

Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the Borough Council held January 5, 2012, 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 2011; WHICH RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL ON JANUARY 6th 2011, 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.*

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, Co-Paster 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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term</u>
George J. Coogan	Borough Council	Three year term
Frank Mangravite	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 George J. Coogan to come forward so that he could administer the Oath of Office. His wife, Linda, came forward to hold the Bible as Mayor Druetzler administered the Oath of Office. Also present were Councilmember Coogan's daughters Amy and Ellen, and Ellen's husband, David. Councilmember Coogan thanked his wife Linda and his daughters for their support. He thanked the residents for voting for him and promised to support them to the best of his ability.

Mayor Druetzler invited Frank Mangravite to come forward to take the Oath of Office. His wife, Terry, came forward to hold the Bible as Mayor Druetzler administered the Oath of Office. Councilmember Mangravite reflected on knocking on doors during his campaign and enjoyed getting to know the residents. He thanked the residents, his wife, Terry, and everyone who helped him campaign. Councilmember Mangravite pledged to never put political party first, to work to help the Mayor and Councilmembers be as successful as possible, and to respect and appreciate all the dedicated and hardworking employees.

Present on Roll Call:

Mayor Frank J. Druetzler
Councilmembers: George J. Coogan
Laurie J. Fu
Jason C. Karr
Frank Mangravite
Suzanne B. McCluskey
Roman Zabihach

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

ADDRESS BY MAYOR FRANK J. DRUETZLER

Tonight, My Fellow Citizens, as is our custom at Reorganization, we report very briefly on the results of our efforts in 2011 and some of our plans and goals for our town in 2012.

As always we continue to work on improving our Borough infrastructure. In 2011, we paved Layer Drive, Harrison Avenue and a portion of downtown Parking Lot #1, along with drainage work on Old Wood Road. We also continued our downtown beautification program with new lights and brick pavers on Speedwell Avenue between Morris Plains Avenue and Academy Road and in front of the Train Station.

In 2012 we will pave Forest Drive and Park Road. With a \$200,000 State Grant we will pave Sun Valley Way from Davenport Avenue to Laurel Street including 400 feet of Laurel Street.

The State of New Jersey's Intersection Improvements on Routes 10 and 53 are complete. We are pleased with the project.

For four years we advocated along with neighboring towns, County Freeholders, State Legislators and citizen groups, to have the State of New Jersey preserve Greystone property for Open Space and not sold to developers.

This past fall, Governor Christie came to Greystone to announce that the State would start the process to return the Greystone property to its natural state and give its control to the Morris County Park Commission. We couldn't be more pleased and we thank all the Legislators, the Freeholders, and everyone who helped. It is a great thing for us and our neighboring towns.

Despite the worst economic climate since the Great Depression, which like in neighboring towns has resulted in empty office buildings, and despite our best efforts to fill them, it does not happen and plays havoc with our ratables; we have been able to maintain our services though. This year you will see Ronnie's Deli demolished and a new Chase Bank constructed in its place. Construction continues on the 70 Townhouses on Littleton Road.

This past year we had a hurricane and freak snowstorm before Halloween causing vast power outages.

We all owe a gigantic debt of gratitude to all of our Volunteer Fire Department for helping to clear the roads and making sure all downed wires were made safe. And of course our Public Works Department, who continue to this day cleaning up the debris. Also thanks to our Police and Emergency Management who along with many citizens helped their neighbors.

Working as a team we were able to recover faster than our neighboring towns and we didn't have to cancel Halloween. **Thanks** to All of You! Thank you! Thank you!

This past year Councilman George Coogan secured a \$50,000 Grant to improve energy efficiency in Town Hall. This job is complete and we are already seeing the savings. Another project completed is our Community Garden. We thank the volunteers of the Beautification Committee and Garden Chairman, George Ross for a splendid job. The garden is over subscribed and thoughts of expansion are being formulated. To continue our town's sustainability efforts Councilwoman Laurie Fu has put together a "Sustain the Plains Team."

Single Stream recycling came to Morris Plains. This makes it easier to recycle and we feel our recycling tonnage will increase.

Municipal Alliance, Teen Center, Library, Museum, Recreation Programs and the Community Center continue to flourish. On behalf of the Borough Council, I want to thank the Borough employees, all of the many, many volunteers on Boards, Commissions, Committees and all citizens for your devotion to our town.

As Frank Mangravite takes his place on the Borough Council we say to Joe Cecala who is leaving, Thank you. Thank you for your leadership on Recreation, the Deer Culling program, our annual Fireworks Display and your efforts in making the Community Center a reality. Folks, this is just a few items that Joe excelled in. Thank you Joe; your town will miss you and we wish you Good Health.

I am pleased to announce that Police Chief, Scott Thompson will be attending the FBI National Academy for the next two months. This is a prestigious honor. He is the first police officer in the history of the Morris Plains Police Department to be chosen. Congratulations Scott.

Two years ago Bob Webster presented the idea of building a 9-11 Memorial in Morris Plains. From that idea, our all Volunteer 9-11 Committee was formed. They planned, designed, raised funds, constructed and sited an outstanding Memorial. In those two years the entire Morris Plains Community became involved. We had school children donating money, people from all walks of life working on construction, donating their time, money and talents to make the Memorial happen. The dedication on the 10th Anniversary of 9-11 culminated in Morris Plains' finest hour in its 86 year history. Thank you 9-11 Committee. They will be doing more work to make it even better, and they can always use more donations.

And finally..... As we move into the New Year we all know we are in tough times. And there will be challenges in the future, but the spirit of the people of the "Community of Caring" continues unabated.

Challenges will present new opportunities and together we will seize those new opportunities and become an even better Community.

