

**BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE**  
**Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes**  
**December 11, 2023**

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

**STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER**

Notice of this meeting was provided to the Bernardsville News, Courier News and the Star Ledger, filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board on December 15, 2022.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**2024 Shamrock Shuffle, School of Saint Elizabeth**

This item was moved up to this point in the meeting. Council consent was given to the School of Saint Elizabeth to hold the 2024 Shamrock Shuffle.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Car Thefts**, Police Chief John Remian spoke about recent car thefts in town, gave statistics about car thefts in Somerset County and the State of New Jersey, and suggested ways to prevent car thefts.

Joe Rossi, Crest Drive, spoke about license plate readers, how they are used, and the technology used in them.

Andy Yawger, Fox Hollow Trail, asked if there is a plan to have more law enforcement shifts at certain hours and if the Police Department sees a pattern developing in car thefts in certain neighborhoods. Chief Remian said the Police Department is open to anything they can do for the better of the community.

Rodrigo Nunez, Fox Hollow Trail, suggested a comprehensive plan with the Police Department and other resources. He suggested cameras, being able to PING cell phone towers, AI facial recognition, seeing if the community as a whole could get a better rate for a company such as ADT, and communication. Chief Remian talked about a neighborhood watch program.

Joe Rossi, Crest Drive, said he wanted to talk about an area in town that needs a Police Officer present. Mayor Canose said this presentation with Chief Remian is about car thefts. Chief Remian will speak to Mr. Rossi in future about his concern.

David Dean, North Finley Avenue, spoke about cameras and technology being a solution to preventing car thefts.

**Joe Platt, Traffic Planning & Design**, Mr. Platt spoke about a potential agreement with the Borough of Bernardsville. The scope of services would be the following: review the Borough Code related to parking; review codes for consistency; identify gaps in code requirements; make recommendations regarding current industry parking best practices; meet with Borough staff and professionals to discuss preliminary findings, as well as recurring issues, with current parking regulations; prepare a memorandum of findings and recommendations for the Borough's consideration; if requested, review the findings and recommendations with the Borough Council and/or Land Use Boards at a regularly scheduled meeting.

### **OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public.

Joe Rossi, Crest Drive, said there is an issue of stacking on Bernards Avenue with 20 people living in a house. He said there is also a parking problem with cars parking on lawns, in no-parking zones, and in areas that affect garbage trucks passing through. He said it also affects fire trucks and snow plowing. Mr. McQueen said the Public Safety Committee will discuss. Mayor Canose said the stacking issue should be brought to the Zoning Department. Ms. Greenfield suggested Mr. Rossi tell residents when they see an issue they should call the Police or Zoning directly instead of calling him.

Fran Daley, Library Director, thanked the Police Department, Fire Department, and Department of Public Works for assisting last week in the Library with a burning plastic smell they had. She said following recent comments about recordings of meetings being posted online for transparency, it's a great to share the Zoom links but there is different layer that becomes a storage difficulty over time. She said she'd like to encourage the minutes to be the record of the meeting and the meeting to be fully accessible.

Kathleen Williams, Round Top Road, spoke about a drainage problem she is having at her home on Round Top Road.

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

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

Mayor Canose opened the public hearing on **Ordinance #2023-1987, AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION CODE FEES AND AMENDING CHAPTER 12 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "BUILDING AND HOUSING"**. Hearing no comments, Mayor Canose closed the public hearing. Ms. Greenfield moved to adopted Ordinance #2023-1987 and adopt as published. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved with the following roll call vote: Mr. Ambelang, Ms. Greenfield, Ms. McCredie, Mr. McQueen, Mr. Ribeiro, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes.

