

**MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
JANUARY 1, 2022 -- 3:00 PM**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Menna and Council Members Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Administrator McConnell, Borough Clerk Borghi and Attorney Cannon.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Mayor Menna requested the minutes reflect that, in compliance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 (Open Public Meetings Act), notice of this meeting has been provided by notifying the Asbury Park Press, the Two River Times and the Star Ledger and by placing a notice on the bulletin board and filing same with the Borough Clerk on December 15, 2021.

SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Councilwoman Sturdivant and Councilwoman Triggiano

Mayor Menna asked that the record reflect that prior to the meeting Councilwoman Sturdivant had been sworn in by Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling and Councilwoman Triggiano had been sworn in by Congressman Frank Pallone.

SWEARING IN OF FIRE OFFICIALS:

Chief: Nick Ferraro

First Deputy Chief: Thomas W. Doremus

Second Deputy Chief: Nick Ferraro

He also noted that, prior to the meeting, he had sworn in the 2022 Fire Officials Chief Nick Ferraro and 2nd Deputy Chief Thomas J. Welsh. It was noted that First Deputy Chief Thomas W. Doremus was not available to attend and would be sworn in at a later date.

RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR 2022

22-01 Mayor Menna read, “A Resolution Electing Council President for 2022.”

Mayor Menna said the appointment was at the prerogative of the Council.

Councilwoman Horgan nominated Councilwoman Kate Triggiano. She said all of the present Councilmembers, with the exception of newly elected Councilwoman Sturdivant, had previously served in the role.

Councilman Yngstrom seconded the nomination.

Councilman Ballard nominated Councilwoman Kathy Horgan. He said it was a long standing tradition to nominate someone who was up for re-election.

Councilman Zipprich seconded the nomination.

Councilwoman Horgan declined the nomination.

Mayor Menna reflected on the role of Council President.

Councilman Ballard said, in light of Councilwoman Horgan declining the nomination, he would like to nominate Councilwoman Sturdivant. He said he reasoning was the fact that she had been to top vote getter in the recent election.

Councilman Zipprich seconded the nomination.

Mayor Menna said he would have preferred a unanimous voice. He said the first motion was to approve Councilwoman Triggiano as Council President and called for a vote.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Triggiano, Yngstrom and Horgan.

NAYS: Sturdivant, Ballard and Zipprich

There being three ayes and three nays, Clerk Borghi announced that there was a 3-3 tie.

Mayor Menna again stated he would have preferred a consensus. He said he would have to break the tie and said he supported the nomination. The final vote was four ayes and three nays. The resolution was declared approved.

22-02 Mayor Menna read, “A Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Fair and Open Contract for Professional Services.”

Mayor Menna noted that the appointment of Engineer was not on the resolution and said it would be held over until the next Council meeting. He said the previous engineer would continue until the matter was resolved.

Councilwoman Horgan offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Triggiano.

Councilman Ballard said he had issues with several of the professional appointments. He said he would be abstaining on the vote.

Councilman Zipprich said he would also be abstaining.

Councilwoman Sturdivant said she would be abstaining and asked that further discussion be held in Executive Session.

Mayor Menna said there was currently a motion and a second and called for a vote.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Triggiano, Yngstrom and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Sturdivant, Ballard and Zipprich

There being three ayes and three abstentions, the motion was declared approved.

22-03 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Confirming Council Committees and Liaison Appointments for 2022."

Councilwoman Triggiano noted this was the third time her name had been put forward for the Redevelopment Agency. She said she would be happy to serve since no one else wanted to do it.

Councilman Ballard said he wanted to state on the record that he supported the resolution except for the appointments to the Redevelopment Agency.

Mayor Menna said he understood Councilman Ballard's position but said there was an existing Code and governmental structure in place. He said until, and if, that was changed, he felt they needed to keep the status quo.

Councilman Yngstrom offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-04 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Confirmation Appointments of Officials and Employees for 2022."

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Triggiano.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan..

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-05 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Confirming Board and Committee Appointments for 2022."

Councilman Yngstrom offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

Councilwoman Sturdivant said she was disappointed to see that her running mate, Bruce Maida, had been taken off of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Councilman Ballard said he echoed her concerns about removing Mr. Maida. He said he supported all of the other nominations.

Councilman Zipprich said he echoed the sentiments about Mr. Maida's Zoning Board appointment but said he would vote "yes" for the resolution.

