOR THE PAYMENT OF THIRD QUARTER 2026 PROPERTY TAXES

Resolution No. 2026-R-137 AWARD OF CONTRACT TO ASCENDANCE TRUCKS EASTERN PA, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$325,733.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A UTILITY DEPARTMENT TANKER TRUCK CONTINGENT UPON DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING FROM THE NEW JERSEY INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Resolution No. 2026-R-138 AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TRI STATE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$74,419.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A UTILITY DEPARTMENT EASEMENT CRAWLER CONTINGENT UPON DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING FROM THE NEW JERSEY INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Resolution No. 2026-R-139 AWARD OF CONTRACT TO VAC-CON SERVICES, Inc, D/B/A PEIRCE EAGLE EQUIPMENT CO., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$975,774.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A UTILITY DEPARTMENT COMBO JETTER / VAC TRUCK & CAMERA

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TRUCK CONTINGENT UPON DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING FROM THE NEW JERSEY INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Resolution No. 2026-R-140 AUTHORIZING SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN MAPLE SHADE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE FOR CLASS III OFFICER SERVICES

Resolution No. 2026-R-141 AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT BETWEEN MAPLE SHADE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE TO PROVIDE A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Resolution No. 2026-R-142 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A 2027 LOCAL AID INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATION AND EXECUTION OF GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR LAIF-2027-THOMAS AVENUE ROADWAY AND FLOOD RE-00016

Resolution No. 2026-R-143 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH BURLINGTON COUNTY FOR COOPERATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974

Vote: Consent agenda approved by roll-call vote. Mr. Simonsick voted no on Resolutions 2026-R-137, 2026-R-138, and 2026-R-139.

Recorded vote: Kauffman—Yes; Nunes—Yes; Simonsick—Yes; Zahradnick—Yes; Mayor Talarico—Yes.

Expenditure List

The Township presented the following expenditure list:

CURRENT FUND	\$ 3,617,846.74
UTILITY FUND	\$ 648,758.32
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND	\$ 155,201.03
UTILITY CAPITAL FUND	\$ 302,795.52
TRUST FUND	\$ 436,780.36
GRANT FUND	\$ 0.00

A motion was made and seconded to approve the expenditure list.

Vote: Approved by roll-call vote.

Recorded vote: Kauffman—Yes; Nunes—Yes; Simonsick—Yes; Zahradnick—Yes; Mayor Talarico—Yes.

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July 2026 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 2026 meeting minutes.

Vote: Approved by roll-call vote.

Recorded vote: Kauffman—Yes; Nunes—Yes; Simonsick—Yes; Zahradnick—Yes; Mayor Talarico—Yes.

Old Business

1. Operations

So, over the past month, we've continued to focus on advancing several significant capital projects. We've been strengthening partnerships throughout the community and planning for the township's long term operational and financial needs. One of our primary areas of focus has been continued oversight of the Buttonwood Ave. drainage improvement projects. First, I want to say thank you to the residents that live along Buttonwood Ave. They had to endure some things with the contractor, and we've truly do appreciate their patience. Following the township's declaration of the contractor's default, booth Mechanical mobilized quickly and substantially completely completed the reconstruction of the failed storm drainage system during construction. The second time we found additional deficiencies that were uncovered that required more extensive repairs than originally anticipated. The roadway is now in its required settlement period before final paving can occur. Construction activity has also begun on North Coles Ave. with that improvement project.

Our departments continue coordinating with the contractor and engineering staff to minimize impacts on residents while ensuring the work progresses according to schedule. At the Woodlawn Sports Complex, work continues on the replacement of the synthetic turf, fence improvements and other site work. Due to this extensive construction activity and heavy equipment, we had to Close portions of the facility so they will remain closed to ensure public safety. Our departments have also worked closely with the youth sports organizations regarding scheduling conflicts created by the project, balancing the needs of the community programming while ensuring the safety of all participants.

Our summer recreation programs continue to be well attended. In fact, this evening we have another concert going on in the park. Our director of recreation has been busy coordinating different events including, like I said, the concerts and Coffee with the Vet. She's been helpful with the anchor program assistance, which was very well attended here the other day we had the NJ MVC Real ID assistance and our sponsoring summer programs coming up which include a Lego Engineering Pro Sports lab. Guess if you like Legos, that would be pretty cool, right? These events obviously are continuing to strengthen our community engagement while showcasing the many amenities that Maple Shade has to offer. If anyone has an idea that they would like to see us do any age, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Recreation Director. She's always willing to listen and look for new ideas.

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Our administrative department heads recently met to begin planning for the remainder of 2026 and the development of the 2027 municipal budget. Departments have been asked to carefully review all outstanding purchase orders, verify that expenditures have been properly recorded, and identify any anticipated budgetary concerns early in the process to assist with year-end financial planning.

At the same time, my office is continuing to evaluate opportunities to expand shared services and regional partnerships where appropriate. My goal is to identify efficiencies, reduce costs where possible and maximize our taxpayers' dollars, all while maintaining, whenever possible, the level of municipal services our residents are expecting from us.

