



**TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
MOUNT LAUREL MUNICIPAL CENTER**

Distribution _____

Resolution No. 22-R-173

REGULAR MEETING

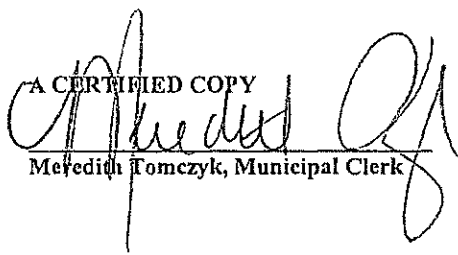
JULY 11, 2022

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE
TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL AND AFSCME NJ COUNCIL 63 FOR THE
PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Mount Laurel, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Township Manager are authorized to sign an agreement between the Township of Mount Laurel and AFSCME: NJ COUNCIL 63, for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026.

This resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Township Council held on July 11, 2022 and shall take effect immediately.

A CERTIFIED COPY


Meredith Tomczyk, Municipal Clerk

	MOTION	AYE	NAY	ABSTAINED	ABSENT	TRANSMITTED
Cohen	2	✓				
Janjua		✓				
Moustakas	1	✓				
Pritchett		✓				
Steglik		✓				

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP AND

**LOCAL 3263
AFSCME COUNCIL 63**

JANUARY 1, 2023 – DECEMBER 31, 2026

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PREAMBLE

The Contract made between Mount Laurel Township (hereinafter referred to as the "Employer" or "Township") and American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees New Jersey Council 63 (hereinafter referred to as the "Union") covering employees in the designated unit, has as its intent and purpose the promotion of harmonious employee relations between the Employer and employees represented by the Union; the establishment of equitable and peaceful determination of wages, hours of work, and other terms and conditions of employment. The effective date of this agreement shall be January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2026.

As the Employer recognizes the Union, it is the responsibility of the Employer to forward all new hires, disciplines/grievances, promotions, etc. to Council 63 as the Majority Representative to 1373 Chews Landing Road, Laurel Springs NJ 08021 or stully@afscmenj.org. This will occur simultaneously as the employee is served.

ARTICLE I

Recognition

A. The Township recognizes Council 63, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees as the sole and exclusive representative for the purpose of establishing salaries, wages, hours, and other conditions of employment for all personnel under contract listed in the classifications herein, and for such additional classifications as the parties may later agree to include. This recognition, however, shall not be interpreted as having the effect of, or in any way abrogating, the rights of employees as established by the Laws of 1968, Chapter 303, and the amendment of Public Law 1974, Chapter 123, approved October 21, 1974, Senate Bill No. 1087 or Civil Service Statutes Regulations or Case law.

B. The bargaining unit shall consist of all blue collar employees employed by the Township specifically including the positions of truck driver, laborer, equipment operator, mechanic, custodial worker, bus driver, security guard, and excluding foreman, general foreman, white collar and clerical employees, supervisors, confidential employees, craft employees, professional employees and managerial executives.

ARTICLE II

Management Rights

A. The Township of Mount Laurel hereby retains and reserves unto itself, without limitation, all powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it by the State of New Jersey and of the United States, including but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following rights:

1. The executive management and legislative and administrative control of the Township government and its properties and facilities and activities of its employees by utilizing personnel, methods and means of the most appropriate and efficient manner possible as may from time to time be determined by the Township.

2. To make rules of procedure and conduct, to use improved methods and equipment, to determine work schedules and shifts, to decide the number of employees needed for any particular time and to be in sole charge of quality and quantity of the work required.

3. To make, maintain and amend such reasonable rules and regulations as the Township may, from time to time, deem best for the purposes of maintaining order, safety and for the effective operation of the department after advance notice thereof to the employees to require compliance by the employees.

4. To hire all employees, and subject to the provisions of law, to determine their qualifications and conditions of continued employment, or assignment, and to promote and transfer employees.

5. To suspend, demote, discharge or take any other appropriate disciplinary action against any employee for good and just cause according to law.

6. To lay off employees in the event of lack of work or funds or under conditions where continuation of work would be inefficient and non-productive.

7. To utilize supervisors and management as "blue collar employees" as that term is used in this Agreement when the employees are absent due to sickness, injury, lunch, vacation, or other types of leave, or any other emergency circumstances.

B. The Township reserves the right, with regard to all other conditions of employment not preserved, to make such changes as it deem desirable and necessary for the efficiently and effective operation of the department.

C. In the exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities of the Township, the adoption of policies, rules, regulations and practices and furtherance thereof, and the use of judgment and discretion in connection therewith, shall be limited only by the specific and express terms of this Agreement and then only to the extent such specific and express terms

hereof are in conformance with the Constitution and laws and administrative codes of New Jersey and of the United States.

D. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny or restrict the Township of its rights, responsibilities and authority under R. S. 40A, or any other national, state, county or locals laws or regulations.

E. The Township reserves the right, in accordance with past practice, to contract with outside persons or firms to do work which might otherwise be performed by Township employees.

ARTICLE III

Check Off

A. The Township agrees to deduct monthly Union membership dues from the pay of those employees who individually request in writing that such deductions be made. The amounts to be deducted shall be certified to the Township by the Treasurer of the Union and the aggregate deductions of all employees shall be remitted to the office of Council 63 together with a list of the names of all employees for whom the deductions were made by the tenth (10th) day of the succeeding month after such deductions were made.

B. Employees covered by this Agreement may only request deduction for the payment of dues to the duly certified majority representative named herein.

C. The Union shall indemnify, defend and save the Township harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability that shall arise out of, or by reason of, action taken by the Township in reliance upon salary deduction authorization cards of the fair share assessment information as furnished by the Union to the Township, or in reliance upon the official notification on the letterhead of the Union and signed by the President of the Union, advising of such changed deduction.

