

**MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
JANUARY 1, 2013
3:00 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Menna and Council Members Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee and Murphy.

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Sickels, Borough Clerk Borghi, Chief Financial Officer Lapp, Attorney O'Hern and Engineer Ballard.

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 19, 2012.

SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Superior Court Judge Benedict Nicosia issued the Oath of Office to Councilman DuPont.

Superior Court Judge Benedict Nicosia issued the Oath of Office to Councilman Murphy.

SWEARING IN OF FIRE OFFICIALS:

Mayor Menna sworn in the Fire Officials for 2013

Chief: Thomas Doremus

First Deputy Chief: Thomas Welsh

Second Deputy Chief: Joseph Lauterwasser

INVOCATION – Monsignor Lowery

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Menna noted that the Pipes and Drums of the Atlantic Watch was Red Bank's own pipe band and said he had been a founding member.

Mayor read a proclamation proclaiming 2013 as a year of celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Pipes and Drums of the Atlantic Watch and presented it to representatives of the band wearing his original hat that he had received as a member of the group.

Pipe Major James Whyte remembered how he had become involved with the group and thanked the Mayor and Council for their support.

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

Councilman Murphy thanked his wife for her support, thanked his running mate Councilman DuPont for his efforts on the campaign and thanked the people of Red Bank for believing in him and reelecting him. He said it was truly an honor to serve the community which he had grown up in. He also thanked the Borough's professionals, employees and Department Heads for their efforts in the past year. He commended the members of the Red Bank Volunteer Fire Department, First Aid, Fire Police, Auxiliary, Police Department, Public Works and Emergency Management Committee for doing a stellar job during Hurricane Sandy. He said, on behalf of himself and his family, he would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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

Councilman DuPont said he wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year filled with health and many blessings. He said he wanted to express his appreciation to his wife and spoke of her courage in the past year as she fought breast cancer. He said he wanted to encourage all of the aunts, mothers, grandmothers,

sisters and daughters to do self-exams and get mammograms. He said he was humbly touched by the outpouring of support by the Red Bank residents and the hospitality that had been shown to him and Councilman Murphy as they had campaigned throughout the town. He said he wanted to thank Councilman Murphy and said he considered him a brother. He thanked several members of the Democratic Committee specifically Barbara Boas, Lauren Nicosia, Debbie Marx and Mary Beth Maida. He thanked the Borough employees and Department Heads. He particularly thanked Administrator Sickels for his efforts during Hurricane Sandy. He also thanked Public Work Director Watson, CFO Lapp, Borough Clerk Borghi, Administrative Secretary Hoffmann and Police Chief McCarthy. He also said he wanted to make a point to thank Public Works Supervisor Robert Holiday for his efforts to keep Red Bank's water system up and running during the water main break of last summer. He said he also wanted to commend the Red Bank Fire Department, the Office of Emergency Management and the CERT team for their efforts during Hurricane Sandy noting the fact that they had gone door to door with printed flyers to keep residents informed when all other communication was out. He said he felt they had a lot to be thankful for and that he and Councilman Murphy had run to continue progress because they felt their jobs had not been completed. He cited several projects that were coming to fruition such as the Monmouth Street revitalization, the beginning of the project as Monmouth and West streets and the Lofts project on Bridge Avenue. He said Red Bank was hip, open for business, a destination, culturally based, inclusive, diverse and was the best place to eat, dance, laugh, cry and pray. He said Red Bank had survived the difficult economic times through conservative attitudes and there was room for optimism and cited some of the other pending projects including affordably housing and improvements at Count Basie Park. He said wanted to close with a quote from John F. Kennedy which was "we should not let our fears hold us back from pursuing our hopes." He said he thought Red Bank had a lot to be hopeful for and a lot to be proud of. He said he was proud to serve the Community for another term.

RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR 2013

13-01 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION ELECTING COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2013."

Councilwoman Lee offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman DuPont.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Murphy

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

13-02 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES."

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Murphy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

13-03 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2013."

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Murphy.

Councilwoman Lewis asked if the Vision Committee should have been included on the list. Mayor Menna said it would not be included because it was an Ad Hoc Committee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

13-04 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING TIME AND PLACE OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2013.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

13-05 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING NEWSPAPERS TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF MEETINGS.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

13-06 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2013 TEMPORARY BUDGET.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

REMARKS OF MAYOR MENNA

42:00

Mayor Menna wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. He said he wanted to also thank and congratulate all of the members of the Office of Emergency Management, CERT Team, Police Department, Fire Department, First Aid, Auxiliary, and Department of Public Works who he said really rolled up their sleeves and came through with flying colors that reflected the strength of Red Bank during Tropical Storm Sandy. He specifically thanked OEM Coordinator Tom Welsh and Administrator Stanley Sickels for their efforts. He reiterated the efforts made by Mr. Sickels to make sure that power was restored to the Borough. He commended the efforts of the Borough’s Attorney, CFO, Engineer, Clerk, DPW Director and the Chief of Police and thanked them for their service.

