

**BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE**  
**Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 9, 2023**

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

**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**

**PRESENTATIONS** - None

**OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public.

Aaron Duff, Crestview Drive, spoke about the Borough closing on the Audi Dealership building, redevelopment of the Palmer site, and public involvement in redevelopment.

Greg Friesen, Somerset Hills Ball Club, said we're 96 days away from opening day for Somerset Hills Ball Club this year. He said he is an active member of the Board and their new President. He said they started registration for this season. He said the resolution on tonight's agenda for Rose Bowl dugouts is part of the Master Plan. He said they've spoken with the Recreation Committee and Environmental Commission over the last month and provided some details on this project which they think is a good project for all seasons.

Mayor Canose closed the open session to the public.

**ORDINANCES (Public Hearing)** - None

**ORDINANCES (Introduction)**

Mr. Ribeiro moved that Ordinance #2022-1941, **ADJUSTING THE ZONE DISTRICT BOUNDARY LINE WHICH BISECTS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 477-1 MINE BROOK ROAD (BLOCK 28, LOT 46.01)**, 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, January 23, 2023. Ms. Greenfield seconded and the motion to introduce was approved with four yes votes.

Ms. Zamarra moved that Ordinance #2022-1942, **ADJUSTING THE ZONE DISTRICT BOUNDARY LINE WHICH BISECTS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 70 STONEFENCE ROAD (BLOCK 23, LOT 15)**, 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, January 23, 2023. Mr. Ribeiro seconded and the motion to introduce was approved with four yes votes.

Ms. Greenfield moved that Ordinance #2022-1943, **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION BY PURCHASE OR CONDEMNATION OF THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 210 NORTH FINLEY AVENUE WHICH CONSISTS OF A PORTION OF BLOCK 125, LOT 25, BERNARDSVILLE, NEW JERSEY NOW OWNED BY ALTOMARE REALTY, LLC**, 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, January 23, 2023. Ms. Zamarra seconded and the motion to introduce was approved with four yes votes.

Mr. Ambelang moved that Ordinance #2022-1944, **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 7:00 p.m., Monday, January 23, 2023. Ms. Zamarra seconded and the motion to introduce was approved with four yes votes.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

- #23-22            AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**
- #23-23            APPOINTING CONOR BYRNE AS DRIVER/LABORER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**
- #23-24            AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SUBURBAN ENGINEERING, INC. FOR PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF LIGHTS FOR THE NATURAL TURF SPORTS FIELDS, PARKING LOTS, MAIN ENTRANCE, PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY, AND TENNIS COURTS @ THE POLO GROUNDS**
- #23-25            AUTHORIZING AN EXCHANGE OF CERTAIN HOLIDAYS**
- #23-26            AUTHORIZING APPLICATION AND OBTAINING OF A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR APPROXIMATELY \$100,000 TO CARRY OUT A PROJECT TO CREATE A PEDESTRIAN WALKING PATH ENCIRCLING THE BOROUGH’S SPORTS FIELD COMPLEX KNOWN AS THE POLO GROUNDS**

- #23-27      AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK TO SIGN THE 2023 RECYCLING AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET COUNTY**
- #23-28      AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS FOR DUGOUTS AT THE ROSE BOWL**
- #23-29      AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH NV5 ENGINEERING FOR PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CALMING IMPROVEMENTS ON BERNARDS AVENUE TO INCLUDE A SIDEWALK**
- #23-30      AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

Mr. Ribeiro moved to adopt Resolutions #23-22 to #23-20. Ms. Greenfield seconded and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote: Mr. Ambelang, Ms. Greenfield, Mr. Ribeiro, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes.

## **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **Mayor's Update**

Mayor Canose said the Police Department held a breakfast at Roxiticus and gave out awards for various acts of courage and good communication with our residents. Mayor Canose said we had the annual Municipal Court meeting in Bedminster with the other municipalities in our shared court. Mayor Canose said we held our second annual Wreaths Across America. She thanked Mr. Ribeiro who attended, along with the scouts and veterans who helped place about 90 wreaths. Mayor Canose said she attended the Hanukah lighting ceremony at Bernardsville Centre. She said it was a really nice event with music and activities. Mayor Canose said she attended the grand opening at Ricky's Thai Restaurant. Mayor Canose said this Wednesday at 6:30pm is the Somerset County Governing Officials Association meeting which is taking place in Bernardsville.

### **Administrator's Update**

Mr. Czerniecki said the Police Department breakfast at Roxiticus was terrific. He said one of the missions of the Police Foundation is to improve moral and it was great for them to get together, which is difficult given their 12 hour shifts. Mr. Czerniecki said the cost of the Rose Bowl dugouts are a 50/50 split with Somerset Hills Baseball League.

### **Establishing Council Meeting Protocols**

Council discussed a draft resolution for remote participation at future meetings by members of the public via Zoom and if members of the public would be able to make comments if joining remotely. The meetings would still be live streamed on YouTube for the public to watch but

they would have to attend in person in order to comment. Mayor Canose mentioned a provision of the draft resolution that indicated reasonable accommodations, in accordance with the requirement of the Americans with Disabilities Act, will be made for persons who are unable to attend an in-person meeting because of a disability. Mr. Pidgeon said this resolution would not apply to members of the governing body who are covered by Borough Code that allows for remote attendance with the ability to participate and vote at two meetings per year. A resolution will be considered at a future meeting.

### **Committee Reorganization**

Council discussed the existing structure of advisory committees and proposed changes. Mr. Ribeiro provided an overview of the committee reorganization proposals which Council will consider, based on the feedback of councilmembers. These will be reviewed by Mr. Pidgeon and the proposal will be considered at the January 23rd meeting. Mr. Pidgeon said an ordinance would need to be adopted to change the structure.

**Correspondence** - None

**Unfinished Business** - None

**New Business** - None

### **CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved to adjourn to an executive session to consider Contract Negotiations and 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 four yes votes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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