

BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE
Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes
December 27, 2022

Council Member Christine Zamarra called this meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. on Zoom. Present were Council Members Jay Ambelang, Diane Greenfield, Jena McCredie, and Al Ribeiro. Also present were John Pidgeon, Borough Attorney, Tom Czerniecki, Administrator, and Anthony Suriano, Borough Clerk. Mayor Mary Jane Canose and Council Member Chad McQueen were absent.

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 27, 2021 and supplemented to change the time and Zoom only on December 15, 2022.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Greenfield moved approval of minutes from November 28, 2022. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved with five yes votes.

OPEN SESSION

Ms. Zamarra opened the meeting to the public. Hearing no comments, Ms. Zamarra closed the open session.

ORDINANCES (Public Hearing) - None

ORDINANCES (Introduction) - None

RESOLUTIONS

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| #22-249 | AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS |
| #22-250 | RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE ACCEPTANCE FOR
BERNARDSVILLE BOROUGH WEST STREET &
BOYLAN TERRACE SAFE ROUTE TO TRANSIT GRANT |
| #22-251 | AUTHORIZING THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH
THE TOWNSHIP OF BEDMINSTER, BOROUGH OF PEAPACK-
GLADSTONE, AND THE TOWNSHIP OF BERNARDS FOR THE |

OPERATION OF A SHARED MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025

- #22-252 APPOINTING A PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR SHARED MUNICIPAL COURT FROM JANUARY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023**
- #22-253 APPOINTING A MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR FOR SHARED MUNICIPAL COURT IN 2023**
- #22-254 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS**
- #22-255 AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF SMALL BALANCES ON TAX AND SEWER UTILITY ACCOUNTS**
- #22-256 APPROVING MEMBERSHIP IN THE FIRE COMPANY**
- #22-257 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2022 FORD EXPLORER XLT POLICE COMMAND VEHICLE THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NJ (ESC) CO-OP**
- #22-258 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH NEW JERSEY TRANSIT FOR THE LEASING OF THE BERNARDSVILLE RAILROAD STATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS WITH TWO ADDITIONAL TWO-YEAR OPTIONS**
- #22-259 AUTHORIZING SUBLEASE OF THE BERNARDSVILLE RAILROAD STATION**

It was noted that the adoption of Resolution #22-259 will allow Mr. Pidgeon to work on a contract for the sublease of the Bernardsville Railroad Station building.

Ms. McCredie moved to adopt Resolution #22-249 to #22-259. Ms. Greenfield seconded and the motion was approved by the following roll call vote. Mr. Ambelang, Ms. Greenfield, Ms. McCredie, Mr. Ribeiro, and Ms. Zamarra voted yes.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor's Update, Mayor Canose was absent.

Administrator's Report, Mr. Czerniecki thanked council for supporting the entire staff this past year.

Municipal Attorney Report, there were no comments or questions on Mr. Pidgeon's report.

Mr. Ribeiro moved to accept the monthly reports as listed on the agenda. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved with five yes votes.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee, Ms. McCredie said the committee held a meeting and there is nothing new to report.

Finance Committee, Mr. Czerniecki said the committee will be meeting this morning at 10:00am.

Organization Development and Personnel Committee, Ms. Zamarra said the committee held a meeting and discussed salaries. Ms. McCredie asked about the Administrator position. Mr. Czerniecki said the ad has been on the NJ League of Municipalities website. He said we have an agreement with The Canning Group to assist with our search and they have made a landing page for this ad for interested applicants. He said some really good Administrators throughout the county have reached out to him and asked about the position and the job. He said his answer is that he's leaving because he's retiring and this is a wonderful town and a wonderful Council to work with.

Engineering, Technology, and Public Works Committee, Ms. Greenfield said the Bernards Avenue Neighborhood project is now going to be two parts. She said the bid for the Grove Street/Maple Street Extension/Mine Avenue/Lower Garibaldi Street will be advertised on December 29th with the bid opening on February 2nd. She said for part two of this project, the borough received a \$250,000 Federal Grant for sidewalks on West Street and Boylan Terrace. She said that project will go out to bid as soon as we get NJDOT approval. Ms. Greenfield said the Public Works Committee is finalizing plans to hold a neighborhood meeting to discuss the Bernards Avenue Reconstruction Project and the two Bernards Avenue Neighborhood projects which are all going to take place in 2023. She said the meeting will give the area's residents an overview of the project and the opportunity to ask questions. She said at this time we're looking at a date towards the end of February. Regarding dam remediation, the preliminary plan was approved by NJDEP Dam Safety and work has begun on the final plan which is due on May 31st.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental Commission, Mr. Ambelang said the Commission has a lot of concern about runoff with all of the new properties that are coming into place. Based on prior discussion, Mr. Ambelang said there wasn't much that could be done about that based upon the zoning rules so he asked them to put together a proposal to council for changes to the zoning rules. He said this will give them the ability to lobby to change the rules so that the runoff concerns they have can be addressed.

Library Board of Trustees, Ms. McCredie said the Library Board met and their own Finance Committee from the Library are very much looking forward to presenting their budget to the Borough's Finance Committee.

Housing/Zoning Committee, Ms. Greenfield said the committee's 2022 end of year report was included in the council's agenda file.

Recreation Committee, Ms. Zamarra said the committee put together a year end presentation which is in the council's agenda file. She said they spent a lot of time on it and it highlights how much they really do throughout the year for the community. She said it's really great and encouraged council to take a look at it as it's something new that we've not gotten in the past.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Request from Madelyn English for Displaying Farmers "Market Open" Sign, Ms. Greenfield moved to approve an 8 foot sign to be displayed at the Farmers Market while the market is open. Mr. Ribeiro seconded and the motion was approved with five yes votes.

Correspondence

Ms. Zamarra said we received the Planning Board's Recommendation of Ordinance (in 2023) for a Zoning Line Change Request for 477-1 Mine Brook Road. An ordinance will be on the January 9, 2023 agenda for introduction.

Unfinished Business

Earlier in the meeting Mr. Ambelang asked how many hours Mr. Pidgeon spent on matters pertaining to the train station lease. Mr. Pidgeon said he looked that up and spent 37.7 hours on that topic.

New Business - None

OPEN SESSION

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CLOSED SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25am.
