

**BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
2024 REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 2, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting called to order at _____ p.m.

2. MAYOR’S STATEMENT

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting by Resolution #23-369 has been sent to The Record, The Star Ledger, Twin Boro News and Cablevision, and placed on two Municipal Bulletin Boards, and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk. Sunshine notice dated December 29, 2023 has also been sent to The Record, The Star Ledger, Twin Boro News and Cablevision, and placed on two Municipal Bulletin Boards, and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

4. INVOCATION

SWEARING-IN OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

5. Reading of the Election Certificate of Mayor– Elect Arvin Amatorio.

Mayor- Elect Arvin Amatorio to be sworn in by New Jersey State Senator Joseph Lagana.

6. Reading of the Election Certificate of Councilman – Elect Marc Pascual.

Councilman-Elect Marc Pascual to be sworn in by New Jersey State Assemblywoman Lisa Swain.

7. Reading of the Election Certificate of Councilman – Elect Domingo Almonte.

Councilman-Elect Domingo Almonte to be sworn in by New Jersey State Assemblyman Chris Tully.

8. Roll Call of 2024 Council

Roll Call	Present	Absent
MAYOR ARVIN AMATORIO		
COUNCILMAN DOMINGO ALMONTE		
COUNCILMAN BUDDY DEAUNA		
COUNCILWOMAN ORA KORNBLUTH		
COUNCILMAN THOMAS LODATO		
COUNCILMAN MARC PASCUAL		
COUNCILMAN HERNANDO RIVERA		

9. **PRESENTATIONS** – At this time, any presentations may be made.

10. STATEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Mayor Amatorio opens the meeting and invites the public to comment on any subject matter, limited to five (5) minutes per speaker.

12. RESOLUTION 24-001/To Appoint Councilman Hernando Rivera as Council President.

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

13. RESOLUTION 24-002/To Establish the Seating Order of the 2024 Governing Body.

Councilman Thomas A. Lodato
 Councilman Buddy Deauna
 Councilman Domingo Almonte
 Mayor Arvin Amatorio
 Councilwoman Ora C. Kornbluth
 Council President Hernando Rivera
 Councilman Marc Pascual

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

14. Mayor recommends and nominates John L. Schettino, Esq. to the position of Borough Attorney for a one-year term, expiring 12/31/2024.

RESOLUTION 24-003/To Confirm Mayor’s nomination of John L. Schettino, Esq. as Borough Attorney.

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

15. **CONSENT RESOLUTION 24-004.** All matters listed below are considered by the Governing Body to be routine in nature. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by the Governing Body, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

- a. **24-005/**Adopt By-Laws for 2024
- b. **24-006/**Establishing Meeting Dates
- c. **24-007/**Reaffirming Interest Rates and Dates on Delinquent Taxes
- d. **24-008/**Authorizing Fire Department Mutual Aid
- e. **24-009/**Confirming Source Separation and Recycling
- f. **24-010/**Reaffirming Petty Cash and Change Funds
- g. **24-011/**Designate Official Depositories for Current Operating Funds
- h. **24-012/**Designate Secondary Bank Accounts, Signatories and Fiduciary Responsibilities
- i. **24-013/**Authorizing the Utilization of GovDeals, Inc. for the Purpose of Disposing of Surplus Equipment
- j. **24-014/**Authorizing Tax Collector to Cancel Tax Overpayments or Delinquent Amounts less than \$10.00
- k. **24-015/**Authorizing \$20 Fee for Tax Payments Returned for Insufficient Funds
- l. **24-016/**Authorizing Police Department Mutual Aid
- m. **24-017/**Approving the December 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- n. **24-018/**Approving the 2024 Tow Companies
- o. **24-019/**Approving a Tax Sale Certificate \$50 Fee for Third Redemption Request or More
- p. **24-020/**Approving Cancellation of Various Grant Balances
- q. **24-021/**Approving NJ DCA Public Services and Capital Improvements Grant Agreement for Completion of Various Borough Projects
- r. **24-022/**Approving NJ DCA Recreational Programs and Improvements Grant Agreement – Bergenfield Little League Challenger Program
- s. **24-023/**Approving Raffle Application – RA 1409

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					

PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

16. **RESOLUTION 24-024**/To Approve Temporary Budget Appropriations in CY 2024.

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

17. **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following professionals for a one-year term, term expiring 12/31/24:

- a. Borough Engineer: Remington & Vernick Engineers
- b. Special Projects Engineer: T&M Associates and Pennoni Engineers
- c. Bond Counsel: Rogut McCarthy LLC
- d. Labor Counsel: John L. Shahdanian II Esq., Trenk Isable Siddiqi & Shahdanian P.C.
- e. Tax Appeal Counsel: Boggia Boggia Betesh & Voytus LLC
- f. Borough Auditor: Paul J. Lerch, CPA, RMA, PSA, Lerch, Vinci, & Bliss, LLP
- g. Risk Manager: GJEM – Otterstedt Insurance Agency
- h. Grant Writer and Consultant: Millennium Strategies LLC
- i. Borough Appraiser: Associated Appraisal Group
- j. Borough Prosecutor: Marc A. Calello, Esq., Mac Law Group, CO
- k. Alternate Borough Prosecutor: Linda H. Schwager, Esq.
- l. Public Defender: Robert C. Metzdorf, Metzdorf Law Office
- m. Alternate Public Defender: Steven Sciancalepore, Esq.
- n. Planner/Engineer for Economic Development: Neglia Engineering Associates
- o. Continuing Disclosure and Independent Registered Municipal Advisor Services: Phoenix Advisors, LLC

RESOLUTION 24-025/To Confirm Professional Nominations and Authorize Execution of Contracts.

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					

PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

18. ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor recommends and nominates the following for a one-year term, term expiring 12/31/24:

- a. Wastewater Consultant C-3 Licensed Collection Operator: John Pampaloni
- b. Director of Recreation: Edward Volmer
- c. Public Agency Compliance Officer: Corey Gallo
- d. Safety Coordinator: Alex Cacciatore
- e. Town Historian: Eva Gallione

RESOLUTION 24-026/To Ratify Administrative Appointments for 2024.

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

RECOMMENDATIONS AND NOMINATIONS FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Mayor Amatorio recommends and nominates the following to serve on the respective boards and committees:

BARRIER FREE COMMITTEE

19. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Barrier Free Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2024.

- Lee Brinkman
- Patti Enders
- Lorraine Forcier
- Pat Flaherty
- Dana Macaluso Falcicchio
- Kathy Moore
- Sharon Thiemann
- Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse
- Phil Neville, DPW Superintendent
- Harry Hillenius, Building Dept.
- Police Officer Robert Mader
- Captain William Duran

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor_____

BOARD OF HEALTH

20. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Board of Health for the following terms:

Daniel Gerundo 4-year term, term exp. 12/31/27

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor_____

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

21. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Environmental Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2024.

Jessica Aleman
Cris Bontia
Robert Gallione
Angela Meister
Laura Michelson
Rachana Nair
Niki Nath
Venus Rose
Paul Stypulkoski
Joseph Verga
Elena Villanueva
Craig Vogt
Phil Neville, DPW Superintendent

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor_____

GREEN TEAM

22. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Green Team for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2024.

Jessica Aleman
Robert Gallione
Rachana Nair
Paul Stypulkoski
Sarah Stypulkoski
Joe Verga
Corey Gallo, Administrator
Phil Neville, DPW Superintendent & Shade Tree Committee
Dr. Chris Tully, Board of Education

Craig Vogt, Jefferson School Principal
Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Library Board of Trustees for the following terms:

Natalie Rivas	5-year term, term exp. 12/31/28
Jamie Orlando	5-year unexp. term, term exp. 12/31/27

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL

24. Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Local Emergency Planning Council for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2024.

Ryan Shell, Emergency Management Coordinator
Richard Goddin Jr., Deputy OEM Coordinator
Benjamin Bressel, OEM Communications Officer
Ora Kornbluth, Council Liaison
Arvin Amatorio, Mayor
Corey Gallo, Borough Administrator
Mustafa Rabboh, Police Chief
Steven Naylis, Fire Chief
Alex Cacciatore, Safety Coordinator
Phil Neville, DPW Superintendent
Mike Ravenda, Construction Code Official
Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse
Christopher Tully, Board of Education Liaison

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

25. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Municipal Alliance Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2024.

Jennifer DaCosta
Linda DePinto
Mark William Ennis
Mr. James Fasano, Bergenfield School District
Corey Gallo, Borough Administrator
Bochy Lora

Michael Merlo, Chairperson
Nicholas Montello
Thomas O'Reilly
Lt. Rich Ramos, Bergenfield Police Department
Dr. Christopher Tully, Superintendent
Student Member
Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

PLANNING BOARD

26. Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Planning Board for the following terms:

Phil Neville	Class II, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/24
Robert Rivas	Class IV, 4-year term, term exp. 12/31/27
Ernesto Acosta	Class IV, 4-year term, term exp. 12/31/27
Joel Nunez	Class IV, 4-year term, unexp. Term, term exp.12/31/25
Praveen Joseph	Alternate #1, 2-year term, term exp. 12/31/25
_____	Alternate #2, 2-year unexp. term, term exp. 12/31/24

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, to appoint Thomas A. Lodato as a Class III, 1-year term, expiring 12/31/24 and Hernando Rivera as Class III, 1-year term, expiring 12/31/24. All present in favor, none opposed. R.C. All in favor _____

RECREATION COMMITTEE

27. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Recreation Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2024.

Ed Volmer, Director
Juan Arango
Mariann Canino
Jose Duran
Ari Herrera
James Lodato
Kathie Lacey
Vinny Malley
Belinda Mendez
Melissa Weigl
Tony Londano
Brian Timmons
Ryan Martin
Pedro Martinez
Ricardo Mendoza
Jose Quinones
Eric Sherman
Jacki Teel

Bryan Gilligan
Anthony Roldan
Ines De La Rosa
Cesar De La Rosa

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

RENT LEVELING BOARD

28. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Rent Leveling Board as follows:

Robert Policano	Landlord Member, 3-year term, term exp. 12/31/26
William Fanaras	Landlord Member, 3-year term, term exp. 12/31/26
Andrew Lehr	Member, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/24
Sylvia Rosario	Alt. Member, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/24
_____	Alt. Landlord, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/24
_____	Alt. Tenant, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/24

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

MAYOR'S SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

29. Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Senior Citizen Committee for a one-year term, term, term expiring December 31, 2024.

Loretta Amara
Marge Alfano
Steven Bellavia
Donna Bellottie
Lorraine Bernich
Annette Roge
Fred Bellottie
Eileen Conroy
Barbara Gerin
John Horsman
Linda Horsman
Gary Romano

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

30. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Shade Tree Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2024.

Mike Cassidy

Dan Muller
Jules Orkin
Steve Perrone
Joe Schade
Phil Neville, DPW Superintendent
Javier Nuñez, Secretary

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

SITE PLAN COMMITTEE

31. Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Site Plan Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2024.

Nick Garafano, Fire Captain
Jason Bergman, Zoning Board of Adjustment
Steven Naylis, Chief of the Fire Department
Phil Neville, DPW Superintendent and Shade Tree Committee
John Pampaloni, WWC Operator
Mustafa Rabboh, Police Chief
Mike Ravenda, Code Enforcement
Robert Rivas, Planning Board
Joseph Scalora, Chair/Resident Member
Lora Shade, Bergenfield Volunteer Ambulance Corp.
Tracey Zysman, Clerk

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

STIGMA FREE COMMITTEE

32. Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Stigma Free Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2024.

Linabelle Maclang
Lovely Aquino Garcia
Maria Balajadia
Kelle Garcia Supan
Frederick R. Quiambao
Liliza Pancho
Niharika Nath
Bartolome Pancho
Mary Ann Rivera
Jesse Marcus Rivera
Susan Chana Sytner

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

33. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Veterans Advisory Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2024.

- Warren T. Williams, Chairman
- Thomas Lang, Vice-Chairman
- Edgar Garcia
- Dina Moore
- Richard Morf
- Willie Moree Jr.
- Dr. Samuel Paul, Chaplin
- Fred Sahlberg
- Wilfred W. Selby
- Jose Vasquez, Secretary
- Amos White

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

34. Council President Rivera recommends and nominates the following to serve as members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment:

- Ben Cabrera Member, 4-year term exp. 12/31/27
- Yitz Novak Member, 4-year term exp. 12/31/27
- Oriole Familia Alt. #1, 2-year term exp. 12/31/25

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

STANDING COMMITTEES

35. Council President Rivera nominates the following Councilmembers to serve on the following committees. The first named of each shall be the Chairperson.

FINANCE	Kornbluth	Pascual	Rivera
POLICE	Rivera	Kornbluth	Almonte
FIRE	Lodato	Deauna	Pascual
DPW & PARKS	Pascual	Kornbluth	Rivera
BUILDING & GROUNDS	Deauna	Almonte	Lodato
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	Almonte	Lodato	Deauna

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations for all Standing Committees named by Council President Rivera be confirmed.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
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LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

36. Council President Rivera nominates the following Councilmembers to serve as Liaisons to the following Boards and Committees:

AMBULANCE CORPS	Kornbluth
BARRIER FREE COMMITTEE	Deauna
BOARD OF EDUCATION	Almonte
BOARD OF HEALTH	Deauna
COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM	Almonte
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (<i>Ecology</i>)	Rivera
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	Kornbluth
GREEN TEAM	Rivera
LIBRARY BOARD	Lodato
MAYOR'S SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE	Deauna
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE	Deauna
RECREATION COMMITTEE	Kornbluth
RENT LEVELING BOARD	Pascual
SHADE TREE COMMITTEE	Almonte
SITE PLAN	Rivera
STIGMA FREE COMMITTEE	Lodato
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE	Rivera
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Pascual
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT	Pascual

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations for Liaison to all Boards and Committees named by Council President Rivera be confirmed.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

ADJOURNMENT

37. There being nothing further to come before the meeting on **MOTION** offered by _____, seconded by _____, and carried the meeting adjourned at _____ p.m. R.C. All in favor _____