# TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

# REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery was called to order by Mayor Keenan at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**: The following were present: Mayor Devra Keenan; Deputy Mayor, Neena Singh; Committee Member Dennis Ahn; Committee Member, Vince Barragan; Committee Member, Patricia Taylor Todd, Esq.

ABSENT: None.

Also present were: Township Administrator, Lori Savron; Township Attorney, Wendy Rubinstein Quiroga; Township Chief Financial Officer, Michael Pitts; Township Clerk, Lisa Fania

**MEETING NOTICE**: Mayor Keenan noted that adequate notice of the meeting was provided to the Courier News and Start Ledger, posted on the municipal bulletin board and filed with the Township Clerk as required by law on January 5, 2023.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Keenan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

# PROCLAMATION – RECOGNIZING ELLEN ROBBINS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Township of Montgomery depends on volunteers to serve its community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee desire to recognize volunteers for their dedication and commitment; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Montgomery extends its heartfelt gratitude to Ellen Robbins for her extraordinary contributions, which have enhanced the quality of life for numerous members of our community; and

WHEREAS, Ellen has selflessly served both as a volunteer and a grant-funded employee as a Food and Safety Wellness Coordinator, tirelessly working to ensure that those in need have access to basic necessities, including food, water, safe housing, healthcare and transportation; and

WHEREAS, Ellen has shown exceptional dedication by assisting the Health Department in organizing and executing vital COVID-19 and flu clinics, particularly for children and the most vulnerable members of our community; and

WHEREAS, Ellen recognizing the need for additional support at the food pantry, as demand for assistance increased, had selflessly offered to help; arranging numerous food drives and personally driving to local farms and stores to purchase food for those residents in need; and

WHEREAS, Ellen exhibited an unparalleled level of commitment in listening to and supporting those most disproportionately impacted by the devastation caused by Hurricane Ida; and

WHEREAS, Ellen's efforts contribute significantly to the well-being and safety of the citizens of Montgomery and Ellen's unwavering compassion, dedication, and selflessness serve as an inspiring example to all residents of Montgomery Township.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAMED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey, on behalf of its residents and staff, hereby expresses heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Ellen Robbins for her dedicated service and contributions to the community on this Seventh day of September, Two-Thousand Twenty-Three.

**PRESENTATION BY SENATOR ANDREW ZWICKER** – **GRANT AWARD** – Senator Andrew Zwicker together with Assemblyman Roy Freiman and Assemblywoman Sadaf Jaffer presented a check to the Township in the amount of \$3 million dollars for infrastructure improvements for pedestrian safety and accessibility including, but not limited to, sidewalks and bike lanes. Mayor Keenan also advised that a check was presented earlier this evening to the Montgomery Township Emergency Medical Services and Fire Departments in the amount of \$1.4 million for radios.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following members of the public spoke during public comment:

Janet Narayan, a resident of Skillman, inquired about plans for warehousing in Montgomery.

Thomas Lee, a Montgomery Township resident, expressed safety concerns regarding River Road and the Belle Mead-Griggstown Bridge advising of speeding; use by tractor trailers; and the deteriorating condition of the bridge.

Dan Smith, a resident of Skillman, commented on the length of time it is taking for him to obtain a permit for a deck; spoke about additional documentation he had to provide; and asked why Engineering is requiring him to provide a conservation easement.

During public comment, Administrator Savron addressed the query regarding warehousing explaining that Township ordinances do not permit the construction of warehousing. Administrator Savron also advised that the County is currently conducting a study on the Belle Mead-Griggstown Bridge and suggested that T. Lee contact the County Commissioners about the concerns. Mayor Keenan acknowledged concerns regarding the permit process and advised that discussions are underway with the Township Administrator and Engineering Department to address the matters.

**THIRD QUARTER 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT/2022 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT PRESENTATION** – Chief Financial Officer, Michael Pitts, gave a power point presentation on the 2023 Quarterly Finance Update and 2022 Audit Presentation that included the following:

- Revenues
- Appropriations
- Tax Sale
- Tax Bills
- Sewer Bills
- 2024 Budget Preparations

CFO Pitts advised that the Township received a "clean audit with no material misstatements or issues with internal controls." CFO Pitts reported that there were no major findings or recommendations for the 2022 Audit only minor suggestions for housekeeping.

Resolution #23-9-234. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-9-234.

