

7/5/2017 - Minutes

1. SALUTE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

The Chair led all assembled in a Salute to the American flag.

2. STATEMENT

"Pursuant to Section 5, Chapter 231. P.L. 1975 this is to state for the record that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public by posting and maintaining the annual notice of regular meetings on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Building, by mailing the annual notice of regular meetings for 2017 to the News-Record and Star Ledger in December 2016 and by filing said notice in the office of the Township Clerk.

3. ROLL CALL

Mr. Victor De Luca, Ms. Nancy J. Adams, Mr. Greg Lembrich, Mr. Frank McGehee.

ALSO PRESENT: Elizabeth J. Fritzen, Township Clerk, Joseph Manning, Township Administrator, Roger J. Desiderio, Township Attorney and Sonia Alves-Viveiros, Assistant Township Administrator.

ABSENT: Mrs. India Larrier.

The Township Clerk read the following:

WHEREAS, Chapter 231. P.L. 1975 commonly known as the "Open Public Meeting Act," requires that all meetings of Public Bodies be open to the public; and

WHEREAS, Section 7.a. provides that the Governing Body has the discretion to permit, prohibit or regulate the active participation of the public at any meeting; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Governing Body to comply with the provisions of this act and at the same time conduct its business in an orderly and expeditious manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood that it does hereby prohibit, except as set forth in the formal agenda, active participation in the deliberations of the Governing Body by the public and except as otherwise prescribed by law, does limit the public to observation of the discussions of the Governing Body at all its regular and special meetings.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None

4. MAYORS INTRODUCTION

Mayor De Luca gave an overview of the evening's agenda. First off there is a proclamation on the Slave-Free Community, second going into a public comment, and then the monthly Board of Health Meeting. There is a ordinance on final passage which will impliment new time limit restrictions on Tuscan Road between Valley and Prospect Streets. Then an introduction of a new ordinance and that is designating 44th Street as a one-way street. Discussion items, lead testing for Maplewood students and will discussing this topic during the Board of Health meeting, Paddle Tennis Courts, a bid that the Township has a plan for homeless people, request by Maplewood Memorial Park Conservancy to use certain chemicals in Memorial Park. Talking about bike lanes and an update on New Jersey Transit. There is a consent agenda considering a contract for roof repairs at the Municipal Building, correcting a resolution for the vendor at the Maplewood Pool, a special item of revenue and appropriation in the budget for a grant the Township received for Parker Avenue Reconstruction, transferring some funds between Open Space Trust

Fund accounts, approving bills and claims and also the minutes of the closed and open meetings of June 20th. After that another public comment, then will have administrative reports and reports from elected officials.

5. PROCLAMATION - Our Slave-Free Community

Proclamation - Our Slave-Free Community

Mayor De Luca, stated that the Township Committee wanted to thank Mr. Boneberg and the representatives who came out tonight for bringing this situation to Township Committee's attention. This is not a topic that gets talked about much. There is slavery in the Country and around the world.

Mayor De Luca, goes on to read the Proclamation for Our Slave-Free Community.

Mr. Boneberg thanked the Township Committee for their support on what is the most important issue and looks forward to working with the Township Committee and the Township on this issue.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Quan Graves, 11 44th Street, Maplewood, stated that he has been involved and blessed with Mayor De Luca's help in trying to turn around some activities that have been present on 44th Street for the past four (4) years that Mr. Graves has been there as a resident on 44th Street from crime, to people speeding, and not enough lighting. A major part of that renovation and turn-around has been that Mayor De Luca as engaged several people on 44th Street, and their community group and proposed it to them sometime ago to turn the street into a one-way; and Mr. Graves is proud to say that it has been a resounding success. Cutting the trees for more lighting also has been a great help. Mr. Graves would advocate that the Township Committee keep the one-way and make it permanent.

Don Starkey, 23 44th Street, Maplewood, stated that he has been living on 44th Street for many years and that the one-way has ment a lot to the residents on 44th Street in terms of safety and to their quality of life. Mr. Starkey would like to compliment the Township Committee on making 44th Street one way. The Township has made some good decisions. The one-way thing is right, the street is so much quieter and so much better.

Quan Graves, 11 44th Street, Maplewood, asked the Township Committee to consider a speed bump.

Mayor De Luca responded to Mr. Graves that unfortunately when the bumps were put in there was also a decision made to leave those curb lines open for bike passage. Bad move because people ride there with the one set of tires off and it doesn't slow them down as much. Mayor De Luca, stated that he will be talking to the Engineering Department about making that change to the speed bumps on 44th Street.

Don Starkey, 23 44th Street, Maplewood asked does the Township have survey data on traffic before and after for 44th Street?

Mayor De Luca responded yes and will be sending it to Mr. Starkey to review.

George Stafford, 16 Kitchell Avenue, Wharton, NJ, representing the New Jersey Environmental Group called "Keep It Green" stated that he had a brief resolution to present to the Township Committee. Basically they are trying to get the State of New Jersey to set up a program for a sustainable program of purchasing open space. This is a simple resolution about the water supply and it also includes a payment in lieu of taxes request.

Ms. Adams, wanted Mr. Stafford to review the resolution that he is proposing to the Township Committee.

George Stafford, 16 Kitchell Avenue, Wharton, NJ stated that resolution talks about how open space is important and then it goes into the pilot program.

Mayor De Luca suggested putting this on for discussion for the July 18th Township Committee meeting and would like to run this by the Environmental Advisory Committee and also the Chair of the Maplewood Green Team.

Wendy Lauter, 28 Sommer Avenue, Maplewood, stated that she has been thinking long and hard when she approached the Township Committee at the last meeting regarding the issue of no turn on red at Baker Street and Valley Street. It is Ms. Lauter's understanding that not much of a traffic study was done regarding the no right turn on red at Baker Street and Valley Street. Ms. Lauter wants the Governing Body to consider changing the light so that at least four (4) more cars can go thru and take the right turn on red as the north bound traffic on Valley can go and take that left. Ms. Lauter wants the Township Committee to revisit the topic.

Mayor De Luca stated to Ms. Lauter that there was an ordinance to amend no right turn on red and it was voted down 4 to 1. Part of the reason was that the County gave the Township assurance that the County was going to deal with some of the Township's requests to reconfigure that intersection and also deal with a reconfiguration of the Tuscan intersection, and also Valley Street was going to be repaved and that is all that is going to happen in 2018. The Township Committee stated that when they see what the plans are going to be they will be revisiting it. But as of right now it seems inconceivable to Mayor De Luca that two (2) Township Committee members who voted no would switch right now.

Wendy Lauter, 28 Sommer Avenue, Maplewood, went on with her second point. Ms. Lauter did hear rumors that Maplewood might be following suit with South Orange as far as getting a Maplewood Classic Card for residents 65 years and older.

Mayor De Luca stated correct.

Ms. Lauter turned in her application form to the Township Clerk.

Mr. Benois, 25 44th Street, Maplewood wants to encourage the Township to keep the one-way street at 44th Street and raise the speed bumps.

Revica Benois (daughter), 25 44th Street, Maplewood, stated that she graduated from Columbia High School in 2004 and wanted to echo the same sentiment that it has been a considerable difference since putting the one-way on 44th Street and that safety is a big concern. The one way should be made permanent.

Mayor De Luca stated seeing no one further, closed the first public session.

7. BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Held and adjourned.

8. ORDINANCE ON FINAL PASSAGE

NA/VD ORDINANCE ON FINAL
PASSAGE
2866-17

ORDINANCE NUMBER

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 257 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC"

"Interpretive Statement"

(This ordinance will implement time limit parking on Tuscan Road between Valley Street and Prospect Street.)

Mayor De Luca, stated that the Ordinance has been published, copies posted on Bulletin Board in the

Municipal Building and copies made available to the general public in accordance with the law.

Mayor De Luca, asked if anyone wanted to speak on this ordinance?

Ms. Adams, seconded by Mayor De Luca, move that the ordinance be adopted as a whole and the Clerk be directed to publish the same as a passed ordinance in the Maplewood/South Orange News-Record according to law.

Mayor De Luca, asked were there any discussion? None.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None.

Motion carries.

9. INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCE

NA/VD INTRODUCTION OF A NEW
ORDINANCE

ORDIANCNE NUMBER 2867-17

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 257 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD ENTITLED "Vehicles and Traffic"

(This ordinance will designate 44th Street as a one-way street with traffic flowing from East to West.)

