

**MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 1, 2011
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 Mason, 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 22, 2010.

INVOCATION – Most Reverend Bishop Manuel Cruz

SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Superior Court Judge Louis Locascio issued the Oath of Office to Mayor Menna.

Superior Court Judge Benedict Nicosia issued the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Lee.

Superior Court Judge Benedict Nicosia issued the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Horgan.

SWEARING IN OF FIRE OFFICIALS:

Mayor Menna sworn in the Fire Officials for 2011

Chief: John Mego

First Deputy Chief: Joshua Sanders

Second Deputy Chief: Thomas Doremus

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Menna presented a Proclamation to Lord Mayor Lucio Cordisco of the Village of Maisonette, New Brunswick, Canada, proclaiming him to be the recipient of the Freedom of the Borough of Red Bank. The Mayor also presented him with photographs of the 1939 royal visit of King George passing through Red Bank after the party had stopped in New Brunswick.

RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR 2011

11-01 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION ELECTING COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2011."

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

11-02 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ENGINEER."

Councilman Murphy 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.

11-03 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF CONFLICT ENGINEER."

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

11-04 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH AUDITOR."

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

11-05 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY."

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

11-06 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL LABOR COUNSEL."

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

11-07 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2011."

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.

11-08 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING TIME AND PLACE OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2011."

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.

11-09 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING NEWSPAPERS TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF MEETINGS."

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

11-10 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2011 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.

11-11 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOND COUNSEL FOR THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK."

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Before offering his remarks, Mayor Menna offered Councilwomen Horgan and Lee an opportunity to speak.

Councilwoman Lee called being reelected a moving experience that showed the community was behind her and the work she was doing. She said being able to work in her town with her friends and family was an honor and had been an honor since the first day. She said she looked forward to the next three years working with the Council and the citizens of Red Bank.

Councilwoman Horgan wished everyone a happy new year. She noted that 2010 was not a good year for Democrats nationally but thought the fact that they prevailed in Red Bank sent a message that the Council was doing a good job. She said not only were the residents their constituents but their friends as well. She said that, looking upon the audience, she knew almost everyone by name and said it was a very humbling and inspiring experience. She said she wanted to thank her fellow Council people. She said one of the reasons she and Councilwoman Lee were sitting where they were was due to the efforts of Councilman Zipprich who served as their campaign manager. She thanked him for his efforts. She also thanked all of the Borough's staff and said the Council could not do their jobs with their help. She said she agreed with Councilwoman Lee that they were all a family and that they try to make the best decisions for everyone.

Councilman Murphy offered his congratulations to Councilwomen Horgan and Lee and spoke of the unique individuals that comprise the Council. He said the Councilwomen had put a lot of time in and he was proud to serve with them. He also commended 2010 Fire Chief Alan Soden Jr. and said it had been a pleasure working with him. He spoke of the challenges faced by the Department in the past year. He also said his thoughts and prayers were with Chief McCarthy who couldn't be at the meeting but commended the efforts of the Police Department especially during the recent storm. He reviewed the difficulties the Borough faced in the storm and also commended Gary Watson and the Public Works Division for their efforts and well as Administrator Stanley Sickels who cut a vacation short to return to assist in the storm. He said he also wanted to congratulate Jackie Reynolds on her appointment as Director of the Senior Center and said she had been with the Senior Center for a number of years and did a wonderful job. He also commended the Centers staff and volunteers for making it the best Senior Center. Finally, he said he wanted to thank the wives that gave up time with their husbands so they could be on the road making sure the town was safe.

Councilwoman Lewis congratulated Mayor Menna and her fellow Councilwomen on their reelections and said she agreed with the previous sentiments expressed that they were a team and a family with their ups and downs. She said the team was not only those that were sitting in the meeting but also the Borough's staff who were committed to the citizens of Red Bank. She wished everyone a happy new year and said she was looking forward to doing great work with the rest of the Council in 2011.

