

Township of Maple Shade
Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Session
May 14, 2026
Municipal Building, Maple Shade, New Jersey

LL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Maple Shade Township Council was called to order on May 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by those present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act was provided by notifying the Township Clerk on December 23, 2025, posting notice on the municipal website, and posting notice on the official Municipal Bulletin Board on December 23, 2025.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Councilwoman Sandy Nunes
Councilman John Zahradnick
Mayor Heather Talarico

Absent:

Councilman Kauffman
Councilman Simonsick

Also Present:

Township Staff and Professionals

Township Manager noted for the record that Councilman Kaufman and Councilman Simonsick advised they would be unable to attend.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Board of Health Report

A report was provided noting four sanitary condition matters involving restaurants during the past month. All issues were reported as abated and resolved.

Public Portion – Board of Health

Township of Maple Shade
Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Session
May 14, 2026
Municipal Building, Maple Shade, New Jersey

No public comments were offered.

Adjournment – Board of Health

Motion to close public portion and adjourn the Board of Health meeting carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation – Denise Valencia

Mayor Talarico presented a proclamation recognizing Denise Valencia for outstanding athletic achievement in wrestling, including multiple tournament championships, regional and state accomplishments, and recognition as Second Team All South Jersey.

Memorial Day Proclamation

Council issued a proclamation recognizing Memorial Day as a day of remembrance honoring members of the United States Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation. Residents were encouraged to participate in Memorial Day observances and display the American flag.

ORDINANCES

Second Reading and Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 2026-07 An Ordinance of the Township of Maple Shade Accepting a Deed of Dedication from PSE&G for Land and Improvements to be Utilized as Right-of-Way on Property Identified as Portions of Block 189.03, Lot 5, Located at the Intersection of Willow Road and Rotary Way

Public hearing was opened. No comments were received.

Motion to close public hearing -Nunes Second by Zahradnick

Motion to adopt Ordinance No.2026-07 by Nunes and Seconded by Zahradnick

Roll Call Vote:

Councilwoman Nunes – Yes

Councilman Zahradncik – Yes

Mayor Talarico – Yes

Township of Maple Shade
Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Session
May 14, 2026
Municipal Building, Maple Shade, New Jersey

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2026-R-84

Authorizing the purchase and installation of replacement synthetic turf field under Bergen County Cooperative Contract BC-C-25-022.

During discussion, clarification was made that the resolution number was R-84, not R-87.

A resident inquired regarding project costs. Administration advised the total project cost was approximately \$403,767.64 and grant funding had been applied for, though no award determination had yet been received.

Motion carried by roll call vote by: Zahradnick and seconded by: Nunes

Roll Call Vote:

Councilwoman Nunes – Yes
Councilman Zahradnick – Yes
Mayor Talarico – Yes

Resolutions No. 2026-R-85 and No. 2026-R-86

Council approved tabling Resolutions 2026-R-85 and 2026-R-86 until the June 11, 2026 meeting due to the State not yet opening the clearance certificate system for liquor license matters.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions No. 2026-R-87 through No. 2026-R-95

Motion to approve Resolutions 2026-R-87 through 2026-R-95 carried by roll call vote by: Zahradnick and seconded by: Nunes

Roll Call Vote:

Councilwoman Nunes – Yes
Councilman Zahradnick – Yes
Mayor Talarico – Yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

The following expenditures were presented:

Township of Maple Shade
Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Session
May 14, 2026
Municipal Building, Maple Shade, New Jersey

Current Fund: \$7,319,048.00
Utility Fund: \$722,718.93
Capital Fund: \$444,940.54
Utility Capital Fund: \$972,552.67
Trust Fund: \$205,604.02
Grant Fund: \$2,895.63

The Township Manager noted that significant portions of the current fund represented pension obligations, county taxes, Board of Education tax payments, and insurance obligations.

Motion to approve by: Zahradnick and Seconded by: Nunes, expenditures carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilwoman Nunes – Yes
Councilman Zahradnick – Yes
Mayor Talarico – Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the April 2026 Council Meeting Minutes carried by: Nunes and Seconded by: Zahradnick

Roll Call Vote:

Councilwoman Nunes – Yes
Councilman Zahradnick – Yes
Mayor Talarico – Yes

PUBLIC PORTION

JFK Field Concerns

Marge Tieri of East Linwood Avenue addressed Council regarding repeated property damage allegedly caused by baseballs from JFK Field. Concerns included damage to vehicles, fencing, siding, garage doors, and personal safety risks.

