

**BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE**  
**Mayor and Council Reorganization Meeting**  
**January 3, 2022 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 27, 2021 and supplemented on December 29, 2021.

**OATHS OF OFFICE**

Mayor Canose said Oaths of Office were administered by Senator Bucco earlier in the day to the following: Jay Ambelang for the office of Borough Council for a three year term expiring December 31, 2024; Al Ribeiro for the office of Borough Council for a three year term expiring December 31, 2024.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mary Jane Canose. Present were Council Members Jay Ambelang, Diane Greenfield, Jena McCredie, Chad McQueen, Al Ribeiro, and Christine Zamarra. Also present were John Pidgeon, Borough Attorney, Tom Czerniecki, Administrator, and Anthony Suriano, Borough Clerk.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MAYOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS**

Mayor Canose gave the Mayor's Annual Address.

**2022 Bernardsville Mayor's Address**

First, congratulations to the Council's newest members, Al, Jay, and Diane and welcome to the Council. Thank you for your willingness to serve your community.

It's hard to believe that COVID is still with us as we move into 2022. We are almost at the two-year mark. As frustrating as the pandemic has been, there is still much to be grateful for. 2021 brought us vaccines and then booster shots, and better treatments for those who do get COVID. Our restaurants and businesses came up with creative solutions to meet their customer needs and our community supported them by shopping locally.

The Mayor's Address is my opportunity to thank all our Borough employees for providing outstanding service to our residents. I'd like to highlight some of what was accomplished this past year and I'm sure I will miss a few -

1. We paved 7.46 miles of roads, reaching 276 homes, which is 10% of all our homes. Thank you to Doug Walker for his excellent work in overseeing these projects. Also completed this year was an update to the Borough's Road survey which documents the condition of every road for future repairs and paving.
2. The Recreation Department had a very successful year, with many new programs, including the popular Cyclocross program at our new park at 271 Mine Brook Road. The pool had a record enrollment, and several successful social events were added to the season. The old field house on Claremont Road was repurposed from storage to programming space. After a year of gathering public input, our Recreation Master Plan was completed, shared with the community at a special public meeting, and priorities have been set by the Committee and Council. Thank you to Bob Markowick and Leah Horowitz for their nonstop energy and talent.
3. Our Police Department and fire and first aid volunteers need to be commended for their prompt and efficient response to Hurricane Ida. They were able to provide temporary shelter to 190 Somerset County residents displaced by flooding. They also hosted a well-attended National Night Out and several Coffees with a Cop. Thanks to the efforts of our new Borough Administrator Tom Czerniecki, Jack Pidgeon, and several supportive residents, we have established a Law Enforcement Foundation to support our police department. You'll hear more about that in future meetings.
4. Our Public Works employees worked tirelessly to clean up after Hurricane Ida and our Sewer Department added improvements to the treatment plant.
5. Our Construction and Zoning Department added Municipay so our residents can now pay online for permits, and they have been working on updating ordinances to be more business and resident friendly. We also entered into a shared service agreement with Bernards Township for Fire Prevention.
6. Our Library has a new website and app and added many more borrowing opportunities by joining MAIN (Morris Automated Information Network) consortium.
7. I must thank our administrative staff who always go above and beyond in responding to residents' concerns, tracking our budget, and handling all the day-to-day business of running our town. Also, our department heads were trained in Mental Health First Aid, and the Borough staff, elected officials, Planning Board and Board of Adjustment chairs and vice chairs attended Diversity training sessions.
8. My thank you list would not be complete without mentioning the many volunteers who give selflessly of their time to be of service to our community. Special thanks go to Downtown Bernardsville for achieving the Main Street designation, the County Excellence in the Arts Award and for helping to build such a strong sense of community

among our residents and businesses. And thanks also to Ed English for the amazing job he does as volunteer manager of our Farmers Market.