I'm also pleased to share that the Township continues to remain in a very strong financial position as we move through 2026. As of today, we've utilized approximately 62% of our overall operating budget, which is exactly where we should expect to be at this point in the year.

Our departments are doing an excellent and an outstanding job, as I had said, managing their budgets responsibly while continuing to deliver the level of services. To date, the Township has expended approximately \$10.2 million with an additional 667,000 committed through purchase orders and contracts, leaving just over 6.4 million available for the remainder of the year. That places us in a very solid financial position.

Many of our larger annual obligations, including insurance premiums, our pension contributions, our technology contracts and our fixed costs have already been paid or encumbered earlier in the year. And that's already encountered, encumbered and accounted for in those numbers I just shared. In addition to the reappropriation ordinance that was introduced this evening, our CFO has completed a comprehensive review of outstanding capital contracts and purchase orders. Working with the engineer, we identified numerous completed or enacted projects.

Where encumbered funds could be released while these are separate from the excess bond proceeds.

That were reappropriating through tonight's ordinance. Both actions reflect our continued commitment to actively managing the township's capital finances. If you're wondering what that number looks like, that number was just north of \$500,000 that we were able to cancel. So that would really, she did a great job doing that. And by eliminating these unnecessary encumbrances and repurposing excess bond proceeds, we're maximizing the use of existing capital dollars, improving our financial flexibility and reducing the need to identify new funding sources for future capital improvements.

Overall, I am pleased with where we stand financially. Again, our department heads are doing a great job. We're already beginning the early stages of developing, yes, the 2027 budget, that's crazy, but we are going to be entering that process from a position of strength. So, looking forward, you know, as long as things stay the same, we should be good. I do want to thank again our Chief Financial Officer, our finance department and every department head for their continued diligence and commitment to responsible fiscal management.

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Lastly, I had previously shared with Council.

That I have been approached by several financial institutions expressing interest in placing an automated teller machine in the municipal parking lot at Brubaker Lane.

There's been several interests. We've had some residents with the closing of the former bank there, You know, where are they going to go This evening? I'm requesting council's authorization to prepare and advertise a request for proposals for a concession agreement. For this opportunity, we would conduct a competitive RFP process to ensure a fair and transparent selection. Council approved moving forward.

2. Police Report

We'll start off with some investigations. On July 16th, we were dispatched to the Maple Shade Hockey rink for a report of criminal mischief.

It was discovered that a vehicle had been driven onto the rink and caused several \$1000 worth of damage to the sport court surface. The investigation was subsequently turned over to our Detective Bureau, who pursued multiple leads and conducted several interviews. We thank the public for the information that they have provided so far, and we ask anyone with additional information to please reach out to our detectives. We are confident that we are closing in on those who are responsible for the damage, and I would like to offer one last chance for those involved to come forward to possibly discuss any mitigating circumstances surrounding the incident before, quite bluntly, we show up at your residence with a criminal complaint.

Well, on July 31st, officers were dispatched to the Bel Air Motel for a dispute.

Upon entering the motel room, officers observed what they believed to be methamphetamine in Plainview. The occupants of the room acknowledged possession of the drugs and were subsequently arrested and charged with possession of CDs. One subject was determined to be a fugitive from Pennsylvania and subsequently lodged in Burlington County Jail.

On August 1st, officers responded to a residence in Fox Meadow for report, I'm sorry, the Fox Meadow apartment complex for a report of an aggravated assault.

Upon arrival, it was determined that there was an altercation between two family members which resulted in one striking the other with a machete. The victim subsequently sustained the shoulder injury and was transported to the hospital for treatment. The suspect was arrested and charged with aggravated assault, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, and unlawful possession of a weapon. They also were lodged in Burlington County Jail.

We've recently seen an increase in reports of thefts from unlocked vehicles during the overnight hours. On July 26, while on proactive Patrol, Sergeant Jericho located a suspect vehicle that we believe to be involved in these incidents. When he attempted to conduct a murder vehicle stop, the vehicle took off at a high rate of speed, eluding him. The vehicle was last seen fleeing toward down Route 38 towards Cherry Hill.

We are currently working with our law enforcement partners and using some of our

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technological resources to attempt to identify the vehicle.

I would encourage everyone to be diligent and lock their vehicles as unlocked vehicles seem to be the primary target. And just to give you kind of example of how quickly it happens, we've recovered a video from the area down along Route 38 where several subjects drive up in a car. It's usually four or five subjects in the car. The driver will let the would be thieves out and drive down the block and they literally walk down the block pulling on car door handles if they find the car and if you have something that they like, they take it and then they walk down to where the car is waiting and they take off. So, they're literally in and out in 10 minutes.

We had our National Night Out event on Tuesday night at the Maple Shade High School. It was well attended and by all counts, everyone had an enjoyable evening. I'd like to thank everyone who attended and helped make it a great success. Many of our officers volunteered their time and I would like to specifically recognize Corporal Karen Ann Wortman and Corporal Ron Socha, who worked tirelessly to make this event a success.

