



**BOROUGH OF MENDHAM
MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 24, 2025, 7:00 PM
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Neil Sullivan called the February 24, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson Street, Mendham, New Jersey.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND FLAG SALUTE

Council President Neil Sullivan led a moment of silence and proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. MAYOR'S OPENING STATEMENT

Notice of this meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mendham was published in the Daily Record and Star Ledger, posted in the Bowers Building, and was filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Official action will be taken at this meeting.

4. ROLL CALL

Council President Neil Sullivan
Council Member Marilyn Althoff
Council Member Matthew Bruin
Council Member Alexandra Henry Traut
Council Member Jim Kelly
Council Member Will Russo

Also present were:

Fred Semrau, Esq., Dorsey &
Semrau, LLC
Joyce Bushman, Administrator
Lauren McBride, Acting Borough
Clerk

5. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS** *(Items considered routine, Council will act on by a single motion and vote unless a member request that an item be removed and considered separately)*

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be acted upon by the Borough Council by a single vote unless a member of the Governing Body requests that an item be removed and considered separately

1. **Minutes: a. January 27, 2025**

2. **Banner Application: a. Hilltop Church, March 3, 2025- March 7, 2025**

b. Mendham Nursery School, March 14, 2025- March 21, 2025

Council member Althoff asked to amend the minutes.

Motion to Approve with amendment to minutes: Council Member Russo

Second: Council Member Henry Traut

Ayes: Sullivan, Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Kelly, Russo

Nays: None

Council President Sullivan presented the Mayor's Service Award to Kristin Ackerman, Recreation Committee High School Liaison.

5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Appointment to fill the Mayor's vacancy.

Council President Sullivan stated that the Republican Committee submitted three names of candidates for Mayor to Council. The candidates are James Kelly, James Molnar, and John Egerter.

Council President Sullivan made a motion to nominate James Kelly, the motion was seconded by Council Member Althoff. The vote was all Ayes.

#51-2025 RESOLUTION TO FILL THE VACANCY OF MAYOR

Motion to Approve: Council Member Althoff

Second: Council Member Henry Traut

Ayes: Sullivan, Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Russo

Nays: None

Mayor Kelly was sworn into office

6. RESOLUTIONS

#52-2025 RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 33-2025 AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING TO PAULUS, SOKOLOWSKI & SARTOR, LLC FOR INTERIM S-3 LICENSED WASTEWATER TREATMENT OPERATOR SERVICES AT THE BOROUGH'S WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

Motion to Approve: Council Member Bruin
Second: Council Member Russo
Ayes: Sullivan, Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Russo
Nays: None

#53-2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING TO J. CALDWELL & ASSOCIATES, LLC TO PREPARE A HIGHLANDS PLANNING AREA INITIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT AND HIGHLANDS CENTER DESIGNATION REVIEW

Borough Attorney asked to have the title amended to not include Center Designation Review

Motion to Approve with title amendment: Council Member Henry Traut
Second: Council Member Russo
Ayes: Sullivan, Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Russo
Nays: None

7. ADMINISTRATOR OPERATIONS REPORT

Administrator Bushman stated that we were granted \$148,000 grant from the county to help with the exterior of the Phoenix House. We anticipate moving into the Phoenix House around March 15th.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS

Recreation and Parks/School Boards Liaison –
Matthew Bruin

Hiring for Mendham Borough Day Camp counselors and the Assistant Camp Director is ongoing.

The Chair met with a representative from Boswell Engineering to review the possible renovations at the courts. Boswell will be submitting a cost proposal soon.

School Board Liaison- Met with the West Morris School Board President, they are in the process of hiring a Superintendent. Mendham Borough School- HVAC at Hilltop School will begin this Summer.

Public Safety- Chair Marilyn Althoff

Following up on citizen complaints regarding pedestrian safety. There will be See Me flags at Tempe Wicke and Bowers Rd.

New Officer will be sworn in on 3/12, and two other officers will be sworn in at the 3/24 Council meeting.

There is a 4th officer who announced his intention to retire on July 1st.

Council Member Henry Traut thanked the Fire Department, First Aid Squad, and Police Department for their quick response to a fire at her grandmother's house.

Public Works & Utilities- Chair

Neil Sullivan

DPW- Filling potholes and working on the 2025 paving schedule for Gunther Street.

Land Use - Chair Alexandra Henry Traut

ECCOST- The chair reported they will meet on 3/3 at 7:30 pm.

Working on an informational session on Affordable Housing for the public sometime in March.

Personnel Committee/ Volunteer Projects Liaison- Will Russo

The Chair reported that he will be assisting Council Member Henry Traut.

Council Member Russo thanked Council Member Althoff, Sergeant McNichol, and Director Craig for their work on hiring new officers.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

10. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Bills List dated February 24, 2025

Motion to Approve: Council Member Althoff
Second: Council Member Henry Traut
Ayes: Sullivan, Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Russo
Nays: None

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

#54-2025 A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b #7

Council President Sullivan asked for a motion to go into executive session at 7:47 pm.

Motion to Approve: Council Member Althoff
Second: Council Member Henry Traut
Ayes: Sullivan, Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Russo
Nays: None

Having no further business to conduct, Council President Sullivan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to Approve: Council Member Russo
Second: Council Member Henry Traut
Ayes: Sullivan, Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Russo
Nays: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Lauren McBride
Acting Borough Clerk
The Borough of Mendham