

**Borough of Matawan
Public Session
October 18, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Matawan, New Jersey, was held at the Matawan Municipal Community Center, 201 Broad Street, Matawan, New Jersey on October 18, 2022, with Council President, Brian Livesey, presiding. Pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by publishing notification in the *Asbury Park Press* on January 8, 2022, by sending notice to the *Independent*, and by posting. A copy of said notice is and has been made available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk. A copy of said notice has also been sent to such members of the public as have requested such information in accordance with the Statute. Councilman Livesey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM requesting a roll call.

On roll call the following members responded present:

Yes: Councilwoman Deana Gunn
 Councilman Brian Livesey
 Councilman Brett Cannon
 Councilwoman Melanie S. Wang – arrived at 7:03 PM
 Councilman Charlie Ross

Absent: Mayor Joseph Altomonte
 Councilwoman Stephanie Buckel

Also present were Scott Carew, Borough Administrator, Pasquale Menna, Esq., Borough Attorney, Robert R. Keady, Jr. of T&M Associates – Borough Engineer, Joseph M. Ettore, Monmouth County Engineer – Division of Engineering & Traffic Safety, Andrés Roda, Monmouth County Project Manager, and Sarah Steib and Jon Moren, from French & Parrello Associates.

Council President Livesey asked everyone to stand for a Salute to the Flag.

Council President Livesey asked everyone to stand for a Moment of Silence. He asked that everyone keep in their thoughts the families of Mayor Joseph Altomonte and Councilwoman Deana Gunn.

Presentation on the Status of the Aberdeen Road and Dam Project

Council President Livesey introduced Joseph M. Ettore, PE, from the Monmouth County Division of Engineering & Traffic Safety and representatives from French & Parrello Associates, Consulting Engineer, for their presentation to the Borough. Mr. Ettore announced the Project is running on schedule and is ready to begin the bidding process this fall. He then introduced Ms. Steib, who provided an update to the presentation they gave to the Borough on March 15. Ms. Steib announced the County anticipates receiving NJS DOT approval at the end of October and the Project will go out to bid on November 4. Award of the bid for construction should occur on January 12, 2023 with a construction meeting to be held in February. There is a DEP in Water Restriction in effect from March 1 until June 30, so work cannot begin until July. Once construction is set to start, a detour will be in place for 18 months and with an anticipated end date of construction being winter 2024. During that time a shuttle will be provided to residents who walk along Aberdeen Road towards Main Street.

Councilman Cannon asked for clarification on the raising of the road, requesting more information on the implementation. Ms. Steib explained that Aberdeen Road ends on an upward slope towards the train station is where it meets existing grade and they extend the grade almost all the way to within 50' of Matawan Avenue, in terms of the touch down point. Councilman Cannon thanked the entire team present and those working on the team to have this plan finally executed, especially Commissioner Arnone. He noted that the flooding on Aberdeen Road has been an issue for a very long time and is grateful for the

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County's responsiveness and support, and is proud the Project is finally getting done. Councilwoman Gunn requested that Ms. Steib send the current presentation to the Clerk for posting on the Borough website.

Council President Livesey opened the floor for public comment.

Loretta Windas, 138 Aberdeen Road, Matawan. Ms. Windas asked if the shuttle will run from Matawan Avenue to the train station. Ms. Steib confirmed that, clarifying that the actual vehicle will pick up and drop off at those two locations. She noted that the shuttle would use the Ravine Drive detour route to deliver passengers to-and-from the train station. Mr. Ettore mentioned that this was mostly for commuters who usually walk to the train station. Councilman Cannon asked for further information about the progression of the work, asking what would occur first. Ms. Steib stated the raising of Aberdeen Road will occur prior to the Lake Lefferts dam project. The County anticipates the road work to take approximately 18 months and they expect the Bridge MA-9 construction to begin coincidentally with that end date. By then, Aberdeen Road will be completed, and it will become the detour route for the closure of Ravine Drive. A discussion about the bid process occurred.