Ms. Adams, seconded by Mayor De Luca, moved the passage of this ordinance on first reading its publication according to law in the Maplewood/South Orange News-Records and a hearing to be held on July 18, 2017.

Mayor De Luca, asked were there any discussion? None.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None.

Motion carries.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Assistance with lead testing for Maplewood youth/FM (done at Board of Health Meeting)

2. Paddle Tennis situation/JM

Mr. Manning, Township Administrator, stated that he is requesting that the Township Committee provide a motion for the maintenance of the platform tennis courts. This is the renovation that was agreed to by the Open Space Trust Fund and then a follow-up approval by the Township Committee and they would like to get this started. The Township has received two quotes; one for \$31,980.00 from Total Platform Tennis, Loveland, Ohio, and QuitPro, from Connecticut for \$35,070.88. Mr. Manning, Township Administrator asks that the Township Committee award the contract to Total Platform Tennis, Loveland, Ohio for \$31,980.00. This will be charged to the Open Space Trust Fund Account set-up for that project.

Ms. Adams, seconded by Mr. McGehee, motion to approve and not to exceed \$35,000.00 to Total Platform Tennis.

Mayor De Luca, asked were there any discussion? None.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 130-17

RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR PLATFORM TENNIS COURT MAINTENANCE

(Total Platform Tennis, LLC of Loveland, Ohio)

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None.

Motion carries.

3. Plan for Homeless People/FM

Mr. McGehee stated that he has heard and also has seen it for himself that the Township has an individual; a woman who is without a home. She is spending a lot of time in the Village area and especially by the train station and the intersection of Baker Street and Maplewood Avenue. Mr. McGehee does know that several residents have reached out to him about this issue and the understanding is that because this woman has not committed or broken any laws that there is not much that the Township can do. Mr. McGehee is wondering if there is a way that we can work as a Town to try and find this woman some type of housing or assisted living maybe in Newark or an adjoining town.

Mayor De Luca stated that this individual lived in an apartment in Maplewood and left that apartment and that she spends a lot of time at the Maplewood Library and uses the library for personal hygiene. When there is an issue between this individual and a patron the Township does intervene and the police are called and the police can take action. There was such an incident recently and typically what the Township does is to take the person to an appropriate medical facility to have the person evaluated. Over the past couple of years the Township has had people on Springfield Avenue who were in the same homeless situation. Mayor De Luca stated that the Township has referred this individual to the Township Welfare Director but she has refused any assistance at this point.

Mayor De Luca would urge people if this individual is going over the line in any way or displaying inappropriate behavior with people in a store or in a public place to report it to the Maplewood Police Department.

4. Request by Maplewood Memorial Park Conservancy to use certain chemicals in Memorial Park/JM

Mayor De Luca stated that the Memorial Park Conservancy has asked the Township Committee to allow the use of Round Up in the park.

David Nial, 590 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood, stated that he is also a member of the Conservancy. Mr. Nial is also responsible for the interns who are part of a joint venture with Maplewood and Rutgers and they have three (3) interns currently. The program is three (3) years running and for all three (3) years have been trying to control the mugweed. The problem in part is that it will spread everywhere and continues to do so. Round Up is known to be safe and it will kill anything that it touches and is absorbed by the leaves. Precautions will be taken that the chemical won't go into the river.

Ms. Adams asked if the interns are licensed to apply the pesticide?

David Nial, 590 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood, stated no and that they have a licensed applicator to supervise the process and the interns would be operators and Mr. Nial is also an operator.

Ms. Adams asked about the application to the mugwart that is on top of bushes, and would it not kill the bushes as well?

David Nial, 590 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood, stated that they cannot take a risk of getting the chemical on those leaves as well. To control that area you would pull it away from the shrubs, lay it on the ground and spray it on the ground so that it gets into the leaves.

Ms. Adams wanted to know how many areas in the park?

David Nial, 590 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood, stated that the serious infected areas are near the duck pond and also in the area north of the bridge.

Ms. Adams asked does this need more than one application?

David Nial, 590 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood, stated in one year no; but it might need reapplication the second year.