Motion by Singh, seconded by Barragan

ROLL CALL

AYES:

Ahn, Barragan, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

NOES:

None

ABSTAIN: ABSENT:

None None

#### RESOLUTION #23-9-234

#### **GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT FOR 2022**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2022 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey is authorized to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs, as per R.S. 52:27BB-34; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations;" and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations," as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the governing body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the Annual Audit, as per the regulations of the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the promulgations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52 - to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52 - "A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the Director of Local Government Services, under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey hereby states that it has complied with the promulgation of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey dated July 30, 1968 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

# ORDINANCES – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING There were no ordinances for introduction.

#### ORDINANCES - PUBLIC HEARING/FINAL ADOPTION

There were no ordinances for public hearing/final adoption.

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#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

# Resolutions #23-9-235 through #23-9-244.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions #23-9-235 through #23-9-244.

Motion by Singh, seconded by Barragan

ROLL CALL

AYES:

Ahn, Barragan, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

NOES:

None

**ABSTAIN:** 

None

ABSENT:

None

#### **RESOLUTION #23-9-235**

#### Authorizing Refund of Overpaid 2023 Taxes (Block 31009, Lot 90)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that a refund in the amount of \$3,104.55 be given to Mary Jocelyn Burchfield, 6 Ironwood Road, Skillman, NJ 08558 for the overpayment of 2023 taxes on Block 31009, Lot 90.

**RESOLUTION #23-9-236** 

# **Authorizing Refund of Overpaid 2023 Taxes**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that a refund in the amount of \$12,349.93 be given to Wells Fargo Real Estate Tax Services, Attn: Refunds/Financial Support, P.O. Box 14506, Des Moines, IA 50328 for the overpayment of 2023 taxes on the properties listed below:

BLOCK	LOT	QUARTER	AMOUNT
16001	34.05 QFARM	2023/3 <sup>RD</sup>	\$21.02
6001	40.09	2023/3 <sup>RD</sup>	\$9,769.21
5018	9.25 CONDO	2023/3 <sup>RD</sup>	\$2,413.13
28003	43	2023/3 <sup>RD</sup>	\$ 146.57

# Authorizing the Settlement of Tax Appeal (Block 15008, Lot 1.01)

WHEREAS, Joseph and Mary Prati are the owners of the real property located at 201 North Street, otherwise designated as Lot 1.01 in Block 15008 on the official tax maps of Montgomery Township, and have taken appeals to the Tax Court of the State of New Jersey from the Assessed Value of said real property for the 2022 and 2023 Tax Years; and

WHEREAS, the Township's assessment for the subject Tax Years was:

Land: \$245,100 Improvement: \$745,900 Total: \$1,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Parties have agreed to adjust the Assessment Value for the 2022 and 2023 Tax Years as follows:

Land: \$245,100 Improvement: \$695,900 Total: \$950,000; and

WHEREAS, the Township Tax Assessor has reviewed the figures proposed and has recommended the approval of these settlement terms; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has considered the matter and has determined that it is in the best interest of Montgomery Township to consent to the terms of settlement set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey as follows

1. The total Assessment Value of the property located at 201 North Street (Lot 1.01, Block 15008) (together with the other terms of settlement) for Tax Years 2022 and 2023 shall be as follows:

Land: \$245,100 Improvement: \$695,900 Total: \$950,000

- 2. The Township Tax Assessor is hereby directed to amend its records accordingly.
- 3. The Taxpayer shall receive a total tax refund in the amount to be calculated by the Township Tax Collector upon the Township's calculation of same for said tax refund shall be credited to the Taxpayer against real property taxes due and owing in Tax Year 2023.
- 4. The Township Tax Appeal attorney is hereby authorized to withdraw the Township's counterclaims filed in these tax appeal matters for each of the years in which counterclaims were filed.

- 5. The Township Tax Collector is hereby authorized to effectuate the tax granted herein and to make any other adjustments to same as necessary in his/her judgment.
- 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately or as otherwise provided by law.

### Authorizing Refund of Overpaid 2022 Taxes (Block 15008, Lot 1.01)

**BE IT RESOLVED** that a refund in the amount of \$1,611.00 be given to Valerie Hofer, Esq. Trust Account, P.O. Box 787, Montville, NJ 07045 for the overpayment of 2022 taxes on Block 15008, Lot 1.01. Overpayment due to Tax appeal. Tax Court of NJ Dockets #010267-22 & #008396-23.

#### **RESOLUTION #23-9-239**

# Authorizing Temporary Road Closure - Block Party - Kilpatrick Lane

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that authorization is hereby given for the temporary closing of the cul-de-sac of Kilpatrick Lane to accommodate a neighborhood block party scheduled for September 16, 2023 from approximately 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (rain date — September 17, 2023). The Montgomery Township Police have no objection to the road closing provided that:

- The roadway must be made accessible to emergency vehicles.
- The roadway must be made accessible to traffic originating and terminating on the closed section.
- Block party organizers should provide advance courtesy notification to those residents that will be affected by the closure.

