

Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the Borough Council held January 7, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 531 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains, New Jersey.

Mayor Frank J. Druetzler called the meeting to order and read the following notice:

I HEREBY ANNOUNCE AND STATE THAT ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PROVIDED BY VIRTUE OF A RESOLUTION SCHEDULING THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE OF MEETINGS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS FOR THE YEAR 2014; WHICH RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL ON JANUARY 7, 2014, AND WAS PUBLISHED IN THE *MORRIS NEWSBEE* AND IN THE DAILY RECORD AND BY THE FORWARDING OF SUCH RESOLUTION TO ALL PERSONS ON THE REQUEST LIST; BY THE POSTING OF SUCH RESOLUTION ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE BOROUGH HALL; ALL OF THE ABOVE ACTIONS BEING IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, *ET SEQ.*

Mayor Druetzler asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation was presented by the Rev. Tom Olsson from St. Paul's Parish.

STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION

June R. Uhrin, Borough Clerk, read the following statement:

“A Statement of Determination of the Board of County Canvassers, relative to an election held in the Borough of Morris Plains in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, for the election of certain municipal officers for the municipality on the fourth day of November 2014.

The said Board does determine that at the end of the said election

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term</u>
Frank J. Druetzler	Mayor	Four year term
Salvatore “Sal” Cortese	Borough Council	Three year term
John “Jack” Doherty	Borough Council	Three year term

were duly elected to the office and for the term set forth above.”

INTRODUCTION OF MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS-ELECT AND OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Druetzler invited his sister, Kathryn and family members, Elsie, Rick Joann & April Ulrich to come forward as he took his Oath of Office from Judge Carlucci. Kathryn held the Bible.

Mayor Druetzler thanked everyone in the Borough of Morris Plains for their continued support and provided commentary concerning his thoughts and hopes for the Borough's future.

Mayor Druetzler invited Councilmember Sal Cortese to come forward to take the Oath of Office. Sal introduced wife, Lisa and children Francesca & Antonio, Sal Jr and Giovanni are on their way by train. Lisa held the Bible.

Councilmember Cortese thanked his family for their support, Mayor Druetzler, fellow members of the Governing Body. He commented on his sense of honor at being able to serve as a councilmember.

Mayor Druetzler invited Councilmember Jack Doherty to come forward to take the Oath of Office. Jack introduced wife, Ro and daughter, Erin with boyfriend, Mike Alline. Ro held the Bible.

Councilmember Doherty thanked family, friends and members of the community for their support, as well the Governing Body, Mayor Druetzler and that he will do his best for the Borough.

Present on Roll Call:

Mayor Frank J. Druetzler
Council President vacant
Councilmembers: Joseph Cecala, Jr.
Sal Cortese
Jack Doherty
Laurie Fu
Jason Karr
Suzanne McCluskey

Absent: Gail H. Fraser, Esq., Borough Attorney
Leon C. Hall, Borough Engineer

ADDRESS BY MAYOR FRANK J. DRUETZLER

GOOD EVENING:

TONIGHT, MY FELLOW CITIZENS, AS IS OUR CUSTOM AT REORGANIZATION, WE REPORT VERY BRIEFLY ON THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS IN 2014 AND SOME OF OUR PLANS AND GOALS FOR OUR TOWN IN 2015.

BUT BEFORE DOING SO; LET US REMEMBER OUR LOSS IN THE PAST MONTHS OF TWO OUTSTANDING FORMER COUNCILWOMEN, ROSEMARY LOPEZ AND PEG ADAMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE, JOE GAGLIARDI. MAY WE HAVE A MOMENT OF REFLECTION AND PRAYER FOR THESE GREAT PUBLIC SERVANTS.

THANK YOU.

AS ALWAYS WE CONTINUE TO WORK ON IMPROVING OUR BOROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE. IN 2014 WITH A \$225,000. STATE GRANT WE PAVED MOUNTAIN WAY FROM GRANNISS AVENUE TO CHILDRENS' PARK. ALSO, WITH A STATE GRANT OF \$135,000. WE WERE ABLE TO PAVE AMERICAN ROAD.

WE ALSO PAVED THE COMMUNITY PARK PARKING LOT AND CONTINUED OUR DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM WITH NEW LIGHTING AND BRICK PAVERS ON SPEEDWELL AVENUE FROM ACADEMY ROAD TO DAYTON ROAD.

IN 2015 WE WILL CONTINUE THE SPEEDWELL AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM FROM DAYTON ROAD TO HANOVER AVENUE. WE WILL ALSO PAVE WATNONG DRIVE FROM THE BRIDGE OVER WATNONG BROOK TO MADISON AVENUE AND WE WILL PAVE TROWBRIDGE ROAD FROM SYLVAN DRIVE TO DOGWOOD ROAD.

FOR THE THIRD TIME UNDER THE DIRECTION OF BEAUTIFICATION GARDEN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, GEORGE ROSS, WE EXPANDED OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN AND NOW HAVE 114 PLOTS. THE GARDENERS ALSO DONATED OVER A 1000 POUNDS OF PRODUCE TO THE INTER-FAITH FOOD PANTRY. WITHOUT A DOUBT THIS IS A VERY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM.

