

BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE
Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2023

Mayor Mary Jane Canose called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Council Members Jay Ambelang, Diane Greenfield, Jena McCredie, Al Ribeiro, and Christine Zamarra. Also present were John Pidgeon, Borough Attorney, Nancy Malool, Administrator, and Anthony Suriano, Borough Clerk. Council Members Chad McQueen arrived at 7:10pm.

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 15, 2022.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Greenfield moved approval of minutes from September 11, 2023 and September 25, 2023. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved with five yes votes.

OPEN SESSION

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public.

Kathleen Williams, Round Top Road, discussed drainage issues she is having on her property on Round Top Road.

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

ORDINANCES (Public Hearing)

Mayor Canose continued the public hearing on Ordinance #2023-1981, **MAKING DETACHED ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS A PERMITTED ACCESSORY USE IN THE R-1 AND R-1-10 ZONES AND SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING ARTICLE 12 OF THE BOROUGH LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ENTITLED “ZONING”** from November 13, 2023 at 7:00pm. Sal Giordano, Dryden Road, said he sent the Mayor and Council an email as he just wanted them to be aware of the definitional differences between an Accessory Dwelling Unit on a single-family lot and a multi-family lot. No motion was made and this ordinance was referred to the Borough Planner.

Mayor Canose opened the public hearing on Ordinance #2023-1986, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE #2023-1955**. Hearing no comments, Mayor Canose closed the public hearing. Ms. Zamarra moved to pass this ordinance on final reading and adopt

as published. Ms. Greenfield seconded and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote. Mr. Ambelang, Ms. Greenfield, Ms. McCredie, Mr. Ribeiro, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes.

ORDINANCES (Introduction)

Ms. Greenfield moved that Ordinance #2023-1987, **AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION CODE FEES AND AMENDING CHAPTER 12 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "BUILDING AND HOUSING"**, 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, December 11, 2023. Ms. Zamarra seconded and the motion was passed with five yes votes.

Mr. McQueen arrived at 7:10pm

RESOLUTIONS

- #23-230 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**
- #23-231 APPROVING MEMBERSHIP IN THE FIRE COMPANY**
- #23-232 AUTHORIZING AN ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH ANIMAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS, LLC**
- #23-233 AMENDING THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH MCMANIMON, SCOTLAND, & BAUMANN, LLC**
- #23-234 APPOINTING ANTOINE HAJJAR AS ENGINEER/LAND SURVEYOR**
- #23-235 APPROVING USE OF MORRIS COUNTY CO-OP CONTRACT #14 FOR THE PURCHASE OF CATCH BASIN CASTINGS**
- #23-236 AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR 2024 EMERGENCY TREE PRUNING/REMOVAL**
- #23-237 REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS PER NJSA 40A:4-87 NJ HEALTH CARE QUALITY INSTITUTE MAYOR'S WELLNESS GRANT**
- #23-238 REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS PER NJSA 40A:4-87 STATE OF NEW JERSEY WATER RESOURCES PLANNING MANAGEMENT STORMWATER ASSISTANCE GRANT**
- #23-239 APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

#23-240

**AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR LIBRARY RESTROOM
RENOVATIONS**

Mayor Canose thanked Zach Barral for volunteering to join the Bernardsville Fire Company. Mr. Ribeiro moved to adopt Resolutions #23-230 to #23-240. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote. Mr. Ambelang, Ms. Greenfield, Ms. McCredie, Mr. McQueen, Mr. Ribeiro, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor's Update, Mayor Canose and Ms. Malool attended the New Jersey League of Municipalities conference from November 14th to 16th; Mayor Canose attended the Sustainable Jersey luncheon with Jeff Hammond and the Borough received Bronze Certification; Mayor Canose did her 13th wedding ceremony at Borough Hall; St. Bernards celebrated their 125th anniversary on November 19th and invited people that have given service to the community to a special thanksgiving service; the Personnel Committee met last Monday for interviews for an Engineer/Land Surveyor, with the appointment being done earlier in tonight's meeting; Saturday was Small Business Saturday which was well attended; Saturday, December 2nd, at 4:00pm, is the tree lighting; the holiday parade is also December 2nd and is being held at 6:00pm from Bernardsville Centre to Church Street and into the High School; December 16th is the Wreaths Across America ceremony at St Bernard's Cemetery at 2:00 pm.

Administrator's Report, Ms. Malool said at the New Jersey League of Municipalities conference, Mayor Canose was honored with the Outstanding Women In Municipal Government Award for her contributions and dedicated service towards the advancement of women officials in government.

Ms. Greenfield moved to accept the monthly reports as listed on the agenda. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee, Ms. Greenfield said the committee met on the November 16th and discussed the following: holiday activities and plans; police accreditation; new police officers are doing well at the Academy and Briana Stednick is working in the Police Department part of the time; the new SLEO III at Bernards High School speaks Spanish, which is a big plus, and we've had positive feedback; Far Hills Country Day is looking for SLEO III; vehicle backlog issues; 2024 budget preparation; maintenance contract increases.