Councilman Zipprich said he wanted to recognize Freeholder Mallet, Congressman Pallone, as well as the clergy and judges, who were in attendance. He said he also offered his congratulations to Mayor Menna and Councilwomen Horgan and Lee. He said the Council had had their ups and downs but the voters had spoken. He said he was thrilled to have them reinstalled and he thanked them for their service and said he looked forward to working with them to keep Red Bank vibrant. He wished everyone a happy and healthy new year and spoke of the challenges in the past year. He congratulated his fellow Council members for meeting the challenges head on and thinking outside of the box. He thanked the staff members, Department Heads, Board and Committee members and volunteers whose efforts benefit Red Bank. He thanked the retirees for their service and wished them health and wellness in the next Chapter of the lives. He congratulated the newly installed Fire Chiefs and wished them success and a safe year. He wished the Police Chief, and Director of Public Works and their staffs a safe year also. He said 2011, like 2010, would pose challenges for the Borough. He noted that the Governor and his administration had presented municipalities all around the State with greater responsibility to do more with less. He added that, while it was a monumental task, he believed that the Council could and would meet the challenges of 2011 and would do so boldly. He said they would achieve success in a fiscally responsible and transparent way. He noted that the people of Red Bank had put their trust in the Council members to make the tough decisions during trying economic times.

Councilman DuPont wished everyone a happy new year and congratulated Mayor Menna and Councilwomen Horgan and Lee on their reelections. He asked the Council to continue to act boldly and without fear and credited former Mayor McKenna with teaching them how to be bold and to act without fear. He also noted the many shared services agreements the Borough has in place and commended the actions of the Fire Department in the recent storm noting that the Department responded to calls in Tinton Falls because that Borough's Department could not get out of their firehouse. He also thanked the members of the Public Works Department for their efforts. He welcomed the new Borough Attorney, noted his background and said he looked forward to working with him.

Attorney O'Hern thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and said, as a native son of Red Bank, it was an honor to serve in that capacity.

REMARKS OF MAYOR MENNA

Mayor Menna wished everyone a happy new year and thanked everyone for their comments. He said he wanted to recognize some key individuals who were involved in public service that had been very good to the citizens of Red Bank including Bishop Cruz, Pastor Porter, Congressman Pallone, Mayor McKenna, Judge Locascio, Judge Nicosia, Mayor Skudera of Tinton Falls, Mayor Buccellato of Matawan, Freeholder Mallet, Matawan Councilman Urbano, former Middletown Committeeman Byrnes and Superintendent of Red Bank Schools Morana.

He noted that all of Red Bank's volunteers and employees are very special. He spoke of his long relationship with the Red Bank Fire Department and its history of generations helping others and cited some examples of families that have served. He commended the Department's efforts in the past storm noting that they were all volunteers and did everything knowing they wouldn't be getting a paycheck but did it simply to help their neighbors and sometimes receiving criticism for their efforts. He said the other group of public employees that really merited support were those from the Public Works Department. He said the men and women of that Department, during extremely difficult circumstances, when they weren't getting much help from the State or County, were able to do the impossible in many instances. He offered the Borough's appreciation and thanks.

He said New Year's Day was typically a day of reflection but noted that it was also a time to focus on the future, a time to express dreams and expectations, a time of renewal and challenging opportunities for elected officials. He said Red Bank's residents were as diverse as ever and said he felt the Borough's diversity was its strength and was what made it different from other municipalities in Monmouth County. He said, sometimes even though we have the most modern means of communication, we don't communicate with each other. He said, while residents were used to politicians knocking on their doors in the fall, he would like to offer a new model for 2011 and welcomed other Council members to join him beginning in March for a series of neighborhood gatherings in places like public parks and street corners on Saturday mornings. He said it would give residents a chance to talk with their elected officials and certain department heads to discuss what was going on in their respective neighborhoods.

He said the Borough was blessed by its employees and it is often heard in the press that there is a lot of fat but noted that the borough was doing more work than it was 10 years before with 20 percent less employees. He spoke of the dedication of the employees and commended their efforts. He said felt unions and collective bargaining units were important. He said he was mentioning that because a few weeks before the Municipality had been able to strike an agreement with its Communication Workers Union and other employees that would keep people working. He noted the Union had been sensitive to the needs of the taxpayers and weren't aggressive in terms of their demands.

He spoke of the Borough's youngest citizens noting that many were immigrants like himself and said they were learning quickly, their test scores were rising and they were being productive members of our society. He said the young residents were making the Borough proud and credited the School Board and its members as well as the local members of the teacher's union. He said he wanted to express his appreciation for all of their good work and the increasing commitment that parents, students and the administration had had.

