

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Talarico called the Regular Session of the Maple Shade Township Council to order at **6:30 p.m.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Mayor stated that public notice had been provided pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act through notice to the Township Clerk and posting on the municipal website and official municipal bulletin board on December 23, 2025.

Members Present:

- Councilmember Kauffman — participating by telephone
- Councilmember Nunes
- Councilmember Simonsick
- Councilmember Zahradnick
- Mayor Talarico

Board of Health Meeting

The Mayor convened the Board of Health meeting.

A report was presented by Township Manager for August 2026 activity:

- Three dog-bite reports
- Four cat-bite reports
- One hazardous-materials matter
- One cleanliness-related matter

A total of **nine calls** were reported.

The Council also announced that the Burlington County Animal Shelter had placed cat-trapping efforts on hold for two weeks because of an increase in respiratory infections and contagious exposure among cats at the shelter. Cat-surrender appointments were likewise suspended during that period.

There being no public comment, the public portion was closed and the Board of Health meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote.

Ordinances - First Reading and Introduction

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Ordinance No. 2026-16 An Ordinance Amending and Reorganizing Chapter 16 of the Code of the Township of Maple Shade to provide for a Part-paid Municipal Fire Department comprised of Career Personnel and a Designated Volunteer Fire Company.

Mayor Talarico delivered remarks supporting a unified Maple Shade Fire Department with a clear chain of command, continued participation by qualified volunteers, and the establishment of a full-time Fire Chief position. The Mayor stated that the purpose of the ordinance was to improve readiness, training, deployment, communication, accountability, and operational reliability.

Councilmember Simonsick spoke in opposition, expressing concern that the proposed structure would lead to a fully paid fire department, increase costs to taxpayers, and further diminish the Township's volunteer fire-service base. He stated that he intended to present additional information and financial figures at the September 24, 2026 meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Result: Adopted on first reading, 4–1.

Publication Date: September 11, 2026

Public Hearing Date: September 24, 2026

Ordinance No. 2026-17 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 152, Property Maintenance, Article I, General Provisions, Section 152-14, of the Code of the Township of Maple Shade.

Roll Call Vote:

- Kauffman — Yes
- Nunes — Yes
- Simonsick — Yes
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Result: Adopted on first reading, 5–0.

Publication Date: September 11, 2026

Public Hearing Date: September 24, 2026

Second Reading and Final Adoption

Ordinance No. 2026-12 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 194, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Maple Shade Township Code to Designate a New Bus Stop.

The public hearing was opened and closed with no comments.

Roll Call Vote:

- Kauffman — Yes
- Nunes — Yes
- Simonsick — Yes
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes

Result: Adopted, 5–0.

Ordinance No. 2026-13 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 138 of the Code of the Township of Maple Shade, titled Parks and Recreation Areas, Article II, Synthetic Athletic Field Use.

The public hearing was opened and closed with no comments.

Roll Call Vote:

- Kauffman — Yes
- Nunes — Yes
- Simonsick — Yes
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes

Result: Adopted, 5–0.

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Ordinance No. 2026-14 An Ordinance of the Township of Maple Shade, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, Amending Chapter 194 of the Code of the Township of Maple Shade, entitled Vehicles and Traffic, to Establish Additional Parking Restrictions and Traffic Regulations.

The public hearing was opened and closed with no comments.

Roll Call Vote:

- Kauffman — Yes
- Nunes — Yes
- Simonsick — Yes
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes

Result: Adopted, 5–0.

Ordinance No. 2026-15 A Reappropriation Ordinance of the Township of Maple Shade, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, Providing for Various Capital Improvements and Reappropriating \$134,142.10 of excess Bond Proceeds from Various Bond Ordinances to finance costs thereof.

The public hearing was opened and closed with no comments.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Result: Adopted, 4–1.

Consent Agenda and Resolutions

The public portion for consent agenda items was opened.

