



**MEETING MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES
JANUARY 25, 2021
HELD AS A REMOTE MEETING ON ZOOM**

CALL TO ORDER AND OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

This meeting is being held in compliance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 and 13, as notice of this meeting has been reported to The Citizen and the Morris County Daily Record and The Star Ledger on January 7, 2021 and posted in the municipal building.

Mayor Menard called the meeting to order at 7p.m.

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Roll Call	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Barnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Menard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Happer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Richter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Korman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheikh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Councilmember Richter arrived at 7:20pm.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Menard led the salute to the flag.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Menard made the following announcements: He congratulated Borough resident Jill Gotthelf for being appointed as the Region Three Municipal Representative of the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Review Board; He thanked everyone who has been working on the municipal budget including the Council, Borough Manager and staff; He condemned the unlawful actions that took place on January 6th in Washington DC and those that took part in it.

Councilmember Korman made the following announcements: She agreed with Mayor Menard regarding the event that took place on January 6th Washington DC; New Jersey has approved the Historic Property Reinvestment Act to incentivize historic preservation; The Woodlands Committee is looking for volunteers to plant trees in the Borough on the weekend of April 24th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

R71-21 Resolution to Enter Into Executive Session – Litigation (Tax Appeals, Effect of Reassessment & Legacy at Mountain Lakes Condo Association Inc. vs. Joseph D.Meccia and Borough of Mountain Lakes)
Attorney - Client Privilege (Review of Executive Minutes)

Motion made by Councilmember Korman, second by Councilmember Lane to go into Executive Session, with all members in favor signifying by "Aye".

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

REPORTS OF BOROUGH ESTABLISHED BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

There were no reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Menard opened the meeting to the public.



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The following individuals expressed dissatisfaction over the increase in their taxes resulting from the Borough reassessment: Blair Schleicher Wilson – 3 Grove Place, Maureen Miller – 1 Crescent Drive, Stephen Donnelly – 16 Maple Way, Kevin Edwards - 12 Vale Drive, Richelle Ryan – 11 Grove Place, William Theel – 8 Center Drive, Kevin Dolan – 6 Crescent Drive, Jay Crisler – 261 Morris Avenue, Lynda Tollner – 3 Crescent Drive, Alicja Skowronski – 6 Maple Way, Wendy Loos – 10 Center Drive, John O’Mullane - 8 Grove Place, Patrick Bickham - 4 Vale Drive, Lou Valencic - 13 Vale Drive, Peter Arpuzzese - 11 Maple Way, and Dina McWilliams - 12 Maple Way.

The following individual’s asked questions regarding the tax reassessment: Maureen Miller – 1 Crescent Drive, Stephen Donnelly – 16 Maple Way, Kevin Edwards – 12 Vale Drive, Richelle Ryan – 11 Grove Place, William Theel – 8 Center Drive, Kevin Dolan – 6 Crescent Drive, Dena Muniz – 7 Rainbow Trail, Dr. Green Forde – 5 Crestview Road, Jay Crisler – 261 Morris Avenue, Lynda Tollner – 3 Crescent Drive, Wendy Loos – 10 Center Drive, and Peter Arpuzzese - 11 Maple Way.

Tax Assessor DelGuercio and Borough Attorney Oostdyk answered their questions.

Cathi Hadjiloucas – 5 Lakewood Drive, submitted her public comment prior to the meeting via email which was read at the meeting by Acting Borough Clerk Stern. Ms. Hadjiloucas expressed concern over the accuracy of the tax reassessment and requested that the tax appeal process be reviewed.

BOROUGH COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS

Reassessment Update by Tax Assessor

Tax Assessor Rick DelGuercio provided an update on the impact of the Borough reassessment and explained the tax appeal process. The council asked questions of Mr. DelGuercio and he answered them.

Borough Council Goals

The Council discussed various goals for 2021. The Council agreed that Deputy Mayor Barnett will update their goals list based on the discussion.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Mr. Oostdyk had nothing to report.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Annual Budget Process

Mr. Stern reported that work continues on the Borough’s annual budget and to date, two public sessions have been held to discuss the Borough, water and sewer operating budgets. The annual capital budget review is scheduled for the February 8th Council meeting.

Joint Covid-19 Testing Site with Town of Boonton

Mr. Stern reported that the Borough has been contacted by the Town of Boonton about a potential partnership for a Covid-19 testing site. Mountain Lakes’ involvement would be limited to assistance with advertising the Covid-19 testing program via social media, the Borough website, Nixle Alerts, etc. The Health Commission will review the program at their 1/26/21 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions.

ORDINANCES TO INTRODUCE

1-21, Amending the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Mountain Lakes and Authorizing the Appointment of Chaplain to the Police Department



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Introduced: January 25, 2021

Council member	M	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Barnett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Happer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Korman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Menard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Richter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sheikh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ORDINANCES TO ADOPT

There were no ordinances to adopt.

***CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Matters listed as Consent Agenda Items are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Council and one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member requests an item be removed for consideration.

