

BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE
Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2024

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

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 14, 2023.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPEN SESSION

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public. Hearing no comments Mayor Canose closed the open session.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

De-Designation of Audi Property Redeveloper and authorize new RFP for Audi Property, this topic will be discussed in closed session and be on the February 26th Council meeting agenda based on the closed session discussion.

Review Request for naming Block 66, Lot 10, 11, 12, & 14 as an Area In Need of Redevelopment, an in depth study can be done for approximately \$17,500 for review of most of the downtown area. Borough Planner, Jessica Caldwell, will attend the March work session to discuss.

Housing Advisory Committee, an ordinance to abolish this committee will be on the February 26th Council meeting agenda for introduction.

Plant Management, the Finance Committee had discussed the sale of the Sewer Plant. A presentation will be done by Hawkins, Delafield, and Wood at the February 26th Council meeting.

Ordinance Establishing Engineering Rates (Introduction February 26, 2024), rates are needed for recently hired in-house Borough Engineer Tony Hajjar to review and inspect Planning and Zoning Board applications. An ordinance for introduction will be on the February 26th Council meeting agenda.

Somerset Hills Law Enforcement Committee, Mayor Canose said various Mayors and Police Departments formed a committee to work together to solve the problem of car thefts. She said we recently purchased three license plate readers for this purpose.

Polo Grounds Lighting, a map of the proposed lighting of the Polo Grounds was shown and discussed. It was decided to have the Public Works Committee and Recreation Director, Bob Markowick, set up a public meeting with residents within 200 feet of the Polo Grounds lighting area for further discussion. Ms. Malool talked about the cost of the project. It was noted that we would need Green Acres approval for use of cell tower expansion. The bid will be combined for the Pavilion, utilities, and lights. A resolution will be on the February 26th Council agenda to authorize going out to bid for this project. Council agreed to put the map as shown at this meeting on the Borough website.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mayor Canose said there will be public hearings on the following ordinances at the February 26, 2024 Council Meeting at 7:00pm:

Ordinance #2024-1989, **AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION CODE FEES AND AMENDING CHAPTER 12 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "BUILDING AND HOUSING"**

Ordinance #2024-1990, **AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING AFFORDABLE HOUSING SET-ASIDES AND SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING ARTICLE 13 OF THE BOROUGH LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ENTITLED "AFFORDABLE HOUSING"**

Ordinance #2024-1991, **AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING TOWING CONTRACTORS AND AMENDING ARTICLE 3 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "POLICE REGULATIONS"**

Ordinance #2024-1992, **AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND AMENDING ARTICLE 2 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION"**

There were no questions by Council on the following resolutions/items that will be listed on the consent resolution list on the February 26th Council meeting agenda.

Resolution – Authorization of Tax Refund

Resolution – Awarding a Contract for Liquid Alum

Resolution – Approving Membership in the Fire Company

Resolution – Change Order for Bernards Avenue Project

Resolution – Change Order for Bernards Avenue Neighborhood Project

Resolution - Temporary Access Agreement with NJDOT for Geotechnical Borings in Route 202 ROW for Water Main Extension

Resolution – Accepting Donation of Computer Equipment

Resolution – Authorizing Payment of Bills

Resolution – Budget Transfer

Resolution – Emergency Temporary Appropriation

Resolution – Renewal of Inactive Pocket ABC License

Resolution – Appointing A Truck Driver/Laborer

Resolution – Approving the Installation of Two New Fire Hydrants as Part Of NJ American Water Company's Mount Harmony Road Water Main Extension Project

Resolution - Agreement with the Somerset Hills Regional School District to Provide Special Police Officers in District Schools

Resolution - Home Improvement Program, Homeowner/Program Agreement for 19C Fox Hollow Trail (via CGP&H)

Resolution - Authorizing the Provision of a Loan Pursuant to the Borough of Bernardsville Affordability Assistance (via CGP&H)

Resolution - Approval to Submit a Grant Application to the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council) for Funding Assistance to Achieve Compliance Under the 2023 Tier A Municipal Stormwater General Permit (NJPDES: NJ0141852)

Resolution - Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Borough of Bernardsville and the Bernardsville Free Public Library for payroll

Resolution - \$3,325,000 Bond Anticipation Note

Resolution - Agreement Between the County of Somerset and Borough of Bernardsville for Receipt of ARP Funding in Support of Public Sewer and Water Improvements

COLA Ordinance (Introduction on February 26, 2024)

Main Street Request for Use of Train Station Lot for Car Show

Request by Raritan Headwaters to Park Cars at 251 Claremont Road for their Stream Cleanup at 300 Claremont Road

Green Team Request for use of Train Station Lot for Earth Day

2024 Well Test Event

Mayor Canose announced the appointment from January 29, 2024 of Joseph DeMarco to Planning Board, Class IV, to fill the unexpired term of Christopher Otteau, to December 31, 2027

Mayor Canose announced the appointment from February 3, 2024 of Rob Wilson as Environmental Commission Chair.

OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE COUNCIL

Correspondence - None

Unfinished Business

Mayor Canose said there will be a proclamation on the February 26th Council meeting agenda honoring Eagle Scout Max Bozack.

New Business

Council Confirmation of Mayor's Appointment of Marc Walden to the Board of Health (fill unexpired term of Brian Wallace to 12/31/26 after Wallace resignation February 16, 2024), Ms. Zamarra moved to confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Marc Walden to the Board of Health. Ms. McCredie seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

OPEN SESSION

A second open session was held for those who arrived at this meeting after the first Open Session had been closed.

Marc Walden, Liberty Road, suggested not using Packetalk for license plate readers. He spoke about the Polo Grounds lighting and suggested directional drilling. He said a transformer at the back end of the Polo Grounds between Polo and Lower Evankow could be used for cost savings.

Kerry Haselton, Mine Brook Road, asked what we are hoping for on the bid for Polo Grounds lighting. Ms. Malool said \$1.5 million. Ms. Haselton said regarding redevelopment, she likes the idea of having an overall plan and suggested not moving forward until we have an overall plan.

Mike Long, Crest Drive, commended Council for the progress on the Polo Grounds.

Kerry Haselton, Mine Brook Road, talked about affordable housing and said we only have so much space to avoid builders remedy.

Olivia Manning, Main Street Bernardsville, said there is a Strategy Planning Session on March 6th.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved to adjourn to an executive session to consider Personnel Matters, Collective Bargaining – PBA & PW, Redevelopment Matters – Audi Property 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 10:15p.m.