The resident requested Council evaluate additional safety measures, including fencing modifications or relocating older baseball divisions to alternate fields.

Council acknowledged the concerns and stated the matter would be reviewed.

Township of Maple Shade
Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Session
May 14, 2026
Municipal Building, Maple Shade, New Jersey

Memorial Day Service Announcement

Jay Renwick, West Linwood Avenue, announced that Memorial Day services would be held May 25, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at the memorial monument near Main Street and Fellowship Road.

Land Use Board Engineer Concerns

Joanne Mortimer, Lanci Road, expressed concerns regarding the attendance of engineering professionals at Land Use Board meetings.

The Township Solicitor and Dennis Yoder, Engineer from Remington & Vernick explained that professional attendance depends on the nature of applications under review and that applicants fund professional review costs through escrow deposits.

Further discussion occurred regarding planning versus engineering review responsibilities.

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

Councilwoman Nunes

Councilwoman Nunes extended condolences to the family of Betty Procopio, longtime community historian and member of the Historical Society.

Township Clerk Report

The Township Clerk reminded residents of the upcoming June 2, 2026 Primary Election and reviewed voting options including in-person voting, early voting, and vote-by-mail deadlines.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Talarico congratulated Maple Shade High School UNLESS group for winning first place in the Philadelphia Zoo contest for the second consecutive year.

The Mayor also announced:

- Soccer basket auction at the VFW on May 15, 2026
- Concert in the Park series beginning May 19, 2026

OLD BUSINESS

Operations Report

The Township Manager reported:

Township of Maple Shade
Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Session
May 14, 2026
Municipal Building, Maple Shade, New Jersey

- Annual shredding event collected approximately 2,940 pounds of material.
- Pre-construction meeting held for Jake's Place Playground project.
- Ongoing fence replacement discussions for Woodlawn Field due to deteriorating fencing conditions.
- Strong tax collection performance and construction activity.
- Continued grant reimbursements and capital project oversight.
- Fire Department responded to approximately 269 incidents through April 2026.

Discussion occurred regarding replacement fencing placement near Collins Lane properties and maintaining existing fence alignments. Council agreed to leave the fence line as is moving forward.

Police Department Report

The Police Captain, Brian Weiss provided a detailed report regarding:

- Public safety issues and crowd disturbances at the Tigers football carnival.
- Deployment of additional officers and regional mutual aid response.
- Ongoing investigations and juvenile charges related to the incident.
- Participation in "Operation Dethrone" involving human trafficking, narcotics, and weapons investigations.
- Arrest statistics and law enforcement activity.
- Progress on police accreditation and cell block renovation project.

Council commended the Police Department for its efforts.

Engineer's Report

Alexis Romeo, Township Engineer, from Alaimo reported updates regarding:

- Watershed inventory submissions.
- Annual stormwater reporting.
- Buttonwood Park improvements.
- Thomas Avenue drainage project.
- Broadway/North Fork Landing and North Coles Avenue roadway projects.
- Maple Heights Road improvements.

Sustainable Maple Shade

Announcement made regarding:

- Community cleanup scheduled for Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Green Fair scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Gazebo Park.

Township of Maple Shade
Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Session
May 14, 2026
Municipal Building, Maple Shade, New Jersey

West Front Street Sewer Discussion

Council continued discussion regarding possible sewer line extensions on West Front Street.

The Township Sewer Engineer reviewed prior history regarding private grinder pump installations, connection requirements, and estimated costs.

Residents and Council discussed:

- Potential costs to homeowners.
- Existing Township policy.
- Mandatory connection considerations.
- Long-term infrastructure implications.

Council decision was not to proceed with project.

NEW BUSINESS

Main Street Sidewalk Sale

The Township Manager reported continued planning efforts for the September 19, 2026 sidewalk sale event in partnership with local volunteer groups and MSBA Charities.

Sponsors are being solicited.

2026 Capital Budget Discussion

Council reviewed capital planning documents and discussed:

- Reallocation of old capital balances.
- Potential DPW dump truck purchase.
- Municipal building window and ADA accessibility needs.
- Police, fire, EMS, and public works capital needs.

No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri McVeigh, Township Clerk

Township of Maple Shade
Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Session
May 14, 2026
Municipal Building, Maple Shade, New Jersey