D. Any employee who is transferred to a job classification which is not within the bargaining unit, as herein defined, or any employee whose employment is terminated by death, resignation, discharge, lay-off, retirement, or leave of absence shall cease to be the subject to dues deduction beginning the month in which the termination or transfer occurs.

ARTICLE IV

Bill of Rights

A. To ensure that the individual rights of employees in the bargaining unit are not violated, the following shall represent the Employees' Bill of Rights:

1. An employee shall be entitled to Union representation at each and every step of the grievance procedure set forth in this Agreement.
2. An employee shall be entitled to Union representation at each stage of a disciplinary hearing.
3. No employee shall be required by the Township and/or its agents to submit to an interrogation unless the employees are afforded the opportunity of Union representation.
4. No recording devices or stenographer of any kind shall be used during any meeting unless both the Union and Township agree to their use prior to such meetings, in writing.
5. In any disciplinary hearings, the burden of proof, i.e., the preponderance of evidence, shall be on the Township.
6. An employee shall not be coerced or intimidated or suffer any reprisals either directly or indirectly that may adversely affect his hours, wages, or working conditions as the result of the exercise of his rights under the Agreement.

ARTICLE V

Maintenance of Work Operations

A. The Union hereby covenants and agrees that during the term of this Agreement, neither the Union nor any person acting in its behalf will cause, authorize or support, nor will any of its members take part in any strike, (i.e., the concerted failure to report for duty or willful absence of any employee from his position, or stoppage of work, or absence in whole or in part, from the full, faithful and proper performance of the employees' duties of employment), work stoppage, slow-down, walk-out or other illegal job action against the Township, for its purpose or on behalf of any other employee or groups of employees (commonly known as sympathy strike). The Union agrees that such action would constitute a material breach of this Agreement.

B. The Union agrees that it will make a reasonable effort to prevent its members from participation in any strike, work stoppage, slow-down, sympathy strike, or other activity aforementioned or supporting such activity by any other employee or group of employees of the Township; and to require its members to return to work, and take such other steps as may be necessary under the circumstances to bring about compliance with the Union order.

C. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or restrict the Township in its right to seek and obtain such judicial relief as it may be entitled to have or in equity for injunction or damages, or both, in the event of such breach by the Union or its members.

D. The Township agrees that it will not engage in the lockout of any of its employees.

ARTICLE VI

Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulations

A. The Township and the Union understand and agree that all rules pertaining to the municipality which are promulgated by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission and all rules and regulations set forth in the Civil Service Commission Statutes and Regulations are binding upon the parties hereto.

B. The Township and the Union understand and agree to comply with the provisions of the Federal and State Family Medical Leave Act.

ARTICLE VII

Hours of Work

A. The regularly scheduled workweek shall consist of five (5) consecutive days, Monday through Friday, inclusive, except for the Sanitation Department, which is Monday through Thursday, inclusive. The Weekend Laborer workweek shall be Friday through Monday.

B. The regular hours of work shall be as listed below:

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Public Works Department | 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| 2. | Recreation Department | 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| 3. | Sanitation Department. | 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. |
| 4. | Maintenance Shop | 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| 5. | Recreation Bus Driver | 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. |
| 6. | Security Guard | 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. |
| 7. | Custodian | 7:00 a.m. -- 3:30 p.m.; 9:00 a.m. -- 5:00 p.m. |
| 8. | Shift Custodian 2 nd | 3:00 p.m. -- 11:00 p.m. |
| 9. | Senior Bus Driver | 8:00 a.m. -- 4:30 p.m. |
| 10. | Weekend Laborer | 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. |

(a) No person will leave the job site for lunch until 12:00 noon

(b) Each employee will be back on the job at 1:00 p.m.

C. No person will leave the job site to return to the Public Works Building until the following designated times, or unless he/she is designated to do so by his/her supervisor:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Public Works Department | 3:00 p.m. |
| 2. | Recreation Department | 3:00 p.m. |
| 3. | Maintenance Shop | 4:00 p.m. |
| 4. | Sanitation Department | 4:30 p.m. |

Said individuals shall not leave until 5:00 p.m. and shall perform additional duties as directed by the Supervisor during said time period.

During twice per week collections in the summer, Sanitation employees' regular workweek may be scheduled within the period of Monday through Saturday.

D. All employees shall be required to work a reasonable amount of overtime (up to 2 hours) to finish a job that creates a health or safety hazard to residents, unless excused by a foreman. A designated management representative will be available by telephone.

E. The regular hours of work (as set forth above) may be changed base on efficient operations of the Township upon 14 days' notice and in emergency conditions. Any such change in hours shall be within the following parameters: 1) Between 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for the eight (8) and ten (10) hour a day employees; and 2) Between 2:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight for the second shift custodians.

F. For pay purposes, the workweek is from 12:01 a.m. Monday to 12:00 midnight Sunday.

G. Employees shall be entitled to a 15-minute break period in the morning and a 15-minute break period in the afternoon. Said break periods will occur on the job site. No morning breaks shall be taken before 9:30 a.m. or after 10:00 a.m. and no afternoon breaks shall be taken before 3:00 p.m. unless approved by a foreman. No Township vehicle shall be used to transport employees to and from home, coffee shop, or restaurant or place of eating and drinking. One person may be permitted by the foreman to obtain coffee, liquids and food for the coffee break. Signing out of vehicles being used not in the normal course of duties shall be required and usage will only be allowed after receiving approval from the foreman or supervisor. Usage will only be allowed for purposes that will benefit the municipality (i.e. test-taking for CDL licenses, etc.)

