

**BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE**  
**Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes**  
**July 21, 2025**

Mayor Canose called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Council members Jena McCredie, Al Ribeiro, Jeff Roos, Rich Traynor, Christine Zamarra, and Ross Zazzarino. Also present were John Pidgeon, Borough Attorney, Nancy Malool, Administrator, and Anthony Suriano, Borough Clerk.

**STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER**

Notice of this meeting was provided to the Bernardsville News and Courier News, filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board on December 5, 2024.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Zazzarino moved to approve the minutes of June 16, 2025, June 23, 2025, and June 27, 2025. Ms. Zamarra seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

**OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public.

Fran Daley, Library Director, gave an update on the library renovation, noting that final touches are being completed. The public response has been very positive, especially regarding the meeting room, new paint, carpet, and children's and teen rooms. There will be a ribbon cutting the first week of September. She said traveling story time and summer programs are ongoing. The library operated a mini library in the community room during a three-week partial closure, which resulted in a slight decrease in library card sign-ups. Friends Of The Library are sponsoring summer lunches and give away 15 during the week.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Canose closed the open session.

**DISCUSSION ON ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND ITEMS OF BUISNESS**

**Ed English Park Concept at Train Station**, Michael Dwyer, Steve Moran, and Ken Malian were present and showed a concept drawing of Ed English Park at the Bernardsville Train Station. Council consent was to proceed and to have the three individuals work with the Public Works Department as needed.

**Community In Crisis, Request to Display Purple Ribbons for Overdose Awareness**, council

consent was given to a request by Community In Crisis to display purple ribbons beginning August 29<sup>th</sup>, for Overdose Awareness Day on August 31<sup>st</sup>, and to keep them up until September 29<sup>th</sup>, as September is recovery month.

### **ORDINANCES (Public Hearing) - None**

### **ORDINANCES (Introduction)**

Ms. Zamarra moved that Ordinance #2025-2024, **APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$18,000 FOR THE REPAIR OF SEWER LINE AT THE MUNICIPAL POOL**, be introduced by title, passed on first reading, published according to law, and that a public hearing be scheduled for a meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 11, 2025. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

Mr. Ribeiro moved that Ordinance #2025-2025, **AMENDING CHAPTER 20-2 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED CLEANUP OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE BY THE BOROUGH**, be introduced by title, passed on first reading, published according to law, and that a public hearing be scheduled for a meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 11, 2025. Ms. Zamarra seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

- #25-132      AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS (as of 7/2/25)**
- #25-133      AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS (as of 7/16/25)**
- #25-134      RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESTORING FULL FUNDING FOR THE MAIN STREET NEW JERSEY PROGRAM**
- #25-135      AMENDING THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH NW FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC**
- #25-136      AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION AND REFUND OF PROPERTY TAXES FOR 100% DISABLED VETERAN, 10 PARK LANE**
- #25-137      APPOINTMENT OF BARBARA GALLAGHER AS POLICE RECORDS CLERK**
- #25-138      APPROVING RECREATION SEASONAL SALARIES**
- #25-139      AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF A.B.C. LICENSES**
- #25-140      AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN OEM**

**COMMAND VEHICLE THROUGH THE BERGEN COUNTY CO-OP**

- #25-141 AUTHORIZING REFUND OF STORMWATER ESCROW ACCOUNT 04-280-7087-0100 BIONDO – 168 ANDERSON HILL ROAD**
- #25-142 INCREASING THE BID THRESHOLD TO \$53,000.00 AND QUOTE THRESHOLD TO \$7,950 AND AUTHORIZING NANCY MALOOL, ADMINISTRATOR/QPA, TO CONTINUE TO AWARD CONTRACTS UP TO THE ADJUSTED BID THRESHOLD**
- #25-143 REQUESTING AN EXTENSION TO NJDOT FOR THE TRAIN STATION AND CHILDS ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT**
- #25-144 AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF STREET OPENING ESCROW FOR A STREET OPENING PERMIT, 12 OLD ARMY ROAD**
- #25-145 AUTHORIZATION OF TAX REFUND**
- #25-146 AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 TO THE CONTRACT WITH NATIONWIDE CLEANING AND RESTORATION SERVICES, INC. FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES**
- #25-147 APPOINTING ERIC WILLIAMS AS EQUIPMENT OPERATOR B**
- #25-148 AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A POLICE VEHICLE THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NJ CO-OP**
- #25-149 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO NJDEP FOR PREVIOUSLY INCURRED AND COSTS THROUGH 9/2026 ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOROUGH'S PERMITTED WOOD WASTE RECYCLING AND LEAF COMPOSTING STORMWATER GENERAL PERMIT (WRC) FACILITY LOCATED AT 150 PILL HILL ROAD**
- #25-150 ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF SILVIA ROMERO TECHNICAL ASSISTANT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL**
- #25-151 ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF RICHARD MICKLES POLICE DISPATCHER**
- #25-152 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT WITH RPM FOR THE MOUNT AIRY ROAD 100% AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

- #25-153 APPOINTMENT OF KATHERINE BATTISTE AS A CROSSING GUARD**
- #25-154 APPROVING JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE FIRE COMPANY**
- #25-155 APPROVING A SWIM TEAM INVITATIONAL MEET AT THE BERNARDSVILLE MUNICIPAL POOL**

Mr. Traynor moved to pass Resolutions #25-132 to #25-155, except #25-139. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved with the following roll call vote: Ms. McCredie, Mr. Ribeiro, Mr. Roos, Mr. Traynor, Ms. Zamarra, and Mr. Zazzarino voted yes.

### **REPORTS**

**Mayor's Update**, on June 27<sup>th</sup> Mayor Canose officiated her 21<sup>st</sup> wedding ceremony. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Canose did a ribbon cutting at Success on the Spectrum. On July 10<sup>th</sup>, there was a Somerset Hills Safety Committee meeting with a presentation on HAAS alert. Mayor Canose said this presentation facilitated a meeting between the Fire Company, First Aid Squad, and City MD. There is a Library Board meeting and tour on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Canose will have a meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup> with FlashVote to review the survey results. Main Street Bernardsville's Car Show was postponed from July 20<sup>th</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup>. They will setup in the train station lot and on Route 202 and not in the Library lot. Mayor Canose said Bernardsville has been added to the NYU City Health Dashboard. Mayor Canose said she will be away on September 11<sup>th</sup> which is when we have a ceremony at the Library in memory of the two residents we lost on September 11<sup>th</sup> that we have plaques for at the Library. She asked council to think about if they would be able to attend on her behalf.

Mayor Canose appointed Andrew Mallia to the Planning Board to fill the unexpired term of Karen Gardner to December 31, 2025.

**Administrator's Report**, Ms. Malool said council introduced an ordinance earlier in this meeting appropriating \$18,000 for repair of the sewer line at the pool. She said we have spent \$101,000 in pool repairs due to lack of maintenance and neglect in the past for things that should have been dealt with and kept up. She said this is an advantage of bringing in a pool company in that they can identify things that should have been happening that were not. Ms. Malool said that NJ Transit has made multiple site visits to the train station building and she received an email that their staff is developing a plan for short and long term repairs. Ms. Malool talked about the Post Office. She said she has reached out over the last year and they keep saying they have identified a possible location but they will not say where. Ms. Malool said she has been in touch with Congressman Kean's office to see if they had any more information.

Mr. Zazzarino moved to accept the monthly reports. Mr. Ribeiro seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance**, Mr. Ribeiro said the Finance Committee discussed the debt plan given the affordable housing obligation, bond ordinance, and other spending such as requests coming from emergency first responders. He said the committee feels like we are in a good place from a borough debt perspective. He said the level of the debt dips and then comes back up and is essentially flat to where it was last year. He said it shouldn't have an impact on taxes and there could be ways to pay down that debt even further.

**Board of Health**, Ms. McCredie said the Board noted there was a rabies positive test recently in town. There was a recent blood pressure screening event and they are looking for ways to get more attendance for future events.

**Library**, Mayor Canose said there is a program at the Library, also sponsored by the Mayor's Wellness Committee, called "Your House Wants to Kill You and Take Your Money Too!".

## **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **Correspondence**

**Main Street, Ladies Night Out – August 15<sup>th</sup>**, council consent was given to Main Street Bernardsville's request to close the right turn at Olcott Square for Ladies Night Out on August 15th. It was noted that they would still need to contact the Police Department and NJDOT for their permission/approval.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Highlands**, Ms. Zamarra asked about the status of joining The Highlands. It was noted that Jessica Caldwell, Planner, needs to prepare an ordinance in order to move forward.

### **New Business**

**Somerset Hills Village**, Mr. Ribeiro thanked OEM Coordinator Tim Richard and Ms. Malool for helping residents of Somerset Hills Village with a water line rupture over a recent weekend.

## **OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public.

Fran Daley, Library Director, said the program mentioned earlier by the Mayor titled "Your House Wants to Kill You and Take Your Money Too!" is on July 30th at 1:00pm.

Hearing no further comments from the public, Mayor Canose closed the open session.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved to adjourn to an executive session to consider Attorney/Client Privilege and Contract Negotiations and that the time when and circumstances under which the matter can be disclosed to the public is when it is finally resolved. The motion was seconded and approved with six yes votes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

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