

**MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
JANUARY 1, 2021 -- 3:00 PM**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Shehady, 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 16, 2020.

SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Menna asked that the record reflect that prior to the meeting Councilmembers Zipprich and Ballard had been sworn in by Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling and Assemblywoman Joann Downey at Riverside Gardens Park.

Councilman Ballard and Councilman Zipprich thanked the Assembly members for swearing them in and for participating in the meeting.

Assemblywoman Downey and Assemblyman Houghtaling congratulated both Councilman Ballard and Councilman Zipprich on their reelection.

Councilman Yassin also offered his congratulations to the returning Council members.

Mayor Menna asked Councilman Ballard if he would like to make any remarks.

Councilman Ballard said he had already made his statement at the swearing in and said it had been broadcast live.

Mayor Menna asked Councilman Zipprich if he would like to make any remarks.

Councilman Zipprich thanked both Assembly members for attending the meeting and thanked his family for their constant love and support. He remembered his in-laws who he said were lost to COVID in July. He thanked friends, neighbors and constituents for their continued trust. He thanked Councilman Ballard for helping to run an effective and educational campaign. He thanked all of the volunteers who had helped on the campaign. He said he lived by his mother's words to be a leader and not a follower. He said he would not succumb to bullying and would stand with other elected officials around the County, State and nation adding that hate had no home in Red Bank.

Mayor Menna said, on behalf of himself, the rest of the Governing Body, the residents, the staff and volunteers, he wanted to offer a heartfelt congratulations on the election as they took office and renewed their commitment to serving the residents of the Borough of Red Bank. He said it was a difficult task at any level of government especially in world that had become somewhat different from when they started. He said public service was a badge of honor and thanked both of the returning Council members.

SWEARING IN OF FIRE OFFICIALS:

Chief: Robert J. Holiday

First Deputy Chief: Nick Ferraro

Second Deputy Chief: Thomas W. Doremus

Mayor Menna asked Clerk Borghi to confirm that the Fire Official had been previously sworn in.

Clerk Borghi confirmed that the Fire Officials for 2021 had been sworn in earlier in the day.

Mayor Menna extended congratulations to the 2021 Chiefs and especially to Chief Robert Holiday who he noted was serving for a second time.

RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR 2019

Mayor Menna said Resolution 21-06 "A Resolution Approving Protocol for Borough Council Meetings" would be tabled for revisions.

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to table the resolution, seconded by Councilman Yassin.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna also noted there would be minor amendments to Resolution 21-05 to include an amendment to the appointments for the Environmental Commission's Green Team and a correction to the appointments of alternates to the Zoning Board.

Councilman Zipprich questioned the changes to the Zoning Board appointments and reviewed previous protocol to move up members.

Mayor Menna said the appointments would be made according to the Council's pleasure.

Councilman Yngstrom asked if that procedure was established by ordinance.

Mayor Menna said it was a protocol, not an ordinance.

Councilman Ballard also noted that the appointment to the Housing Authority had been removed from the resolution and asked if that was correct.

Mayor Menna said that was correct.

21-01 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION ELECTING COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2021."

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Councilman Yassin thanked the Council members for their support.

21-02 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES."

Councilman Yassin made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Yngstrom.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Yngstrom, Ballard*, Zipprich* and Horgan.

NAYS: None

*Councilman Ballard and Councilman Zipprich stated they were voting "Yes" on the resolution but were voting "no" on the appointment for Labor Counsel.

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

21-03 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND LIAISON APPOINTMENTS FOR 2021."

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Yngstrom and Horgan.

NAYS: Ballard

ABSTAIN: Zipprich*

Councilman Zipprich said he wanted his vote recorded as "present."

Attorney Cannon said that would count as an abstention. He said there were only three ways to vote, "yes," "no" or "abstention." He said he believed he was stating that he did not want his vote recorded as a "yes" or a "no."

Councilman Zipprich said that was correct.

Attorney Cannon confirmed that that would be an abstention. He said his presence was recorded at the beginning of the meeting.

There being four ayes, no nays and one abstention, the resolution was declared approved.

21-04 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS OF OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FOR 2021."