H. No employee shall have his/her work shift, workday or workweek changed for the purpose of avoiding overtime.

ARTICLE VIII

Seniority

- A. Seniority is defined as an employee's total length of service with the Township, beginning with his original date of hire.
- B. An employee who leaves the service with the Township shall accrue seniority credits in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations.
- C. If a question arises concerning two or more employees who were hired on the same date, preference shall be given to alphabetical order of the employee's last name.
- D. The Township shall maintain an accurate, up-to-date seniority roster showing the date of hire, classification and pay rate of each employee covered by this Agreement, and the Township shall furnish copies of same to the Union upon reasonable request.
- E. Seniority Log
1. The Supervisor will establish an overtime Seniority Log Book showing employees names and title and date of hire.
 2. When overtime is offered, the supervisor will use the logbook to offer overtime accordingly, i.e.

Date of hire	Name	Title	Last Worked
8/12/78	M. Jones.	Laborer	Refused 8/30
9/1/79	B. Smith	Laborer	8/30
9/3/79	J. Todd	Laborer	9/1/01
11/4/80	G. Kelly	Laborer	Refused 9/1/01
6/1/81	M. Block	Laborer	9/1/01
12/3/81	D. Brown	Laborer	

Brown is next, for overtime. When list is exhausted, it reverts to top of the list. New employees added after the last overtime is offered shall be eligible. Rotation list will continue in rotation for anyone who is on the list as of the day work is required. There is only one list for both time and one-half and double time overtime.

3. When the supervisor is unable to obtain workers in his/her department for overtime, the supervisor shall call other department supervisor to fill the overtime vacancy.
4. When the supervisor is unable to obtain overtime in the existing title, the supervisor will move to the next higher title for the overtime needs (i.e., truck driver). Each department shall keep its own logbook.

5. There shall be an overtime log book for each title and the Union representative shall have the right to review the log book on verbal request.

F. Except as otherwise provided by law, in cases of promotions, provisional promotions, demotions, layoffs, recalled vacation schedules or situations where substantially better working conditions are involved, an employee with the greatest amount of seniority shall be given preference, provided he has the ability to perform the work involved. Wherever possible, the Township agrees to promote from within the bargaining unit rather than hire from outside.

G. In the event any function of the Public Works are eliminated by way of contract with a third party which results in layoffs or loss of employees, said layoffs shall be in accordance with Department rules and regulations.

ARTICLE IX

Wages

- A. Effective January 1, 2023 employees shall receive an increase on their base salary of 1.9 %.
- B. Effective January 1, 2024 employees shall receive an increase on their base salary of 1.9 %.
- C. Effective January 1, 2025 employees shall receive an increase on their base salary of 1.9 %.
- D. Effective January 1, 2026 employees shall receive an increase on their base salary of 1.9 %.
- E. New or additional employees hired during the term of this Agreement shall be governed by the above pay scales.
- F. An 8 hour employee who has been working continuously from the start of his normal work day and works beyond 6:30 p.m. shall receive a meal allowance automatically through payroll as per the listing below. No receipt is required. Payment will be treated as payroll and taxable. An additional meal allowance of \$12.00 shall be provided for each additional 8-hour shift of continuous work. Reimbursement will not be made if Township provides meals to employees.
- G. The parties agree to commence negotiations within (10) days after the creation of a new job title covered by this Agreement for the purpose of establishing a wage for that title.
- H. An employee who performs work in a higher paid classification than his own shall be paid at the higher rate for all work performed at the higher pay classification if said higher pay classification hours worked are in excess of four (4) hours during the normal work week.
- I. Mechanics are required to furnish their own tools or equipment. All tools shall be the sole responsibility of such workman who shall maintain such tools under lock and key when not in use. Mechanics shall be provided with a Five Hundred Dollar (\$500.00) per annum allowance to be paid on December 31st for tools for the term of the contract.

J. Full time permanent Senior Citizen Bus Driver will be paid driver wages in accordance with the other union employees.

K. Bi-weekly pay shall be the method and frequency of salary payment to all employees.

L. An employee upon serving two years and one day will receive an additional \$200 added to their base annual salary. An employee upon serving five years and one day will receive an additional \$200 added to their base annual salary.

ARTICLE X

Overtime

A. An employee's regular hourly compensation rate will apply to all work up to forty (40) hours in a weekly pay period.

B. Overtime is granted only when directed by a supervisor. The following rules apply to overtime:

1. Time and one-half shall be paid for work under any of the following conditions:
 - a) All work after eight (8) hours per day or ten (10) hours for Sanitation and Weekend Laborer only.
 - b) All work after forty (40) hours per week in one week. Those hours for which time and one-half (1½) or double time is paid shall not be included in the forty (40) hour base work period.
 - c) Those employees whose regularly scheduled shift of duties requires them to work on a holiday shall receive double time pay for the hours worked plus holiday pay.
 - d) All work performed on scheduled day off.
2. Double time shall be paid for work under any of the following conditions:
 - a) Work performed on a Sunday
 - b) All work performed in excess of 16 consecutive hours

C. Insofar as practicable, overtime shall be distributed as equally as possible among employees within the same job classification and within the same department. Overtime will be rotated with the most senior employees being given the opportunity of working such overtime. The least senior qualified employees may be required to perform the necessary overtime work.

D. The Township shall provide a list of employees with overtime worked upon reasonable request by the Union.

E. Overtime shall be paid currently or at least no later than the second pay period after the overtime was performed, or the first pay period after return from vacation.

F. No employee shall have his work shift, workday, or workweek changed for the purpose of avoiding overtime.

G. All paid time off (such as vacation time, holidays, sick time and personal days) shall be considered time worked for the purpose of computing overtime pay.

