

**BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE**  
**Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes**  
**December 26, 2023**

Mayor Mary Jane Canose called this meeting to order at 2:00 p.m remotely via Zoom only. 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 2:10pm.

**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 and supplemented on November 30, 2023 to change the start time to 2:00pm and indicate the meeting is remote only via Zoom

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRESENTATIONS - None**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Greenfield move to approve the minutes of October 10, 2023, October 23, 2023, and November 13, 2023. Ms. Zamarra 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, 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.

Mr. McQueen arrived at 2:10pm.

**ORDINANCES (Public Hearing)**

Mayor Canose opened the public hearing on **Ordinance #2023-1988, CONCERNING SEWER CONNECTION FEES AND SEWER USER RATES AND ALLOCATION AND AMENDING CHAPTER XVI OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED “SEWER REGULATIONS”**. Hearing no comments, Mayor Canose closed the public hearing. Ms. Greenfield moved to pass Ordinance #2023-1988 on final reading and adopt as published. Mr. Ribeiro 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) - None**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

- #23-257      AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**
- #23-258      AUTHORIZATION OF SEWER REFUND**
- #23-259      AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION**
- #23-260      AUTHORIZATION OF SEWER REFUND**

Regarding Resolution #23-259, Mr. Ambelang said while he does not believe there were any records withheld in the OPRA request regarding redevelopment records, he hopes in the future we can have an aspiration to be more transparent both from a fiscal perspective and an openness perspective. Ms. Greenfield moved to pass Resolutions #23-257 through #23-260. Ms. Zamarra 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.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mayor's Update**, on December 12th Mayor Canose attended the Somerset County Planning Partners meeting; December 12th was the lighting of the Menorah at Bernardsville Centre; Somerset County Governing Officials met on December 13th to elect new officers for 2024; the Borough's holiday lunch took place on December 15th; Wreaths Across America was held on December 16th at St. Bernards Cemetery. Mayor Canose thanked Ms. Greenfield for serving on the Borough Council for the past two years.

**Administrator's Report**, Ms. Malool had nothing new to report.

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

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Public Safety Committee**, Ms. Greenfield said the committee did not meet.

**Finance Committee**, Mr. Ribeiro said the committee did not meet and has their next meeting scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Organization Development and Personnel Committee**, Mayor Canose said the committee met on December 20th to interview Labor Attorneys and are recommending the firm of DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C.

**Engineering, Technology, and Public Works Committee**, Ms. Malool said the committee did

not meet.

## **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Land Use Committee**, Mayor Canose said the committee did not meet.

**Planning Board**, Mr. McQueen said the Board approved the first piece of affordable housing which is the Bernards Avenue property.

## **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **Somerset Hills Lacrosse Club Temporary Signs (display for more than two week period)**

Council consent was given to Somerset Hills Lacrosse for their temporary signs to go up for the full period of 12/22/23 to 2/28/24 for the locations that are fields (141 Seney, Kiwanis Field, Veterans Memorial Field). For the other requested locations (Olcott Square, Finley/202, Library), council consent was to allow two weeks, take the signs away for a month then put them back for two weeks, so it's not a continuous period of two months which would allow for other organizations to display signs.

Lacrosse Bounce Back Wall

### **Correspondence** - None

### **Unfinished Business**

**Auto License Plate Reader**, Mr. Ribeiro said he's interested in pursuing more conversations about this topic. Ms. Malool said she, Mr. Ribeiro, and Chief Remian should meet to discuss and then make a recommendation to the Public Safety Committee.

### **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 Contract Negotiations, Property Acquisition, and Collective Bargaining (Public Works and PBA) 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 3:00pm.