Councilman Yassin made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Triggiano.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Yngstrom, Ballard*, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

Councilman Ballard said he would be voting "no" on the appointment of the Community Development Representative and on the appointment of the Administrator to the Emergency Management Committee.

A discussion followed on the duties of the Community Development Representative and the statutory appointment of the Administrator to the Emergency Management Committee.

*Councilman Ballard said he was voting "yes" on the resolution but was abstaining on the vote for the appointment of the Community Development Representative and on the vote for the appointment of the Administrator to the Emergency Management Committee.

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

21-05 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2021.”

Councilman Yassin made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

Councilman Zipprich asked if it was a requirement for appointees to be residents of the Borough.

Mayor Menna said it was generally a requirement unless noted in the ordinance. He asked which appointment he was referring to.

Councilman Zipprich said it was just a general question.

Mayor Menna reiterated that residency was required for some Boards/Committees based on statute or ordinance but it was his philosophy that members should be residents.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

21-06 Mayor Menna read, “A RESOLUTION APPROVING PROTOCOL FOR BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS.”

Mayor Menna noted the resolution was tabled earlier in the meeting.

21-07 Mayor Menna read, “A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING NEWSPAPERS TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF MEETINGS.”

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

21-08 Mayor Menna read, “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2021 TEMPORARY BUDGET.”

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

21-09 Mayor Menna read, “A RESOLUTION APPROVING CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN.”

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

21-10 Mayor Menna read, “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CREATION OF CHANGE FUNDS.”

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

21-11 Mayor Menna read, “A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DEPOSITORYIES FOR THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK.”

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

21-12 Mayor Menna read, “A RESOLUTION FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED ON DELINQUENT TAXES, UTILITY AND OTHER MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENTS.”

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

21-13 Mayor Menna read, “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CFO TO CONDUCT FINANCIAL MATTERS BETWEEN REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS IN 2021.”

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

REMARKS OF MAYOR MENNA

Mayor Menna wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year. He noted that he had already congratulated Councilmembers Zipprich and Ballard on their re-election.

Councilman Ballard said he was very sorry to interrupt the Mayor’s remarks but he had been informed that his remarks at the swearing in were not recorded so he would like to make a statement.

Mayor Menna told him to go ahead with his statement.

Councilman Ballard again apologized for interrupting. He expressed his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the residents of Red Bank for re-electing him. He said he felt that showed his work on the Council was appreciated across political, demographic and social economic divides. He said it had been a true honor and privilege to serve the residents of the Borough. He said he looked forward to continuing that service. He said he must acknowledge his extreme disappointment that his Council colleagues felt fit to remove him from the Finance Committee ignoring his work in the Finance industry and his associated degrees. He said he felt he was uniquely qualified among the current Council members to serve on the Finance Committee. He questioned the motivation and criteria used regarding the new members and Chair of the Finance Committee. He pledged to take on his new chairmanship of the Code Committee with the same vigor and determination that he did as Finance Chair. He said he was aware that there had been staffing issues and high turnover over the last two years that he did not believe had been properly addressed. He thanked his family for their love and support. He thanked his running mate, Councilman Zipprich, and thanked the Democratic Club officers and the many volunteers who had assisted in his re-election effort. He also thanked his campaign manager for his support and dedication and Assemblyman Houghtaling for swearing him in.

Councilman Yassin also thanked Assemblywoman Downey for joining the meeting today.