9. We continued to make progress in the revitalization of our Downtown. At a special public meeting, we reviewed two developer proposals and appointed Advance Realty as the Quimby Village developer. Several proposals have been reviewed for the old Audi dealership and we're hoping to finalize that project in 2022. After convincing NJ Transit to extend the lease on the train station, we issued a second Request for Proposal for a new business in the train station building. Those proposals are due January 15. We had several new businesses open – Restaurant MV, Equiline, August Designs, the New Jersey Academy of Music, which moved from Basking Ridge, and Game Changer Gym. Community in Crisis moved from the former Library building to their permanent headquarters on Church Street. There is a tentative development plan for the former Griffin and Howe and 56 Degree buildings. We've also applied to NJDOT to be designated as a Transit Village, which will help us achieve grants for further downtown improvements.

While we did not receive the Transportation Alternatives Grant to create a walking path from the Boylan Terrace neighborhood, we were able to convince Congressman Malinowski to include it in the Federal appropriations bill so we're still hoping to secure funding for that project.

10. 2021 was the second year we couldn't hold our traditional Memorial Day Parade, but we did still manage to celebrate our veterans with a ceremony at Borough Hall and an honor escort to the unveiling of the murals. And, of course, completing the murals was a major accomplishment and a wonderful collaborative community project.

Looking forward to 2022, I'm sure we all hope that the pandemic will soon be behind us. 2022 will continue to be a challenging time but I am confident that our community will continue to thrive. We will move forward with our Recreation Master Plan, providing opportunities for residents of all ages to enjoy the outdoors and stay active. We'll be focusing on ways to be more sustainable as we look to install EV charging stations. As we continue to revitalize our downtown, our focus will continue to be on preserving our "small town – big community" identity.

I am grateful to the Council members, past, present, and future, for their support and commitment to our Borough. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your mayor. What I've learned over the past three years of my tenure is the importance of collaboration. All that has been accomplished in building a great future for Bernardsville has been due to the collaborative efforts of all our committees, boards, organizations, businesses, neighboring communities, and the school district. By creating and nurturing partnerships, Bernardsville will continue to be a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2022.

Mr. McQueen thanked Mayor Canose for spending countless hours in leading the Borough of Bernardsville.

### MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Canose's appointments were as follows: **Planning Board**, Hal Simoff and Karen Gardner, Class IV Member, 4 years, Terry Thompson, Class I Member; **Environmental Commission**, Johanna Wissinger, Chair; Greg deGrandpre, and Rob Wilson, 3 years, Jeffrey Hammond, unexpired to 12/31/22, Kathy Redling, ex-officio member, 1 year; **Historic Preservation Advisory Committee** (all 1 year terms), Dan Lincoln, Steve Sbaraglio, Gerry Jo Cranmer, Eileen Grippo, Tom Wood (Alt #2); **Shade Tree Advisory Committee** (all 1 year terms), Anne Peterson, Johanna Wissinger, Michael Gunderson; **Library Board of Trustees**, Jena McCredie, Mayor's Alternate; **Somerset County Solid Waste Advisory Committee**, Jeff Horowitz; **Somerset County Wastewater Management Plan Committee**, Mary Jane Canose, John Macdowall; **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, and Mary Jane Canose, Mayor; **OEM Deputy Coordinator**, Tim Richard; **2022 Local Emergency Planning Committee**, Kevin Valentine, Tim Richard, Mary Jane Canose, Tom Czerniecki, John Macdowall, John Remian, Glenn Miller, Matt Kneafsey, Lucy Forgione, Gretchen Dempsey, Patricia Dragunas, Jeffrey Hammond, Daniel Fenco

### Mayor's Ad Hoc Committees

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

Allison Napolitano, Shoprite Dietician  
 Jessica Walker  
 Jennifer Morrison  
 Juliet Patsalos-Fox  
 Francine Dello Russo  
 Lisa Oraziatti  
 Carla Hugo  
 Antoinette Sbaraglio  
 Al Ribeiro  
 Toni Knoll  
 Ken Musgrove  
 Leah Horowitz  
 Alan Leipner  
 Carin Karolin

#### BERNARDSVILLE REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (created 1/2/20)

Mary Jane Canose	Markus Hoecherl
Tom Czerniecki	Sam Maddaluna
Tim Manning	Bonnie Stone Sellers
Geoff Price	Paul Sedlak
Topology Rep	Jeff Horowitz
Joe DeMarco	Hal Simoff
Jena McCredie	Al Ribeiro

**LAND USE COMMITTEE (created 2/24/20)**

Mary Jane Canose  
Jena McCredie  
Al Ribeiro

**TRAIN QUIET ZONE COMMITTEE**

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

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Ms. Greenfield moved to appoint Mr. McQueen as Council President for 2022. Mr. Ribeiro seconded and a roll call vote followed. Mr. Ambelang, Ms. Greenfield, Ms. McCredie, Mr. McQueen, Mr. Ribeiro, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes. Mr. McQueen took the oath of office for Council President.

