

**BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE**  
**Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes**  
**August 11, 2025**

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

**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**

**Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month**, Mayor Canose read a proclamation regarding Ovarian Cancer Awareness month in September.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. McCredie moved to approve the minutes of July 21, 2025. Mr. Zazzarino seconded and the motion was approved with four yes votes.

**OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public.

Laurie Griffith, 25 Mill Street property owner, spoke about an item on the agenda later in the meeting titled “Temporary Street Parking Request Due To Parking Lot Maintenance at 25 Mill Street”. Council consent was given to residents of 25 Mill Street to park in two-hour street parking spaces and have color cards displayed to allow them to park for more than two hours during the paving of the parking lot at 25 Mill Street.

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

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

**Deer Management**, council consent was given to Sustainable Habitat Solutions to handle deer management for the 2025 season.

**Temporary Street Parking Request Due To Parking Lot Maintenance at 25 Mill Street**, this item was discussed in open session earlier in the meeting.

**Request from Fire Chief to Amend Ordinance Regarding Joining the Fire Department**, council consent was to amend the ordinance. This item will be on for discussion at the September work agenda.

**Turn The Towns Teal Request to Hang Teal Ribbons in September**, council consent was given for teal ribbons to be hung throughout town by Turn The Towns Teal.

**Special Events Permit**, Mr. Pidgeon will prepare an ordinance for discussion at the September work agenda. It was noted that we should lower the number of people for a special event from 250 to 100.

**Borough Holiday Schedule in December**, council consent was given to trade Columbus Day for the Friday after Christmas.

**Fire Company Training at Municipal Pool**, council consent was given to the Fire Company to hold a water training session at the municipal pool on a future Monday.

### **ORDINANCES (Public Hearing)**

Mayor Canose opened the public hearing on Ordinance #2025-2024, **APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$18,000 FOR THE REPAIR OF SEWER LINE AT THE MUNICIPAL POOL**. Hearing no comments, Mayor Canose closed the public hearing. Mr. Traynor moved to adopt this ordinance on final reading and adopt as published. Mr. Zazzarino seconded and the motion was approved with the following roll call vote: Ms. McCredie, Mr. Traynor, Ms. Zamarra, and Mr. Zazzarino voted yes.

Mayor Canose opened the public hearing on Ordinance #2025-2025, **AMENDING CHAPTER 20-2 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED CLEANUP OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE BY THE BOROUGH**. Hearing no comments, Mayor Canose closed the public hearing. Mr. Zazzarino moved to adopt this ordinance on final reading and adopt as published. Mr. Traynor seconded and the motion was approved with the following roll call vote: Ms. McCredie, Mr. Traynor, Ms. Zamarra, and Mr. Zazzarino voted yes.

### **ORDINANCES (Introduction)**

Ms. Zamarra moved that Ordinance #2025-2026, **AMENDING SECTION 11-4 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED “REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTIES PENDING FORECLOSURE”**, 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, September 29, 2025. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved with four yes votes.

## RESOLUTIONS

- #25-156**      **AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS (as of 8/6/25)**
- #25-157**      **AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2025**
- #25-158**      **AUTHORIZATION OF TAX REFUND**
- #25-159**      **AMENDING RESOLUTION #24-228, *Requesting the extension of the contract award deadline in connection with the Safe Routes to Transit Program Grant Funding for the West Street and Boylan Terrace Safe Routes to Transit Project*, TO REQUEST TO EXTEND THE DATE TO AWARD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**
- #25-160**      **AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THOMAS CANIZE FOR REASSESSMENT INSPECTIONS**
- #25-161**      **APPROVING MEMBERSHIP IN THE FIRE COMPANY**
- #25-162**      **APPROVING A FIREWORKS PERMIT AT UPTON PYNE ESTATE**
- #25-163**      **APPOINTING GARRETT BUCHANAN AS RECREATION ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**
- #25-164**      **AWARDING A CONTRACT WITH CROSSROADS PAVING FOR THE WEST STREET AND BOYLAN TERRACE SAFE ROUTES TO TRANSIT PROJECT**
- #25-165**      **APPOINTING CARYN NERI AS EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**
- #25-166**      **AUTHORIZING A SALARY INCREASE FOR JENELLE SORISI FOR DEPUTY REGISTRAR DUTIES**
- #25-167**      **AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH NJ AMERICAN WATER COMPANY FOR A WATER MAIN EXTENSION**
- #25-168**      **APPOINTING DOMINIQUE MARCHIE AS TECHNICAL ASSISTANT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL (TACO)**

Ms. McCredie moved to pass Resolutions #25-156 to #25-168. Ms. Zamarra seconded and the motion was approved with the following roll call vote: Ms. McCredie, Mr. Traynor, Ms. Zamarra, and Mr. Zazzarino voted yes.