Councilwoman Horgan said she would be voting "yes" and spoke in favor of the appointment of Vince Light to the Zoning Board.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-06 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Adopting Public Comment Protocols for all Meetings of the Borough Council for the Calendar Year 2022."

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Yngstrom.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-07 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Designating Newspapers to Receive Notice of Meetings."

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Ballard.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-08 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Authorizing 2022 Temporary Budget."

Councilman Yngstrom offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-09 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Approving Cash Management Plan."

Councilman Yngstrom offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-10 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Authorizing Creation of Change Funds."

Councilwoman Sturdivant offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Yngstrom.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-11 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Designating Depositories for the Borough of Red Bank."

Councilman Yngstrom offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-12 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes, Utility and other Municipal Assessments."

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Sturdivant.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-13 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Authorizing CFO to Conduct Financial Matters between Regular Business Meetings in 2022."

Councilman Yngstrom offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-14 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution to Confirm Salary for Charter Study Commission Secretary."

Councilwoman Triggiano offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Yngstrom.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-15 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Appointing Robert W. Swisher, C.P.A. as the Borough's Acting Chief Financial Officer from January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022."

Councilman Yngstrom offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

Councilman Ballard asked what the difference was between 22-15 and 22-16.

It was clarified that 22-15 appointed an individual to the position of CFO and 22-16 authorized a contract with the firm for financial services.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

22-16 Mayor Menna read, "A Resolution Awarding a Professional Services Contract to Suplee, Clooney & Company for Financial Accounting Services."

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

REMARKS OF MAYOR MENNA

Mayor Menna asked Councilwoman Sturdivant if she wanted to offer remarks.

Councilwoman Sturdivant thanked her mother for her support during the election. She thanked Congressman Pallone and Assemblyman Houghtaling for participating in the swearing in ceremony earlier in the day. She thanked those who supported her during her campaign and the residents of Red Bank who had placed their trust in her. She said she looked forward to working with everyone on the Council.

Mayor Menna asked Councilwoman Triggiano if she would like to make some remarks.

Councilwoman Triggiano thanked everyone who had come out in the rain earlier to be there in person for the swearing in. She congratulated Councilwoman Sturdivant and said she looked forward to working with her. She thanked Congressman Pallone for swearing her in. She thanked Assemblyman Houghtaling for being present and said he had served the district extremely well along with Assemblywoman Downey. She said they and their hard work would be missed. She said she looked forward to being present and doing the work and said she got into this because she truly loved Red Bank. She thanked everyone for believing in her and voting for her. She thanked the Mayor and said she looked forward to serving as Council President.

Mayor Menna reflected on his conversation with Assemblyman Houghtaling earlier in the day regarding the fact that this could be his last public meeting. He said he had noted that, several years ago, Congressman Pallone had been saddened by the loss of Red Bank from his district. He said one doesn't know what the future holds and said Congressman Pallone was now back serving Red Bank. He said he told Assemblyman Houghtaling that he might also be back soon. He remarked on the contributions of Assemblyman Houghtaling and Assemblywoman Downey.

Mayor Menna wished everyone a happy and healthy new year. He said it had been an unusual year. He said 2021 had not been the year that had been anticipated and said they hoped that 2022 would catapult them into a different future. He said we were still in a post COVID world. He said it had changed the way we have had to deal with each other. He said we have all realized that, in the pandemic, we have become much more vulnerable. He said we thought the vaccines, boosters and natural immunities would give us cover but, evidently, they will not. He said there is a new socio-economic reality and that has isolated some of us. He said we do not have the same interaction for a myriad of reasons. He said it had created exponential possibilities to engage and use technology to become more adaptable. He said municipalities will have to meet the challenges of this year. He called for civility among the Council members despite their difference. He said he saw evidence of that today and said they were all in it together.

He said wanted to pay a specific tribute to the Police Department, Emergency Management Team, the volunteers, the Fire Department and First Aid, the Public Works staff and the staff at all Borough facilities for their efforts during the pandemic. He said they had served and continue to serve with good cheer and courage. He said they had gone above and beyond and said he and the Council wanted to thank them. He said he specifically wanted to thank outgoing Fire Chief Robert Holiday and the Fire Department for never missing a beat. He thanked their families for sharing their loved ones.

He thanked Acting Administrator/Police Chief McConnell for stepping up to the plate. He said he had gone over and above the call of duty. He reviewed his history with Chief McConnell. He said he had met and surpassed expectations. He thanked him for taking up the gauntlet and being their advisor.