#### **RESOLUTION #23-9-240**

#### Authorizing Temporary Road Closure - Block Party - Cherry Brook Drive

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that authorization is hereby given for the temporary closing of Cherry Brook Drive to accommodate a neighborhood block party scheduled for September 8, 2023 from approximately 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (rain date – September 15, 2023). The Montgomery Township Police have no objection to the road closing provided that:

- The roadway must be made accessible to emergency vehicles.
- The roadway must be made accessible to traffic originating and terminating on the closed section.
- Block party organizers should provide advance courtesy notification to those residents that will be affected by the closure.

# Amending Resolution #23-8-225 - Block Party - Knickerbocker Drive

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Resolution #23-8-225 authorizing the temporary road closure of a portion of Knickerbocker Drive (between Whispering Lane and the intersection of Willow Run Road) for a neighborhood block party be amended to reflect the name of the road closure at Knickerbocker Drive and not the cul-de-sac at Kilpatrick Lane.

# **RESOLUTION #23-9-242**

Authorizing Release of Performance Guarantee for Road Opening Permit 21-R-61–24 Cheshire Lane (Block 4029, Lot 4)

WHEREAS, Mark Herrmann, Township Engineer, has recommended the release of a cash performance guarantee to Raj Koltur because all work has been satisfactorily completed with respect to Street Opening Permit 21-R-61 at Block 4029, Lot 4 (24 Cheshire Lane).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that the cash performance guarantee in the amount of \$550.00 be released to Raj Koltur, 24 Cheshire Lane, Belle Mead, NJ 08502.

#### **RESOLUTION #23-9-243**

# Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) - Health Infrastructure Grant

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special items of revenue in the budget of any County or Municipality when such item shall have been made by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for an equal amount.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of items of revenue in the budget of the year 2023, in the amounts listed below, which items are now available as a revenue from the NJ Association of County & City Health Officials:

Health Infrastructure Grant

\$118,043.51

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum, be, and the same, hereby is appropriated under the above appropriation titles.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Financial Officer shall file an electronic Special Item of Revenue Resolution submittal form to the Division of Local Government Services.

# Authorizing Outdoor Assembly Permit - RE/MAX InStyle Realty Client Appreciation Day

**WHEREAS**, Douglas Swearengin has requested approval of the Township Committee to conduct a Client Appreciation Day event on September 16, 2023 at Van Horne Park.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee has considered the application and hereby grants the same subject to the following conditions:

- a. This approval is for the period specified and is not to be considered approval to conduct similar events without Committee approval.
- b. This event shall be held subject to the provisions of the Montgomery Township Code, Outdoor Assembly, Chapter 4-2.1.
- c. The organizers will obtain the required approval from the Police Department regarding parking facilities, traffic plan and safety conditions.

Resolution #23-9-245. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-9-245.

Motion by Singh, seconded by Barragan

ROLL CALL

AYES:

Ahn, Barragan, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

NOES:

None

ABSTAIN:

None

ABSENT:

None

#### **RESOLUTION #23-9-245**

# Authorizing the Issuance of New Plenary Retail Consumption Liquor License to Village Walk 1320, LLC

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a new Plenary Retail Consumption liquor license by Village Walk 1320, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the submitted form is complete and the municipal and state fees have been paid; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has disclosed and the issuing authority reviewed the source of all funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the licensed business.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey, hereby approves, effective September 7, 2023 the issuance of a new Plenary Retail Consumption liquor license to Village Walk 1320, LLC.

Resolution #23-9-246. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-9-246.

Motion by Singh, seconded by Barragan

ROLL CALL

AYES:

Ahn, Barragan, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

NOES:

None

ABSTAIN:

None

ABSENT:

None

#### **RESOLUTION #23-9-246**

# **Initiating Competitive BID Contracting Process for Animal Control Services**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1(r) permits competitive contracting to be utilized to procure Animal Control Services that warrant a qualitative evaluation of specialized goods or service providers to determine the provider that is most advantageous, price and other factors considered; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.3(a) requires that in order to use competitive contracting for the first time for a specified purpose, the governing body shall pass a resolution authorizing the use of competitive contracting for such purpose; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.3(b) requires that the competitive contracting process shall be administered by a designated Authorized Agent who may be a Purchasing Agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9, or by legal counsel of the contracting unit, or by the Chief Administrative Officer of the contracting unit; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has determined that the procurement of Animal Control Services for said purposes through the use of competitive contracting is in the best interest of the Township.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that:

- 1. The aforesaid recitals are incorporated herein as if set forth at length; and
- 2. The Township Administration is hereby authorized and directed to create bid specifications for the solicitation of Animal Control Services under the competitive contracting process, the submission requirements and the methodology for evaluation of proposals; and
- 3. The Township Purchasing Agent is authorized to initiate competitive contracting for the solicitation of proposals for Animal Control Services and to publicly advertise and solicit bids for the services pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law.

