

Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the Borough Council held January 7, 2016, 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 2015; WHICH RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL ON JANUARY 7, 2015, 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>
Joseph Cecala, Jr.	Borough Council	Three year term
Laurie Fu	Borough Council	Three year term

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

INTRODUCTION OF COUNCILMEMBERS-ELECT AND OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Druetzler invited Councilmember Joseph Cecala, Jr to come forward to take the Oath of Office. Joe introduced wife, Tina and children Corrine and Joseph. Tina held the Bible.

Councilmember Cecala thanked everyone gathered at this meeting for all their efforts on behalf of the Borough of Morris Plains. He also thanked his family for their support.

Mayor Druetzler invited Councilmember Laurie Fu to come forward to take the Oath of Office. Laurie introduced husband, Alan and daughter, Lindsey. Laurie son, Chad was on the train from New York. Alan held the Bible.

Councilmember Fu thanked family, friends and members of the community for their support. She also thanked all the Borough employees.

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: None

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

Mayor Druetzler recognized special attendees, including Senator Joe Pennacchio, Sheriff Ed Rochford, Freeholders Tom Mastrangelo and Christine Myers, Ann Grossi, County Clerk, George Coppola, Hanover Township Committeeman as well as Morris Plains Borough School officials and former Councilmembers.

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 2015 AND SOME OF OUR PLANS AND GOALS FOR OUR TOWN IN 2016.

AS ALWAYS WE CONTINUE TO WORK ON IMPROVING OUR BOROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE. IN 2015 WE PAVED PORTIONS OF WATNONG DRIVE AND TROWBRIDGE ROAD AND INSTALLED THE FIRST PHASE OF SIDEWALKS ON CENTRAL AVENUE. WE ALSO CONTINUED THE SPEEDWELL AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM WITH NEW LIGHTING AND BRICK PAVERS FROM DAYTON ROAD TO EAST HANOVER AVENUE.

IN 2016 WITH A \$160,000. STATE GRANT WE WILL PAVE MOUNTAIN WAY FROM GLENBROOK ROAD TO GRANNISS AVENUE. WE ALSO WILL PAVE KEENAN PLACE, BURCH DRIVE, MERCHANT PLACE, BOROUGH TERRACE AND THE LIBRARY PARKING LOT. WE PLAN TO COMPLETE THE CENTRAL AVENUE SIDEWALK PROJECT AND THE FINAL PHASE OF THE SPEEDWELL AVENUE BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM FROM HILLVIEW AVENUE TO WEST HANOVER AVENUE.

WE ARE STILL IN LITIGATION WITH M&M PROPERTIES WHICH IS THE PROPERTY LOCATED BETWEEN THE RAILROAD AND ROUTE 53. M&M HAS AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR OF CLEANUP TO DO. WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS FOR THE PEOPLE OF MORRIS PLAINS ON THIS SITE. HOWEVER, THE FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE BY THE COURT.

JUST LIKE ALL NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES; WE AWAIT THE COURTS DECISION ON OUR 3RD ROUND AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATION.

THE M&M SITE AND 3RD ROUND AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS ARE OUR MOST CHALLENGING ISSUES IN 2016.

IN 2015 WE STARTED CONSTRUCTION ON 56 UNITS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON RT 53, ACROSS FROM THE RECYCLE CENTER. YOU CAN SEE WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY AND HOPE TO BE COMPLETE BY SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. STARTING IN THE SPRING WE WILL START AN APPLICATION LISTING.

IN JULY WE HAVE TENTATIVE PLANS TO PICK UP YOUR RECYCLING EVERY WEEK. WE WILL THEN CLOSE OUR RECYCLE CENTER AT NOON ON SATURDAYS.

ROSELAND PROPERTIES WILL BE CONSTRUCTING HIGH END APARTMENTS AT 250 JOHNSON ROAD ONCE IT DEMOLISHES THE OFFICE BUILDING CURRENTLY ON THE SITE.

CAPITAL SENIORS HOUSING WILL BEGIN CONSTRUCTING ON AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY ON THE CURRENT SITE OF THE MANOR AT BRETTON WOODS. ALSO, INVESTORS BANK WAS GRANTED APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT TO CONSTRUCT A BANK AT THE NORTHERN CORNER OF DAYTON ROAD AND SPEEDWELL AVENUE.

WE ARE THRILLED THAT THE STATE DEMOLISHED THE OLD DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS AT GREYSTONE. THE 180 ACRES OF SURPLUS PROPERTY WILL EVENTUALLY BE TURNED OVER TO THE MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AND IT WILL BE KEPT FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION. WE ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THE SLOW PROGRESS IN GETTING A ROAD BUILT FROM HANOVER AVENUE TO CENTRAL AVENUE, TO ALLEVIATE THE TRAFFIC ON LOCAL ROADS. AND WE CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR THIS ROAD.

ON OCTOBER 10, 2015, WE HOSTED A ONE DAY, ONE SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION AND SAFETY INITIATIVE PROGRAM AT BOROUGH SCHOOL. THIS PROGRAM WAS STARTED SEVERAL YEARS AGO BY COMMITTEEMAN, TOM "ACE" GALLAGHER OF HANOVER TOWNSHIP.

IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS! DEAD TREES WERE REMOVED AND OTHERS WERE TRIMMED. SHRUBS AND FLOWERS WERE PLANTED. WE THANK ACE AND HANOVER TOWNSHIP, FLORHAM PARK AND EAST HANOVER AND ESPECIALLY THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE THIS PROGRAM WORK FOR THE BOROUGH SCHOOL.

OUR NEXT COLLABORATION WITH HANOVER TOWNSHIP WILL BE A JOINT LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL CLINIC. MORRIS PLAINS CONTINUES TO LOOK FOR JOINT PARTNERSHIPS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS.

2015 MARKED THE END OF OUR NO NET LOSS TREE PLANTING PROGRAM. WE PLANTED OVER 400 TREES WITH THIS STATE GRANT.

ALSO IN 2015 WE WELCOMED HONEYWELL TO OUR COMMUNITY. THEY ARE A GREAT ADDITION AND WE ARE VERY PLEASED AND THRILLED.

SOME PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT HONEYWELL IS NOT PAYING PROPERTY TAXES. THAT IS NOT TRUE THEY CERTAINLY ARE PAYING LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES JUST LIKE ALL OF US!

A COMMUNITY BAND UNDER THE DIRECTION OF LARRY RIPLEY BEGAN IN THE FALL. NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. CALL LARRY AT 973-984-2505. OUR GARDEN CLUB COULD ALSO USE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PLANT THE FLOWER TUBS ON SPEEDWELL AVENUE. IF INTERESTED CALL BOROUGH HALL, 973-538-2224.

OUR BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE, MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE, TEEN CENTER, LIBRARY, MUSEUM, KIDS HELPING KIDS PROGRAM, CLEAN COMMUNITIES 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 2016

Councilmember Karr placed in nomination the name of Suzanne McCluskey as Council President for the year 2016.

Seconded by Councilmember Doherty.

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

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

Mayor Druetzler congratulated Council President McCluskey.

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	Hank Sawoski	Class II	1 year
	Ralph Lopez	Class IV	4 years
	Andre Jensen	Class IV	4 years
Recreation Commission	Michael Breslin		5 years
Shade Tree Commission	Donald Salerno		5 years

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember McCluskey moved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following resolutions be adopted:

- No. 2016-1 By-Laws
- No. 2016-2 Planning Board Representative
- No. 2016-3 Standing Committees
- No. 2016-4 Appointments
- No. 2016-5 Notice of Meetings
- No. 2016-6 Adequate Notice of Meetings
- No. 2016-7 Request for Notice of Meetings
- No. 2016-8 Minutes of Meetings
- No. 2016-9 Conference Meetings
- No. 2016-10 Depositories for Borough Funds
- No. 2016-11 Authorizing Officers to Sign Approved Checks
- No. 2016-12 Delinquent Taxes and Tax Installments
- No. 2016-13 Professional Services
- No. 2016-14 Execution of Vouchers
- No. 2016-15 Designating Official Newspaper
- No. 2016-16 Fixing Holidays – Borough Employees
- No. 2016-17 Fixing Holidays – Police Officers and
Civilian Police Dispatchers
- No. 2016-18 Council Appointments
- No. 2016-19 Temporary Appropriations for Operating Purposes
- No. 2016-20 Waiving Interest on Delinquent Taxes for Senior
Citizens
- No. 2016-21 Waiving Interest on Delinquent Taxes for Disabled
Persons
- No. 2016-22 Authorizing Tax Collector to Process Property Tax
In Amount Less Than \$10.00

No. 2016-23	Authorizing Borough Clerk to Execute Hold Harmless Agreements
No. 2016-24	Time Capsule – Morris Plains Library
No. 2016-25	Time Capsule – Community Park

Seconded by Councilmember Fu.

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

PRESENTATION OF BADGES TO FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Mayor Druetzler commented that the Borough’s Fire Department is going into its 109th year of existence in 2016.

Mayor Druetzler stated that everyone needs to thank all of our Volunteer Firefighters. He acknowledged several former Fire Chiefs who are present.

Mayor Druetzler and Council President McCluskey presented badges to the 2016 Officers

Chief 1	Kevin Rongo
Chief 2	Bob Webster
Chief 3	John Downs, Jr.
Engineer	Paul Cullen, III
Assistant Engineer	Don Underhill
Fire Prevention Chief	Chris Shay
Battalion Chief	Larry Everitt

Chief Rongo thanked the Governing Body, his wife, Amy and all of his comrades for their support.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND AWARDS

Mayor Druetzler asked Retiring Fire Prevention Chief John Boudreau to come forward. Incoming Chief Shay presented John with a plaque for his years of dedication to the department.

Mayor Druetzler acknowledged John for his twenty plus years of service and presented him with a Boston Rocker with an inscription.

Mr. Boudreau expressed his thanks for all the support he has received during his many years of service with the Fire Department. He stated that he is also retiring from the SMCMUA after thirty years of employment. So it is going to be very difficult.

Mr. Boudreau thanked Mayor Druetzler and Councilmembers, past and present as well as Borough employees and professionals.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND AWARDS – COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Mayor Druetzler stated that at this time I would like to speak about the Morris Plains Community Service Award, the highest award presented in the Borough. This award is presented to an individual or individuals or a group who have made a notable contribution over a substantial period of time toward the betterment of this “The Community of Caring.” The award recipient will serve as the Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshall. The year’s award goes to a very special couple, who have dedicated their energies to this community for so very many years, Dave and Barbara Visscher.

Barbara Visscher stated that is all has been a “labor of love.” On behalf of the Visschers’ Barbara invited all to their annual Memorial Day barbecue.

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 9th 2016 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Borough’s DPW Garage.

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 Karr moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Seconded by Councilmember Cecala. So ordered.

Frank J. Druetzler, Mayor

June R. Uhrin, Clerk