He also reviewed his history with the Borough Clerk and thanked her for all she had done and all she continued to do. He said her friendship and her family's friendship had been a source of great strength.

He also recalled memories of Judge and Former Mayor Benedict Nicosia who he said he believed was the oldest surviving Mayor having recently turned 101. He also recalled former Councilwoman Florence "Betti" Thompson who has recently turned 96.

He said he anticipated having a list of items to be on future agendas that he referred to a “punch list” items. He said he would also have a State of the Borough message in the coming month.

Councilman Zipprich asked if there would be Public Comment.

Clerk Borghi said it hadn't traditionally been listed on the Reorganization meeting agenda.

Councilwoman Sturdivant said she wanted to follow up on her comments regarding Assemblyman Houghtaling. She said he was a strong and dedicated Assemblyperson and also one of the most profound gentlemen she had ever met. She said she hoped he would return to politics.

Councilman Ballard said he wanted to wish everyone a happy new year. He said he wanted to welcome Councilwoman Sturdivant to the Council and to congratulate Councilwoman Triggiano on her reelection.

Councilwoman Horgan said she would also like to welcome Councilwoman Sturdivant and looked forward to a good working relationship. She congratulated Councilwoman Triggiano on her reelection. She wished everyone a happy new year. She thanked the residents, the Borough employees and the Police and Fire departments.

Councilman Zipprich also wished everyone a happy new year and said he wanted to echo the sentiments about Assemblyman Houghtaling. He said he, Assemblywoman Downey and Senator Gopal had done a tremendous amount of work over the course of their tenure. He said it was disappointing that they had not been reelected. He said he also wanted to thank all of the Borough employees for their hard work in these trying times.

Councilwoman Sturdivant also wished everyone a happy new year and said she looked forward to working with everyone.

IA McConnell thanked the Mayor for the kind words and said he believe we were required to offer a Public Comment section. He said he mentioned it because there were two people waiting to speak.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marybeth Maida—84 Branch Avenue—congratulated Councilwoman Sturdivant. She said she understood the Mayor's comments about bringing positives into the new year. She congratulated Councilman Yngstrom on his recent marriage and said she believe he no longer lived in Red Bank. She questioned why he wasn't stepping down.

Councilman Yngstrom said he did live in town. He said he did get married but said he still lived in Red Bank. He said he was committed to finishing his term. He said he saw his wife every day and said they did not live in the same house right now.

Ms. Maida said she wanted to make sure she understood that he did not live with his wife.

Councilman Yngstrom said he saw his wife every day and visited her at her home but stressed that he still lived in Red Bank.

Ms. Maida continued to question his residency. She asked him if he planned to run for reelection.

Mayor Menna asked Ms. Maida to finish her statement and said this was not a back and forth.

Ms. Maida questioned everyone's ethics and accused Councilman Yngstrom of lying.

Councilwoman Horgan said she objected to Ms. Maida's comments and it was just stated that the year should be started in a positive way. She said she found it inappropriate for this type of comment to come up today.

Councilwoman Triggiano said she was really sorry that people were talking about Councilman Yngstrom's private life. She said she found the way he handled the situation to be very admirable.

Cindy Burnham—71 Wallace Street—said she also wanted to comment on Councilman Yngstrom. She said she thought he would have stepped down. She criticized any intention to run for reelection and accused him of not living in town. She in her opinion, is was a corrupt move. She said she hoped is actions did not affect his livelihood because she said she felt what he was doing was unethical.

Nancy Blackwood—34 Chestnut Street—said she had attended the swearing in ceremony earlier and said it had gone beautifully. She said she would like to see a fresh start and to see the whole Council working together rather than against each other. She said she appreciated their hard work. She said regarding the comments about Councilman Yngstrom, she said she had a friend who had gotten married and did not live with her husband. She cited reasons that people might make that choice and said it was not uncommon for people to commute back and forth to each other's houses. She said she didn't understand the comments and said she felt, if Councilman Yngstrom said he lived here, then she believed he did actually live here. She said she wished everyone the best for the new year and hoped they would work together to move Red Bank forward.

Danielle Jones—Confidential Associate for the Office of Government Affairs and Community Relations at Brookdale Community College—congratulated everyone serving on Council. She congratulated Councilwoman Triggiano on her appointment as Council President. She wished everyone a happy and healthy new year. She said Brookdale Community College looked forward to working with everyone.

No one else appearing, Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to close the public comment, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Yngstrom, Ballard, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Sturdivant, Triggiano, Yngstrom, Ballard, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi