



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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kelly called the September 24th, 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

Mayor Kelly led a moment of silence, and he proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. MAYOR'S OPENING STATEMENT

The Mayor Stated, 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

Mayor, James Kelly
Council President Neil Sullivan
Council Member Matthew Bruin
Council Member Alexandra Henry Traut
Council Member Bruce LaFera
Council Member Will Russo

Also Present:
Joyce Bushman, Borough Administrator
Fred Semrau, Borough Attorney
Peggy Timoney, Administrative Assistant

Not Present:
Council Member Marilyn Althoff

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. August 13, 2025

B. Banner Application

1. Chester PTO, Food Truck and Music Festival, 10/6/2025-10/10/2025

Motion to Approve: Council Member Alexandra Henry Traut

Second: Council Member Bruin

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

Nays: None

6. **ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION AND PUBLIC HEARING**

#11-2025 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF MENDHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE REGARDING REQUIREMENTS FOR ZONING PERMITS AND DUTIES OF THE ZONING OFFICER

Public Hearing: Mayor Kelly opened the public hearing; any interested person was given an opportunity to be heard on this Ordinance. No one from the public wished to speak.

Motion to Approve: Council Member Alexandra Henry Traut

Second: Council Member Bruin

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

Nays: None

7. **ADMINISTRATOR OPERATIONS REPORT**

Administrator Bushman reported that the Highlands Plan is moving forward. The Borough is very excited about the upcoming Mendham Fest on October 4th.

8. **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Recreation and Parks/School Boards Liaison –
Chair Matthew Bruin –

The Chair announced that Mendham Fest and The Harvest Hustle will be held on Saturday, October 4th. There will also be s'mores, a firepit, and family games at Botti Field on Thursday, October 24th.

Public Works & Utilities-Chair Bruce LaFera

The Chair reported that the WRF Department's permit renewal application will be submitted on October 3rd. The DPW has installed electronic locks at the Botti Pavilion, and the bathrooms at Patriots Path are now open.

Land Use - Chair Alexandra Henry Traut

JLUB approved an application for an addition on Prospect Street. The Chair reminded residents of the sign ordinance, emphasizing that with the upcoming election, signs should not be placed in the public right-of-way. She also shared that she attended the Morris County League of Municipalities quarterly meeting and inquired whether the Council would be interested in designating the Borough as a veteran-friendly municipality.

Finance Committee- Neil Sullivan

The Chair stated that he met with the Mayor and the former Finance Chair to review the budget process in order to better familiarize himself with it.

Personnel Committee/ Volunteer Projects Liaison- Will Russo

The Chair reported that the new Tax Collector has started and expressed that the Borough is fortunate to have her. She also noted that the Borough is making tremendous strides in personnel.

9. MAYOR'S ITEMS

A meeting is added for December 10th. The December 17th meeting will be held only if needed. The Reorganization meeting is being rescheduled from January 2nd to Wednesday, January 7th.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Russ Pagana of 1 Franklin Road spoke regarding Ordinance 206-49, requesting that the gate to the school be closed at 3:30 p.m. Captain McNichol noted that it is currently

scheduled to close at 5 p.m., but Mr. Pagana requested an earlier closure because UPS and Amazon drivers are using the area as a cut-through, and he is concerned for his young grandchildren who play in front of his house.

Margaret Burke of 8 Bockoven Road expressed concerns about congestion issues throughout the Borough and requested that another traffic study be conducted. She also asked for the bathrooms at the Carriage House and Botti Field to be unlocked, and noted that the benches around the fire pit at the Mud Hole need to be removed due to deterioration.

11. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Bills List dated SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Motion to Approve: Council Member Alexandra Henry Traut

Second: Council Member Bruin

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

Nays: None

12. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Mendham Borough Mayor and Council will take place on October 8, 2025, 7:00 PM, at the Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson St Mendham, NJ 07945