Mr. McGehee stated that this topic came up at the Economic Committee meeting and that they unanimously approved moving forward with this process.

Mr. Lembrich asked what is the timing for the process?

David Nial, 590 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood, stated that it will be done in the next few weeks.

Mayor De Luca asked what is the warning signs for using for standard protection once they spray this what do you do? Do you close it off or put signs up?

David Nial, 590 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood, stated that they could put flags. The chemical dries on the leaf pretty quickly.

Mayor De Luca, stated that he thinks flags, signage or caution tape should be used so that people are aware to stay away from that area.

Mayor De Luca, seconded by Ms. Adams, move to allow the Conservancy to use the Roundup for the mugwort.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None.

Motion carries.

5. Bike Lanes/GL

Mr. Lembrich stated that last week he and Mr. McGehee were on a train and getting off the train at Penn Station in New York and they were approached by a Maplewood resident and fellow commuter and that he had a recent injury to his face from a bad spill on his bike in the area of Boyden Avenue and Springfield Avenue. He was near the Township pool and asked about any thought to somewhere in Maplewood creating a bike lane to make bike travel more safe.

Mayor De Luca indicated that there was a bike lane study that was done in the Township. The first bike lanes were connecting Millburn and downtown Maplewood. There is also a plan to connect Memorial Park with DeHart Park and there are some bike lanes that connect the parks from Memorial Park to Maplecrest to DeHart Parks. There are some bike lane road signals on Courter Avenue and also bike lane share the road signs on Woodland Road and Dunnell Road. Mayor De Luca asked Mr. Manning, Township Administrator if the Township had a bike lane plan?

Mr. Manning, Township Administrator, stated that it was called a Bike Way Plan.

Mayor De Luca suggested that Mr. Lembrich to take a look at the Bike Way Plan.

Mr. Lembrich asked is there a map?

Mayor De Luca answered that its all in the Bike Way Plan.

Mr. Lembrich asked Mr. Manning, Township Administrator if we could get something on the Township website so that people could know where these bike ways are located.

Mr. Manning, Township Administrator, indicated that he will look into this more, but thought the information was already up on the Township website.

6. New Jersey Transit update/VD

Mayor De Luca stated that we are day 5 away from July 10th and the good news is that last week New Jersey Transit told us that we would get buses in addition to trains. Maplewood will have express buses leaving from the corner of Oakview and Dunnell. They are going to stage the buses in front of Town Hall and as they fill up a new bus will come to that corner. You can fit 54 people on those buses at one time and the ride is probably going to take 40 minutes or more. The buses will be going every 30 minutes and there will be 7 am, 7:30 am, 8 am, 8:30 am and there will also be a 9 am bus. If there is a huge demand they will have the buses start at another location in Maplewood. As of right now the Township has 3 early Express trains before 7 am, two (2) between 5 and 6 and one (1) at 6:18. Then the Express buses starting at 7 am and the bulk on the Maplewood Township commuter's will be going through Hoboken. Mayor De Luca also issued a letter that employees can take to their places of business recommending that the work remotely. The library will be opening up earlier at 9 am affective July 10th and that will be at both branches; the Main and the Hilton Branch. People will be able to work from both libraries and have business meetings there as well.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lembrich, seconded by Ms. Adams, motion to approve the items on the consent agenda.

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: None.

Motion carries.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT - ANY SUBJECT MATTER

Mayor De Luca, stated seeing no one closed the second public comment period.

13. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

1. Refunding of 2007 Series Bond - Chief Financial Officer

14. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Manning, Township Administrator, stated that he just wanted to inform everyone that the Farmer's Market is open and has moved further east on Springfield Avenue, same side, and that it is doing really well. There is plenty of parking, come down and try all the fresh produce.

Mr. Desiderio, Township Attorney, reported on the Elite Properties at Maplewood, LLC and the one time contribution to the Township's General Fund for its general use in the amount of twenty-three thousand (\$23,000.00) dollars, in lieu of reducing the height of the subject building on Burnet Avenue.

RESOLUTION AMENDING REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR REDEVELOPMENT AREA 2

Ayes: Ms. Adams, Mr. Lembrich, Mr. McGehee, and Mayor De Luca.

Nays: none

Motion carries.