Mayor Menna continued his remarks noting he had thanked the returning Council members but also wanted to thank the existing members for their dedication and hard work. He said, while they disagreed on some issues from time to time, they all agreed that public service required a substantial amount of personal time and energy. He thanked all members of Council for their continued work and collaborative effort. He said he remembered, one year ago, as he started his remarks there were all sorts of expectations of wonderful things that could happen in a world that was a lot different than the world in which they met today. He said it was a changed world from January of 2020. He said many plans came to a screeching halt with the global pandemic. He said world and nation events had taken second stage to the pandemic news. He noted the number of cases in the Borough and said they all new individuals and families who had been affected, particularly minorities and seniors. He said they collectively sent their condolences for the lives that had been lost. He also expressed sympathy to those who had had the virus and endured residual effects. He said the virus was not going away and the vaccine would not be a panacea. He said he felt the entrenchment was going to last until at least the middle of 2021. He said they had to continue to be on guard. He said last year they had been proactive and had taken bold, creative initiatives to protect the public and the Borough’s visitors. He commended the members of the Governing Body for responding to the emergency and acting boldly and for the right reasons. He said they had been criticized by many but said they were silent now because they had done the right thing. He said he believed the challenge ahead of them this year was that they had to continue their support for health care workers, first responders, volunteers, the municipal workers and all essential workers on the front line. He said they would probably have to continue the restrictions that were in place for some time to come. He said he felt it was the only way they could wake up from the bad dream that no one had anticipated. He said appreciation was due to the Governing Body for their support saying they had not shied for one minute regarding undertaking measures that had been unpopular in many quarters. He said appreciation had to go out to Business Administrator Shehady. He said, during this pandemic, they had needed a leader that could get the job done. He said Mr. Shehady had done it with conviction and drive and with intrepid ideas. He said extreme appreciation went to him and to the entire team of Department Heads, the staff—uniformed and non-uniformed services—as well as volunteers. He said the business community had been extraordinarily impacted and had suffered more than they will know. However, he continued, that pain is not over yet. He said they had worked with RiverCenter and said they had worked as a partnership. He said the Red Bank business district will come out of this. He said the work that had been done with the Broadwalk and pedestrian plazas brought accolades throughout the State. He said, in a dark time, they had come together and given people hope and pride. He said they had given them the opportunity to continue their lives as much as they could. He said that pride would be tested as they went into another year of people working from home and would be needed governmental assistance that may or may not be provided at the federal

and state levels. He said they were committed to doing as much as they could in 2021, to work cooperatively with the business community and help them. He said they would continue the partnership that worked so well. He said they also pledge to continue to work with Governor Murphy's plan to bring the State back to a sense of normalcy as quickly as possible. He said their role was to work in partnership with the Governor and with the State Health Department. He said only united together could they surmount the battle. He said the Council had work ahead of itself and said there would be budget initiatives that will have to be implemented. He said they will be presenting a continuing infrastructure and Public Works improvement capital plan. He said they had to move forward with the Marine Park rehabilitation process and with the Sunset Park plan. He said they would also be addressing the Master Plan. He said there had been a great deal of misinformation and, regrettably, most of that had been deliberate, regarding the Senior Center. He said he wanted to make clear that there was no present or anticipated plan to sell the Senior Center. He said the inescapable reality was that it was a 30 year old building that had sustained a cataclysmic structural problem that will require remediation. He said there had been a lot of discussions about how to best accomplish that and said that was part of a normal government function. He said there was never any discernable plan for that building to be sold. He said the Seniors were very important to all of them and they had made plans to accommodate them in a safe, warm location that had ample parking. He said it was a temporary solution and said they were probably unhappy that they couldn't be together. He noted that was a problem faced by everyone right now. He asked the Council to coordinate and work together on upcoming initiatives adding that they all loved the town and were all experiencing isolation from others. He again thanked the Councilmembers for their service and thanked the residents for the confidence over the years.

Councilman Yassin said he was remiss in not recognizing Senator Gopal earlier and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Mayor Menna thanked Senator Gopal for his connection to his district and for his energy and commitment.

Attorney Cannon thanked the Mayor and Council for their confidence in him by reappointing him as Borough Attorney. He said he also wanted to note that the Administrator should check for anyone who wanted to make a public comment before they adjourned the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Suzanne Visconti—25 Cedar Street—said not all Councilmembers had contact information on the Borough website. She asked that information be listed for all members in the spirit of transparency. She said she hoped the town could all come together. She said it was disappointing that they were taking someone with Councilman Ballard's skills off of the Finance Committee. She said she hoped it wasn't political. She said, in addition to the Master Plan, she hoped they would look at another suggestion from the Management Report which was to review the form of government.

Councilman Ballard said his contact number was on the website.

Administrator Shehady said he and the Clerk would review the website and update the information.

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to close the public comment, seconded by Councilman Yassin.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, 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 Councilman Yngstrom.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi