

**BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE**  
**Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 18, 2024**

Mayor Canose called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Council Members Jay Ambelang, Jena McCredie, Al Ribeiro, Jeffrey Roos, and Christine Zamarra. Also present were Nancy Malool, Administrator, Anthony Suriano, Borough Clerk, and John Pidgeon, Borough Attorney. Council member Chad McQueen was 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 14, 2023.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Canose opened the meeting to the public.

Chris D'Amato, IT Specialist and Bodnar Street resident, acknowledged he received a Rice Notice prior to this meeting and chose to have discussion in public. He said he then received a notice from the Borough Administrator informing him that the agenda item concerning my employment was to be withdrawn from this meeting because the documents that were to be brought up contain information too sensitive to reveal in public. He said he read the documents and if there were a legitimate justification for his termination, he felt it could certainly be expressed without compromising cybersecurity. He said he welcomes any fair assessment of the performance of his job and asks only for leadership in good faith.

Hearing no further comments Mayor Canose closed the open session.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**251 Claremont Road,** Ms. Malool discussed the potential demolition of this property with council. Council consent was to proceed with the demolition of 251 Claremont Road. A resolution will be on the March 25<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**Polo Grounds Lighting and Pavilion,** Ms. Zamarra said some residents are concerned about the look of the building. A balloon test will be done to get a vision of the height of the building. A resolution will be on the March 25<sup>th</sup> agenda to authorize going to bid for this project. It was noted to find out what sports teams will use the facility.

**Sewer Plant,** Ms. Malool said the sewer debt is \$870,000. It was noted that 63 households not receiving sewer services could be added. In order for bids to go out for this project this year, a resolution would need to be done at the April meeting.

**Somerset Hills Baseball Club – Netting Installation Project (Presentation at March 25<sup>th</sup> Council meeting),** the Recreation Committee had reviewed this topic and suggested a split cost 50/50 between the Borough and Somerset Hills Baseball Club (SHBC). Ms. Malool explained the purchasing procedure and noted that SHBC would need to get two quotes for the same type of project. A presentation by SHBC will be done at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**2024 Budget,** Ms. Malool discussed budget items with council including \$50,000 to Main Street Bernardsville. Ms. Malool will meet with council members three at a time to further discuss the budget and introduction will be done at the April meeting.

**RFP for 65 Morristown Road,** Ms. Malool said the RFP for 65 Morristown Road was issued and will be put on the Borough's website.

**Personnel Matter,** Ms. Malool said a subcommittee will be formed to review an IT analysis. Mr. Ambelang, Mr. McQueen, and Ms. McCredie will form the subcommittee.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Mayor Canose said there will be public hearings on the following ordinances at the March 25, 2024 Council Meeting at 7:00pm:

Ordinance #2024-1993, **CALENDAR YEAR 2024 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

Ordinance #2024-1994, **AN ORDINANCE ABOLISHING HOUSING, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND ZONING COMPLIANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION”**

Ordinance #2024-1995, **AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING PAYMENTS TO MUNICIPAL PROFESSIONALS UNDER THE MUNICIPAL LAND USE LAW (“MLUL”)**

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

Use of Bernards High School Parking Lot to stage Electronics Recycling (E-Waste) Collection Event

Resolution – Janitorial Services

Resolution - Authorizing the Provision of a Loan Pursuant to the Borough of Bernardsville Affordability Assistance, 19C Fox Hollow Trail (via CGP&H)

Resolution – Authorization of Tax Refund

Resolution – Authorizing Payment of Bills

Resolution – Authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriations

Resolution - Supporting NJ State Legislature Bill A-3806 and S-2819 Concerning Motor Vehicle Theft Offenses

Resolution - Authorizing the Public Works Manager to Obtain Quotations for a Concession to Operate the Pool Snack Bar

Resolution - Authorizing Lower Level Library Lease – Suite 101

Resolution - Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with Paulus, Sokolowski and Sartor, LLC for Morrison Avenue Pumping Station Design Engineering Services

Ordinance - Appropriating \$100,000 from the Sewer Capital Improvement Fund for Upgrade Design of Morrison Avenue Pump Station (Introduction on March 25<sup>th</sup>)

Ordinance - Supplementing and Amending Chapter 3 of the Borough Code Entitled “Police Regulations” by Adding a New Section 3-27 Entitled “Resident Protection” (Introduction on March 25<sup>th</sup>)

Ordinance - Stormwater Control (Introduction on March 25<sup>th</sup>)

Mayor’s Proclamation, CASA

Resolution – Authorizing Transfer of Funds

### **OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE COUNCIL**

Municipal Attorney Report – Mr. Pidgeon noted there were two items he will be discussing in closed session.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Public Safety Committee**, Ms. McCredie spoke about license plate readers.

**Finance Committee**, Mr. Ribeiro said the budget is on schedule to be introduced at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**Organization Development and Personnel Committee**, Mayor Canose said this will be

held for discussion in closed session.

**Engineering, Technology & Public Works Committee**, the Polo Grounds Lighting and Pavilion project were discussed earlier in the meeting

**Land Use Committee**, Mayor Canose said the committee has not met.

**Recreation**, Ms. McCredie said the Recreation/Pool brochures have gone out.

**Board of Health**, Ms. McCredie said the Board held their regular meeting earlier tonight. Nothing new to report.

**Library Board of Trustees**, Mr. Ambelang said the Board meets tomorrow night

**HPAC**, Mr. Ribeiro said the Committee is meeting later this week.

**Correspondence** - None

**Unfinished Business** - None

**New Business**

**Council Confirmation of Mayor's Appointments to the Shade Tree Committee:** *Jeff Calvert, Markus Dickson, Michael Lickstein, Lisa Morelli, Christina Ravera, Roberta Ruschmann, Johanna Wissinger*, a motion to confirm the appointments of the individuals listed above will be on the March 25<sup>th</sup> agenda. Ms. Zamarra asked if a person needed to be a Bernardsville resident to be on the Shade Tree Committee. Mr. Pidgeon said no.

**Resolution Approving Fire Company Membership**, (this topic arrived late and was added to New Business). A resolution will be on the March 25<sup>th</sup> agenda for approval of Grant Pickett and Maynor Carretto Gomez as Fire Company members.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved to adjourn to an executive session to consider Personnel Matters and Contract Negotiations 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 five yes votes.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30p.m.

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