He commended Councilmen Murphy and DuPont for their service on the Council and said he was grateful for their reelection and friendship. He praised Councilman DuPont’s efforts on the Finance Committee, particularly his caution and insight, and his ability to repeatedly bring the budget in under cap. Councilman DuPont said he couldn’t do what he did without his fellow Committee members, Councilman Zipprich and Councilwoman Lewis. Mayor Menna thanked Councilman Zipprich for his participation on various Boards and for his efforts as liaison to the Department of Public Works. He complimented Councilwoman Lewis for all of her efforts including her work on the Vision Committee to bring art to where the people live rather than just to where they visit and also for her efforts with Parks and Recreation and the funding received to improve Count Basie Park. He thanked Councilwoman Horgan for efforts on her Boards and her ability to address difficult issues in a straightforward, intelligent and concise fashion. He noted he had known Councilwoman Lee since Grammar School and commended her representation of the Community as a lifelong resident. He said her stewardship of Code Enforcement had been very positive and that her representation on the Library Board put her in the fulcrum of a place undergoing a dramatic change along with libraries all across the Country because of changing technology.

He commended Council President Murphy's efforts as liaison to the Senior Center and for his leadership as Fire and Police Commissioner.

He said Red Bank was blessed and unfortunate that, even during a challenging economic time, the Borough's commercial base still accounted for about forty percent of the tax base and said it was growing. He said he felt the initiatives of the Council in 2012 had contributed to that. He noted that they had increased the availability of parking by using new technology and said they will continue to look at parking enhancements in the coming year. He noted that the introduction of the new system had actually reduced parking fines. He credited Red Bank's use of valet parking systems with helping it to thrive and said it was something very few municipalities had done. He also noted that, in the previous year, they had talked about creating a permanent memorial to Katharine Elkus White and said, with the completion of the Monmouth Street streetscape program, he hoped they would be moving forward with that long overdue acknowledgement. He also pledged that the Mayor's Saturday morning meetings would continue in 2013 at private venues such as churches and places of assembly.

He said, while the economy had been challenging, Red Bank had fared well. He said that companies across the county were cutting their workforce, but local business Morgan Stanley had doubled theirs. He also noted that Seals Eastern had remained in the same location while competing in a global market and had increased their workforce by fifteen percent. He said he also anticipated that they would be applying to expand their existing factory. He also noted that several new corporations had been moving in as tenants which had increased the Borough's visibility and exposure in the national market. He said they had started 2012 with approximately a sixteen percent vacancy rate in the downtown commercial area and said it was now down to five percent. He added that while many stores were still boarded up, there was interior work being done for tenants. He noted that the Atrium had just expanded its facilities with a beautiful multi-million dollar enhancement project. He cited the addition of several new single family homes on Bridge Avenue that had replaced dilapidated structures that would enhance the value of adjacent properties. He spoke of how he and former Mayor McKenna had been criticized for investing money in Cedar Crossing because no one thought it would ever be done. He said they proved them all wrong because it had been done, it was successful and there were Red Bank residents buying units for unheard of prices. He said there was a driving need for more. He noted the Train Station Housing Redevelopment project had been approved by the Zoning Board and said he expected to see the beginning of construction of architecturally significant new housing in the train station area in the coming months. He added that while everyone was staying the housing market was dying, he said in Red Bank it was picking up.

He said they had had a vision of the Monmouth Street streetscape project for years as an effort to connect both sides of town and said it was in the final stages and would be as beautiful as the Broad Street project had been. He noted the Front Street traffic calming project was complete and said he couldn't thank the County enough for those improvements which had made the area safer and more attractive as an entry point to the Borough. He said the work would be duplicated at the Front Street Bridge by the Galleria and he expected that work to start in the next couple of months. He again thanked the county for hearing Red Bank's plight and, instead of just creating a bridge, there would be an overlook paid for by the County that would benefit all residents with the ability to view the river. He also noted that the Red Bank Athletic Field had been a dream that was now a reality and was being used by both residents and visitors. While the town grew, he continued, the Council members were not pushovers and had taken serious steps, some successful and some unsuccessful, but said it had to be done and there were no apologies. He said, when the need arose they had gone to court three separate times: once to protect their neighborhoods from encroaching commercialism regarding a 24-hour store which they won; secondly they had taken a strong stance against a major corporation that was vandalizing the streetscape that the Red Bank taxpayers had paid millions of dollars for and, despite best efforts, the court had sided with New Jersey Natural Gas and thirdly, with other municipalities the Borough was actively suing the Two River Water Reclamation Authority for the imbalance they had caused for residents and users of the utility.

He said Red Bank was in an enviable situation noting that they were on the threshold of change and they should not be afraid of it. He said felt most of the people on the Council welcomed change as long as it was explained to them. He said it would put them on a path to be a Center not just for the immediate community but for the County, the State and the Tri-State area. He added that he felt the Borough's focus and future was in the cultural tourism which would transfer into money merchants and ultimately in tax savings for residents. He said he thought it was important to continue on this path and noted the successful opening by the New Jersey Museum of Contemporary Art that no one thought would be successful yet was reported on in major national press. He also noted the Taste Red Bank campaign had brought tens of thousands into town and those individuals had been exposed to the diversity of our community. He said the urbanist initiatives such as roof top dining continue strongly and added that open space and recreation were also very important with projects on Locust and Sunset moving forward.

He said the Borough had a lot on its plate but noted they were moving cautiously in regard to the public treasury and said if the funds weren't available they couldn't just write a check for it. He said they were

closely watching the budget but at the same time they were united in their commitment to a vision of competitiveness.

He said as 2012 ends and a new year begins, he called on everyone to enjoy the experiences of transformation, rebirth and renewal. He urged everyone to cast away the refuge of the old year, keep what should remain and be open to the wonderful changes to come. On behalf of the entire Council, he wished everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi