

Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the Borough Council held January 7, 2013, 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 THE CLERK OF THIS BOROUGH BY PREPARING A NOTICE DATED NOVEMBER 12TH 2012 SPECIFYING TIME, DATE, AND PLACE OF THIS MEETING; POSTING SUCH NOTICE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING; FORWARDING THIS NOTICE TO MORRIS COUNTY'S DAILY RECORD AND THE MORRIS NEWSBEE; AND FORWARDING BY MAIL THE SAID NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS ON THE REQUEST LIST; AND I HEREBY HAND A COPY OF SUCH NOTICE TO THE CLERK OF THE BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS FOR INCLUSION IN THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING, ALL OF THE ABOVE ACTIONS BEING IN ACCORDANCE 10:4-6, *ET SEQ.*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MORRIS PLAINS TO BE HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 3RD 2013 AT 7:00 P.M. IS CHANGED TO MONDAY, JANUARY 7TH 2013 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BOROUGH HALL, 531 SPEEDWELL AVENUE, MORRIS PLAINS, NEW JERSEY.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was presented by the Rev. Liz Johnson Blythe, Pastor of the Morris Plains Presbyterian Church.

Mayor Druetzler recognized dignitaries from the public and thanked them for attending this meeting.

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 eighth day of November 2011.

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

INTRODUCTION OF COUNCILMEMBERS-ELECT AND OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Druetzler invited Councilmember Laurie J. Fu to come forward to take the Oath of Office, as her husband, Alan, held the Bible.

Councilmember Fu stated that it was an honor to be supported by the members of this community to serve on this council. Councilmember Fu thanked her husband and family for their support.

Mayor Druetzler invited Joseph Cecala, Jr. to come forward to take the Oath of Office. His wife, Tina, came forward to hold the Bible as Mayor Druetzler administered the Oath of Office. He was also joined by his son, Joseph, daughter, Corinne, and his mother-in-law Julie Gomez.

Councilmember Cecala said he is ready to work and thanked the residents for their support.

Present on Roll Call:

Mayor Frank J. Druetzler

Councilmembers: Joseph Cecala, Jr.

George J. Coogan

Laurie J. Fu

Jason C. Karr

Frank Mangravite

Suzanne B. McCluskey

Present: Gail H. Fraser, Esq., Borough Attorney

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 2012 AND SOME OF OUR PLANS AND GOALS FOR OUR TOWN IN 2013.

AS ALWAYS WE CONTINUE TO WORK ON IMPROVING OUR BOROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE. IN 2012, WE PAVED FOREST DRIVE, PARK ROAD, SUN VALLEY WAY FROM DAVENPORT AVENUE TO LAUREL STREET INCLUDING 500 FEET OF LAUREL STREET. WE ALSO CONTINUED OUR DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM WITH NEW LIGHTS AND BRICK PAVERS ON SPEEDWELL AVENUE FROM GLENBROOK ROAD TO THE BOROUGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE DRIVEWAY.

IN 2013 WE WILL PAVE THE BALANCE OF LAUREL STREET AND MAPLE AVENUE WEST OF STILES AVENUE. WE WILL ALSO CONTINUE OUR DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM WITH NEW LIGHTS AND BRICK PAVERS ON SPEEDWELL AVENUE FROM THE BOROUGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE DRIVEWAY TO HILLVIEW AVENUE.

THIS PAST YEAR WE SAW THE PFIZER PROPERTY ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF RT. 53 – THAT IS THE RAILROAD SIDE SOLD TO M&M DEVELOPERS. THEY HAVE PROPOSED A 'CONCEPT PLAN OF MIXED DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL USES.' IT IS THE COUNCIL AND PLANNING BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT WHAT IS DEVELOPED IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR COMMUNITY. WE EXPECT ALL OF THE BUILDINGS TO BE LEVELED BY THE END OF JUNE.

AS IN THE PAST THERE CONTINUES TO BE INTEREST IN THE BUILDINGS ON THE EAST SIDE OF ROUTE 53, THE JOHNSON & JOHNSON SIDE. HOPEFULLY THIS IS THE YEAR THAT SOMETHING POSITIVE HAPPENS.

IN 2012 YOU SAW THE OLD BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET FROM OUR RECYCLING CENTER DEMOLISHED. WE HAVE ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MORRIS COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY TO CONVERT THIS PROPERTY INTO

ON SPEEDWELL AVENUE WE SAW THE NEW CHASE BANK OPEN AND WE NOW SEE LUKOIL CLOSING WITH A POSSIBLE APPLICANT TO COME BEFORE THE PLANNING BOARD IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

ALREADY OVER 60 OF THE 70 TOWNHOUSES ON LITTLETON ROAD ARE SOLD. QUITE A FEAT IN A DIFFICULT HOUSING MARKET. HOWEVER WE CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH THE LOSS OF COMMERCIAL RATABLES.

OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED ACCREDITATION BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF'S OF POLICE IN 2012 AND POLICE CHIEF SCOTT THOMPSON GRADUATED FROM THE FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY, A VERY PRESTIGIOUS HONOR AND THE FIRST POLICE OFFICER IN THE HISTORY OF THE MORRIS PLAINS POLICE DEPARTMENT TO DO SO. CONGRATULATIONS....SCOTT.

WE CONTINUE TO IMPORVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY ON OUR BOROUGH BUILDINGS, AND WE HAVE BECOME A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY THANKS TO OUR "SUSTAIN THE PLAINS TEAM."

UNDER THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE GARDEN CHAIRMAN, GEORGE ROSS, WE EXPANDED OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN. THIS HAS BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM.

AFTER DECADES HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY MADISON HEALTH DEPARTMENT WE HAVE ENTERED INTO A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF MORRIS TO PROVIDE HEALTH SERVICES TO THE BOROUGH.

ALL OF YOU PROBABLY SAW THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TURF SOCCER FIELD AT SIMONS PARK. WE OWE A BIG SHOUT OUT AND MANY THANKS TO THE MORRIS UNITED SOCCER CLUB, BRIAN CARROLL, PRESIDENT AND JOHN GILBRILLAN, VICE PRESIDENT. THIS FIELD COST OVER \$100,000., WHICH WAS COMPLETELY PAID FOR BY THE SOCCER CLUB. WE ALSO THANK OUR RECREATION COMMISSION PRESIDENT, SAL CORTESE FOR SPEARHEADING THIS PROJECT. FOLKS WE WILL DEDICATE THE FIELD IN THE SPRING BUT IT HAS ALREADY BECOME EXTREMELY POPULAR.

AS WE ALL KNOW HURRICANE SANDY STRUCK US HARD. VAST AND LONG POWER OUTAGES. MANY DOWN TREES AND ELECTRIC POLES. DAMAGED HOUSES CAUSED BY FALLEN TREES, LONG GASOLINE LINES.

WE ALL OWE A GIGANTIC DEBT OF GRATITUDE, FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS FOR HELPING CLEAR THE ROADS AND MAKING SURE ALL DOWNED WIRES WERE MADE SAFE. AND OF COURSE OUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WHO WORKED 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM THE DAY OF THE STORM TO CHRISTMAS AND NOW WHO CONTINUE TO THIS DAY CLEANING UP THE DEBRIS. THANKS TO OUR POLICE FOR KEEPING US SAFE IN THE DARKNESS, OUR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PEOPLE WHO KEPT US RUNNING. OUR BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND OUR CONSTRUCTION OFFICE AND THE MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WHO HELPED MAN OUR WARMING AND CHARGING CENTER AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER WHICH THAN BECAME MORRIS COUNTIES FEMA HEADQUARTERS. ALSO, TO THE MANY CITIZENS AND NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS WORKING AS A TEAM ...WE ALL MADE IT THROUGH SAFELY.

**** THANKS TO ALL OF YOU ****

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.

IT IS THE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE OF MORRIS PLAINS THAT KEEP THIS TOWN "THE COMMUNITY OF CARING."

SO WE HAVE MUCH TO DO AND EAGERLY LOOK FORWARD TO MAKING MORRIS PLAINS AN EVEN BETTER COMMUNITY THAN IT IS TODAY.

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THANK YOU.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2012

Councilmember Karr placed in nomination the name of Laurie J. Fu as Council President for the year 2013.

Seconded by Councilmember Coogan.

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

Yeas: Councilmembers Cecala, Coogan, Karr, Mangravite & McCluskey
Nays: None
Abstain: Councilmember Fu
Absent: None

Mayor Druetzler congratulated Council President Fu.

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
	Leo P. Nichols, Class IV	4 years
Recreation Commission	Salvatore Cortese	5 years
	Maggie Slawinski	5 years
Shade Tree Commission	Lloyd Williams	-

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Zabihach moved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following resolutions be adopted:

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| No. 2013-1 | By-Laws |
| No. 2013-2 | Planning Board Representative |
| No. 2013-3 | Standing Committees |
| No. 2013-4 | Appointments |
| No. 2013-5 | Notice of Meetings |
| No. 2013-6 | Adequate Notice of Meetings |
| No. 2013-7 | Request for Notice of Meetings |
| No. 2013-8 | Minutes of Meetings |
| No. 2013-9 | Conference Meetings |
| No. 2013-10 | Depositories for Borough Funds |
| No. 2013-11 | Authorizing Officers to Sign Approved Checks |
| No. 2013-12 | Delinquent Taxes and Tax Installments |
| No. 2013-13 | Time Capsule – Community Park |
| No. 2013-14 | Time Capsule – Morris Plains Library |
| No. 2013-15 | Professional Services |
| No. 2013-16 | Execution of Vouchers |
| No. 2013-17 | Designating Official Newspaper |
| No. 2013-18 | Fixing Holidays – Borough Employees |
| No. 2013-19 | Fixing Holidays – Police Officers |
| No. 2013-20 | Council Appointments |
| No. 2013-21 | Temporary Appropriations for Operating Purposes |
| No. 2013-22 | Waiving Interest on Delinquent Taxes for Senior Citizens |
| No. 2013-23 | Waiving Interest on Delinquent Taxes for Disabled Persons |
| No. 2013-24 | Authorizing Tax Collector to Process Property Tax In Amount Less Than \$10.00 |
| No. 2013-25 | Authorizing Borough Clerk to Execute Hold Harmless Agreements |

Seconded by Councilmember Mangravite.

Mayor Druetzler stated that these are routine Resolutions that need to be adopted every year.

Yeas: Councilmembers Fu, Cecala, Coogan, Fu, Karr, Mangravite & McCluskey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR 2012

Mayor Druetzler stated that the Community Service Award is awarded to an individual or group who made a notable contribution over a substantial period of time for the betterment of the Community of Caring. Mayor Druetzler asked Genevieve, Patrick and Rosemary Geary to come forward. He presented the Key to the City to Donald Geary, and asked his grandchildren to accept it on their grandfather's behalf. Mayor Druetzler praised Mr. Geary for his assistance during and after Storm Sandy when the power lines were down. Mr. Geary helped with the Warming Center at the Community Center by ensuring the generator was constantly running. Mayor Druetzler said Donald Geary will be the Grand Marshall at the 2013 Annual Memorial Day Parade.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO APPOINTEES

Mayor Druetzler asked those present who have been appointed to any Board, Committee or Borough position to please rise while he administers the Oath of Office. Mayor Druetzler thanked the volunteers and staff.

Mayor Druetzler reminded everyone:

- Saturday, February 16th, there will be a Blood Drive at Morris Plains Presbyterian Church;
- Saturday, January 12th, there will be the Rabies Clinic 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Borough Garage;
- Oaths of Office are ready for signature at the Clerk's Office; and
- Refreshments will be served in the Fire Association Room.

MEETING OPEN FOR REMARKS AND COMMENTS BY CITIZENS

Mayor Druetzler opened the meeting to the public.

Penny Jones of the Morris County Municipal Utility Authority provided an update on acceptable items at the Recycling Center.

Hearing no one, Mayor Druetzler closed the public portion.

BENEDICTION

The Benediction was offered by the Father Lancelot Reis of St. Virgil Parish.

Mayor Druetzler thanked everyone for attending, wished everyone a Happy New Year, and extended an invitation for refreshments in the Fire Association room.

Councilmember Mangravite moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 P.M.