

**MINUTES OF THE
BOROUGH OF MAGNOLIA
438 W. EVESHAM AVENUE
MAGNOLIA, NJ 08049
WORK SESSION MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2024**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor BettyAnn Cowling-Carson called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

“OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW” ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor Cowling-Carson read the following statement, “This meeting is being conducted in full compliance with the “Open Public Meetings Law” and notices were sent to the Courier-Post and The Central Record. In addition, the notice was posted on the official bulletin board located at Borough Hall.”

FLAG SALUTE: Mayor Cowling-Carson lead in the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL: Jenai Johnson, Municipal Clerk, called the roll which resulted in the following members present: Mayor BettyAnn Cowling-Carson; Councilwoman Paula Bonamassa; Councilman Tony DePrince; Councilwoman Mary Martz; Councilwoman Shawn Parker; Councilman Steve Whalen; Councilwoman Shelley Wilson.

ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE NO. 02-2024 AMENDING NEW CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Solicitor Dan Long noted that the ordinance was remedying a typo error dating back decades related to the permit fees. Councilwoman Martz motioned to approve on first reading. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bonamassa and carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 2024-51 TEMPORARILY AMENDING PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE- Mayor Cowling-Carson motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bonamassa and carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

RESOLUTION 2024-52 APPROVING CERTAIN VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE MAGNOLIA FIRE COMPANY. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Councilman DePrince motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Parker and carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

RESOLUTION 2024-53 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF THE BILLS. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Councilman Whalen motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Martz and carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

RESOLUTION 2024-54 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT # 4 TO THINK PAVERS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF N. ALBERTSON AVENUE AND JEFFERSON AVENUE PROJECT. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Councilwoman Bonamassa motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wilson and carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

RESOLUTION 2024-55 APPROVING LEGALIZED GAMES OF CHANCE APPLICATIONS FROM THE MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOL JR HIGH BOOSTER CLUB. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Councilman DePrince motioned to approve, with a second from Councilwoman Wilson. Motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

RESOLUTION 2024-56 APPROVING VARIOUS ROAD OPENING PERMITS FROM SOUTH JERSEY GAS. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Councilman Whalen motioned to approve, with a second from Councilwoman Martz. Motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

RESOLUTION 2024-57 APPROVING VARIOUS ROAD OPENING PERMITS FOR NJ AMERICAN WATER. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Councilman Whalen motioned to approve contingent upon the moratorium fee being posted if needed at the 315 W. Monroe Avenue location. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Martz and carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

RESOLUTION 2024-58 AUTHORIZING WAIVER OF MORATORIUM FEE FOR ROAD OPENING LOCATED AT 221 ARNOLD PLACE. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Councilman Whalen motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Councilman DePrince and carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY-Councilman DePrince noted that he wished to carve out some time at the upcoming work session for a discussion related to the much needed acquisition of a new fire truck.

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION & TECHNOLOGY-Councilman Whalen reported that the sewer bills were being mailed, and the dog and cat licensing had begun. Councilman Whalen noted that the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Linda Neff, had rolled the year over and meetings for the 2024 municipal budget would be occurring. Councilman Whalen stated that he was happy to report that the cart for the Television had been ordered.

PUBLIC WORKS & MUNICIPAL FACILITIES/GROUNDS-Councilwoman Bonamassa reported that the leafer truck was currently not in operation, but anticipated to be resuming service shortly. Councilwoman Bonamassa stated that the Public Works Department was actively preparing for snow. She reported briefly on the potential of an implementation study, and the potential of a mechanical arm trash collection truck. In conclusion, Councilwoman Bonamassa stated that the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters had been settled, and the Borough was awaiting signatures from their representatives.

PLANNING/ZONING, CODES, LICENSING & STREET LIGHTING-Councilwoman Martz expressed appreciation to Colleen Dawson, Tax Collector, for assistance with the dog and cat licensing and rabies clinic. Councilwoman Martz reported on multiple properties that were being addressed by both the Code Enforcement Office, as well as the construction department to address illegal dumping and work being performed without the proper permits. Councilwoman Martz stated that the police department, the Code Enforcement Department and Construction department were all collectively working with multiple issues at both business and tenant properties.

PUBLIC EVENTS & RECREATION-Councilwoman Parker reported that all holiday decorations had been removed around town, and properly stored. She stated that preparations were being made for a pickleball indoor event at the community center, as well as St. Patrick's Day at the Fire Hall.

COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & COMPLIANCE, & COMMUNITY CENTER-Councilwoman Wilson reported that the first meeting would be held at the end of the month for Economic Development, and noted that she expected a vacancy that would need to be filled in the near future. Councilwoman Wilson reported that the County was exploring reopening the First Time Home Buyer program.

MAYOR-Mayor Cowling-Carson reported that the insurance funds were providing for a new floor at the Fire Hall. Mayor Cowling-Carson also announced that she had received notification that Magnolia School would be closed the following day due to impending snow. Mayor Cowling-Carson reported that she was pleased with all of the work being accomplished at the park, and that the drainage issue near the site of the benches needed to be addressed. Discussion occurred regarding potential additional grant funding for a picnic pavilion at the park. Linda Neff noted that Bach Engineer Associates had suggested utilizing remaining funding for a kit for the dog park, with public works performing the installation. Mayor Cowling-Carson stated that the Borough vehicle was in dire need of new tires.

ENGINEER-Mark R. Basehore reported that the dog park fence had been installed, as well as the tot lot playground equipment. Mr. Basehore stated that they expected a spring start for the Jefferson Avenue road project. Mr. Basehore reported that the NJDOT road project, which initially included the 700 block of Madison and Gloucester Avenue, would need to be minimized, as enough funding had not been awarded to cover the entire project.

SOLICITOR-Dan Long reported that he would be working in conjunction with the other borough departments to schedule a hearing for any necessary rental revocation for the property at 201 W. Evesham

PUBLIC COMMENT:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

DISCUSSION REGARDING NEGOTIATION OF SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF RUNNEMEDE FOR THE SERVICES OF A CERTIFIED PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER. Councilwoman Bonamassa motioned to enter executive session at 8:08PM for an anticipated duration of 15-30 minutes. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Martz and hearing none opposed, the governing body entered closed session.

Councilman Whalen motioned to re-enter open session at 8:37PM with a second by Councilwoman Martz, and hearing none opposed, motion was carried.

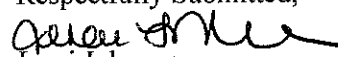
ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION 2024-58B AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AND ENTER A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH RUNNEMEDE FOR THE UTILIZATION OF A PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER. Councilman Bonamassa motioned to approve, with a second from Councilwoman Martz. Motion was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilwoman Wilson motioned to adjourn at 8:40pm. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Martz and carried hearing none opposed.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jenai Johnson
Municipal Clerk