Regarding the Borough's commercial base, Mayor Menna noted that 42 percent of the municipal taxes are paid by the businesses and said it was a partnership that would continue and must be enhanced. He said he was pleased that RiverCenter worked so closely with the Council. He offered the organization kudos for the way they have handled the economic downturn noting that there had been some closings, but also some openings. He said they had tried some new initiatives including the Oysterfest which brought in 30,000 participants, the Wedding Walk which also brought in thousands and also mentioned some upcoming and established events. He added that he felt it was time to continue the economic objectives and policies that they had started. He noted that the Council had suspended the Parking Deficiency Contribution for new businesses and that had resulted in a lot of new businesses applying to come into town which he said was a good sign. He also said they had made it easier for the Building Department to issue permits without applicants going through burdensome Planning Board processes but said they had more work to do to make it easier.

He said the Council was moving forward with the Train Station Redevelopment area for housing and retail and noted that NJTransit would be infusing about \$2 million dollars into the train station which he hoped would result in a deck at the train station. As part of that overlay zone, he said he hoped the Borough's boards would act aggressively and quickly to approve the area developments that were being considered. He said it would bring vital life to an area that sorely needed additional activity and economically reasonable housing. He noted that the Bridge Avenue corridor had undergone a tremendous redevelopment and, for the first time in 20 years, had had new homes built. He also noted the upcoming project in the area called Lincoln Square saying it should see the light of day in the near future. He thanked Pastor Porter, Mayor McKenna and the rest of the committee that had worked so well on their efforts regarding Cedar Crossing. He said, while other towns were running away from affordable housing, Red Bank had the courage to embrace it and rolled up their sleeves with a not for profit group and reported that they had broken ground and would be building housing units to be owned, not rented, by people in Red Bank at an affordable rate based on what they can pay. He also noted the Borough's partnership with the New Jersey Mortgage Finance Agency and the Live Where You Work Program that would help provide financing. He said the affordable housing was a wonderful way to keep families, young people and older people together and helping them to avoid moving out of state.

He said he, Councilwoman Lewis and the rest of the Council had discussed building a committee to talk about community building as well as vision. He said the idea was that bricks and mortar do not make a community and they had to find a way to tie it all together. He said he would be appointing a Community Building Vision Committee that would be chaired by Councilwoman Lewis and would include Council members Lee and Zipprich. He said the Committee would be charged with reporting back to the Council on what Red Bank as a community can do to compete effectively in Central New Jersey to attract new business activities and opportunities, to engage housing and incorporate community building and neighborhood interaction. He said after the Council Committee reports back, they would be appointing a citizen group to assist the committee to move forward to the next step.

Much had been written about the Fireworks on the Navesink Committee, Mayor Menna continued, and he said he was grateful for the volunteers that put together the event for 200,000 visitors every July 3rd. He said the model must be reviewed and the Council would be discussing the matter in January. He said he thought the event was a positive thing for Red Bank and for the area and the Council would be giving it serious consideration.

He said parking had been and would continue to be a perennial problem. He said the Borough has outgrown the lots that were built in the 1950s. He said they were state of the art at the time but the world had changed. He said surface lots were no longer adequate and, beginning this year, the Council would be discussing initiatives that would provide for parking options on Borough owned properties in the core business district. He said there was no question that there was a parking deficiency that was somehow impeding economic utilization of properties. He said he felt the Borough could work collectively to use its properties without impact on the tax rate and make it a positive thing for the residents by creating revenue. He said they just didn't want to consider parking lots adding that he thought they needed to consider planning initiatives and green initiatives. He said people would see a lot of talk and presentation on the issue in the coming year.

Mayor Menna noted that the State had cut back and it would be very easy to say they couldn't do things. He said their role was to do what they could do with their resources. He said the Council had been enormously positive and forwardly thinking. He said finances were going to be tough in the coming year but he thought that the Borough would be fine because of the cooperation they received from the municipal employees. He said they need to look for new forms of revenue and look outside the box. He said he felt everyone was united and wanted to get projects moving in Red Bank, to create opportunities for housing, opportunities for commercial development and move it along quickly. As they face the challenges, he continued, he was confident that they had the professional and political support to intelligently discuss the issues and bring all of their ideas to the table and work well together to move forward. He said it was easy to say things look bleak but noted that they couldn't control what happened on a world level but thought they could start having a micro-control in terms of the Borough's place in the world. He noted Red Bank was a center, the living room of New Jersey and some still say the hippest place in New Jersey. In order to be those things, he said, the Borough had to remain competitive, recycle itself and not be afraid of change but embrace it.

He wished everyone a very blessed, happy, safe and wonderful new year.

BENEDICTION – Reverend Terrence Porter

AUDIENCE

ADJOURNMENT

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

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