Finance Committee, Mr. Ribeiro said the committee met on November 17th and discussed the following: Police contract negotiations; the next meeting is on Thursday, November 30th with the Library leadership to talk about the 2024 budget; the following Friday the committee will have its first budget meeting to prep on the 2024 budget.

Organization Development and Personnel Committee, Mayor Canose said the committee discussed the hiring of our engineer candidate.

Engineering, Technology, and Public Works Committee, Ms. Zamarra said the committee discussed the Pavilion; leaf pickup is coming to a close; Sewer and Facilities are handling their usual day to day tasks; today was Facilities Manager Doug Walker's last day and he gave a written summary of all the projects that are in progress; mill and paves were done on Highview Avenue Extension, Columbia Drive, and Olcott Avenue; there will be no more mill and paves for the rest of year; we received a grant for Campbell Road improvements; since it is a Federal grant for the West Street/Boylan Terrace sidewalk project, we are required to present three plans; the Bernards Avenue roadway project looks great and residents are very happy with it; the Library roof replacement and Library restroom renovation projects are all going according to plan; the dam project was discussed including stream restoration.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Land Use Committee, Mr. Ribeiro said the committee discussed the Quimby Village project, the status of ownership of the properties, and what would happen to the Post Office. They will have a follow up public meeting with our new Planner on Wednesday, November 29th.

Planning Board, Mr. McQueen said the Board reviewed Mill Street and Claremont Road, had the first hearing on Bernards Avenue low income housing; the next meeting is on December 14th and will include Claremont LLC, which is a multi-family residential plan for 114 Claremont Road; they will also be hearing Mine Brook Road Urban Renewal Associates and a first time applicant.

Environmental Commission, Ms. Zamarra said the Styrofoam recycling is going very well; the Commission has been providing feedback for Planning Board applications.

Board of Health, Mr. Ribeiro said the Board discussed the Health Department contract between the various municipalities that are involved in it; the Visiting Nurse Association is used to conducting vaccination clinics and testing, but they are no longer engaging in municipal work. The Bernards Township Health Department has found a different Community Visiting Nurse Association which are continuing the same services at the same price.

Recreation Committee, Ms. Greenfield said the Committee met on November 14th and discussed the Polo Grounds Pavilion plans and voted on the building exterior design; winter Recreation programming was discussed; Kirkpatrick Park trail repairs are complete; the second Trail at the site, Blue Trail, is in the process of being completed and marked; Laurelwood/Round Top Trail is open and in good shape.

Housing/Zoning Committee, Ms. Greenfield said the Committee met on November 17th and discussed the possibility of going back to in-person meetings; they discussed new hires and the reorganization of the Zoning office; they talked about sign ordinance enforcement; they discussed the draft of the committee's year-end report.

HPAC, Ms. Greenfield said the Committee did not meet.

Library Board of Trustees, Mr. Ambelang said the Board had two new members that council approved at the last meeting; they discussed the restroom renovations and elected a nominating Chair; the Library Foundation provided their second payment to make up for the budget shortfall for 2023.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Pavilion

Council consent was to choose Elevation Option #1 for the Pavilion as shown in a slide presentation. It was noted that the Recreation Committee and Public Works Committee also chose this option.

Lacrosse Bounce Back Wall

Nick Hemans, Old Army Road resident/BHS Teacher & Coach/Somerset Hills Lacrosse Board Member, discussed a slide presentation showing a lacrosse bounce back wall that he would like to be installed at the Polo Grounds for players to practice on. He said he is looking for the project to be completed in the spring. Council consent was given and it was noted that the Borough Engineer will assist with this project.

Mayor's Appointment of Marc Walden to the concurrent term Planning Board Class II/Environmental Commission (unexpired to 12/31/25)

Mayor Canose announced the appointment of Marc Walden to the Planning Board, Class II Member, and the Environmental Commission.

Correspondence - None

Unfinished Business

2024 Meeting Schedule, Ms. Zamarra asked about the date of the Council Reorganization meeting. It was decided to hold it on January 2, 2024 at 7:00pm. Council consent was to hold a Work Meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month and a Regular Meeting on the 4th Monday of the month.

New Business

Meeting Recordings, Mr. Ambelang said that recordings of public meetings should be available online or on YouTube. Council agreed. Ms. Malool said she has asked Chris D'Amato to make them available online.

OPEN SESSION

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public.

Aaron Duff, Crestview Drive, asked if the Council Work Meetings will be recorded and available online given the new Work/Regular meeting format. Ms. Malool said while it will not be live streamed, there will be an audio recording available online the following day.

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 Personnel Matters and Attorney/Client Privilege 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 10:35pm.