H. Employees will remain eligible for overtime assignments pursuant to Section C if they:
1) have called out sick due to a family illness or a doctor's appointment; or 2) are on paid time off. However, this eligibility will not apply to overtime assignments that are a continuation of the regular work day.

ARTICLE XI

Call In Time

A. Any employee who is requested to, and does, return to work during periods other than his regularly scheduled shift shall be guaranteed pay for three (3) hours at time and one-half (1 ½) his normal rate of pay, regardless of the number of hours actually worked.

1. Anything to the contrary herein notwithstanding, the least senior qualified employee may be required to perform call-in work on a rotating basis in classification.

B. If the call-in period exceeds three (3) hours, the additional time will be paid at the rate of time and one-half.

C. Nothing contained in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, employees called in to work during the periods other than his or her regularly scheduled hours shall be compensated as of the time he or she is called, if he or she actually reports for duty within one hour of the time of the call. If the employee(s) report for work at some time later than one hour from the time of the call, compensation shall be for the period commencing with the time the employee(s) reported for work.

ARTICLE XII

Longevity

A. Longevity will be paid to all full time employees who have maintained a continuous work record with the Township as follows:

Longevity Schedule		Base salary is increased by:
10 years & one day	To 15 years	\$600 (six hundred dollars)
15 years & one day	To 20 years	\$500 (five hundred dollars)
20 years & one day	To 25 years	\$1,000 (one thousand dollars)
25 years & one day	To 30 years	\$500 (five hundred dollars)
30 years & one day	Over	\$500 (five hundred dollars)

Longevity is paid on the employee's anniversary date that is the employee date of hire and is included in the employee's base salary. Longevity is paid only one (1) time in each of the four (4) groups listed above, not each year.

This provision shall not apply to any employee hired on or after January 1, 2011.

ARTICLE XIII

Holidays and Personal Days

A. The following shall be paid holidays for all employees covered under this Agreement:

New Years' Eve
New Years' Day
Martin Luther King's Birthday
President's Day
Good Friday
Memorial Day
Juneteenth
July 4th
Labor Day
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Friday after Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve Day
Christmas Day
Columbus Day
Floating Holiday

B. Holidays which fall on Saturday shall be celebrated on the preceding Friday. Holidays that fall on a Sunday shall be celebrated on the following Monday.

C. Employees having worked two (2) years for the Township shall be entitled to: One (1) personal day off with pay that may be used for personal business provided he has given the Supervisor advance notice. Employees who have worked for the Township more than five (5) years shall be entitled to three (3) personal days with pay. Advance notice shall be a minimum one (1) day for each day off requested. Under emergency situations, the Director of Public Works or his/her designee may waive the advance notice.

D. In order to receive holiday pay, the employee shall work the day before and the day after the holiday.

E. All paid time off (such as vacation time, sick time and personal days) shall be considered time worked for the purpose of computing holiday pay.

F. Holiday pay for Sanitation and Weekend Laborer is ten (10) hours. Holiday pay for Public Works is eight (8) hours.

G. Personal/floater days will be computed in hours for payroll purposes

ARTICLE XIV

Vacation

- A. Employees shall be entitled to the following paid vacation time:

Completion of service:	up to:	Time earned:
Hire Date	One (1) year	One (1) day per month for each month of service
One (1) year & one day	Seven (7) years	Twelve (12) working days
Seven (7) years & one day	Sixteen (16) years	Fifteen (15) working days
Sixteen (16) years & one day	Twenty (20) years	Twenty (20) working days
Twenty (20) years & one day	Twenty-five (25) years	Twenty-one (21) working days
Twenty-five (25) years & one day	Thirty (30) years	Twenty-three (23) working days
Thirty years & one day		Twenty-five (25) working days

- B. Vacation time will be computed in hours for payroll purposes.
- C. Vacation pay shall be provided to the employee before the start of the vacation provided the vacation being taken is a minimum of one (1) week.
- D. Vacations will be given on a seniority basis. All employees shall submit in writing three (3) weeks in advance of the time they wish to be on vacation. The Township shall control the number of employees to be off at any given time. Any single vacation day needed will be requested twenty-four (24) hours in advance.
- E. Any unused vacation time shall be paid to the employee upon separation of employment. Said vacation time to be paid prorated for the year.
- F. Accumulation of annual vacation leave from year to year may be permitted. However, the accumulated time shall not exceed eighty (80) hours and must be utilized in the year succeeding its accumulation or will be lost.

ARTICLE XV

Sick Leave

- A. Employees shall be entitled to the following number of sick days with pay:
- 1) During the first calendar year of employment, sick days shall be earned at the rate of one sick day per month of employment up to December 31st of that calendar year.
 - 2) For each subsequent calendar year, the earned sick leave shall be fifteen (15) sick days, effective January 1st of that year.
- B. Sick leave for purposes herein is defined to mean absence of any employee from duty because of personal illness that prevents doing the usual duties of his position, exposure to contagious disease, or a short period of emergency attendance upon a member of his immediate family (as defined below) who is critically ill and requires the presence of the employee.
- C. Immediate family is defined to include mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother, sister, spouse or significant person living in the household, children or foster children, grandmother, and grandfather of the employee.
- D. Sick time shall be called in on each day of illness no later than one (1) hour after the designated starting time.
- E. If an employee is absent on sick leave for more than three (3) consecutive working days, the Township may require proof of illness from a physician. In addition, proof of illness may be required at any time in cases where a pattern of abuse exists.
- F. If an employee reports for work and works any portion of his normal shift and then leaves work for reasons of illness, he will be charged sick time for all unworked hours on an hour for hour basis.
- G. Sick leave may be accumulated without limit during each employee's length of service.
- H. An employee may use accumulated sick leave for personal illness, illness in the immediate family that requires his attendance upon the ill person, death in the immediate family, quarantine restrictions, or disabling injuries.
- I. Each employee shall have the option to sell back to the Township up to eighty (80) unused sick time hours per year, subject to the following:
1. The employee must have at least 120 hours of sick time remaining available for use as of December 31st after the days sold back are subtracted.

