

BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE
Mayor and Council Reorganization Meeting
January 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER

Notice of this meeting was provided to the Bernardsville News, Courier-News, Star Ledger, filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk, and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board on December 24, 2020.

OATHS OF OFFICE & PRESENTATIONS

Oaths of Office were administered to the following: Christine Zamarra for the office of Borough Council for a three year term expiring December 31, 2023; Thomas O'Dea, Jr., for the office of Borough Council for a three year term expiring December 31, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mary Jane Canose. Present were Council Members John Donahue, Jena McCredie, Chad McQueen, Jeff Hammond, Thomas O'Dea, Jr., and Christine Zamarra.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

Mayor Canose gave the Mayor's Annual Address.

2021 Bernardsville Mayor's Address

First, I'd like to congratulate Tom and Christine on their re-election. You both have been an asset to the Council as well as the community and I look forward to working with you for the next two years. 2020 was a challenging year that changed our lives in so many ways. This past year, as difficult as it was, was a testament to what community is all about. The amount of support our residents gave to those who lost their jobs, or lost loved ones was overwhelming. Through efforts like the pop-up food pantry we were able to take care of our neighbors in need. Most of our restaurants and businesses are surviving thanks to so many of you who were committed to shopping local. As Coretta Scott King said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." The slogan that will be on our mural couldn't be more fitting – small town, BIG community.

Despite dealing with the pandemic, I am proud to say that our Borough employees and volunteers continued to be of service to the community and I want to thank them and highlight some of those positive accomplishments:

1. Seven road projects were completed, four more are in progress and we secured \$550,000 in DOT grants.
2. We submitted an application for a Transportation Alternatives Grant to create a walking path from the Boylan Terrace neighborhood to the downtown.
3. We purchased the property at 271 Mine Brook Road in February, and in December received subdivision approval from the Planning Board. In December, we conducted an auction to sell 8 acres with the residence on the 30-acre tract. The remaining 20+ acres will be preserved for recreation and open space.
4. Our Recreation Department, under the new leadership of Bob Markowick, opened the pool for a successful two-month season and completed a full swim-team season. We were one of the few municipalities to hold a successful 6-week summer camp, as well as 8 additional summer sports and arts camps. With Bedminster and Peapack Gladstone, Recreation ran an outdoor youth fall basketball league with over 200 participants. They offered an additional seven fall sports and fitness programs with over 100 participants. They also sponsored a virtual fishing derby and snowman building contest. Our consultant from Brandstetter Carroll, Pat Hoagland, was able to meet with most of our community groups to gather input for our Recreation Master Plan.
5. Our Library rose to the challenge by providing virtual classes, grab and go book borrowing, and an outdoor concert.
6. Our Police Department provided support for the Racial Justice march in June. They participated in the Diversity Council and formed an internal Focus Group to review policies and facilitate local initiatives dealing with diversity, social justice and equality. They coordinated and participated in a Make-A-Wish event for a local child. The Office of Emergency Management worked with local faith groups to support food insecure families and established an OEM Hotline for community assistance.
7. We continued to make progress in the revitalization of our Downtown. The Downtown Redevelopment Committee completed the Redevelopment Plan for Quimby Village and has issued an RFP for developers. The Redevelopment Plan for the former Audi dealership was also completed and an RFP was issued for that as well. With the approval of NJ Transit, we issued a Request for Proposal for a new restaurant in the train station building. The Borough also approved a new zoning ordinance, which is designed to be more business friendly. You can find all of the Redevelopment Plans and RFP's on the Borough website.

Postponed from May, Downtown Bernardsville held its first mural painting sessions and a pop-up craft market in December. They also supported our local theater by having an anniversary celebration for Back to the Future. The holiday parade was replaced with a house decorating contest and the Chamber's tree lighting ceremony went on as usual, but was live streamed, and

highlighted some of our amazing local talent. And the Bernardsville Centre made its parking lot available for drive-in movie nights and a Menorah lighting ceremony.

8. Thanks to the Environmental Commission and Green Team, three new rain gardens were created, and the Shade Tree Committee was able to move ahead with the planting plan to beautify Route 202.
9. And then there's Ralph Maresca, who has served as the Borough Administrator and CFO for close to 30 years, who is retiring this month. He has led the Borough through many changes, adapted to an ever-changing list of Mayors and Council members, and kept the Borough running smoothly. Reluctantly, we have begun the interview process for his replacement, which has not been an easy task.

Looking forward to 2021, I hope we can once again meet in person and I regret that I did not buy stock in Zoom. I know we all miss the personal interactions we were used to. With the vaccines becoming available, we have hope for a better year. But let's not lose the lessons that this pandemic has taught us: patience, creativity and innovation, appreciation for family. We learned what we could live without and what was essential.

2021 will continue to be a challenging time but I am confident that our community will survive and thrive. We will have a new administrator, only our third in 46 years. We'll have our completed Comprehensive Recreation Plan to guide us in providing an outstanding recreation program to meet the needs of all our residents. With the help of our new Diversity Council, we will make strides to become a more inclusive community. Our downtown redevelopment plans will become a reality, bringing new businesses and vitality to our town.

I am grateful to the Council members for their support and commitment to our Borough and look forward to working with them in 2021. And I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your mayor. There will be opportunities for community members to be engaged in our future planning and I hope you will share your time, thoughts, and expertise. I hope that together we can continue to make Bernardsville a community we all are proud to live in and to call home.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Canose's appointments were as follows: **Planning Board**, Jeff Horowitz, Class IV Member, 4 years; Terry Thompson (Mayor's Designee) for Class I Member; **Environmental Commission**, Johanna Wissinger, Chair, Johanna Wissinger and Michelle Conover, 3 years, Doug Doremus, unexpired to 12/31/22 (for Knapik); **Historic Preservation Advisory Committee**, Dan Lincoln (Chair) and Steve Sbaraglio, 1 year Tom Wood (Alt #2), 1 year; **Shade Tree Advisory Committee**, Anne Peterson and Macie Laffey, 1 year; **Library Board of Trustees**, Christine Zamarra, Mayor's Alternate; **Somerset County Solid Waste Advisory Committee**, Jeff Horowitz; **Somerset County Wastewater Management Plan Committee**, Mary Jane Canose, John Macdowall and Bob Brightly;

Municipal Alliance & Youth Services, Coleen Butler, SHSD Guidance, Lisa Drew, Bernardsville High School, Marcy Craver, Chris Habermas, Middle School & Emily Pike, Bedwell School, Kevin Valentine, Chief of Police, Janice Virtue, Board of Education, and Mary Jane Canose, Mayor; **OEM Deputy Coordinator**, Brian Kelly.

MAYOR'S WELLNESS CAMPAIGN (created 5/27/14)

Cheryl Maddaluna
Christine Zamarra
Dot Decota
Allison Napolitano, Shoprite Dietician
Mary Garubo
Jessica Walker
Jennifer Morrison
Juliet Patsalos-Fox

BERNARDSVILLE REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (created 1/2/20)

Mary Jane Canose	Rudolfo Hisena
John Donahue	Sam Maddaluna
Tom O'Dea	Bonnie Stone Sellers
Geoff Price (Ralph Maresca's designee)	Paul Sedlak
Topology Rep	Jeff Horowitz
Joe DeMarco	Hal Simoff
Tim Manning	

LAND USE COMMITTEE (created 2/24/20)

Mary Jane Canose
John Donahue
Tom O'Dea

RECREATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Mary Jane Canose
Greg deGrandpre
Kerry Haselton
Mike Hoppe
Mike Long
John Macdowall
Bob Markowick
Neil Mastrobuono
Jena McCredie
Pat McFadden
Dot Paluck

TRAIN QUIET ZONE COMMITTEE

Jena McCredie, council
Jeff Hammond, council
Bill Braunschweiger
Kevin Combe
George Efraimov
Jan Greco
Musa Nazy

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. O'Dea moved to appoint Ms. Zamarra as Council President for 2021. Mr. Hammond seconded and a roll call vote followed. Mr. Donahue, Mr. Hammond, Ms. McCredie, Mr. McQueen, Mr. O'Dea, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes. Ms. Zamarra took the oath of office for Council President.