IN 2014 THANKS TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION OUR RECREATION DEPARTMENT WAS ABLE TO SCHEDULE PRACTICE AND GAME TIMES ON THE TURF FIELDS FOR OUR SOCCER AND LACROSS PROGRAMS AS WELL AS BOROUGH SCHOOL TEAMS. WE ARE THRILLED WITH THE ARRANGEMENT.

THIS FALL ON RT 10, HARLEY DAVIDSON MOVED INTO TOWN AND WORK IS PROGRESSING ON THE HONEYWELL SITE NEXT TO THE VFW. HONEYWELL EXPECTS TO MOVE IN SEPTEMBER OF 2015.

WE ARE STILL IN LITIGATION WITH M&M PROPERTIES WHICH IS THE PROPERTY LOCATED BETWEEN THE RAILROAD AND RT 53. WE OPPOSE THEIR PLAN TO CONSTRUCT 680 HOUSING UNITS ON A DEED RESTRICTED AND CURRENTLY CONTAMINATED SITE.

ROSELAND PROPERTIES IS EXPECTED TO COME BEFORE THE PLANNING BOARD TO CONSTRUCT HIGH-END APARTMENTS AT 250 JOHNSON ROAD. CURRENTLY THE PROPERTY HOUSES A VACANT OFFICE BUILDING.

CAPITAL SENIORS HOUSING HAS AN APPLICATION BEFORE THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT FOR AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY. THIS IS THE CURRENT SITE OF THE MANOR AT BRETTON WOODS.

WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO CONSTRUCT AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACROSS FROM OUR RECYCLING CENTER FOR SENIORS AND OTHERS. HOPEFULLY WE WILL BREAK GROUND THIS SUMMER.

WE ARE THRILLED THAT THE STATE IS DEMOLISHING THE OLD DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS AT GREYSTONE. THE 180 ACRES OF SURPLUS PROPERTY WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AND IT WILL BE KEPT FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION.

IN JUNE, AT THE BOROUGH'S FAMILY DAY WE OPENED THE TIME CAPSULE BURIED IN 1964. IT WAS INTERESTING AND FUN. IN 2015 WE WILL BURY A TIME CAPSULE CONTAINING THE MANY EVENTS OF 2014. THIS CAPSULE WILL BE OPENED IN 2064. ANYONE HAVING AN ITEM TO BE BURIED SHOULD SPEAK TO LAURIE FU. IN THAT VEIN, LAURIE CEATED A MEMORY BOOK OF OUR TOWN FOR 2014. IT WAS DONE SO WELL, MANY PEOPLE HAVE ASKED TO BUY A COPY. WE STILL HAVE SOME FOR YOU TO PURCHASE.

ON OCTOBER 10, 2015, WE WILL BE HOSTING ONE DAY, ONE SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION AND SAFETY INITIATIVE DAY IN MORRIS PLAINS. THIS PROGRAM WAS STARTED SEVERAL YEARS AGO BY COMMITTEEMAN, TOM "ACE" GALLAGHER OF HANOVER TOWNSHIP. HE GETS VOLUNTEER TREE COMPANIES TO COME TO SCHOOLS TO TRIM THEIR TREES FOR FREE. OUR JOB IS TO ENLIST VOLUNTEER LANDSCAPERS, SOME STUDENTS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS, ETC. TO JOIN IN. THE GOAL IS TO ENHANCE THE APPEARANCE OF THE SCHOOLS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HANOVER TOWNSHIP AND THE SCHOOL SYSTEM TO MAKE THE ONE DAY ONE SCHOOL PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL IN MORRIS PLAINS.

OUR BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE, MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE, TEEN CENTER, LIBRARY, MUSEUM, KIDS HELPING KIDS PROGRAM, RECREATION, FARMERS MARKET AND COMMUNITY CENTER CONTINUE TO FLOURISH.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL, I WISH TO THANK THE BOROUGH EMPLOYEES, ALL OF THE MANY, MANY VOLUNTEERS ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AND ALL CITIZENS FOR YOUR DEVOTION TO OUR TOWN.

TOGETHER WE WILL FACE MANY CHALLENGES WHICH WILL ALSO PRESENT NEW OPPORTUNITIES.
OUR GOAL IS TO SEIZE THESE NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND BECOME AN EVEN BETTER COMMUNITY.

YOUR GOVERNING BODY THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND WE ALWAYS WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOD BLESS YOU.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2015

Councilmember Fu placed in nomination the name of Jason C. Karr as Council President for the year 2015.

Seconded by Councilmember Doherty.

There were no further nominations, the Mayor closed the nominations and asked for a vote.

Yeas: Councilmembers Cecala, Doherty, Fu, and McCluskey
Nays: None
Abstain: Councilmember Karr and Cortese
Absent: None

Mayor Druetzler congratulated Council President Karr.

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR

Mayor Druetzler appointed the following persons to the offices stated and the terms specified:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>		<u>Term</u>
Planning Board	Donald Underhill	Class II	1 year
	Vincent Novak	Class IV	4 years
	George Coogan	Class IV	4 years
	Henry Sawoski	Alt I	2 years
Recreation Commission	Eleanor McCabe		5 years
	Brian Volkker		5 years
Shade Tree Commission	Margaret Law		5 years

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Karr moved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following resolutions be adopted:

No. 2015-1	By-Laws
No. 2015-2	Planning Board Representative
No. 2015-3	Standing Committees
No. 2015-4	Appointments
No. 2015-5	Notice of Meetings
No. 2015-6	Adequate Notice of Meetings
No. 2015-7	Request for Notice of Meetings
No. 2015-8	Minutes of Meetings

No. 2015-9	Conference Meetings
No. 2015-10	Depositories for Borough Funds
No. 2015-11	Authorizing Officers to Sign Approved Checks
No. 2015-12	Delinquent Taxes and Tax Installments
No. 2015-13	Professional Services
No. 2015-14	Execution of Vouchers
No. 2015-15	Designating Official Newspaper
No. 2015-16	Fixing Holidays – Borough Employees
No. 2015-17	Fixing Holidays – Police Officers and Civilian Police Dispatchers
No. 2015-18	Council Appointments
No. 2015-19	Temporary Appropriations for Operating Purposes
No. 2015-20	Waiving Interest on Delinquent Taxes for Senior Citizens
No. 2015-21	Waiving Interest on Delinquent Taxes for Disabled Persons
No. 2015-22	Authorizing Tax Collector to Process Property Tax In Amount Less Than \$10.00
No. 2015-23	Authorizing Borough Clerk to Execute Hold Harmless Agreements
No. 2015-24	Time Capsule – Morris Plains Library
No. 2015-25	Resolution Reappointing Robert Carroll as member Of the Southeast Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority

Seconded by Councilmember Cecala.

Yeas: Councilmembers Karr, Cecala, Cortese, Doherty, Fu, and McCluskey
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND AWARDS

Mayor Druetzler asked former Councilmembers Mangravite and Coogan to come forward to be recognized. Mayor Druetzler thanked them for their service to the Borough.

Mayor Druetzler with Councilmembers presented Mr. Mangravite and Mr. Coogan with a Boston Rocker.

Mr. Mangravite thanked all for the kind words and for the chair. He also presented a gift to Mayor Druetzler; the gift was a 1969 Mets World Series booklet.

Mr. Coogan thanked all, especially his wife, for all the support over the many years. He also commented on the team aspect of the Council.

PRESENTATION OF BADGES TO FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Mayor Druetzler commented that the Borough's Fire Department is going into its 108th year of existence in 2015.

Mayor Druetzler stated that after nineteen years Chief Michael Geary is stepping down in order to spend time with his wife, Connie and their four growing children.

Mayor Druetzler asked former Fire Chief Geary to come forward and be recognized. Mayor Druetzler on behalf of the Governing Body and residents offered gratitude for his years of dedication to an all volunteer fire department.

Mayor Druetzler presented former Fire Chief Geary a Boston Rocker.

Mayor Druetzler and Councilmember McCluskey presented badges to the following Officers of the Fire Department for the year 2015. Mayor Druetzler asked the following officers to come forward and receive their badges while stating that Morris Plains has been blessed with committed young men.

Chief	Kevin Rongo
Kevin Rongo's Dad, Brian Rongo, a veteran Vol. Fire Department member of the Morris Plains Fire Department pinned the Chief badge on his son, Kevin.	
1 st Assistant Chief	Bill Hoferer
2 nd Assistant Chief	Bob Webster
Engineer	Art Bruhn
Assistant Engineer	Paul Cullen, III
Fire Prevention Chief	John Boudreau
Battalion Chief	Larry Everitt

Chief Rongo thanked the officers for 2015 for their continuing service to the Borough. He also thanked his wife, Amy and community for their support.

Chief Rongo made a presentation to Former Chief Geary on behalf of the Fire Department.

Mayor Druetzler thanked the members of the Fire Department and recognized Phil Wilk for his many years of service.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO APPOINTEES

Mayor Druetzler asked those present who have been appointed to any board or Borough position to please rise while he administers the Oath of Office. Mayor Druetzler thanked the volunteers and staff. He requested that the Oaths of Office be signed as appropriate.

MEETING OPEN FOR REMARKS AND COMMENTS BY CITIZENS

Hearing no one.

Mayor Druetzler closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mayor Druetzler stated that the Borough's Rabies Clinic will be held this Saturday, January 10th 2015 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Borough's DPW Garage and not to forget that we still have the beautiful Morris Plains Memory Album for sale.

BENEDICTION

Father Lancelot Reis, St. Virgil's parish closed the meeting with a Blessing for the officials, employees, volunteers, and all people of Morris Plains.

Mayor Druetzler thanked everyone for attending and extended an invitation to join in the firemen association room for refreshments.

Councilmember Doherty moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Seconded by Councilmember Cotese. So ordered.

Frank J. Druetzler, Mayor

June R. Uhrin, Clerk