2. The sell back request must be submitted in writing between November 15th and December 1st.
3. Only unused sick days from the current year allotment are eligible to be sold back.
4. The Township shall make payment for sick days sold back no later than December 20th of the same year of the request.
5. Employees who become unqualified for sick time buy back between December 20th and December 31st due to additional sick time use shall have this money deducted from the last paycheck of that year.
6. Any employee with twenty-five (25) and over years of service can sell back up to eighty (80) hours of sick time from any year's allotment, provided fifteen (15) days remain on the books.

J. Sick time will be computed in hours for payroll purposes.

K. Upon retirement after a minimum of ten (10) years' service with the Township, employees may sell back up to a maximum of thirty (30) days or 30% of their unused sick time, whichever is less, not to exceed \$15,000.00.

L. The Township agrees to allow a catastrophic event policy, the terms of which shall be by separate agreement.

M. Sick leave may be donated to other employees in agreement with the rules set forth by the Township policy.

ARTICLE XVI

Death in Family

A. The Township shall grant at least three (3) consecutive working days with pay and a maximum of five (5) consecutive working days with pay at the Township Manager's discretion for death in the immediate family. This leave shall not be charged against any other leave.

B. Immediate family is defined to include mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother sister, spouse or person living in spousal relationship, children or foster children of the employee, grandmother, grandfather, or grandchild, stepchild, step-parent, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, significant member of employee's household.

C. The Township shall grant at least one (1) working day with pay and a maximum of three (3) working days with pay at the Township Manager's discretion for death of grandparents of spouse.

D. The Township shall grant one (1) working day with pay in the event of death of the employee's aunt, uncle, niece or nephew.

ARTICLE XVII

Leave of Absence

- A. The Township in accordance with Civil Service Commission regulations, statutes, and case law, shall determine leaves of absence.
- B. Seniority shall be retained and shall accumulate during medical leave. However, seniority shall not be retained and shall not accumulate during any other leave.
- C. Employees granted a leave of absence will continue to be covered under the Medical Benefits Program provided the employee makes arrangement to pay the insurance premium to the Township or the insurance carrier during the leave of absence. Health coverage required to be provided by the Family Medical Leave Act shall be provided by the Township upon submission of a request under the Family Medical Leave Act and compliance with requirements.
- D. Employees who have been granted a medical leave of absence in connection with a compensable job related injury will continue to be covered under the Medical Insurance Benefits Program of the Township and the Township will pay the insurance premiums during such injury.
- E. One (1) member of the Union who is elected or designated to attend a function of the Local District, shall be permitted to attend such functions up to four (4) days per year, with pay and shall be granted the necessary time off. In addition, one (1) member of the Union shall be permitted up to five (5) days off every year without pay to attend the Union's International Convention, subject to the above notice requirements. This right of attendance shall be governed by any conditions, restrictions, or limitations contained in the International Constitution of the Union, provided said conditions do no conflict with this paragraph. Union members may receive up to one-half day per member with pay per year for convention and international convention business. Proof of attendance is required.
- F. Permanent employees shall be granted a leave of absence without pay for the purpose of entering upon active duty with the armed services of the United States, or with an organization authorized to serve therein, or with the Armed Forces of this State in time of war or emergency, or pursuant to or in connection with the operation of any system of selective service. Employees having only temporary status who enter upon such active duty will be regarded as having resigned.
- G. A permanent employee holding a position in the classified service who is temporarily incapacitated to perform his duties (due to either physical or mental reasons), or one who wishes to engage in an appropriate course of job-related study, or any reason considered valid by the Township, may be granted a special leave of absence without pay for a period not to exceed six (6) months. Said special leave may be extended for another period not to exceed six (6) months with the approval of the Township. Any permanent employee requesting such special leave without pay shall submit his request in writing, stating the reasons why, in his opinion, the request should be granted along with the anticipated date of his return to duty.

H. Employees returning from authorized leaves of absence as defined above will be restored to their original classification at the appropriate rate of pay with no loss of seniority or any other employee rights, privileges or benefits.

I. When an employee returns from an approved leave of absence, any dues check off authorization in effect prior to the approved leave shall be reactivated.

Article XVIII

Hospitalization and Medical Benefits

- A. The Township agrees to maintain the same or better coverage of medical/hospitalization plan (medical, dental and prescription) for all employees covered under this contract, for the length of this contract.
- B. The Township agrees to provide all employees with the option for Optical Dental and Prescription at 50% co-pay.
- C. All members shall contribute to the cost of medical benefits as mandated by P.L. 2011, C.78.

ARTICLE XIX

Workers' Compensation

A. When an employee is injured on duty, he/she shall notify his/her immediate supervisor so that a Departmental Report may be prepared. The employee and his/her immediate supervisor are also required to prepare an accident report. Under the State Worker Compensation Law, an employee receives compensation for temporary disability at 70% of his/her weekly wages, which is subject to a maximum compensation as determined by the Commissioner of Labor. The employee has the option of Workman's Compensation running concurrently along with use of sick time and vacation time in order to reach 100% pay. Credit for sick and vacation leave shall continue to accrue to an employee's benefit during a leave of absence without pay for an injury for which the employee is entitled to Worker's Compensation benefit.

B. The employees shall reimburse the Township for any additional monies received pursuant to paragraph A from a third party action of judgment up to the amount paid to the employee, with the exception of the Township as a defendant, without waiver of Township's compensation rights.