## **ORDINANCES (Introduction)**

Mr. Ribeiro moved that **Ordinance #2023-1988, CONCERNING SEWER CONNECTION FEES AND SEWER USER RATES AND ALLOCATION AND AMENDING CHAPTER XVI OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED “SEWER REGULATIONS”** be introduced by title, passed on first reading, published according to law, and that a public hearing be scheduled for a meeting beginning at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 26, 2023, remote only via Zoom. Mr. McQueen seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

- #23-241      AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**
- #23-242      AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF SILVIA ROMERO-MORA, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR**
- #23-243      AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR CAMPBELL ROAD REPAIRS**
- #23-244      ESTABLISHING DECAL FEES AND OTHER REGULATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS DURING 2024**
- #23-245      ACCEPTING DONATION OF A VEHICLE FROM THE BERNARDSVILLE FIRE COMPANY**
- #23-246      APPROVING THE 2024 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**
- #23-247      AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF ISABELLE BONGIOVANNI, TAX CLERK/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**
- #23-248      AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF LOGAN DECICCO, ASSISTANT RECREATION DIRECTOR**
- #23-249      APPROVING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**
- #23-250      APPOINTING KATHERINE E. HOWES MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2024 – DECEMBER 31, 2026**
- #23-251      APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE SHARED COURT FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024**

- #23-252 APPOINTING A PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE SHARED MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024**
- #23-253 AMENDING THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH PAULUS, SOKOLOWSKI, AND SARTOR, LLC**
- #23-254 AMENDING THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH MCMANIMON, SCOTLAND, & BAUMANN, LLC**
- #23-255 AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS**
- #23-256 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH PARKMOBILE FOR PARKING IN BOROUGH PARKING LOTS**

Ms. Greenfield moved to adopt Resolutions #23-241 to #23-256. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved with the following roll call vote: Mr. Ambelang, Ms. Greenfield, Ms. McCredie, Mr. McQueen, Mr. Ribeiro, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes.

## **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **Mayor's Update**

Mayor Canose said on November 28th the Salvation Army was at ShopRite and had a successful campaign; Mayor Canose attended the ELC lunch which is run through the Somerset County Business Partnership; Mayor Canose attended a ribbon cutting at Community In Crisis for their new Community Center; the tree lighting and holiday parade was well attended on December 2nd; there was a meeting on December 4th with new Planner Jessica Caldwell, along with Matt Jessup and Advance Realty to discuss Quimby; Mayor Canose is working on our application for Healthy Town, which is due in January and part of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign; Mayor Canose and Ms. Malool attended a shared court meeting; the Bernardsville Law Enforcement Foundation paid for the annual Police Department breakfast on December 8th at Roxiticus; the Menorah lighting got postponed to December 12th at Bernardsville Centre; Mayor Canose and Mr. Ribeiro attended the Somerset County Business Partnership's annual meeting earlier in the day, where Olivia Manning was honored; December 13th is the Somerset County Governing Officials holiday dinner; December 16th will be the Wreaths Across America ceremony at St. Bernards.

### **Administrator's Update**

Ms. Malool did not have a report.

### **A Hole Lot of Fun, Friends of the Bernardsville Library**

Council consent was given to the Friends of the Bernardsville Library to hold the event A Hole Lot of Fun. The event includes liquor being served and the Friends will apply to the ABC for a Social Affair Permit.

### **Transportation**

Mayor Canose said we had a proposal from Somerset County for \$143.42 for one day per week. She said she talked to the School District to see if they could provide a driver and a small school bus for about the same time period. The cost would be \$96 for one day per week. Council had no objections to an agreement with the School District. The School District is reviewing a proposed agreement.

### **Correspondence – None**

### **Unfinished Business**

Bernards Avenue, Mr. McQueen asked about the status of striping on Bernards Avenue. Mayor Canose said we are waiting for our new Engineer who starts in January to review. Mr. McQueen said he feels it needs to be striped and have parking.

### **New Business**

Overnight Parking, Mr. Ribeiro said he has heard from a resident about this topic. Mr. McQueen said the topic of overnight parking should be added to Joe Platt's assessment along with commuter parking.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved to adjourn to an executive session to consider Contract Negotiations, Collective Bargaining, Attorney/Client Privilege, Personnel Matters, and Pending Litigation 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 9:45p.m.

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