

REGULAR MEETING

DATE: March 4, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Milford Borough Common Council was held at Milford Firehouse located at 21 Water Street on March 4, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Henry Schepens, Mayor at 6:30PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Mayor Schepens.

SUNSHINE PROCLAMATION was read by Mayor Schepens.

As required by the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 11, 2024 in the Hunterdon County Democrat and Express Times newspapers.

Notices were also posted on the bulletin boards both inside and outside the Municipal Building and at the Milford Public Library.

ROLL CALL

Present: James Gallos, Noralie LaFevre, Helen Livingston,
Ronald Rehl, Douglas Sloyer, Elisa Yager
Henry Schepens, Mayor

Absent: None

The record reflects the presence of: Todd Bolig, Attorney

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Municipal Budget – Dawn Merante, CFO

Dawn Merante, Chief Financial Officer and Borough Council discussed the proposed 2024 municipal budget. Borough Council members gave Dawn Merante suggestions of items to be deducted and/or added in the 2024 budget. Dawn Merante and Thomas Ferry, Auditor will prepare the proposed 2024 municipal budget and give copies to Council to review.

Mary Malone - Banners

Mary Malone, MandR Media and Banners gave a presentation to Council members regarding soliciting sponsors for banners to be placed on the telephone poles in the Borough. Mary will solicit sponsors and the sponsor will pay for the banner. Also, half of the cost of the banner will go to the Borough. Mary asked if Council had any ideas of what artwork they would like to see on the banner?

The Borough will need to apply to JCP&L for permission to hang the banners and the Borough will contract with a company to install the banners.

Superintendent Rick Falkenstein – Milford Public School Update

- Superintendent Falkenstein reported to Council that the Milford Public School received a grant from HART for Bike Rodeo Practice program.
- Superintendent Falkenstein updated Council on the Holland-Frenchtown feasibility study and regionalization grant. Currently, the Milford Public School and Kingwood Township School have a great working relationship.
- Superintendent Falkenstein reported that the Milford Public School preschool has

expanded and Kingwood preschool students could attend the Milford preschool.

Part-time Water/Sewer – Grant Acquisition Employee

Mayor Schepens reported to Council there is a need for a part-time Water/Sewer Grant Acquisition employee to help the utilities with grants to update the utilities as necessary.

Mayor Schepens informed Council that the Borough’s Qualified Purchasing Agent has experience in getting the necessary water/sewer grants for the Borough. Council members agreed this was a great idea and Attorney Bolig will contact Bill Hance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Government Use Zone (Borough Farm) Tree Cutting

Mayor Schepens stated that no one is allowed on Borough property to cut down trees, mow grass, etc. The NJ State Police will be called the next time someone is on Borough property.

LEGAL AFFAIRS REPORT – TODD BOLIG, ESQ.

- Attorney Bolig reported that the Borough’s Employment Attorney is reviewing the Borough’s job descriptions.
- Attorney Bolig advised that the Borough will need to adopt a Tree Removal-Replacement ordinance as part of the pending stormwater management legislation.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONERS

ADMINISTRATION/SAFETY – MAYOR HENRY SCHEPEN

Mayor Schepens did not have a report tonight.

BUILDING & GROUNDS – COUNCILWOMAN LAFEVRE

Councilwoman LaFevre stated she spoke with Rob Martucci on the status of the plan for putting the Borough offices at the library and he advised he plans to review the plan at the March 18th Council meeting.

Councilwoman LaFevre reported that the Milford Merchant Association plans to hold an Easter egg hunt on Friday, March 23rd at the Borough Park. There will be a merchant networking meeting held on April 8th at Milford firehouse. Mary Malone spoke to the group about having each business owner sponsor a banner that would be installed on Bridge Street.

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING – COUNCILMAN GALLOS

Councilman Gallos attended the SWAC meeting and Hunterdon County will be doing a tire collection. The next Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Days will be held on March 23rd and December 7th. Councilman Gallos reported the Hunterdon County Free Electronic Waste Recycling days will be: March 16th, June 22nd, October 5th and November 16th.

ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING/SECOND READING

ORDINANCE NO. 975-2024

CALENDAR YEAR 2024

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Noralie LaFevre made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 975-2024.
Seconded by Ron Rehl.

ROLL CALL: AYES: N. LaFevre, E. Yager, D. Sloyer, J. Gallos, R. Rehl, H. Livingston

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

There were no comments from the public in attendance.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Elisa Yager.

Seconded by Noralie LaFevre

ROLL CALL: AYES: N. LaFevre, E. Yager, D. Sloyer, J. Gallos, R. Rehl, H. Livingston

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

SECOND READING - ROLL CALL VOTE

Council Member	Motion	Adopt	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Noralie LaFevre		x		x			
James Gallos			x	x			
Helen Livingston				x			
Elisa Yager	x			x			
Ronald Rehl				x			
Douglas Sloyer						x	

ORDINANCE NUMBER 976-2024

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$7,885.00 CURRENTLY LOCATED
WITHIN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE BOROUGH OF MILFORD FOR
REMOVAL OF BATS – BOROUGH HALL

Noralie LaFevre made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 976-2024.

Seconded by Elisa Yager.

ROLL CALL: AYES: N. LaFevre, E. Yager, D. Sloyer, J. Gallos, R. Rehl, H. Livingston

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

There were no comments from the public in attendance.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Noralie LaFevre.

Seconded by Ron Rehl.

ROLL CALL: AYES: N. LaFevre, E. Yager, D. Sloyer, J. Gallos, R. Rehl, H. Livingston

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

SECOND READING - ROLL CALL VOTE

Council Member	Motion	Adopt	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Noralie LaFevre		x		x			
James Gallos			x	x			
Helen Livingston				x			
Elisa Yager	x			x			
Ronald Rehl				x			
Douglas Sloyer						x	

ORDINANCE NUMBER 977-2024

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$140,000.00 CURRENTLY LOCATED WITHIN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE BOROUGH OF MILFORD TO REPAIR BOROUGH HALL ROOF

Noralie LaFevre made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance No. 976-2024. Seconded by Elisa Yager.

ROLL CALL: AYES: N. LaFevre, E. Yager, D. Sloyer, J. Gallos, R. Rehl, H. Livingston
 NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

There were no comments from the public in attendance.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Noralie LaFevre.

Seconded by Elisa Yager.

ROLL CALL: AYES: N. LaFevre, E. Yager, D. Sloyer, J. Gallos, R. Rehl, H. Livingston
 NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

SECOND READING - ROLL CALL VOTE

Council Member	Motion	Adopt	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Noralie LaFevre		x		x			
James Gallos				x			
Helen Livingston			x	x			
Elisa Yager	x			x			
Ronald Rehl				x			
Douglas Sloyer						x	

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. RE2024-033

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the MILFORD BOROUGH COMMON COUNCIL that all **VOUCHERS** presented and approved be paid.

This being submitted at the Council meeting held on March 4, 2024.

Council Vote	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
James Gallos	x		x			
Noralie LaFevre			x			
Ronald Rehl		x	x			
Helen Livingston			x			
Elisa Yager			x			
Doug Sloyer			x			

RESOLUTION NO. RE2024-034

TAX CERTIFICATE REDEMPTION

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Borough of Milford has been paid by the property owner located at 36 Fairview Avenue, the amount of \$36,936.84 to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #2021-001 held by TRYSTONE CAPITAL ASSETS LLC, Block 28 Lot 10.

WHEREAS, additionally the lienholder, TRYSTONE CAPITAL ASSETS LLC, posted a premium in the amount of \$43,600.00 at the time of the sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, on the 4th day of March 2024 by the Common Council of the Borough of Milford, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, that

the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to issue checks as follows to complete the redemption of tax sale certificate # 2022-001 on Block 28 Lot 10 to TRYSTONE CAPITAL ASSETS LLC, POB 1030, BRICK, NJ 08723

Redemption 28 10 Cert # 2021-001 \$ 36,936.84
 Premium \$ 43,600.00

This being submitted at the Regular Council Meeting on March 4, 2024.

Council Vote	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Ineligible
Noralie LaFevre	x		x				
James Gallos			x				
Ronald Rehl			x				
Helen Livingston			x				
Elisa Yager		x	x				
Douglas Sloyer			x				

CLERK’S REPORT – February 2024

Comments: none

Motion to accept: Noralie LaFevre

Seconded: James Gallos

All in Favor – AYES: All NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

Clerk’s Report for February 2024 was approved.

Miscellaneous

Councilwoman Livingston advised Council that JCP&L has a direct install program for renovation and replacements for lighting. When Council moves forward on the library renovation this program may be very helpful.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Noralie LaFevre made a motion to open the public portion of the meeting.

Seconded by Helen Livingston.

ROLL CALL: AYES: J. Gallos, N. LaFevre, H. Livingston, E. Yager, R. Rehl

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: D. Sloyer

- Terry LaFevre stated the fire hydrant on York Road needs dirt around the hydrant. When Reivax did the hydrant replacement the dirt around the hydrant settled.
- Ben Kramer stated Superintendent Falkenstein does an excellent job for Milford Public School.

Motion to close the public hearing was made by Elisa Yager.

Seconded by Noralie LaFevre.

ROLL CALL: AYES: J. Gallos, N. LaFevre, H. Livingston, E. Yager , R. Rehl

NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: D. Sloyer Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE LIST

Correspondence was reviewed as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Schepens advised there being no further business to discuss, the minutes of this meeting will be available as soon as possible.

Motion to adjourn was made by: Noralie LaFevre

Seconded by: Ron Rehl

All in Favor - AYES: All NAYS: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Dysart, RMC
Municipal Clerk