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Public Comment on Consent Agenda

Joanne Mortimer, 39 Lancy Road, asked about the proposed Deputy Township Clerk position. The Township Clerk explained that she was transitioning to part-time employment and planned to retire; the Deputy Township Clerk would receive training and coursework and would be prepared to assume the Clerk position subject to Council approval.

Ms. Mortimer also asked about:

- The financial scope of the pickleball-court project and the amount covered by grant funding.
- Potential change-order costs.
- Discussions with the Bridge Commission concerning capital improvements and financing.
- The stated year of the annual audit.
- The Township's spending, long-range planning, tax burdens, recreation projects, and possible costs associated with the fire-department structure.

The Township Manager indicated that the pickleball project had been competitively bid and that the awarded contract amount represented the expected project cost, subject to potential change orders. Township representatives explained that the Bridge Commission partnership was being explored to support capital improvements and potentially obtain more favorable financing terms. It was also clarified that the audit reference should state **2025**, rather than 2024.

There being no further public comment, the public portion was closed.

Consent Resolutions

Council considered **Resolution Nos. 2026-R-145 through 2026-R-157**.

Resolution No. 2026-R-145 AUTHORIZE THE APPOINTMENT OF KATHLEEN WELLINGTON AS DEPUTY TOWNSHIP CLERK

Resolution No. 2026-R-146 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF LIEN FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FOR BLOCK 1.06 Lot 6

Resolution No. 2026-R-147 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF LIEN FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FOR BLOCK 203 Lot 2

Resolution No. 2026-R-148 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF LIEN FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FOR BLOCK 103 Lot 11

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Resolution No. 2026-R-149 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF LIEN FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FOR BLOCK 1.12 Lot 29 FOR JUNE

Resolution No. 2026-R-150 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF LIEN FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FOR BLOCK 1.12 Lot 29 FOR AUGUST

Resolution No. 2026-R-151 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF LIEN FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FOR BLOCK 116 Lot 23

Resolution No. 2026-R-152 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF LIEN FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FOR BLOCK 103 Lot 7.02

Resolution No. 2026-R-153 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2026 FORD F350 4X4 CRESTLINE CCL150 AMBULANCE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$255,365.00 THROUGH A NJ STATE APPROVED CO-OP (SOURCEWELL PURCHASE CONTRACT # 122123-DEM)

Resolution No. 2026-R-154 AUTHORIZING ENGINEERING SERVICES OF REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS ON OXFORD AVENUE IN AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEED \$87,500.00

Resolution No. 2026-R-155 AWARD OF CONTRACT TO COMMAND CO. INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PICKLEBALL COURTS, NEW PARKING AREA AND OTHER AMENITIES AT WOODLAWN SPORTS COMPLEX

Resolution No. 2026-R-156 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, AND TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BURLINGTON COUNTY BRIDGE COMMISSION FOR THE FINANCING OF MUNICIPAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Resolution No. 2026-R-157 GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

The Township Manager noted that Resolution No. 2026-R-157 would be corrected to refer to the annual audit for the year **2025**.

Councilmember Simonczyk stated that he would vote “no” on Resolution Nos. **2026-R-145, 2026-R-153, 2026-R-155, and 2026-R-157**.

Roll Call Vote on Resolution Nos. 2026-R-145 through 2026-R-157:

- Kauffman — Yes

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

- Nunes — Yes
- Simonsick — Yes, except “No” on Resolution Nos. 2026-R-145, 2026-R-153, 2026-R-155, and 2026-R-157
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes

Result: Consent resolutions approved, subject to the stated individual dissenting votes and correction to Resolution No. 2026-R-157.

Recognition Resolution

Resolution No. 2026-R-158 RECOGNIZING SUSAN DANSON BY RUTGERS UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL, CAMDEN CENTER FOR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNMENT AWARD

The resolution recognized Ms. Danson’s public service, including her appointment as Maple Shade Township Manager in August 2019; her recognition by Rutgers University Graduate School–Camden Center for Executive Leadership in Government; her remarks to incoming graduate students concerning continuing education, professional growth, and public service; and her service as Treasurer of the New Jersey Municipal Management Association.