God Bless you and God Bless America. Thank you.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2012

Councilmember McCluskey placed in nomination the name of Roman Zabihach as Council President for the year 2012.

Seconded by Councilmember Fu.

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

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

Mayor Druetzler congratulated Council President Zabihach.

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
	Andre Jenson, Class IV	4 years
	Ralph Lopez, Class IV	4 years
Recreation Commission	Maureen McEntee	5 years
Shade Tree Commission	Lawrence Travaglia	5 years

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Councilmember Zabihach moved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following resolutions be adopted:

No. 2012-1	By-Laws
No. 2012-2	Planning Board Representative
No. 2012-3	Standing Committees
No. 2012-4	Appointments
No. 2012-5	Notice of Meetings
No. 2012-6	Adequate Notice of Meetings
No. 2012-7	Request for Notice of Meetings
No. 2012-8	Minutes of Meetings
No. 2012-9	Conference Meetings
No. 2012-10	Depositories for Borough Funds
No. 2012-11	Authorizing Officers to Sign Approved Checks
No. 2012-12	Delinquent Taxes and Tax Installments
No. 2012-13	Time Capsule – Community Park

No. 2012-14	Time Capsule – Morris Plains Library
No. 2012-15	Professional Services
No. 2012-16	Execution of Vouchers
No. 2012-17	Designating Official Newspaper
No. 2012-18	Fixing Holidays – Borough Employees
No. 2012-19	Fixing Holidays – Police Officers
No. 2012-20	Council Appointments
No. 2012-21	Temporary Appropriations for Operating Purposes
No. 2012-22	Waiving Interest on Delinquent Taxes for Senior Citizens
No. 2012-23	Waiving Interest on Delinquent Taxes for Disabled Persons
No. 2012-24	Authorizing Tax Collector to Process Property Tax In Amount Less Than \$10.00
No. 2012-25	Authorizing Borough Clerk to Execute Hold Harmless Agreements

Seconded by Councilmember Karr.

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

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

PRESENTATION OF BADGES TO FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Mayor Druetzler and Councilmember McCluskey presented badges to the following Officers of the Fire Department for the year 2012.

Battalion Chief	Larry Everitt
Fire Prevention Chief	John Boudreau
Assistant Engineer	John Downs
Engineer	Bob Webster
2 nd Assistant Chief	Kevin Rongo
1 st Assistant Chief	Don Geary
Chief	Michael Geary

Mayor Druetzler stated that Assistant Chief Don Geary assisted during the storms when the power lines were coming down. With his electrical background, he was able to secure the safety of the public. Mayor Druetzler added that Chief Michael Geary is in his 17th year as Chief of the Morris Plains Fire Department.

Mayor Druetzler stated that our Fire Department is run by all volunteer firemen. He added that we are fortunate that we do not have to advertise to recruit volunteers. Mayor Druetzler added that it is the

leadership of the men standing here that makes for such a successful Fire Department.

Chief Geary stated that the State of New Jersey requires that every fire fighter needs to be accounted for on a fire call. As Battalion Chief, that is Larry Everitt's job. The Fire Department's motto is "Everybody Goes Home." The Engineers, John Downs and Bob Webster, run the equipment and are required to ensure the equipment is up and running. John Boudreau, Fire Prevention Chief, is responsible for inspecting all of the buildings in town. Chief Geary discussed the storms that hit Morris Plains in August and October. He stated that during these two storms, there were more than 140 calls. Chief Geary presented stars to the volunteers who had given selflessly of themselves during the storms: Larry Everitt, Don Underhill, Dan Webster, Bob Webster, Don Geary, Kevin Rongo, Chris Spillane, John Downs, and George Coogan. Mayor Druetzler presented Chief Michael Geary with stars. Mayor Druetzler added that there are at least 10 or 12 junior fire fighter on the Fire Department, and they can join at the age of 14. Chief Geary thanked his wife and family for their ongoing support.

Swearing in of Sergeant Jason Kohn

Mayor Druetzler announced the swearing in of Jason Kohn to the position of Sergeant in the Morris Plains Police Department. Mayor Druetzler administered the Oath of Office. Jason's wife, Maggie, held the Bible. Jason's daughters and parents were also in attendance.

Chief Thompson presented the badge and acknowledged Sergeant Kohn's ability as a Detective as well as his ability to run the Detective Bureau.

Sergeant Kohn thanked Mayor Druetzler and Councilmembers, Chief Thompson and all his brothers of Morris Plains Police Department, and his wife and family.

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 stated that the Borough is 86 years old and there are two organizations that are older. The Morris Plains Fire Department is 105 years old and the Morris Plains Ladies Auxiliary is celebrating its 90th year.

Mayor Druetzler invited the Ladies Auxiliary to receive their Award, which was accepted by Patti Webster, Amy Rongo, Christine Tani, Mickey Toyey-Young, Mary Everitt, and Pearl Law.

Mayor Druetzler presented the Community Service Award to the Morris Plains 9-11 Memorial Committee, which was accepted by Dave Schulz, Bob Webster and Mike Bozza.

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 made the following announcements:

- Saturday, January 7th, there will be a Blood Drive at Morris Plains Presbyterian Church;
- Saturday, January 14th, 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.

Mayor Druetzler extended his sincerest appreciation to members of emergency services, as many of us have never seen such devastation in our lifetime.

MEETING OPEN FOR REMARKS AND COMMENTS BY CITIZENS

Mayor Druetzler opened the meeting to the public. Hearing no one, Mayor Druetzler closed the public portion.

BENEDICTION

The Benediction was offered by the Reverend Scott Blythe, Co-Pastor at the Morris Plains Presbyterian 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 Zabihach moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Seconded by Councilmember Coogan. So ordered.

Frank J. Druetzler, Mayor

June R. Uhrin, Clerk