Ms. Fritzen, Township Clerk, no report.

15. REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mr. McGehee, stated that he wanted to mention again that his wife is working in collaboration with the South Mountain YMCA doing a food drive. There was a wonderful collection at the 4th of July event yesterday but are still collecting non-parishables items. These canned foods or non-parishable items will be used at Our Lady of Sorrows Church for their food pantry which will feed about 1500 families. Items can be brought to 8 Carlton Court between 6 pm and 8 pm and that someone will be there or just leave your bags outside at 8 Carlton Court.

Mr. McGehee stated that he wanted to say congratulations to the Community Coalition on Race for a wonderful Festival a couple of weekends ago. Mr. McGehee and Mayor De Luca were able to share in a global celebration.

Mr. McGehee stated to everyone to please come out this weekend and support Maplewoodstock. It's going to be a wonderful event.

Mr. McGehee stated that he will be at Maplewoodstock for his office hours so anyone can grab Mr. McGehee there to talk.

Ms. Adams stated that the Engineering, Public Works Committee talked about and had a presentation by Quiet Communities.org at a special meeting of the Sub-Committee. The Engineering, Public Works Committee will most likely be hosting at The Woodland in September a half day seminar for a regional seminar for their working in conjunction with Chatham Boro and Chatham Township and hoping to get the Township of South Orange onboard as well as other neighboring communities, to learn about not only about the gas powered leaf blowers but other gas powered equipment, the affects of noise on health and the affect on fossil fuel use and burning.

Ms. Adams indicated that she wanted to thank the 4th of July Committee for another great 4th of July celebration in Maplewood. Ms. Adams, will be bartending at the Maplewoodstock event from 4 pm until 6 pm with former Deputy Mayor Kathy Leventhal on Saturday, July 8, 2017.

Mr. Lembrich stated that he wanted to give an update to the Operational Order from the Maplewood Police Department regarding the implementation of the towns Welcoming Community resolution and are very close to finalizing it. Chief Cimino did receive some additional information and input from Essex County particularly with regard to Visa's which was an issue that was raised by the public at a prior meeting. Mr. Lembrich will be releasing that operational order in full to the public through the media and to others who have requested it.

Mr. Lembrich, stated that he wanted to congratulate the Maplewood Civic Association; the 4th of July Committee for an outstanding event yesterday and wanted to thank all of the volunteers who came out to make the day possible. Mr. Lembrich particularly enjoyed the car show, the fireworks and the South Orange Rescue Squad's dunk tank which raised some money for a good cause. Mr. Lembrich also wanted to thank the good folks from the Maplewood Police Department and Maplewood Fire Department who worked hard to keep everyone safe.

Mr. Lembrich, stated lastly, that he wanted to put another plug for Maplewoodstock this weekend. This is

one of the biggest events and best events here in Maplewood and there is a great line-up of bands this weekend and the weather is predicted to be great.

Mayor De Luca, stated that he also wanted to thank the 4th of July Committee and Thomas Piscuite who is the Chair of the event. They had more volunteers this time, and saw a ton of people come out to have just a fun family event. There will be a debriefing session, but over all it was a well run operation both from the volunteer aspect and the towns aspect.

Mayor De Luca, stated that next Tuesday, July 11, 2017, at 7 pm he will be having office hours at Town Hall.

Mayor De Luca stated that next Wednesday, July 12, 2017 the Community Band is going to start their summer concerts in the Memorial Park Amphitheatre and it starts at 7 pm. Mayor De Luca will be doing a proclamation for the Community Bands 15th Anniversary.

Mayor De Luca stated that on Friday's in July and early August there are concerts at the Gazebo on Springfield Avenue and it starts at 7:30 pm.

Mayor De Luca reported that also on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at 4 pm the Green Team is going to be setting up a bike repair center at Maplecrest Park. This is going to be a do-it-yourself fix your bike area.

Mayor De Luca, stated lastly, on Saturday, July 15, 2017 there is "Talk To The Township Committee" and it will be in front of Walgreens on Springfield Avenue from 9 am until noon.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 9:20 p.m. To meet again on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 7:30 PM at the Maplewood Police and Court Building, 1618 Springfield Avenue, Maplewood, N.J.