Mr. McQueen asked council members to send a bulleted list of no more than five specific priorities that they have for the next 12 months. He said he would like all lists of priorities by this Friday so we can discuss them at the next council meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>. He said we can then identify which ones have some general consensus and prioritize them to make sure that we are achieving what we are looking to achieve as a council.

**RESOLUTIONS**

- #22- 1            **COUNCIL CONFIRMATION OF THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS**
- #22- 2            **ORGANIZATION OF BOROUGH COUNCIL**
- #22- 3            **BOROUGH COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS AND/OR APPOINTMENTS OR NOMINATIONS TO SOMERSET COUNTY OFFICES**
- #22- 4            **APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES**
- #22- 5            **AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES APPOINTMENTS AND CONTRACTS**
- #22- 6            **AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENTS/CONTRACTS FOR EXTRAORDINARY, UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES**
- #22- 7            **MEMORIALIZING THE 2022 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

- #22- 8        **AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR SUPPLIES & SERVICES**
- #22- 9        **ADOPTING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN**
- #22-10       **AUTHORIZATION FOR INVESTMENTS**
- #22-11       **DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORY AND SIGNATORIES**
- #22-12       **AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**
- #22-13       **SETTING RATE OF INTEREST ON 2022 DELINQUENT TAXES, SERVICE CHARGES FOR CHECKS RETURNED FOR INSUFFICIENT FUNDS, AND CHARGES FOR DUPLICATE TAX SALE CERTIFICATES**
- #22-14       **TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES**
- #22-15       **APPROVING TEMPORARY BUDGET LINE ITEMS**
- #22-16       **ADOPTING POLICE DEPARTMENT RULES & REGULATIONS**
- #22-17       **DESIGNATING WRECKER SERVICES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**
- #22-18       **DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS**
- #22-19       **SLEO APPOINTMENTS FOR 2022**
- #22-20       **APPROVAL OF A REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH ADVANCE REALTY INVESTORS FOR THE QIMBY REDEVELOPMENT AREA**

Mr. Ribeiro said one of the resolutions is approval of the redevelopment agreement with Advance Realty Investors for the Quimby redevelopment area. He said this is a significant and positive milestone and asked the Mayor to explain the background of this agreement to the public.

Mayor Canose said in August, we selected Advance Realty Investors as the developer. She said in the meantime as we work through what this agreement should look like, we allowed our developer to have an opportunity to meet with some of the property owners to get a sense of what is going to be involved in acquiring properties, working with architects and engineers, and looking at all that's involved. She said it's taken a little while to get this done but it was a very invested period of time with a lot of good input from our redevelopment attorney Joe DeMarco as well as

Topology. Mayor Canose said a lot of really good discussions took place with the Redevelopment Committee and it all went into working out the agreement. She said she feels what we have in this agreement is a really good understanding of what we expect from the developer. She said there's a timeline and certain milestones the developer needs to meet and we will be meeting with them on a monthly basis to find out what the progress has been and where we are in terms of the project. Mayor Canose agreed with Mr. Ribeiro that this is a really positive first step in moving this project into reality. She said we've been talking about it for about four years, but this is really sealing the deal and making it happen. Mr. McQueen said it's the first step of shovels in the ground. Mayor Canose said we're excited to have this officially done and she will be signing the agreement tomorrow.

Ms. McCredie moved adoption of Resolutions #22-1 through #22-20. Ms. Greenfield seconded the motion and a roll call vote followed. Mr. Ambelang, Ms. Greenfield, Ms. McCredie, Mr. McQueen, Mr. Ribeiro, and Ms. Zamorra 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 – None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm

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