Resolution #23-9-247. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-9-247.

Motion by Singh, seconded by Barragan

ROLL CALL

AYES:

Ahn, Barragan, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

NOES:

None

ABSTAIN:

None

ABSENT:

None

# Authorizing Access and Use Agreement Between the Township of Montgomery and Montgomery Township Board of Education for Swimming Pool Located at Montgomery High School

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an Access and Use Agreement between the Township of Montgomery and the Montgomery Township Board of Education with respect to use of the swimming pool located at Montgomery High School. The term of the agreement shall be from September 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Resolution #23-9-248. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-9-248.

Motion by Singh, seconded by Barragan

ROLL CALL

AYES:

Ahn, Barragan, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

NOES:

None None

ABSTAIN: ABSENT:

None

#### **RESOLUTION #23-9-248**

# Authorizing the Execution of a Contract for Animal Control Services

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16(b) requires that the governing body of a municipality must appoint a certified Animal Control Officer (ACO) who shall be responsible for animal control within the jurisdiction of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Montgomery has an imminent need for said services; and

WHEREAS, the Township seeks to enter into an agreement for the operation, management or administration of Animal Control Services with Animal Control Solutions, LLC, P.O. Box 2493, Flemington, NJ for the period from September 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in account number 03-288-60-341-336 to fund these services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that the contract for animal control services is hereby awarded to Animal Control Solutions, LLC, P.O. Box 2493, Flemington, NJ 08822 for an amount not to exceed \$20,500.00 for services provided in Appendix A for the period September 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Administrator and Purchasing Agent are authorized to sign said contract.

Resolution #23-9-249. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-9-249.

Motion by Singh, seconded by Barragan

ROLL CALL

AYES:

Ahn, Barragan, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

NOES:

None

ABSTAIN:

None

ABSENT:

None

#### **RESOLUTION #23-9-249**

# Authorizing Award of BID #05-2023 - 2023 Road Improvements Project

WHEREAS, the following bids for the 2023 Road Improvements Project were received and publicly opened on September 1, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Bidders	Bid Amount
Top Line Construction Corp.	\$1,118,510.22
Black Rock Enterprises	\$1,251,408.70
Grade Construction	\$1,755,889.52

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and the Township Engineer that Top Line Construction Corp. be awarded the bid, it being the lowest responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, a certificate as to the availability of funds has been signed by the Chief Financial Officer and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk; and

**WHEREAS**, there exists Engineering Department account numbers 02-213-41-714-000; 02-213-41-715-000; 02-213-41-718; 04-215-55-901-1699B which will fund this project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that the contract for the 2023 Road Improvements Project is hereby awarded to:

Top Line Construction Corp. 22 Fifth Street Somerville, NJ 08876

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said contracts.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Singh moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2023, seconded by Barragan and carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Singh moved to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2023, seconded by Barragan and carried unanimously.

Resolution #23-9-250. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-9-250.

Motion by Singh, seconded by Barragan

ROLL CALL

AYES:

Ahn, Barragan, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

**NOES:** 

None

ABSTAIN:

None

ABSENT: None

#### **RESOLUTION #23-9-250**

#### **PAYMENT OF BILLS – Posted**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery has received bills to be paid as listed; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer and the Township Administrator have reviewed these bills and have certified that these bills represent goods and/or services received by the Township, that these are authorized and budgeted expenditures and that sufficient funds are available to pay these bills.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset as follows:

- 1. That these bills are hereby authorized for payment; and
- 2. That checks in the proper amounts are prepared and that necessary bookkeeping entries are made; and
- 3. That the proper Township Officials are authorized to sign the checks.

### CORRESPONDENCE

a. **Resident email expressing gratitude for the Township's pedestrian safety initiative** – Mayor Keenan explained that a resident had reached out to express appreciation and gratitude for the Township's initiative for pedestrian safety as well as for the sidewalks along Orchard Road.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion of Township's request to add Central Jersey Cable Network (CNJN) to Comcast Program Schedule – Mayor Keenan explained that the Township is exploring the possibility of adding Central Jersey Cable Network to the Township's programming with Comcast and legislative representatives.

