

**MINUTES OF THE
BOROUGH OF MAGNOLIA
438 W. EVESHAM AVENUE
MAGNOLIA, NJ 08049
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 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 led 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 Anthony DePrince; Councilwoman Mary Martz; Councilwoman Shawn Parker; Councilman Steve Whalen; councilwoman Shelley Wilson. Also present were Solicitor Dan Long; Municipal Engineer Nicholas Bishop of Bach Associates.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 2024-88 AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Councilman Steve Whalen motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wilson and carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

RESOLUTION 2024-89 AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF BILLS. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Councilman Whalen motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Parker and carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

RESOLUTION 2024-90 INTRODUCING THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Councilman Whalen motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Councilman DePrince. Councilman Whalen noted his disappointment in the actions of the meeting prior, when the budget had not been successfully introduced. At the request of Councilman Whalen, the Acting Chief Finance Officer, Linda Neff, reviewed the specific implications of the operating budget inclusions, as well as the capital purchases. Councilwomen Martz and Wilson both expressed concern for the increased tax costs as justification for their previous nay votes. Each significant capital item, and significantly increased budget line were individually discussed , and it was determined that there were no items that Council wished to remove from the proposed budget. Specific increased items included within the discussion were infrastructure improvements, and large equipment/vehicles imperative to the function of Public Safety and Public Works.

Motion to approve the 2024 budget was carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

It was noted that second reading and public hearing will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 7:00pm

RESOLUTION 2024-91 AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2024. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Councilman Whalen motioned to approve. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Parker and carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

ORDINANCES:

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 09-2024 A BOND ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF MAGNOLIA, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING MISCELLANEOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, BUILDING & GROUND IMPROVEMENTS, AND ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT FOR THE BOROUGH OF MAGNOLIA, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY. Mayor Cowling-Carson read by title. Councilman Whalen motioned to approve on first reading. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wilson and carried upon the call of roll. Ayes: Bonamassa; DePrince; Martz; Parker; Whalen; Wilson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman DePrince reported that there were potential grant funding opportunities being explored, to cover a significant portion of the cost of the acquisition of the equipment. One such grant opportunity discussed was USDA grant funding. Councilman DePrince noted that he would be working with the Acting CFO in an attempt to recoup up to 55% of the cost of the fire truck intended to be purchased.

FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION & TECHNOLOGY

Councilman Whalen reported that he wished to remind the members of the governing body that the Financial Disclosure filings were required to be completed, as well as the MEL training. Councilman Whalen gave a brief report on attempts to fully staff the Borough Hall Offices. Councilman Whalen sought the approval of the governing body to obtain quotes for the replacement of the LED Sign at Borough Hall, which was no longer functional. There were no objections.

PUBLIC WORKS & MUNICIPAL FACILITIES/GROUNDS

Councilwoman Bonamassa reported that she was working closely with Paul Sexton of the Public Works Department, to complete the Stormwater Permitting. Councilwoman Bonamassa requested that Bach Associates compile a bulletpoint of the stormwater obligations. Councilwoman Bonamassa noted that Dan Long would be preparing an ordinance for salt storage, with the intent of introducing at the next meeting. Councilwoman Bonamassa concluded with a report on the activity of the historical garden group, who would be compiling proposed plans and renovations for Council consideration.

PLANNING/ZONING, CODES, LICENSING & STREET LIGHTING

Councilwoman Martz reported that there would be no Planning Board Meeting for the month of April. Councilwoman Martz stated that she continued to monitor and deal with specific properties maintaining chickens. It was noted that she intended to propose an ordinance incorporating a late licensing fee for Chickens, as well as an increase to \$10 for such licenses.

PUBLIC EVENTS & RECREATION

Councilwoman Parker provided information on the upcoming special events planning that was underway.

COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE & COMPLIANCE, & COMMUNITY CENTER

Councilwoman Wilson noted that she continued to work on obtaining information to promote economic development efforts. She noted that she was in need of additional business cards to distribute during the course of her travels to businesses.

MAYOR

Mayor Cowling-Carson noted that consideration was needed related to naming the business of the year. Mayor Cowling-Carson suggested AAA Hobbies, who had been operating in Magnolia for 45 years. The parade in which they would be honored was scheduled for June 22nd. Mayor Cowling-Carson reported that Linda Neff had secured a shredder for National Night Out. Mayor Cowling-Carson noted her sincere appreciation for all that contributed to the DiPersia Garden Event. She gave special recognition to Councilwoman Parker, Councilman Whalen, Councilman DePrince and Public Works. Mayor Cowling-Carson concluded with an update on the Miss Magnolia Pageant, and noted that preparations were underway.

ENGINEER

Nicholas Bishop of Bach Associates was in attendance and verbally reported on the following items: Bach Associates had prepared and applied for the Local Recreation Grant, for the desired pavilion.

Bach Associates had prepared application for the Camden County Open Space Grant, for the Playground Equipment and Portable Basketball nets.
Inquiry was made and discussion ensued regarding the potential to transform Tabner Park into two outdoor pickleball courts.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

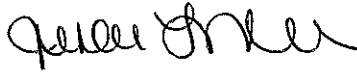
Councilwoman Wilson motioned to open the floor to the public, with a second by Councilman Whalen. Hearing none opposed, motion was carried.
There were no comments from the public.

Councilman Whalen motioned to close the public portion of the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wilson and hearing none opposed, carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Whalen motioned to adjourn at 8:45pm. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Parker. Hearing none opposed, motion was carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Jenai L. Johnson
Municipal Clerk