Roll Call Vote:

- Kauffman — Yes
- Nunes — Yes
- Simonsick — Yes
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes

Result: Resolution No. 2026-R-158 approved, 5–0.

Financial Matters and Minutes

Expenditure List

The Township Manager presented the following expenditure totals:

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Fund (\$5,582,104.49)	Amount
Current Fund	\$3,345,847.05
Utility Fund	\$1,100,574.14
Capital Fund	\$1,005,111.13
Utility Capital Fund	\$105,290.67
Trust Fund	\$23,306.19
Grant Fund	\$1,965.31

The Manager reported that approximately \$2.812 million of the Current Fund total was remitted to the Maple Shade Board of Education, leaving approximately \$532,988 for operating expenses, including insurance, salaries, and general daily operations. Of the Utility Fund amount, approximately \$1.012 million was applied to New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust loans dating from 2007 through 2018.

Roll Call Vote:

- Kauffman — Yes
- Nunes — Yes
- Simonsick — Yes
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes

Result: Expenditure list approved, 5–0.

August 2026 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the August 2026 meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

- Kauffman — Yes

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

- Nunes — Yes
- Simonsick — Yes
- Zahradnick — Yes
- Mayor Talarico — Yes

Result: Approved, 5–0.

Public Comment

The public portion was opened for general public comment.

Steve Bowman, President of Maple Shade Hockey, addressed Council regarding the organization's need for expanded rink facilities. He stated that the organization was growing, currently had only one rink, and had sought potential grant funding through the Philadelphia Flyers organization. He asked the Township to work with the organization to identify land or a facility that could accommodate two rinks, preferably at one site, and noted the value of developing a timeline and action plan.

Joanne Mortimer, 39 Lanci Road, reminded Council of the Maple Shade Arts Council's continued need for a dedicated space and emphasized that community needs extend beyond athletics.

A resident of South Poplar Avenue encouraged the Township to reconsider leaf collection, citing environmental and sustainability benefits of allowing leaves to decompose and return nutrients to trees and soil.

There being no further public comment, the public portion was closed.

Staff and Professional Reports

Staff Comments

The Township Attorney had departed before staff comments due to another appointment. It was noted that no additional official business requiring the attorney's presence was anticipated.

A Councilmember recognized the late Bob Arthur, a life member of Independent Fire Company No. 1, for his approximately 65 years of service.

Councilmembers announced and encouraged attendance at:

- The September 11 memorial observance at the War Memorial at 11:00 a.m. on September 11.
- The VFW clambake.

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

- Coffee with a Veteran on September 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., in the Senior Room.
- The Veterans Picnic on September 20 at 11:00 a.m.
- The Sidewalk Sale on September 19.

Council also encouraged motorists to use caution in school areas and expressed appreciation for police traffic-control efforts at schools.

Councilmember Kauffman, participating remotely, thanked Council for permitting him to join by telephone and stated that he was preparing for a medical procedure the following day.

Township Manager's Report

The Township Manager welcomed **Katie Wellington** as the new Deputy Municipal Clerk. Ms. Wellington will work with the Township Clerk, receive training in Township operations, and work toward Municipal Clerk certification.

The Manager reported the following operational updates:

- EMS responded to **2,248 calls** through August 2026, including **316 calls during August**. Medical emergencies represented the largest category of responses.
- Department of Public Works personnel responded to the August 3 rain event by clearing storm inlets, implementing road closures and detours, and addressing affected areas. The Township continues to assess flood-prone locations, including coordination with Burlington County.
- DPW work included trimming approximately **58 Main Street trees**, milling and paving the McCray/Laurelton intersection, filling potholes, repainting crosswalks, refreshing Main Street benches, preparing athletic fields, and supporting National Night Out and the farmers market.
- The residential Certificate of Continued Occupancy program conducted **96 inspections** during August: 79 apartment units, 11 single-family homes, and six condominiums. Eighty-six inspections passed, eight initially failed, and two remained without a final designation at the time of the report.
- The Township received its Community Forestry Management Plan, intended to guide tree planting, maintenance, preservation, and sustainable long-term tree-canopy management. The plan identifies approximately **1.12 square miles** of tree canopy in Maple Shade.
- The municipal audit exit conference was held August 31. The auditors reported no material weaknesses in internal controls, no matters requiring corrective action, no