RESOLUTIONS

- #21- 1 **COUNCIL CONFIRMATION OF THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS**
- #21- 2 **ORGANIZATION OF BOROUGH COUNCIL**
- #21- 3 **BOROUGH COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS AND/OR APPOINTMENTS OR NOMINATIONS TO SOMERSET COUNTY OFFICES**
- #21- 4 **APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES**
- #21- 5 **AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES APPOINTMENTS AND CONTRACTS**
- #21- 6 **AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENTS/CONTRACTS FOR EXTRAORDINARY, UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES**
- #21- 7 **MEMORIALIZING THE 2021 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**
- #21- 8 **AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR SUPPLIES & SERVICES**
- #21- 9 **ADOPTING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN**
- #21-10 **AUTHORIZATION FOR INVESTMENTS**
- #21-11 **DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES AND SIGNATORIES**
- #21-12 **AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**
- #21-13 **SETTING RATE OF INTEREST ON 2021 DELINQUENT TAXES, SERVICE CHARGES FOR CHECKS RETURNED FOR INSUFFICIENT FUNDS, AND CHARGES FOR DUPLICATE TAX SALE CERTIFICATES**

- #21-14 **TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES**
- #21-15 **APPROVING TEMPORARY BUDGET LINE ITEMS**
- #21-16 **ADOPTING POLICE DEPARTMENT RULES & REGULATIONS**
- #21-17 **DESIGNATING WRECKER SERVICES FOR THE POLICE
DEPARTMENT**
- #21-18 **DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS**
- #21-19 **SLEO APPOINTMENTS FOR 2021**

Ms. Zamarra moved adoption of Resolutions #21-1 through #21-19. Ms. McCredie seconded the motion and a roll call vote followed. Mr. Donahue, Mr. Hammond, Ms. McCredie, Mr. McQueen, Mr. O'Dea, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes.

TIME CAPSULE

Mayor Canose read the Time Capsule listed below.

The following letter, dated July 18, 1977, is passed on in the public record, as requested by the Bernardsville Shade Tree Commission (now Shade Tree Committee), membership consisted of John Edmonds, Chair, Victoria D. Schmidt, John Croot, Marty Craig and Barbara Heckman:

To the Mayor of Bernardsville and Members of the Borough Council:

With the recent restoration of the borough pond, it has been possible to complete the Time Capsule Project by imbedding the capsule in concrete at the base of the Bicentennial Liberty Tree. This tree, a red oak, was planted on April 17, 1976, at a point about 108 feet from the northeast corner of the Borough Hall Building. A plaque is affixed to the top of the concrete marker which reads:

*1776 - 1976
Bicentennial Liberty Tree
Bernardsville
Shade Tree Commission*

April 17, 1976

Information concerning the Time Capsule and its contents are contained in the accompanying envelope addressed to the residents of Bernardsville in the year 2076. Another copy, the original, has been placed in the Time Capsule itself.

It is the wish of the members of the Shade Tree Commission (1976-1977) that this letter be passed on from year to year on January 1 during the swearing in ceremonies of each new council through the year 2076.

At that time, during the Tricentennial Celebration of our country, the Time Capsule (see attached plans) is to be broken open for the residents to examine the items we have assembled which reflect the life and times of the Bicentennial Year.

OPEN SESSION

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public. Hearing no comments or questions 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 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 8:05pm