

MINUTES FOR  
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 6, 2022  
7:00 p.m.

1. Montgomery Township Committee met at 7:00 p.m. on the above date at the Municipal Complex, 100 Community Drive, Skillman, NJ. Those present were:

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE: Mayor Keenan, Deputy Mayor Bell, Committee Members Schuldiner, Singh & Barragan

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR - Lori Savron

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY - Wendy Rubinstein-Quiroga

TOWNSHIP CLERK - Donna Kukla

2. Mayor Keenan stated the following: "Under the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of the time and place of this meeting has been posted and sent to the officially designated newspapers."

3. Mayor Keenan announced the evening's meeting agenda would be presented out of the usual order due to a doctrine of necessity.

4. Mayor Keenan led the salute to the flag.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER** - Robert Davis

BE IT RESOLVED that Robert Davis is hereby appointed Probationary Police Officer effective October 7, 2022.

Deputy Mayor Bell moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeperson Schuldiner and carried on the following:

**ROLL CALL** - Ayes - Singh, Barragan, Schuldiner, Bell, Keenan  
Nays - None

- 5-1. Mayor Keenan administered the Oath of Office to Probationary Police Officer Robert Davis.

6. **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Chief Financial Officer Michael Pitts gave a presentation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2022. Items discussed were:

- Revenues
- Appropriations
- Mailing of Property Tax Bills
- Second Half Sewer
- Moody's Rating Update
- Bond Sale
- Somerset County ARPA Grant and Investor's Foundation Grant
- NJ Comptroller Report - Montgomery found in compliance.
- State Anchor Program (Affordable NJ Communities for Homeowners & Renters)
- Annual Budget Transfers
- 2023 Budget Schedule
- Year End Closing
- Best Practices Inventory

- 6-1. Acting Captain Thomas Frascella updated the Committee on the purchase of police vehicles. Last year's capital purchase of a Ford F150 was cancelled by the manufacturer. The Police Department is in the process of examining the option of an electric vehicle which will serve the same purpose.

- 6-2. Committeeperson Singh asked what the threshold was for families in the Anchor Program. Mr. Pitts responded that the family threshold is not more than \$150,000. Information can be found on the State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury website at [nj.gov/treasury/taxation/anchor](https://nj.gov/treasury/taxation/anchor)

7. **SEWER PRESENTATION**

Director of Wastewater Operations Chris Lalicato, Consultants Colin Ferguson and Tim Bradley from Kleinfelder Engineering provided a slide show presentation updating the Committee on the Stage II Sewage Treatment Plant Project and the following:

- Academic background and certifications and licensing of employees and structure
- Utility overview of Montgomery Sewage Treatment plants, history, and capabilities
- Stage II built approximately 1970, description of service area
- Stage II NJDEP Classification, discharges stream to Millstone River adjacent to Van Horne Brook
- Description of flooding conditions from the aftermath of Hurricane Ida and recent storms, frequency, continued outages
- Discussed creation of a flood wall, timeline, and upgrades of the aging infrastructure
- Permitting
- Construction cost estimates, inflation
- Treatment quality
- Safety
- DEP compliance and impact fines with non-compliance
- 2 year completion
- Cost - approximately 18 million dollars

- 7-1. Mayor Keenan asked if there was a discussion to abandon rehabilitation of the plant or build a new facility in a secure alternate location. Mr. Bradley said discussions were held in 2018 which included new construction, location, consolidation, and rehabilitation with the addition of the installation of a flood wall. The decision was made to rehabilitate with the addition of a floodwall to the existing plant, as the other considerations were cost prohibitive.
- 7-2. Committeeperson Schuldiner asked what determines a worst-case situation, plans for preparedness with increasing climate change, project duration timeline, and continued plant operation during the upgrade. Mr. Bradley said the area is above the 500-year flood plan, and installation of the floodwall with additional surplus would secure the plant. Funding from the DEP requires that projects be planned with the 500-year scenario in consideration. The plant upgrades will be in blocked sequence for continued operation.
- 7-3. Mayor Keenan asked how the project would be funded. Mr. Bradley answered that half of the project is funded at a 0 % interest rate by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the other by the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank paid for by the Township. Grants with principal forgiveness are being awarded to distressed communities.
- 7-4. Mayor Keenan asked how much was received from insurance from the destruction caused by Hurricane Ida. Chris Lalicato answered that approximately \$146,000 was received, and he is currently working with FEMA, which has not closed the claim to obtain additional funds.