***RESOLUTIONS**

- a. R57-21, Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement for Engineering Services in Connection with the Management of Borough Owned Dams Between the Borough of Mountain Lakes and Ferrero Engineering, Inc.
- b. R60-2, Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement for Engineering Services Between the Borough of Mountain Lakes and Anderson & Denzler Associates, Inc.
- c. R63-21, Authorizing the Payment of Bills
- d. R64-21, Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement for Affordable Housing Administrative Agent Services Between the Borough of Mountain Lakes and CGP&H
- e. R65-21, Recognizing Employee Benefits Consulting Services Group, LLC as Producer of the Borough of Mountain Lakes Employee Dental Benefits Program
- f. R66-21, Awarding a Contract for Integrated Canada Goose Management to the United States Department of Agriculture
- g. R67-21, Appointing Qualified Purchasing Agent
- h. R68-21, Affirm the Borough of Mountain Lakes Civil Rights Policy with Respect to All Officials, Appointees, Employees, Prospective Employees, Volunteers, Independent Contractors and Members of the Public that Come into Contact with Municipal Employees, Officials and Volunteers
- i. R69-21, Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement for Lakes Management Between the Borough of Mountain Lakes and Solitude Lake Management
- j. R70-21, Granting Permission to AT&T Corp. to install communications facilities along, under and over the public right-of-way in order to provide communications services to the public

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 12/14/20 (Executive)
- 1/4/21 (Regular)
- 1/13/21 (Regular)



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***BOARD, COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

- Andrew Armani to the Environmental Commission as a Member with a term expiring 12/31/2022*
- Mimi Kaplan to the Environmental Commission as a Member with a term expiring 12/31/2023 (previously appointed)*
- Allison Rankin to the Environmental Commission as a Member with a term expiring 12/31/2023 (previously appointed)*
- Peter Smith to the Environmental Commission as a Member with a term expiring 12/31/2022 (previously appointed)*
- Jobita Anguisaca to the Green Team Advisory Committee with a term expiring 12/31/21*
- Mark Toppel to the Health Commission as Alternate #1 with a term expiring 12/31/23*
- Katherine Roberts to the Health Commission as Alternate #2 with a term expiring 12/31/22*

***Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Council member	M	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Barnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Happer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Richter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sheikh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Resolution R70-21 was removed from the Consent Agenda and not voted on.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR FILING (reports are included only if checked)

- Construction Department
- Department of Public Works
- Fire Department
- Health Department
- Police Department
- Recreation Department
- Code Enforcement/Property Maintenance

- Zoning Board of Adjustment Annual Report 2020

COUNCIL REPORTS

Historic Preservation Committee – Councilmember Korman reported that the committee is requesting that one of its members represent the committee on the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Affordable Housing Committee – Councilmember Korman reported that the resident mailer to announce the accessory apartment program will be mailed to residents in February. The committee is working on scheduling education sessions regarding the accessory apartment program.

Planning Board – Mayor Menard reported that the board started hearing the Highview application. The application will continue being heard at the Planning Board’s January 26th meeting.

Finance Committee – Deputy Mayor Barnett reported that the committee reviewed the budget and discussed the Council budget workshop meetings.

Zoning Board – Councilmember Richter reported that the application to convert the existing structure of the rear of Hapgoods Restaurant was withdrawn. The next meeting is scheduled for February 4th.



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Environmental Commission – Councilmember Happer reported that the commission is working with the DPW and the Borough Manager on a stormwater ordinance. The commission discussed the water usage at the proposed Wawa / Hotel project.

Shade Tree Commission – Councilmember Korman reported the commission discussed creating an ordinance to provide set back tree protections in commercial zones.

Woodlands Committee – Councilmember Lane reported that the committee discussed their goals for the year.

DPW Committee – Councilmember Happer reported the following: The committee discussed closing the Island Beach boat ramp to unauthorized vehicular traffic; The Kaufman Park Christmas tree will be getting new lights; The lifeguard chairs at Island Beach are ordered and will be installed; The committee discussed the condition of the Boulevard trolley path; Christmas tree pickup is almost complete; Pothole repair is ongoing. Councilmember Korman reported that the committee is looking into a program to recycle food waste Styrofoam. Deputy Mayor Barnett reported that the committee has finalized a recommendation for the stone pillars at Birchwood Lake for council approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Please state your name and address for the record. Each speaker is limited to one (1) comment of no more than five (5) minutes and no yielding of time to another person.

Mayor Menard opened the meeting to the public.

Dena Muniz – 7 Rainbow Trail, requested that the Council consider updating the Borough charter as a goal for 2021.

Ellen Foppes – 29 Rainbow Trail, reported that the lake between Rainbow Trail and Crestwood Drive has an ongoing algae bloom problem. Ms. Foppes requested that the Council continue to hold its meeting via Zoom after the Covid-19 pandemic ends.

NEXT STEPS AND PRIORITIES

Mayor Shepherd reviewed the following next steps and priorities:

Next Step	Completed by	Completion date
AT&T Attend Council Meeting Regarding R70-21	Borough Manager	
Email Dam Inspection Reports to Council	Borough Manager	
Email Goals to Deputy Mayor Barnett	Councilmembers	
Email Affordable Housing Letter & EDAC Letter to Council	Borough Manager	

ADJOURNMENT at 11:07P.M.

Motion made by Councilmember Lane, second by Councilmember Richter to adjourn the meeting at 11:07p.m., with all members in favor signifying by "Aye".

Respectfully Submitted



Cara Fox, Deputy Borough Clerk