## REPORTS

**Mayor's Update**, Mayor Canose said she recently met with Ms. Malool and the County Engineer regarding the Five Corners intersection. Somerset County is now reviewing the location and developing solutions to improve safety for both motorists and pedestrians. Mayor Canose attended a county meeting regarding preparations for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which will include countywide events as well as individual celebrations in each municipality. She said she reached out to local organizations and the library, veterans' groups, and recreation have expressed interest in participating. Mayor Canose said she attended the annual Peach Festival at the Farmers Market, where she presented the award for the winning basket. Mayor Canose said there is a program at the library called, "*Your House Wants to Chill You and Take Your Money Too*," sponsored by the Mayor's Wellness Committee. Mayor Canose thanked the Police Department for hosting National Night Out on August 5<sup>th</sup> and acknowledged Public Works Director, Kevin Murray, for constructing stairs to improve access for children to view the loader at the event. Mayor Canose expressed condolences and announced the passing of John Sweeney, Council President of Peapack-Gladstone, and longtime resident Tony Ferrante, husband of former Recreation Director Cheryl Ferrante. Upcoming events were announced, including *Ladies' Night Out* on August 15<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by Main Street; the rescheduled Main Street Car Show later in September; and *Bernardsville – Taste of Our Town* on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, co-sponsored by Main Street and the Somerset Hills Rotary as a fundraiser for the Fire Department. Mayor Canose said ten local restaurants have already committed to participating. Mayor Canose noted that *Opioid Overdose Awareness Day* will be observed on August 31<sup>st</sup>, with Community In Crisis hosting a vigil at 8:00 p.m. and a display of purple lights and ribbons in recognition. Mayor Canose said she will be away for the September 11<sup>th</sup> service and is looking for someone to handle that. Ms. Zamarra volunteered. Mayor Canose announced that after several years of work, Bernardsville has been designated as a Transit Village by the State of New Jersey. She explained that the program promotes transit-supportive uses downtown—such as housing, offices, shops, restaurants, services, and other amenities—in order to have a walkable, vibrant community. The designation provides eligibility for additional state funding and grants, which may support the completion of the pedestrian walkway to the train station. Mayor Canose said both short-term and long-term maintenance improvements at the train station are now being addressed by NJ Transit. Mayor Canose thanked Ms. Malool for her contributions in preparing maps and supporting application materials, as well as Chris Colley of Topology for his assistance.

**Administrator's Report**, Ms. Malool said the Borough is the 37<sup>th</sup> municipality in the state to achieve Transit Village designation. The designation also opens opportunities for additional NJDOT grants and technical assistance. Ms. Malool said she will reach out to Administrators in other Transit Village towns to see how best to maximize the benefits. Ms. Malool thanked Officer Chris LaPorta, Officer Saif Naqvi, Fire Prevention Official Steve Waters, the Fire Department, Recreation Director Tom Silvia, Assistant Recreation Director Stephanie Brown, Director of Public Works Kevin Murray, and the Public Works crew for their support of recent community events. Ms. Malool spoke about progress toward joining The Highlands. She said adopting an ordinance is the next big step but prior to that we need to do a Center Designation Study. She said that will essentially carve out the area downtown that is going to be exempt from The Highlands restrictions. Ms. Malool said Jessica Caldwell is working on this and it is

expected to be completed in December along with a presentation to council. It will be fully funded by a grant from The Highlands. Ms. Malool said that road paving is scheduled for mid-October. She said the roads are Stirling Road, Cedar Lane, Dogwood Court, Holly Ridge Court, Skyline Drive, and Hardscrabble Road from Chestnut Avenue to Jockey Hollow Road.

Mr. Zazzarino moved to accept the monthly reports. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved with four yes votes.

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS - None**

### **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

#### **Correspondence**

**Email from Raritan Headwaters, Re: Well Test Report 2025**, an email was received from Samantha LaRocca of Raritan Headwaters with a summary of this year's testing event and groundwater data. The email stated there were twice as many residents participate this year compared to last year.

**Plan Conformance Grant Agreement Letter**, Mayor Canose said we received a letter stating funding within Bernardsville Borough's Plan Conformance Grant Agreement has been reserved to provide the not-to-exceed sum of \$20,000.

#### **Unfinished Business**

**Recreation Pavilion**, Ms. McCredie asked about the status of the pavilion. Ms. Malool said Joe Vuich is working with an architect to redraw the plans and DPW will be involved in a lot of the work.

#### **New Business** – None

### **OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public. Hearing no comments from the public, Mayor Canose closed the open session.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved to adjourn to an executive session to consider Personnel Matters 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 four yes votes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