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey Request for Special Permit for Fundraising Event, November 3, 2023, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Montgomery Branch, 100 Community Drive, Skillman – Mayor Keenan explained that this is an annual request for a fundraising event. Committee Member Barragan inquired as to the impact on early voting. Municipal Clerk, Lisa Fania, advised that there will be no impact to early voting as the event is being held in the library.

System.  Motion by Singh, seconded by Barragan  Motion Unanimously Carried
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS
There was no report from Committee Member Ahn.
Committee Member Todd advised that the Landmarks Commission will be participating in discussions beginning September 11 regarding the inclusion of Montgomery in the history of Central New Jersey. Committee Member Todd also reported on a meeting of the Inclusion & Equity Committee advising that discussion was held regarding Township initiatives including the information sessions on pedestrian safety and the rise in Asian burglaries.
There was no report from Committee Member Barragan.
Deputy Mayor Singh announced the re-opening of the pool on September 11 and that the commuter bus line will begin on September 11 in Hillsborough. Deputy Mayor Singh continued that the restart of the bus line was a coordinated effort between the Townships. On behalf of the Safety Committee, Deputy Mayor Singh reported that the pedestrian safety initiative has been well received by residents.
Mayor Keenan reported on a meeting of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) advising that efforts are underway to update manuals. Mayor Keenan commended Officer Sean Devlin, OEM Coordinator, for his efforts. Mayor Keenan also commented on the recent water main break and repair and commended all involved for their efforts. Mayor Keenan announced that the Montgomery Township Deer Management Program will commence Saturday, September 9 and reminded residents of safety protocol.
begin on September 11 in Hillsborough. Deputy Mayor Singh continued that the restart of the bus line was a coordinated effort between the Townships. On behalf of the Safety Committee, Deputy Mayor Singh reported that the pedestrian safety initiative has been well received by residents.  Mayor Keenan reported on a meeting of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) advising that efforts are underway to update manuals. Mayor Keenan commended Officer Sean Devlin, OEM Coordinator, for his efforts. Mayor Keenan also commented on the recent water main break and repair and commended all involved for their efforts. Mayor Keenan announced that the Montgomery Township Deer Management Program will commence

# ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Savron reported that the water line installation at the Otto Kaufman Community Center is scheduled for completion next Friday and that there will be disruption of water service to the building. Administrator Savron continued that arrangements have been made to bus Township seniors to the Bridgewater Senior Center. Administrator Savron also reported that the Zion-Wertsville Bridge will reopen to traffic at the end of September.

Administrator Savron explained that Dance for the Cure, a non-profit organization providing financial assistance to breast cancer patients in Hunterdon, Somerset and Middlesex Counties, inquired if the Township would be interested in joining other Somerset County municipalities including Hillsborough, Franklin, Somerville, and Raritan Borough in the "Tying the Town Pink" initiative. Administrator Savron continued that the organization provides pink ribbons to be tied around the municipal building property and at the Otto Kaufman Community Center on or about September 25. There were no objections.

Lastly, Administrator Savron acknowledged the Township's receipt of a Health Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$118,043.51.

# **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Status of Development 2023
- Stage II Wastewater Treatment Plant Status Update
- Wastewater Consolidation Plan

Resolution #23-9-251. Read by title.

Mayor Keenan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #23-9-251.

Motion by Singh, seconded by Barragan

ROLL CALL

AYES:

Ahn, Barragan, Todd, Deputy Mayor Singh, Mayor Keenan

NOES:

None

ABSTAIN:

None None

ABSENT:

#### **RESOLUTION #23-9-251**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey as follows:

- 1. The Township Committee will now convene in a closed session that will be limited only to consideration of items with respect to which the public may be excluded pursuant to Section 7B of the Open Public Meetings Act.
- 2. The general nature of the subjects to be discussed in this session are as follows:

Attorney-Client Privilege

1. Municipal Property;

2. Texaco Property

Anticipated/Pending Litigation:

1. Princeton Airport Update;

2. Country Club Meadows v. Township of Montgomery Update

- 3. It is unknown precisely when the matter discussed in this session will be disclosed to the public. Acquisition of property and settlement of litigation shall only be approved by the Township Committee in a public session.
- 4. The Township Committee will return to Regular Session and may take further action.
- 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

# RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

The Township Committee reconvened the regular session at 9:10 p.m. on motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Barragan and carried unanimously.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The Township Committee adjourned at 9:10 p.m. on motion by Deputy Mayor Singh, seconded by Barragan and carried unanimously.

Lisa Fania, RMC Township Clerk

Date Approved: September 21, 2023