I would also like to thank all of the organizations and businesses who donated either food or giveaways, especially Steve to Worry from Carrabba's, John and Joe Fisher from the custard stand, and Joe from the Sub Shop who all donated food, the food that they provided that evening. A special thanks also goes out to DJ Tony Egner who volunteered his time to provide the entertainment for the evening. And of course, a special heartfelt thanks to the Superintendent of Schools, Missus Beth Norcia, for allowing us to use their facility.

On the personnel front and light of the recent Attorney General directive on dealing with barricaded subjects, Burlington County Burlington County has decided to reestablish a county-wide SWAT team. Our county is currently only one of two counties in the state that does not have a county SWAT team.

They asked each department to select candidates to participate in tryouts for the team, which will be held in September. These tryouts will include a physical fitness test, a firearm proficiency course, and an interview with the team's leaders. I am pleased to announce that we have chosen Patrolman Nick Warstall and Patrolman CJ Simzak to participate in the selection process and obviously I'll keep you posted on what their progress is.

As far as stats goes, for the month of July, we answered 2454 calls, which is slightly up from last month. That averages out to be about 82 calls per day. Some of the more notable ones were 30 domestics, 70 motor vehicle crashes, 417 property checks, 20 shopliftings, 79 suspicious activity calls, 26 thefts, 346 murder vehicle stops, three of which resulted in DUI arrests, 72 well-being checks, 13 burglaries, 18 frauds and five sex offenses.

Just as an enforcement reminder, the new E bike law took effect on July 20th. It divides E bikes into two categories, which are low speed electric bicycles and motorized bicycles.

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Both are required to have a valid registration, and motorized bicycles are required to have insurance. You must also have a valid driver's license or moped license to operate both of them, and no one under 15 is permitted to operate either.

From an enforcement standpoint, we have already issued several summonses for E bike violations.

That includes suspended driver's license, unregistered vehicle, failing to exhibit documents, helmet law violations and unlawful operation of the vehicle itself.

The previously mentioned unregistered vehicle was also impounded in one of the incidents.

On a side note, we also issued 2 violations for electric scooters which do not specifically fall under the E bike law.

But we feel capture the same spirit of the law. So, we've also been keeping an eye out for those violations.

On the education side of the topic or SRO is collaborating with the school district upon return to school to organize an educational campaign for our students to understand the rules and restrictions governing E bikes, including those who can and cannot ride them.

This will hopefully clear up any confusion and reduce the need for enforcement, especially with our underage operators.

I'd just like to pass my condolences along to the members of the Evesham Police Department and the family and friends of Detective Jared Halpern on his passing. He recently lost his battle with the terminal illness. We did attend his Funeral services this morning, which were a solemn event to say the least. And Mayor, if you would entertain me, just throw in a personal note in my son Colton who graduated from the Mercer County Police Academy on July 16th and he'll be carrying on the family tradition of voices in law enforcement. He's the 4th Weiss in law enforcement. He's working with the Mount Laurel Police Department.

Congratulations. Thank you. I was able to present it with a certificate at the ceremony, which was obviously very special for me. That's my report. Thank you

3. Engineer Reports – none
4. Sustainable – no report
5. BEDC

The BEDC met on July 28th. We welcomed a new member, which is Steve Schmidt. And discussed several upcoming community initiatives, the Color Run will be held on September 26th, the registration information and promotional material can be found on the Township web page, social media pages and the Commission will be reaching out for volunteers and sponsors.

We will also participate in the sidewalk sale. We'll have an information table, give out promotional gifts, and do a bake sale.

A significant portion of the meeting was focused on the future direction of the Commission, including strengthening partnerships with the Main Street Maple Shade and the Business Association and the Train Station Commission so the organizations can share their volunteers, their resources and information.

The Commission will also work to establish measurable goals such as tracking business

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contacts, assistance provided to businesses, vacancies, completed events and adding a student representative, so that way they can have a little bit of input to see what our young people want as far as businesses and activities. And I believe kids are getting very excited to be involved because they've already participated during the year.

The Train Station Commission also updated a proposal – “Rails and Ales”, which sounds like it would be a fantastic event. It's fundraising attentively in the fall. The event would include live music and refreshments and would raise funds for repairs and improvement at the train station.

New Business

Council discussed athletic-field scheduling, facility-use applications, volunteer badging, insurance documentation, and enforcement of rules governing youth organizations' use of Township facilities.

No formal action was taken. Staff will work with Recreation personnel to prepare additional rules, compliance procedures, and potential accountability measures for Council review.

Executive Session

A motion was made and seconded to adopt **Resolution 2026-R-144**, authorizing executive session for matters involving litigation, negotiations, and attorney-client privilege concerning Camps in Court, RPM, and IFC.

Vote: Approved by unanimous voice vote. Council entered executive session at approximately 7:29 p.m.

Adjournment

Following executive session, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote at approximately 8:17 p.m.