



**BOROUGH OF MENDHAM
MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
February 4, 2026, 7:00 PM AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Althoff called the February 4, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council to Order at 7:00 pm in the Garabrant Center, Wilson Street, Mendham, New Jersey.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND FLAG SALUTE

Council President Althoff 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 Phoenix House, 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

Present:

Council President Marilyn Althoff
Council Member Matthew Bruin
Council Member Alexandra Henry Traut
Council Member Chris Neff
Council Member Will Russo
Council Member Neil Sullivan

Not Present:

Mayor, James Kelly

Also, present were:

Ed Pasternak, Dorsey & Semrau, LLC
Joyce Bushman, Administrator
Lauren McBride, 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.

A. Minutes

1. 12/10/25, Regular Meeting
2. 1/7/26, Reorganization Meeting
3. 1/21/26, Regular Meeting

Motion to Approve: Council President Russo

Second: Council Member Bruin

Ayes: Althoff, Bruin, Henry Traut, Neff (recused from 12/10/25), Russo, Sullivan

6. RESOLUTIONS

#043-2026 RESOLUTION APPOINTING AIDAN WALKER AS A PROBATIONARY MEMBER OF THE MENDHAM BOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Motion to Approve: Council Member Henry Traut

Second: Council Member Bruin

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

#044-2026 RESOLUTION APPOINTING CLAYTON J BORCHARD IV AS A PROBATIONARY MEMBER OF THE MENDHAM BOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Motion to Approve: Council Member Bruin

Second: Council Member Neff

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

#045-2026 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR RESERVATION OF ALLOCATED SEWAGE CAPACITY OF MENDHAM BOROUGH REGARDING THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 63 A & B EAST MAIN ST, BLOCK 1401, LOT 7

Motion to Approve: Council Member Neff

Second: Council Member Bruin

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

#046-2026 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE LOCAL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT FISCAL YEAR 2026

Motion to Approve: Council Member Bruin

Second: Council Member Henry Traut

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

#047-2026 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE POSTING OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE POSITION

Motion to Approve: Council Member Neff

Second: Council Member Russo

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

7. ADMINISTRATOR OPERATIONS REPORT

Administrator Bushman thanked the DPW for their extensive work during the recent snow events, noting that crews used 235 tons of salt, deployed nine crews, and worked for 36 consecutive hours. She also offered a polite reminder to the public to shovel their sidewalks to maintain safe pedestrian access.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President Althoff, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, reported that the message board was removed from the roadway due to weather, and that speed-control measures continue with a permanent sign at Dean and Talmage and portable signs placed on Mountain Avenue and, as of January 24, 2026, on Mountainside Road to address ongoing speeding concerns. Several citizen complaints were received regarding inadequate snow removal on sidewalks and crosswalks. A recent unannounced inspection of Police Headquarters by the NJ Department of Labor's PEOSH Enforcement unit found all documentation in order with no violations issued. The County is also working to finalize adjustments to the timing of the traffic light in the center of town to improve pedestrian safety.

Council Member Bruin, Chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, thanked Administrator Bushman, Aubrey Egerter from Recreation, the DPW Superintendent, and the Borough Engineer for their work on the LRIG Grant. He reported that the annual Recreation booklet will be distributed soon and noted that the next Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for February 19. He also attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction project at the high school.

Council Member Henry Traut, Chair of the Land Use Committee, reported that the ECCOST met on Monday, where Trout Unlimited presented to the committee regarding Phase 3 of the project. She noted that Trout Unlimited will also present to the Council at the February 18 meeting.

Council Member Sullivan, Chair of the Finance Committee, had nothing to report.

Council Member Russo, Chair of the Personnel Committee, had nothing to report.

Council Member Neff, Chair of the Public Works and Utilities Committee, thanked the DPW for their hard work during the recent snowstorm, noting that the crew went out at 4:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 28, to remove snow piles. He also expressed his appreciation to the emergency crews and to the residents for their cooperation.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Council discussed the need for a sidewalk snow-clearance ordinance, noting that previous versions introduced in 2005 and 2015 were ultimately tabled. They are reviewing similar ordinances from neighboring municipalities as part of their evaluation and hope to introduce a new ordinance at the next meeting.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Althoff stated, This is an opportunity for the public to comment on any matter or concern. To ensure that every citizen has an opportunity to speak, the Mayor will recognize the individual and ask them to state their name and address for the record. **THE SPEAKER DOES NOT NEED**

TO PROVIDE THEIR ADDRESS IF THEY HAVE BEEN VERIFIED BY THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY AS A COVERED PERSON IN THE BOROUGH UNDER DANIEL'S LAW. Speakers are asked to limit their comments to four minutes. Please note that Public Comments do not follow a question-and-answer format; however, a member of the

Governing Body may offer a brief response when it is helpful to do so.

Elyse Paterson of 38 Dean Road expressed concern about children walking to school, noting that many students were forced to walk in the roadway due to snow-covered sidewalks. She also reported that the fire hydrants along Route 24 in front of the school were buried in snow, creating additional safety concerns.

Peggy Burke of 8 Bockoven Road stated that she was confused by what was written in the *Mendham Messenger* regarding the Borough's immunity under Affordable Housing Round 4. She asked for clarification, and Administrator Bushman along with Council Member Russo explained that the Borough is taking the necessary steps to remain compliant and maintain control.

Bob Ritger of 14 Gunther St why the public cannot receive a summary of discussions held in Executive Session regarding affordable housing matters. The Borough Attorney explained that he is unable to comment on issues that are currently in litigation.

11. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Bills List dated February 4, 2026

Motion to Approve: Council Member Russo

Second: Council Member Bruin

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Kelly asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Motion to Approve: Council Member Russo

Second: Council Member Bruin

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

The next meeting of the Mendham Borough Mayor and Council will take place on, February 18, 2026, 7:00 PM, at the Garabrant Center Mendham, NJ 07945

Respectfully Submitted:

Lauren McBride, RMC

Borough Clerk

The Borough of Mendham