Guy Buckel, 14 Chestnut Drive, Matawan. Mr. Buckel asked if the County will install sidewalks on both sides of Aberdeen Road. Ms. Steib stated sidewalks will be installed along the southside which matches the existing sidewalks. Mr. Buckel mentioned a letter distributed to everyone about the safety of Ravine Drive and his traffic concerns, especially when the detour takes effect. He listed the issues that he noticed on Ravine Drive and asked how the County planned on making it safe for the foot traffic along the roadway. Mr. Ettore replied that he received the letter from Councilwoman Buckel and he ensured the Borough that the County will study the safety concern brought to his attention by the letter. Mr. Ettore noted he didn't believe pedestrian traffic will be increased along Ravine Drive as the shuttle service will accommodate any walkers who usual travel to-and-from the train station. He explained the various jurisdictions for County roadways, mentioning that some items are the responsibility of the County and some are the Borough's. He will address immediate issues, such as the missing speed limit signs and cross walks mentioned in the letter and will evaluate the other safety concerns in a timely fashion. Mr. Keady added he will gladly work with the County on behalf of the Borough on all the issues raised in the letter.

Gary Kamil, 20 High Street, Matawan. Mr. Kamil asked if County's construction will coincide with the proposed Matawan Junction development on High and Main Streets. Ms. Steib stated the construction start date is July 1, 2023. Councilwoman Gunn offered some information on the Matawan Junction Planning/Zoning Application which received approval at the Planning Zoning Board's October 3 meeting with a proposed construction start in late spring 2023 but that may be flexible.

With no further comment(s), Council President Livesey thanked the County representatives for their presentation and announced a 10 minute recess.

Council President Livesey requested a motion to re-open the Public Meeting. Councilman Cannon made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gunn. Council agreed. Motion passed.

Privilege of the Floor for Agenda Items Only

Council President Livesey opened the Privilege of the Floor for Agenda Items Only.

There were no comments.

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Council President Livesey requested a motion to close the Privilege of the Floor for Agenda Items Only. Councilman Cannon made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gunn. Council agreed. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Council President Livesey requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2022 Council Meeting. Councilwoman Gunn made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ross. Council agreed with Councilman Cannon abstaining. Motion passed.

Council President Livesey requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2022 Council Meeting. Councilman Cannon made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ross. Council agreed. Motion passed.

Council President Livesey requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2022 Council Meeting. Councilman Cannon made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ross. Council agreed. Motion passed.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the issuance of new business licenses for:

- Siam Smiles – a Thai restaurant;
- Alex Christopher Beauty & Wellness;
- Justin's Music Academy; and
- American Electrical Construction Co. – an electrical construction business office.

Today was the last day to register to vote in the November 8, 2022 General Election. Early voting and designated early voting polling locations for the November 8 General Election will be on Saturday, October 29 – Monday to Saturday 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, and Sundays 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Early in-person voting at designated polling locations ends November 6. Voters can look to the Borough Clerk's page of the Borough of Matawan's website for links to Monmouth County Ballot Drop Box Sites, we have one here outside of the MMCC Main Entrance, Monmouth County Early Voting Locations, the Borough of Matawan Polling Locations by District as well as a link to NJ Voter Information, such as "Where Can I Vote," or contact my office directly and we'll be happy to assist you in that regard. Tomorrow I will be attending the Monmouth County Clerk's General Election Workshop and will provide any additional information as received.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Carew reported at last week's Monmouth County Joint Insurance Fund meeting, we decided to join what is going to be the first of its kind, perhaps nationwide, there are a good number of JIFs that are getting together to create an Insurance Fund based on Private Security to address cyber ransom, etc., which has become a big problem in the insurance world. The Monmouth County JIF has designated me as its representative on this JIF, and I will report to the Governing Body on our progress.

Attorney's Report

No report.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Keady reported on the status of the following Project(s):

- 2021 Road Program – The contractor has one remaining punch list item, the

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replacement of a sign. Once complete, the Project can be closed out.

- The 2022 Road Program:

The road portion of the Project will commence next week with Center Street concrete work; this week various street crack sealing throughout the Borough will begin followed by Johnson Avenue water service identification. Water main replacement followed by street paving will follow. We await a firm schedule of materials for water main piping delivery, and in the interim the contractor is starting on the other aspects of the Project.

The Sanitary Sewer TV Inspection and Cleaning is continuing we will need a few more weeks to complete, identify area(s) of replacement/repair prior to going out to bid.

The Overbrook Lane Retaining Wall Project is complete with the planting of trees.

The Spring Street Viaduct and Outfall is in the design phase.

Police, DPW, Planning & Zoning

Councilwoman Gunn reported the Matawan Junction Redevelopment Project received Planning Zoning Board approval at its October 3 meeting with anticipated construction in the spring. Part of the approvals requires the developer to coordinate with Monmouth County on its Aberdeen Road project in the hopes to have both street projects performed simultaneously as much as possible.

The DPW reminds the public the street sweeper is out; brush pick up is suspended in lieu of leaf pick up. In addition, there is route park maintenance: We replaced some light bulbs on Clinton Street, we await a quote for some park light fixtures in need of replacement, the Terhune Park tree was in need of replacement and has been removed with a new tree anticipated shortly.

Matawan Police Department recent overtime expenditures part of which is due to three pending retirements with recommendations being reviewed, and a request to Council for the hire at our next meeting. Delivery of body worn cameras and related hardware and software were recently received. Councilwoman Gunn related the number of calls and arrests responded to by the Patrol Division including motor vehicle incidents. Lastly, we are working with the County on a couple of traffic and safety issues regarding crosswalks at several County roads including the Ravine Drive, Main and Broad Streets as well as our request to the County to reduce the speed limit on Broad Street.

Economic Business Development & Shade Tree

Council President Livesey reported the rain date for Matawan Day is Saturday the 22nd from Noon to 5:00 PM, with over 205 anticipated vendors, lots of activities, interactive maps, etc. Shade Tree Commission will have a table on Matawan Day and is working on a tree planting program.

Recreation, Recycling & Sanitation, Recreation

Council President Livesey reported on behalf of Councilwoman Buckel stating Recreation anticipates planting the new Terhune Park tree on October 25. Recreation will also have a table on Matawan Day. Multiple entries for the Halloween house decorating contest were received with the winner to be announced on Halloween. The Borough is hosting an October 29 Halloween Spooktacular with 15 sponsors for the candy lane as well as a petting zoo, children's rides and activities, photo op, with live music by Stretch and the Armstrongs. A Salute will host a beer garden at the event.

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The Turkey Trot is scheduled for November 26, and our tree lighting for December 2. Mr. Carew informed there were some technicalities worked out today on the tree’s purchase by the Recreation Director, the CFO and the Clerk, and we are on track for our planting.

Historical Sites Commission, Personnel & Fire

No report.

ADA, Animal Welfare Advisory & Property Maintenance

Councilwoman Wang seeks to coordinate a meeting with the ADA and Property Maintenance and will work with the Clerk to establish same.

The Animal Welfare Advisory Board came to a bit of a road block and are exploring possibilities before we renew our Marlboro Animal Control Services contract which expires December 31 to have a Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) Program along with the animal control services and are exploring possibilities with the Associated Human Society and the Monmouth County SPCA. AWAB Member Loretta Windas concurred. Mr. Menna stated as this involves a time sensitive contract, he will be happy to be included on the discussions. Mr. Carew asked he and the Clerk be advised of the Board’s determination as well as Marlboro has already contacted his office on the contract’s renewal for 2023. Councilwoman Wang wanted to avoid any confusion on the overlap of various Department’s, ie, animal control services, Property Maintenance, responding to cat colony concerns.

Construction, Environmental, Finance

No report.

New Business

Council President Livesey by title Resolution 22-10-06: Payment of Bills. Councilwoman Wang questioned the increase in Budget. Mr. Carew informed the increase was for the purchase and planting of the new Terhune Park tree. Council President Livesey requested a motion. Councilman Ross made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gunn. Council President Livesey requested a voice vote. Council agreed. Motion passed.

***RESOLUTION 22-10-06
PAYMENT OF BILLS***

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Matawan, New Jersey. That the following numbered vouchers be paid to the persons therein respectively and hereinafter named, for the amounts set opposite their respective names, and endorsed and approved on said vouchers and that warrants be issued therefore, directed to the Borough Collector signed by the Mayor and attested by the Borough Clerk as required by law.

Current	\$380,704.29
Water/Sewer	\$80,499.68
Grant	\$3,356.02
Borough Trust	\$22,344.72
Developers Escrow Account	\$5,004.44
Recreation Trust	\$3,500.00
Total	\$495,409.15

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a true certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the following Borough of Matawan Departments: Finance.

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Privilege of the Floor

Council President Livesey opened the Privilege of the Floor.

There were no comments.

Council President Livesey requested a motion to close the Privilege of the Floor. Councilman Cannon made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gunn. Council agreed. Motion passed.

Adjourn

Council President Livesey requested a motion to adjourn. Councilman Cannon made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gunn. Council President Livesey requested a voice vote. Council agreed. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

(Signature on file)

Karen Wynne, RMC
Municipal Clerk