C. An employee who is injured on the job and is sent home or to a hospital or who must obtain medical attention, shall receive pay at the applicable hourly rate for the balance of the employee's regular shift on that day.

ARTICLE XX

Uniforms

A. By January 31st of each year, each employee shall be authorized to purchase uniforms at a cost of \$400 from an approved vendor. Each employee is responsible for the maintenance of the uniforms.

B. In addition, employees will receive up to \$300 per year for work shoes. Said work shoes must be approved steeled toed boots or steel toed sneakers. Reimbursement for work boots will be made at any time during the year by submission of a receipt. Steel toe work shoes may also be purchased at Ricky's Army Navy Store using the voucher system, with no money being either put out by the employee, or reimbursed, if the voucher system is used.

C. The uniforms shall be worn by the employees at work. Otherwise, the employee will be sent home and lose a day's wages.

ARTICLE XXI

Discipline and Discharge

A. Employees shall only be disciplined and/or discharged for just cause and in accordance with Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulations.

B. Employees shall be entitled to notice and a hearing as to any contemplated disciplinary action. The notice shall specify the violations and the facts which constitute and support said violations. Said notice shall be served upon the employee by certified mail or in person. The hearing shall be conducted by the Township official in an impartial and fair manner with the employee being given the opportunity to hear the evidence against him to cross-examine any witnesses and to present evidence on his behalf. If the employee is dissatisfied with the decision of the Department Head, the employee may appeal to the Township Manager for a de novo hearing. Any punishment or discipline that is not appealable to the Civil Service Commission shall not be a grievable item, except as otherwise provided herein. Any disciplinary matter appealable to the Civil Service Commission is not a grievable item.

ARTICLE XXII

Grievance Procedure

A. For the purpose of this contract, a grievable matter shall be a breach, misinterpretation, or improper application of the terms of this contract or a denial of legal right, except where jurisdiction has been granted to the Civil Service Commission.

- Step 1:** (a) The aggrieved person may appeal to the Director of Public Works within ten (10) working days after the expiration of Step 1.
- (b) The Director of Public Works will answer or settle the matter within ten (10) working days after the receipt of the grievance
- Step 2:** (a) The grievant may appeal to the Township Manager within ten (10) working days after the expiration of Step 2.
- (b) The Township Manager or its representative(s) shall meet with the grievant within ten (10) days of receipt of the grievance.
- (c) The Township Manager or representative(s) shall answer or settle the matter within ten (10) working days after hearing the grievance.
- Step 3:** (a) If the grievance involves a non-disciplinary matter, the grievant may appeal to an advisory arbitrator within (10) days after the expiration of Step 3. The arbitrator shall be selected in accordance with the rules of P.E.R.C. Within thirty (30) days after the arbitrator's advisory decision is made, Council shall meet and consider the decision and advise the grievant of its decision within five (5) working days thereafter.
- (b) If the grievance involves disciplinary action resulting in punishment of a suspension of at least three (3) days and not more than five (5) days, the grievant may appeal to Council within ten (10) working days after the expiration of Step 3. Within thirty (30) days, Council shall meet and consider the grievance and advise the grievant of its decision. The grievant may then appeal within ten (10) working days to a binding arbitrator who shall be selected and who shall decide the grievance in accordance with P.E.R.C. rules.

B. Disciplinary action resulting in punishment of less than three (3) days suspension shall not be subject to any arbitration proceeding.

C. The arbitrator shall have no authority to add to, subtract from, or otherwise modify the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

D. The cost of the arbitrator shall be borne by the Township and the Union equally. Any other cost shall be borne by the party incurring it.

E. If a decision is not rendered within the time limits prescribed for decision at any step in the grievance procedure, then the grievance shall be deemed to have been denied. Nothing herein shall prevent the parties from mutually agreeing to extend or contract the time limits for processing the grievance at any step in the grievance procedure.

ARTICLE XXIII

Posting of Vacancies

- A. At least ten (10) days prior to filling any vacancies to existing positions or to newly created positions, the Township agrees to post said vacancies on the Union Bulletin Board.
- B. Management agrees to send notice to any employee who is out on vacation, sick, or on worker's compensation, and is not scheduled to return to work during the time notice is to be posted.

ARTICLE XXIV

General Provisions

- A. All employees shall be supplied with accurate job descriptions.
- B. Employees shall not be required to perform work outside of their normal duties on a regular basis.
- C. The Employer agrees to keep an accurate, up-to-date record of unused vacation time and sick time for all employees and to post it quarterly if it is not provided on the bi-weekly paycheck.
- D. The Employer agrees to provide the following:
 - 1. A locker for each employee.
 - 2. Drinking water and hot shower(s) in the Public Works Building.
 - 3. Sanitary eating facilities in the Public Works Building.
 - 4. Bathroom facilities will be provided in the Public Works Building.
- E. A representative of the Employer and the Union will meet from time to time upon request of either party to discuss items of general interest or concern which are not necessarily a grievance as such. Such meetings shall be initiated by written request of either party and a precise agenda will be established.
- F. Each employee may review the contents of his/her file upon request. A Union representative may accompany said employee while he/she reviews his/her file. The employee shall have the right to respond to any document in his/her personnel file within ten (10) working days of its receipt by the employee. Such response shall be directed to the appropriate party and shall be included in an employee's file.
- G. Upon approval of the Agreement, all warnings and reprimands and all corrective actions over twenty-four (24) months old shall be deleted from the employee's personnel file upon the request of the employee, provided there are no subsequent reprimands, warnings, corrective and/or disciplinary actions in the file. When a corrective action is removed from the file, all references to the corrective action in other documents in the file will also be deleted.
- H. All official personnel files shall be maintained in the Township Manager's Office and be available for inspection by the employee upon request. Said request shall be made at least 72 hours in advance by use of the proper form, during normal business hours and the employee may have a Union representative accompany said employee. No records shall be removed from the file but may be copied.