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

material misstatements due to error or fraud, and no audit recommendations for corrective action. The Manager reported a 2025 Current Fund balance of approximately **\$7.27 million**, a tax-collection-rate increase from **98.58% in 2024 to 98.92% in 2025**, and a reduction of approximately **\$182,668** in municipal-purpose expenditures from 2024 to 2025.

- Township representatives planned to attend a DARE Network event at Rowan College for engagement with developers and discussion of redevelopment and economic-development goals.
- The Township will continue its pilot office-hour schedule: Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- The Maple Shade Color Run was scheduled for September 26 at 10:00 a.m.

A Councilmember raised a concern regarding damage to a Township streetlight and related holiday decorations near RPM Uptown. The Township Manager reported that replacement parts had been ordered and that the responsible parties would assume responsibility for the repair.

Police Department Report

The Police Chief reported on recent investigations, community engagement, personnel recruitment, accreditation, and August activity.

The Chief reported that:

- A suspect connected with the theft of money from a Wawa donation box was located, found to have outstanding warrants in Camden and Gloucester Counties, and charged with drug possession and hindering apprehension after allegedly providing false identifying information.
- A late-July investigation into alleged illegal marijuana manufacturing resulted in the August 25 execution of legal process in coordination with the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office and New Jersey State Police. Marijuana plants were recovered, and an individual was charged with a second-degree offense related to manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing controlled dangerous substances.
- The Police Department established new Facebook and Instagram accounts, while continuing to use its X account. The Chief reminded residents that social-media accounts are not regularly monitored and that residents needing police response should call the Police Department directly.
- The Department held two physical-fitness tests as part of its recruitment process and was moving to in-person interviews.

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

- The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police conducted an on-site reaccreditation assessment on August 10. The Department was found compliant with all **117 accreditation standards**, with no deficiencies or required corrections. Final action by the Accreditation Board was scheduled for October 8.
- August police activity totaled **2,514 calls**, averaging approximately 81 calls daily. The report included 42 domestic incidents, 74 motor-vehicle crashes, 402 property checks, 93 suspicious-activity calls, 30 thefts, 464 traffic stops, four DUI arrests, 72 well-being checks, 31 burglaries, and 21 trespassing reports.
- Traffic enforcement increased from 286 motor-vehicle stops in June to 346 in July and 464 in August.

Councilmembers thanked the Police Department for its work, including school traffic management and preparations for the Sidewalk Sale.

Engineer's Report

The Township Engineer reported:

- The MS4 Watershed Inventory Report was submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and was under review.
- The Township submitted a Local Aid Infrastructure Fund application for the Thomas Avenue drainage project. The Department of Transportation requested clarification, and the Township anticipated further communication regarding potential funding.
- Construction on the Broadway and North Fork Landing Road drainage-improvements project was substantially complete. Final paving restoration and striping were expected after the 30-day settlement period.
- The North Coles Avenue project was substantially complete, subject to completion of punch-list items.
- The Maple Heights Road roadway-improvements project was completed, pending walkthrough and consideration of substantial completion.

Committee and Commission Updates

The Sustainability Committee announced:

- The next farmers market would be held September 18, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the gazebo.
- A Halloween costume swap was being planned, and residents could place unwanted costumes in collection bins at the Township Building.

MAPLE SHADE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – 6:30 PM

The BEDC reported that it was working on the Color Run and would participate in the Sidewalk Sale, including a bake-sale table.

Adjournment

There being no further old or new business, Council adjourned the meeting at approximately **7:24 p.m.**

The next Regular Township Council meeting is scheduled for **September 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Township Clerk

Approved: