

The BOROUGH of MANTOLOKING

Mayor and Council

A Statement by Mayor George Nebel Concerning Mantoloking's Form of Government and Public Meeting Schedule

Ever since its incorporation in 1911 Mantoloking has been governed as a "Borough."

According to the ***New Jersey League of Municipalities***, the Borough form "*remains the single most popular form of local government in New Jersey*. The League says further:

"The Borough form is often referred to as a "weak mayor-strong council" form. The mayor retains all general law authority, presides over council meetings and can vote in the case of a tie. The mayor appoints, with the advice and consent of council, all subordinate officers of the municipality.

"The council is the legislative body of the Borough. All executive responsibilities not placed in the office of the Mayor by general law or the Borough law remains with the council.

Over the past few years, the mayor and council have taken steps to focus public attention on the importance of the borough council to the governance of the municipality. We have:

- Restructured the agenda and minutes to associate reports and proposed legislative action with appropriate committees,
- Assigned significant roles in functions like the selection of a new police chief, replacement of borough hall, and development of the annual budget to appropriate committees,
- Established monthly council workshop meetings during which government issues are discussed and the agenda for the monthly business meeting is set.

The mayor's role in Mantoloking is hardly "weak," however. Because of the limited borough staff, he has been obliged to control the agenda and initiate most of what is legislated in the borough. And he has clear statutory authority for that role:

N.J.S.A. 40A:60-5. Powers of the Mayor

h. The mayor shall see to it that the laws of the State and the ordinances of the borough are faithfully executed. He shall recommend to the council such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient for the welfare of the borough.

Accordingly, after trying the monthly workshop meetings for a year and consulting with other elected officials, the mayor has now taken steps to eliminate the monthly public workshop meetings. He cites a number of reasons:

- Much of what was discussed and settled at the formal public workshop meetings was routine and repetitive,
- The formal workshop meetings represented an additional commitment of time for elected officials,
- The formal workshop meetings were held in the morning making them inaccessible to some working officials and residents,
- The workshop meetings constituted a forum for resident questions and opinions that exceeded the needs of the municipality.

The mayor and council are now reestablishing the procedure for the proposal, consideration, and enactment of municipal legislation that had been followed for many years. It is described on the reverse.

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Executive and Legislative Responsibilities for Consideration and Enactment of Municipal Legislation

This document describes the Borough of Mantoloking’s procedure for the consideration and enactment of municipal legislation. The procedure is designed to expedite the time-consuming, demanding obligations of elected officials. It is intended to recognize the executive responsibilities of the mayor and the legislative responsibilities of the council. It is designed to limit the need for more than one council meeting per month to extraordinary circumstances.

WHO	WHAT	AUTHORITY
The mayor with the assistance of the council president, borough attorney and occasional appropriate members of the council and public	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider the recommendations of other borough officials, administrative staff, professional service providers, committee chairpersons and local citizens for legislation to be proposed to the council at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting 2. Recommend preparation of ordinances or resolutions they deem necessary or expedient for the welfare of the borough 	<i>N.J.S.A. 40A: 60-5. The mayor shall recommend to the council such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient for the welfare of the borough.</i>
Municipal Clerk	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compile the proposed legislation into a <u>draft monthly meeting agenda</u> and distribute it to council members and other interested persons 2. The draft agenda should include routine committee reports and business and be considered a public document 	<i>Mantoloking Code 2-7.4 The Municipal Clerk shall perform such other duties as are now or hereafter imposed by Statute, regulation or ordinance.</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members of the borough council 2. Chairpersons and members of council legislative committees to which the proposed legislation is assigned 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and consider the legislation proposed by the mayor 2. Direct questions, observations, & suggestions to the mayor or appropriate committee chairpersons 3. Chairpersons can then suggest changes to the proposed agenda or convey their committees’ approval by moving the proposed legislation at the meeting 	<i>N.J.S.A. 40A: 60-6. The council may, subject to general law and the provisions of this act: pass, adopt, amend and repeal any ordinance or, where permitted, any resolution for any purpose required for the government of the municipality or for the accomplishment of any public purpose for which the municipality is authorized to act under general law</i>