ARTICLE XXV

Union Business and Visitations

A. The Shop Steward or his designee, during working hours and without loss of pay, after notifying his or her supervisor may:

1. Investigate and confer on grievances and disciplinary actions not to exceed two (2) hours in any working week (said two (2) hours may not be per person).
2. Post notices on the Union Bulletin Boards.
3. Meet and confer with representatives of Council 71 on the Township's premises.
4. Time periods are as listed above unless additional time is authorized by the Employer.

B. Representatives of Council 71 may enter the Township's premises for the purpose of investigation and/or inferring on grievance, contract negotiations and disciplinary actions. Such visitations shall only be allowed after the supervisor of the particular work location is notified of the visit.

C. Whenever any employee of the Township who is a representative of the Union is mutually scheduled to participate during working hours in negotiations, grievance proceedings, conferences or meetings, he/she shall suffer no loss in regular pay or to be charged for sick leave or vacation time.

ARTICLE XXVI

Union Rights

- A. A list of new hires within the bargaining unit will be furnished to the Union within thirty (30) business days after they have been hired. The list will include the name, address, job title, salary, and date of hire.
- B. The Employer will provide the Union with an up-to-date seniority list by January 31st of each year.
- C. Representatives of the Union may be permitted to transact union business on the premises with a meeting room at all reasonable times, provided that this shall not interfere with or interrupt normal operations of the service. This shall include the following:
- 1) The right to distribute information dealing with Union business before and after work with a five (5) day notice to the Township Manager.
 - 2) The right to hold Union meetings during lunch hour or break times, as well as, before or after work with a five (5) day notice to the Township Manager.
 - 3) The use of the interoffice mail system.
 - 4) The allocation of reasonable space for the storage and display of literature and resources pertaining to Union business.
 - 5) Accessible and prominent space in each building housing Union employees for Union Bulletin Board or use of existing bulletin board.
 - 6) Conduct scheduled Union meetings on the premises with ten (10) day prior notification for availability of a room to the Township Manager.
- D. The Township Manager or designee shall notify the Union President or designee in writing no later than the close of business the following work day when:
- 1) A summary report for disciplinary action is submitted.
 - 2) An annual increment is denied.
 - 3) A formal corrective action is presented.
 - 4) A worker is sent home for the day.
 - 5) An administrative level disciplinary hearing is to be conducted.
 - 6) When an employee is discharged or suspended.
 - 7) An employee is questioned by Management in anticipation of possible disciplinary action.

ARTICLE XXVII

Equal Treatment

All employees shall be treated equally regarding terms and conditions of employment and there shall be no discrimination on account of race, religion, color, sex, age, nationality, marital status, political affiliation, union membership or union activities.

ARTICLE XXVIII

Reduction in Workforce

There will be no reduction in the overall work -force during the term of the Agreement for other than economic reasons. This is not to restrict the Township from terminating an employee for just cause pursuant to the terms of this contract and the Civil Service Commission rules and regulations.

ARTICLE XXIX

Safety and Health

- A. The Township shall at all times maintain safe and healthful working conditions, and will provide employees with any wearing apparel, tools, or devices that may be reasonably necessary to insure their safety and health.
- B. Hepatitis vaccination will be offered to all members of the Union. Employees not wishing to receive said vaccination shall sign a waiver of rights to be provided by the employer. New employees will be offered hepatitis vaccinations after thirty (30) days unless state health regulations designate otherwise.
- C. No employee will perform any extraordinary duties that may be perceived to be hazardous (i.e., tree-climbing) unless they have received proper training in the activity and have the appropriate tools, clothing and footgear.
- D. In snow emergency situations, a minimum of two (2) AFSCME bargaining unit mechanics shall be on duty at all times that mechanics are required.

ARTICLE XXX

Transportation

The Township will, if possible, supply a vehicle to be used for transportation to/from schooling, seminars, and other assignments where an employee is sent. If a vehicle is not available, and the employee must use his own vehicle, the Township will reimburse the employee at the federal rate. This amount includes the cost to the employee of fuel, insurance, vehicle wear and tear and preventative maintenance.

ARTICLE XXXI

Jury Duty

A. An employee who is summoned to serve jury duty on any grand or petit jury shall be paid in full by the Township based on a forty (40) hour week at straight-time. Any checks received by the employee for jury duty shall be turned over to the Township in recognition that they have been fully compensated. No reimbursement of wages shall be made for jury duty served on holidays and vacations.

B. Upon receipt of a summons for jury duty, the employee shall immediately notify the Township.

C. In order to receive compensation while on jury duty, the employee must comply with the following conditions:

1. The employee must notify the Township immediately upon receipt of a summons for jury service.
2. Whenever jury service is completed prior to 1:00 pm, the employee is required to telephone the Department Director and to report to work if requested.
3. At the request of Management, written proof must be presented of the time served on jury duty.

ARTICLE XXXII

Military Service

In the event that any employee volunteers for, is drafted or is otherwise called into active military service in the Armed Forces of the United States, such employee shall not, during the period of such service, lose any seniority rights, as herein provided. Upon discharge from the Armed Forces, the employee shall be offered his former position, or one of like status, provided that he/she:

1. Received a certificate of Honorable Discharge;
2. Is still qualified to perform the duties of his position; and
3. Has applied for reinstatement within ninety (90) days after discharge.