8. **POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Acting Captain Thomas Frascella provided the Committee a list of reports for September which contained:

288 Incident Investigation Reports  
    2 Domestic Violence  
    2 Thefts  
    2 Burglaries  
52 Burglar Alarm Calls  
    6 Arrests  
    2 Driving While Intoxicated  
42 Motor Vehicle Crashes  
292 Motor Vehicle stops with 89 summonses issued.

- 8-1. Committeeperson Schuldiner thanked Captain Frascella for the Nixel Alerts reminding residents to lock their vehicles.
- 8-2. Committeeperson Barragan congratulated the Police Department on a successful move to the new facilities, and asked if there was any feedback from the staff. Captain Frascella said the feedback was positive.
- 8-3. Captain Frascella confirmed that Coffee with Cops would be held October 21 at the new municipal building from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 8-4. Deputy Mayor Shelly Bell informed the Committee that Somerset County is accepting applications for minorities interested in careers in Law Enforcement. Acting Captain Frascella said a full scholarship would be given to five Somerset County residents with salary.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

We respectfully ask members of the public to limit your comments to approximately five (5) spoken minutes. Additionally, if your comments are similar to comments already made, instead of repeating them at length, we ask that you instead indicate that you join in or support those comments previously made.

Any questions posed to the Township Committee will be answered after the closure of public comment. Any question requiring research or additional information will be answered at a subsequent Township Committee meeting.

- 9-1. Jan Narayan 77 Meadow Run Drive, provided positive comments on the \$500,000 Infrastructure Grant received from the County, and asked that the money be used for a community garden. Ms. Narayan inquired about the implementation of handicap accessibility for the hearing impaired, and provided the Committee with a list of suggestions for improvement. She thanked the Committee for moving the nameplates so the hearing impaired may lip read.
- 9-2. Mayor Keenan thanked Ms. Narayan for her input. Administrator Lori Savron said the IT Director and Township Clerk have been asked to examine the issue, and are working on correcting the matter.
- 9-3. Brian Hamilton, 15 East Hartwick Drive, voiced his concern on the foot traffic he witnessed in the area of Route 518 from Village Road and Route 206. He requested that an evaluation of the area be completed to ensure the safety of pedestrians that use those roads to visit the shops, and ride the buses.
- 9-4. Mayor Keenan acknowledged Mr. Hamilton's concerns. The installation of a loop road should help the situation, and improvements are being established.
- 9-5. Susan Rogers, 80 Ichabod Crane Lane, asked questions regarding the funding transparency, and ramifications of the use of "PILOT" to fund the project, full accounting, and current status of Ordinance #22-1688, and #21-1666 entitled RPM Affordable Senior Housing. Ms. Rogers asked how the Township would enforce school age children from residing in the 55 and over development, and the expected type of taxable impact it would have on Montgomery residents.

9-6. Mayor Keenan replied that a presentation was given last year on Affordable Housing, and another is planned by the end of year. A date will be forthcoming. Ms. Savron said the development received the income tax credit providing the funding to move forward on the project.

10. **CONSENT AGENDA** - All matters listed hereunder are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any Township Committeeperson may request that an item be removed for separate consideration.

A. **RESOLUTION #22-10-206 REFUND OVERPAID 2022 SEWER TAXES**

BE IT RESOLVED that a refund in the amount of \$4,319.50 be given to Renee Oldam, 49 Edwina Court, Dayton, NJ 08110 for the overpayment of 2022 sewer on Block 7007, Lot 6.

B. **RESOLUTION #22-10-207 - REFUND OVERPAID TAXES**

BE IT RESOLVED that a refund for the overpayment of taxes be given to the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Green Hill Title, LLC	2019	4022/6	\$ 2,554.91
Qianwei Han & Xuejun Sun	2019	4024/13	\$ 2,702.56
Weichert Closing Services, Co.	2019	4025/11	\$ 4,049.10
Qianwei Han & Xuejun Sun	2020	4024/13	\$ 5,516.31
Country Club Meadows, LLC	2020	4020/39	\$ 4,147.00
AFRM Title & Abstract, LLC	2021	7032/13	\$ 158.85
Allied Title, LLC	2021	4066/10	\$ 3,260.11
Community Options, Inc.	2021	7003/1	\$ 8,349.52
Country Club Meadows, LLC	2021	4020/39	\$ 4,119.70
Vinaya Nooguru & Sathya Bandari	2021	4029/3	\$ 2,093.65
Nu World Title, LLC (NJ)	2021	5004/29	\$ 789.79
Nu World Title, LLC (NJ)	2021	30003/39	\$ 970.83
Joshua Ramaiah & Anu Rambhadran	2021	4020/25	\$ 2,093.65
Community Options, Inc.	2022	4066/7	\$10,015.96
Community Options, Inc.	2022	6001/8.04	\$ 5,840.46
Gary & Lynn Eichenbaum	2022	5007/8	\$ 4,065.31
Neeta Gundala & Kiran Chanda	2022	37004/6.65	\$ 5,604.73
All-Pro Title Group, LLC	2022	3001/3	\$ 157.75
Est. of Mary G. Pekarski, Linda P. Kraushar & Michael G. Pekarski	2022	13001/11	\$ 3,673.47
Vijay & Prabhat Jawa	2022	5008/51	\$ 3,413.89
State Title Services, LLC	2022	4064/8	\$ 634.00

C. **RESOLUTION 22-10-208 - AMENDING RESOLUTION 22-9-205 - AMENDMENT TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT ORCHARD ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT Engineering Services Menlo**

WHEREAS, Resolution 22-9-205 authorized an amendment to Menlo Engineering Associates' professional services agreement for the Orchard Road Improvements project was adopted on September 15, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer requests that account 01-201-20-165-200 is listed as an additional funding source for the agreement amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Montgomery Township Committee that paragraph 6 of Resolution 22-9-205 is replaced with:

"WHEREAS, there exists account numbers 04-215-55-901-1686B and 01-201-20-165-200 which will fund this Agreement amendment; and", and the funding appropriation statement at the bottom of the resolution is replaced with: "2022 funds are available for this Resolution from the following sources; Appropriations #04-215-55-901-1686B and #01-201-20-165-200".

D. **RESOLUTION 22-10-209 - AUTHORIZING SEWER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT - ELIZABETH HOSEA BLOCK 31001, LOT 17.01 - 205 ROLLING HILL ROAD**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Montgomery Township Committee that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a Sewer Participation Agreement with Elizabeth Hosea related to sewer capacity in the Cherry Valley Country Club Sewerage Treatment Plant for Block 31001, Lot 17.01, subject to review and approval of the Township Engineer and Township Attorney as to form and content.

E. **RESOLUTION 22-10-210 - AUTHORIZING EXTINGUISHMENT OF A PRIVATE SEPTIC LATERAL EASEMENT BENEFITING BLOCK 31001, LOT 17.01 (205 ROLLING HILL ROAD) IN THE SOUTHERN HILLS DRIVE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Montgomery Township Committee that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the necessary legal instruments to extinguish an existing private septic lateral easement located in the Southern Hills Drive public right-of-way that benefits Block 31001, Lot 17.01, subject to review and approval of the Township Engineer and Township Attorney as to form and content.

F. **RESOLUTION 22-10-211 - AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE #1026189 - MONTGOMERY RIDGE TOWNHOMES PHASE 1 SANITARY SEWER AND FORCE MAIN**

WHEREAS, Mark Herrmann, Township Engineer, has certified on September 28, 2022 that the project known as Montgomery Ridge, Phase I - Townhomes Sanitary Sewer and Force Main was inspected during the maintenance guarantee period and no apparent deficiencies were found during inspections conducted by the Engineering Department staff and therefore recommends the release of the posted maintenance guarantee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Maintenance Bond #1026189 in the amount of \$80,760.60 be released to K. Hovnanian at Montgomery LLC, 110 Fieldcrest Avenue, Fifth Floor, Edison, NJ 08837.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the inspection escrow accounts #PB-09-12KH and PB-09-12KHA are in use for this development and therefore the account should remain open at this time.

G. **RESOLUTION 22-10-212 - AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE #1026190 - MONTGOMERY RIDGE TOWNHOMES PHASE 2 SANITARY SEWER**

WHEREAS, Mark Herrmann, Township Engineer, has certified on September 28, 2022 that the project known as Montgomery Ridge, Phase 2 - Townhomes Sanitary Sewer was inspected during the maintenance guarantee period and no apparent deficiencies were found during inspections conducted by the Engineering Department staff and therefore recommends the release of the posted maintenance guarantee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Maintenance Bond #1026190 in the amount of \$15,829.74 be released to K. Hovnanian at Montgomery LLC, 110 Fieldcrest Avenue, Fifth Floor, Edison, NJ 08837.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the inspection escrow accounts #PB-09-12KH and PB-09-12KHA are in use for this development and therefore the account should remain open at this time.

H. **RESOLUTION 22-10-213 - AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE #1026191 - MONTGOMERY RIDGE TOWNHOMES PHASE 3 SANITARY SEWER**

WHEREAS, Mark Herrmann, Township Engineer, has certified on September 28, 2022 that the project known as Montgomery Ridge, Phase 3 - Townhomes Sanitary Sewer was inspected during the maintenance guarantee period and no apparent deficiencies were found during inspections conducted by the Engineering Department staff and therefore recommends the release of the posted maintenance guarantee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Maintenance Bond #1026191 in the amount of \$5,324.40 be released to K. Hovnanian at Montgomery LLC, 110 Fieldcrest Avenue, Fifth Floor, Edison, NJ 08837.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the inspection escrow accounts #PB-09-12KH and PB-09-12KHA are in use for this development and therefore the account should remain open at this time.

I. **RESOLUTION #22-10-214 - TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSING - Block Party - Van Zandt Road**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Montgomery Township Committee that authorization is hereby given for the temporary closing of Van Zandt Road from #154 to #177 to accommodate a neighborhood block party scheduled for October 23, 2022 from approximately noon to 5:00 p.m. 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.

J. **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT - Veterans Memorial Committee**

BE IT RESOLVED that Tyrus D. Hudson, Sr. is hereby appointed Regular Member, replacing Vincent Barragan, 3-year unexpired term expiring December 31, 2023.

10-2. Deputy Mayor Bell moved to adopt CONSENT AGENDA. The motion was seconded by Committeeperson Schuldiner and carried on the following:

**ROLL CALL** - Ayes - Barragan, Singh, Schuldiner, Bell, Keenan  
Abstain - Barragan (F, G & H)  
Nays - None

11. **MAYORAL APPOINTMENT - Environmental Commission**

BE IT RESOLVED that Yasmin Reyes is hereby appointed Regular Member, replacing Jeff Salton, 3-year unexpired term expiring December 31, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kathy Lynch is hereby appointed Alternate 1, replacing Yasmin Reyes, 2-year unexpired term expiring December 31, 2023.

12. **MAYORAL APPOINTMENT - Municipal Center Green Initiative Advisory Committee**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor is creating the Municipal Center Green Initiatives Advisory Committee who will be tasked with proposing a 5-year high-level plan for identified and potential uses for Municipal Center site to include Solar, rain gardens, and stewardship of lawn and field areas, detention basins, trees, and River Friendly certification for the building and its environs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Frank Derby, Sarah Roberts, Greg Kaganowicz, Michelle Jacob and Larry Koplik are hereby appointed members and will be joined by Advisors from The Watershed Institute and will operate under the guidance of Lauren Wasilauski.

13. **RESOLUTION #22-10-215 - APPROVING PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSFER OF PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE NUMBER 1813-44-010-003 - M Wine & Liquor NJ Inc. to Shradha LLC**

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WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a Person-to-Person transfer of Plenary Retail Distribution License Number 1813-44-010-003, heretofore issued to M Wine and Liquor NJ Inc for the premises located at 2145 US 206, Belle Mead, Skillman, New Jersey 08505; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established pursuant to the New Jersey Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, N.J.S.A. 33:1-1.1 et seq., regulations promulgated thereunder, Township ordinances and other applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has disclosed to the Township of Montgomery ("Township"), and the Township has 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; and

WHEREAS, the transferee has executed a valid consent to transfer the license.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery, County of Somerset, New Jersey that it does hereby approve the transfer of Plenary Retail Distribution License Number 1813-44-010-003 to Shradha, LLC as follows: "This license, subject to all of its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to Shradha, LLC, effective October 7, 2022."

14-1. Deputy Mayor Bell moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeperson Schuldiner and carried on the following:

**ROLL CALL** - Ayes - Barragan, Singh, Schuldiner, Bell, Keenan  
Nays - None

15. **RESOLUTION #22-10-216 - AWARD OF BID - B09-2022 - Pike Brook Sewer Lateral Rehabilitation Project**

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WHEREAS, the following bids for the Pike Brook Sewer Lateral Rehabilitation Project were received and publicly opened on October 5, 2022 at 11:00 AM:

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
National Water Main Cleaning Company	\$231,580.00
BLD Services, LLC	\$235,600.00
SWERP, Inc.	\$347,900.00

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and the Township Engineer that National Water Main Cleaning Company 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 within the Engineering Department sufficient uncommitted funding for this project from account numbers #08-215-55-901-1638A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Montgomery Township Committee that the contract in the amount of \$231,580.00 for the Pike Brook Sewer Lateral Rehabilitation Project is hereby awarded to:

National Water Main Cleaning Company  
1806 Newark Turnpike  
Kearny, New Jersey 07032

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

15-1. Deputy Mayor Bell moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeperson Schuldiner and carried on the following:

**ROLL CALL** - Ayes - Barragan, Singh, Schuldiner, Bell, Keenan  
Nays - None

16. **ORDINANCE #22-1690 - Amending Chapter 3-5.4 - Alcohol Beverage Permit - Public Hearing**

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A. Title: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 3-5.1 "CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES", OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY MUNICIPAL

B. Mayor Keenan opened the hearing to the public. There being no comment, Deputy Mayor Bell moved that the public hearing be closed. The motion was seconded by Committeeperson Schuldiner and carried unanimously.

16-1. Barbara Preston, 88 Orchard Road, asked if County parks would be included in this ordinance. Township Attorney Wendy Rubinstein-Quiroga responded the ordinance pertains to solely Municipal property requiring a special permit.

16-2. Susan Rogers, 80 Ichabod Crane Lane, asked what is defined in Section 3-5.1, and the conditions for permitting. Township Attorney Wendy Rubenstein-Quiroga explained the section allows for the application of a special permit to consume alcohol on Municipal property. Such a permit would require review by the Office of the Township Clerk and Police Department prior to approval of the Governing Body.

- 16-3. Committeeperson Barragan asked what the liability would be to the Township, and voiced concerns regarding the need for guidelines, locations and restrictions prior to approval. Acting Captain Thomas Frascella said applications are submitted to the Alcohol Beverage Control Division, which asks all the pertinent questions before being forwarded to the Township Clerk and the Police Department.
- 16-4. Committeeperson Schuldiner suggested an amendment to the ordinance to include municipal owned buildings, surrounding land and exclude parks.
- 16-5. Committeeperson Schuldiner motioned to amend the foregoing resolution and provide for a Public Hearing on October 26, 2022. The motion was seconded by Committeeperson Barragan and carried on the following:

**ROLL CALL** - Ayes - Barragan, Singh, Schuldiner, Keenan  
Abstain - Bell  
Nays - None

17. **ORDINANCE #22-1691 - BOND ORDINANCE** - Amending in its Entirety Bond Ordinance 22-1684 for the Stage II Flood Protection Project - Introduction

- A. Title: BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING IN ITS ENTIRETY BOND ORDINANCE 22-1684 FOR THE STAGE II FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT
- B. BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery that the foregoing ordinance be hereby passed on first reading and that the same be published in an official newspaper as required by law together with a Notice of Pending Ordinance fixing October 26, 2022 at approximately 7:00 p.m. as the date and time when said ordinance will be further considered for final adoption.

- 17-1. Deputy Mayor Bell moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeperson Schuldiner and carried on the following:

**ROLL CALL** - Ayes - Barragan, Singh, Schuldiner, Bell, Keenan  
Nays - None

18. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

If there are no corrections, the Regular Session minutes for September 1 and September 15, 2022 stand approved.

19. **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 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.

- 19-1. Deputy Mayor Bell moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution. The motion was seconded by Committeeperson Schuldiner and carried on the following:

**ROLL CALL** - Ayes - Barragan, Singh, Schuldiner, Bell, Keenan  
Nays - None

20. **COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE**

- 20-1. Mayor Keenan received a letter from Brian Tarantino regarding the proposed warehouses located in Hillsborough and traffic concerns. Administrator Lori Savron said she spoke with Hillsborough Township, viewed their website, and pulled the five applications permitted by Zoning. Hillsborough Township has not changed their zoning, and the construction is not within 200 feet of Montgomery Township, therefore no legal notification was required. The State of New Jersey Planning Commission issued a guidance document on warehousing which contains a Good Neighbor Policy. The policy states a town that makes modifications to their Master Plan or zoning should consider notification during the pre-application process of any neighboring municipalities of eminent construction.

21. **NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 21-1. A request was made by the Environmental Commission to have the Library vending machines switch their plastic bottles to aluminum cans. Mayor Keenan asked that the Employee vending machine also be considered.

22. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

22-1. **Police Department**

The Police Department has moved in to the Municipal Complex, and all operations have been moved over from the old building to the new building. All other items requiring attention should be complete by the beginning of November.

22-2. **Old Municipal Building Decommission**

The Police Department, IT Director, and Engineering are collaborating on a work plan to decommission the old municipal building. Critical path items have been identified, timelines are being discussed, and a quote to demolish the building will be forthcoming.

22-3. **Signage/Traffic Circulation New Municipal Complex**

The Police, IT and Engineering Department are moving forward with plans regarding the use of driveways and roads connected to the building. Increased signage, striping, stop and way finding signs, both on and off of the property will be established.

22-4. **Roof Collapse**

Initial steps of remediation of asbestos removal has begun at 1026 Route 518. Code Enforcement is in communication with the owner, and contractor for the proper permitting process.

22-5. **Municipal Complex Elevator**

Installation of a ventilation system has been scheduled. The elevator will be shut down Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be on standby to assist visitors, and employees who need assistance utilizing the staircase.

22-6. **Channel 29**

The equipment to obtain connection for Channel 29 has not arrived. Continued communication with Comcast is ongoing for completion.

22-7. **Suggestion Box**

A suggestion box has been placed at the Reception Area. A suggestion to place garbage receptacles outside was made, and they are arriving within the week. The Finance Department is following up on requests for an ATM. The Township does not accept credit cards for payment of permits, licensing and other services. This service will allow residents, and employees to withdraw the funds without the need to leave the building.

22-8. **Handicap Access/Window Treatments**

The Handicap door retrofit has been scheduled for November. The vendor for the window treatments filed for bankruptcy. The Township is in the continued legal process to obtain the equipment ordered.

23. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

23-1. Committeeperson Barragan gave an update on the following:

Budget & Finance Committee

- Discussion on useful ways of better dissemination of information to residents, and provide additional transparency.

Veterans Memorial Committee - October 11

- Keynote speaker Retired Army Colonel John Vulna is scheduled for the Veteran's Day Celebration
- Visitation with Chairperson Dimitra Bakaratis to the Lower Middle School to discuss ways of expanding Veteran's Day activities.
- Veteran's Day Celebration is planned for November 11 weather permitting.

23-2. Committeeperson Singh gave an update on the following:

Recreation/Health/Municipal Alliance

- Recreation did not meet this month, and will provide an update on the other committees next meeting.

23-3. Committeeperson Schuldiner gave an update on the following:

Transportation Advisory Committee

- The County is awaiting FEMA funds to continue the restoration of the bridge at Zion-Wertzville Road.

Economic Development Commission - October 25

- Restaurant Week was held from September 15 through 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Montgomery Arts Council held an event in celebration of one of Montgomery's local artists.
- A Return to Art event is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>

23-4. Deputy Mayor Bell gave an update on the following:

Inclusion & Equity Committee - October 5

- A virtual documentary entitled Fighting Indians was presented in partnership with the Coalition of Natives and Allies. A follow up conversation was held the following day by Sarah Roberts and Chairperson Nancy Herrington.

Resignation - October 28

Deputy Mayor Bell said she will step down to pursue an opportunity with Somerset County. Ms. Bell remarked on her tenor as Deputy Mayor, looking back as a time spent with honor, affection, and admiration. She thanked the Committee, Township staff, and volunteers for their loyal dedication, and professionalism, and wished everyone ongoing success. Mayor Keenan thanked Deputy Mayor Bell for her service.

23.5 Mayor Keenan gave an update on the following:

Montgomery Business Association - September 16

- Attended the Grand Opening of Native Ceuticals.

Boy Scouts - September 19

- Attended a discussion on civics and community citizenship.

Environmental Commission - September 20

- Attended a discussion on the Second Annual Environmental Awards. Nominations are open until November 15.

Landmarks Committee - September 28

- Attended a presentation that was given by Victoria and Daniel Leopold in partnership with the Watershed Institute regarding Hurricane Ida, stormwater, and aftermath. The presentation will be available on the Township's website and a printed version will be available in the lobby.

Shade Tree Committee - September 21

- Attended a discussion regarding Arbor Day, tree loss, distribution of seedlings, and coordination with the newly formed Parks and Recreation Department.

County Regional Stormwater Roundtable

- Attended the roundtable with Township Engineer Mark Herrmann, NJDEP and other Somerset County municipalities to discuss stormwater management. More information to follow.

Police Department

- Mayor Keenan expressed her gratitude on the smooth transition in moving from the old building to the new Municipal Complex, and thanked It Director Jack Ferrara and the department for their efforts.

Coffee with a Cop

- The first Coffee with a Cop will be held at the new Municipal Complex from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., October 21.

24. **RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Montgomery in Somerset County, 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 subject to be discussed in this session is as follows:
  - Attorney Guidance to Appropriate Authority - Police Department Personnel
  - Advice of Counsel with regard to contract negotiations - Municipal Building
3. It is unknown precisely when the matter discussed in this session will be disclosed to the public.

24-1. Deputy Mayor Bell moved to close the meeting to the public. The motion was seconded by Committeeperson Singh and carried unanimously.

24-2. Deputy Mayor Bell moved to reopen the meeting to the public. The motion was seconded by Committeeperson Barragan and carried unanimously.

25. Mayor Keenan moved to cancel the previously scheduled October 20 Township Committee meeting and reschedule it for October 26. The motion was seconded by Committeeperson Barragan and carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT** was at 10:40 p.m. on a motion by Deputy Mayor Bell. The motion was seconded by Committeeperson Singh and carried unanimously.

Date of Approval:

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Donna Kukla, Township Clerk