

**BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
2025 REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2025 at 7:00 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 #24-310 has been sent to The Record, The Star Ledger, and Cablevision, placed on a Municipal Bulletin Board, and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

3. PRESENTATION OF COLORS

4. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

5. INVOCATION

SWEARING-IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

6. Reading of the Election Certificate of Councilman – Elect Thomas A. Lodato.

Councilman-Elect Thomas A. Lodato to be sworn in by MaryAnn Salemi, Esq.

7. Reading of the Election Certificate of Councilman – Elect Hernando Rivera.

Councilman-Elect Hernando Rivera to be sworn in by the Honorable New Jersey State Senator Joseph Lagana.

8. Roll Call of 2025 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 25-001**/To Appoint Ora Kornbluth 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 25-002**/To Establish the Seating Order of the 2025 Governing Body.

Councilman Thomas A. Lodato
 Councilman Buddy Deauna
 Councilman Domingo Almonte
 Mayor Arvin Amatorio
 Council President Ora C. Kornbluth
 Councilperson 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 LLC to the position of Borough Attorney for a one-year term, expiring 12/31/2025.

RESOLUTION 25-003/To Confirm Mayor’s nomination of John L. Schettino LLC 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 25-004.** 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. **25-005/**Adopt By-Laws for 2025
- b. **25-006/**Establishing Meeting Dates
- c. **25-007/**Reaffirming Interest Rates and Dates on Delinquent Taxes
- d. **25-008/**Authorizing Fire Department Mutual Aid
- e. **25-009/**Confirming Source Separation and Recycling
- f. **25-010/**Reaffirming Petty Cash and Change Funds
- g. **25-011/**Designate Official Depositories for Current Operating Funds
- h. **25-012/**Designate Secondary Bank Accounts, Signatories and Fiduciary Responsibilities
- i. **25-013/**Authorizing the Utilization of GovDeals, Inc. for the Purpose of Disposing of Surplus Equipment
- j. **25-014/**Authorizing Tax Collector to Cancel Tax Overpayments or Delinquent Amounts less than \$10.00
- k. **25-015/**Authorizing \$20 Fee for Tax Payments Returned for Insufficient Funds
- l. **25-016/**Authorizing Police Department Mutual Aid
- m. **25-017/**Approving the December 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- n. **25-018/**Approving the 2025 Tow Companies
- o. **25-019/**Approving a Tax Sale Certificate \$50 Fee for Third Redemption Request or More
- p. **25-020/**Establishing Penalty for Delinquent Taxes and Other Municipal Charges in Excess of \$10,000.00

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

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

16. **RESOLUTION 25-021/**To Approve Temporary Budget Appropriations in CY 2025.

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 12/31/25:

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

RESOLUTION 25-022/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 12/31/25:

- 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 25-023/To Ratify Administrative Appointments for 2025.

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, 2025.

- Patricia August
- Lee Brinkman
- Milagros Cabuhat
- Patti Enders
- Lorraine Forcier
- Dana Macaluso Falcicchio
- Kathy Moore
- Neha Puniani
- Sharon Thiermann
- Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse
- Phil Neville, DPW Superintendent
- Harry Hillenius, Building Dept.
- Police Officer Robert Mader

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:

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, 2025.

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, 2025.

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:

Marcela Deauna	5-year term, term exp. 12/31/29
Sarah Shaffren	5-year term, term exp. 12/31/29

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

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

24. Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Local Emergency Planning Council for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2025.

Ryan Shell, Emergency Management Coordinator
Richard Goddin Jr., Deputy OEM Coordinator
Benjamin Bressel, OEM Communications Officer
Arvin Amatorio, Mayor
Ora Kornbluth, Council Liaison
Corey Gallo, Borough Administrator
Mustafa Rabbah, Police Chief
Ryan Zadrozna, Fire Chief
Alex Cacciatore, Safety Coordinator
Phil Neville, DPW Superintendent
Mike Ravenda, Construction Code Official
James "Jim" Fedorko,
Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse
Dr. 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, 2025.

Jennifer DaCosta
Linda DePinto
Mark William Ennis
Mr. Robert Ragasa, Bergenfield High School
Corey Gallo, Borough Administrator
Bochy Lora
Michael Merlo, Chairperson
Nicholas Montello, County of Bergen
Thomas O'Reilly
Captain William Duran, 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. 12/31/25
Edgar Dimaren	Class IV, 4-year unexpired term, term exp. 12/31/25
_____	Alternate #2, 2-year term, term exp. 12/31/26

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, to appoint Thomas A. Lodato as a Class III, 1-year term, expiring 12/31/25 and Hernando Rivera as Class III, 1-year term, expiring 12/31/25. 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, 2025.

Ed Volmer, Director
Juan Arango
Mariann Canino
Ines De La Rosa
Cesar De La Rosa
Jose Duran
Bryan Gilligan
Ari Herrera
Kathie Lacey
James Lodato
Tony Londono
Vinny Malley
Ryan Martin
Pedro Martinez
Belinda Mendez
Ricardo Mendoza
Jose Quinones
Anthony Roldan
Eric Sherman
Brian Timmons
Jackie Tee
Melissa Weigl

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:

Catherine Steinel	Member, 3-year term, term exp. 12/31/27
Andrew Lehr	Member, 3-year unexp. term, term exp. 12/31/25
Sylvia Rosario	Alt. Member, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/25
_____	Alt. Landlord, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/25
_____	Alt. Tenant, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/25

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, 2025.

Loretta Amara
Marge Alfano
Steven Bellavia
Lorraine Bernich
Pat Braun
Eileen Conroy
Helen Folli
Barbara Gerin
John Horsman
Linda Horsman
Gwendolyn McDowell
Annette Roge
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, 2025.

Mike Cassidy
Barry Doll
Dan Muller
Jules Orkin
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, 2025.

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

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, 2025.

Maryann Rivera, Chairwoman
Giselle Dean
Liliza Pancho
Niharika Nath
Maria Tubale-Balajadia
Bartolome Pancho
Jesse Marcus Rivera
Kelle Garcia Supan
Frederick R. Quiambao
Britney McNiff
Fanny Cruz Betesh
Maria Rena Penecilla
Jenny Ancheta
Michelle Balisi

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, 2025.

- Venus Carpenter
- Kean S. Castillo
- Gerald J. Ferra Jr.
- Edgar Garcia
- Jose Henriquez
- Thomas Lang
- Willie Moree Jr.
- Richard Morf
- Dina Moore
- Dr. Samuel Paul, Chaplin
- Fred Sahlberg
- John Smith
- Wilfred W. Selby
- Jose Vasquez
- Amos White
- Warren T. Williams

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

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

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

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Amnon Wagner | Member, 4-year term exp. 12/31/28 |
| Richard Morf | Member, unexpired 4-year term, term exp. 12/31/25 |
| _____ | Alt. #2, 2-year term exp. 12/31/26 |

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

35. Council President Kornbluth 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 _____ be confirmed.

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

LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

36. Council President Kornbluth 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 | Rivera |
| COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM | Almonte |
| ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (<i>Ecology</i>) | Rivera |
| EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT | Kornbluth |
| GREEN TEAM | Deauna |
| 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 | Pascual |
| TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE | Rivera |
| VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE | Pascual |
| ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT | Lodato |

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

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

AMATORIO (tie)					
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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 _____