In the event that any employee is a member of a Reserve Unit of the Armed Forces of the United States, or of the National Guard, and is required to serve on maneuvers or at summer camp, the Township shall supplement the gross military pay with an amount sufficient to equal the gross pay for the normal job classification. Such supplemental pay shall not exceed a period of two (2) weeks in one (1) calendar year. All applicable federal and state laws shall supersede the language of this Agreement in the event of any inconsistency.

ARTICLE XXXIII

Contracting and Subcontracting of Public Work

During the term of this Agreement, the Township may contract out or subcontract any public work performed by the employees covered by this Agreement, which may mean the layoff of any employee covered by this Agreement.

ARTICLE XXXIV

Printing of Agreement

The Township shall be responsible for having this Agreement reproduced in sufficient quantity to be distributed to all employees in the Bargaining Unit during the term of this Agreement. The copies of the Agreement shall be made available to the Union no more than thirty (30) days after the signing of the Agreement.

ARTICLE XXXV

Fully Bargained Agreement

This Agreement represents and incorporates the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties of all bargainable issues that were or could have been the subject of negotiations. During the term of this Agreement, neither party will be required to negotiate with respect to any such matter, whether or not covered by this Agreement, and whether or not within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both parties at the time they negotiated or signed this Agreement.

ARTICLE XXXVI

Separability and Savings

A. Each and every clause of this Agreement shall be deemed separable from each and every other clause of this Agreement to the extent that in the event any clause or clauses shall be finally determined to be in violation of any law, then in such event, such clause, or clauses, only to the extent that any may be in violation shall be deemed of no force and effect and/or therein of paragraph in which the offending language may appear.

B. In the event any clause or clauses are determined to be in violation of any law, the parties agree to commence negotiations within ten (10) working days of such determination relative to the invalidated portion only.

ARTICLE XXXVII

Motor Vehicle Licenses

A. All personnel not required to possess a CDL license in the regular performance of their duties, who acquire said license(s) and agree to be called upon to perform services in an emergency which require said licenses, shall receive an additional annual compensation of \$400 for class A license and \$1000 for class B license with air break endorsement, and \$200 for the Omnibus license. This additional compensation shall not be added to the base salary.

1. Anyone receiving said compensation is subject to all applicable rules and regulations regarding said license holders. If the CDL or Omnibus license is revoked at any time during the year or the employee refuses to utilize his license for the benefit of the municipality when requested, the employee shall be immediately removed from the list and the prorated amount of compensation shall be discontinued from the employees pay.
2. In order to qualify, the employee must submit copies of his licenses to his department head by January 1st of the applicable year and indicate in writing his willingness to be called in for emergency work that utilizes said licenses. Employee will be paid at the rate of pay for said job description, subject to the other provisions of this contract. Employees must be approved for driving in the designated capacity by Township's insurance carrier. Drivers are subject to random drug testing as required by law should they accept funds for additional motor vehicle licenses.

B. All employees required to possess a CDL class A license will receive \$400, and \$1000 for class B license, subject to the provisions listed above in A-1 through A-2. This compensation shall be added to their base salary beginning January 1, 2023 and continued annually.

C. All employees required to possess an Omnibus license will receive \$200, subject to the provisions listed above in A-1 through A-2. (Those possessing class A and Omnibus licenses would receive \$600 total, those possessing class B and Omnibus licenses would receive \$500 total. Class A and class B cannot be combined, they are to be one or the other.) This compensation shall be added to the base salary and continued annually.

D. This compensation is a onetime addition to the base salary that shall be continued annually. Those who become eligible in subsequent years shall comply with the provisions of A-1 through A-2 as listed above.

E. All employees hired after January 1, 2023 will not receive an increase for an Omnibus license.

F. All employees hired after January 1, 2023 will be required to receive their CDL B license with air break endorsements within one (1) year of their hire date.

ARTICLE XXXVIII

TERMINATION AND EXTENSION

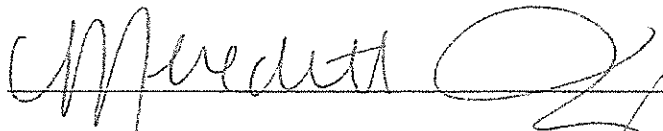
- A. These terms and conditions of employment will be effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026.
- B. Negotiations for a successor Agreement shall commence in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:12-2.1. This Agreement will remain in full force and effect during the period of successor negotiations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Township of Mount Laurel, has caused these Terms and Conditions of Employment to be signed by its duly authorized representative as of this day of

_____.

Mount Laurel Township


Kareem Pritchett, Mount Laurel Township Mayor


Meredith Tomczyk, Mount Laurel Township Manager


Ken Morrison, AFSCME Local President

Starting Salary for New Hires:

	2023 1.90%	2024 1.90%	2025 1.90%	2026 1.90%
Public Works				
Laborer	45,391.24	45,391.24	45,391.24	45,391.24
Truck Driver	48,443.93	49,364.36	50,302.29	51,258.03
Equipment Operator	52,551.92	53,550.41	54,567.86	55,604.65
Custodial Worker	48,327.04	49,245.25	50,180.91	51,134.35
Sanitation				
Laborer	47,070.38	47,070.38	47,070.38	47,070.38
Truck Driver	48,443.93	49,364.36	50,302.29	51,258.03
Mechanic	54,664.38	55,703.00	56,761.36	57,839.83
Mechanic/Weldor	60,000.00	61,140.00	62,301.66	63,485.39
Parks and Recreation				
Laborer	45,391.24	45,391.24	45,391.24	45,391.24
Truck Driver	48,443.93	49,364.36	50,302.29	51,258.03
Bus Driver	48,443.93	49,364.36	50,302.29	51,258.03
Equipment Operator	52,551.92	53,550.41	54,567.86	55,604.65

All current employees as of 12/31/22 will received 1.9% increase each year.