

**MINUTES  
REORGANIZATION MEETING  
JANUARY 1, 2009  
3:00 P.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Sickels, Borough Clerk Vivona, Chief Financial Officer Mason, Attorney Pringle, Assistant Attorney Hall and Engineer Kosenski.

ABSENT: Councilman Murphy.

**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 Courier, 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 23, 2008.

Mayor Menna welcomed everyone and thanked them for braving the cold weather to come out and commemorate this wonderful event. He said he wanted to extend a warm and welcome invitation to Congressman Frank Pallone. Mayor Menna also welcomed current Freeholder Barbara McMorrow and Freeholder-elect Amy Mallet. He said we were also happy to have a gentleman who has been instrumental in the revitalization of grass roots operations as well as politics in America, the Honorable Jim Dean Chairman of Democracy for America. Mayor Menna introduced members of the "Red Bank family" including former Mayor Benedict Nicosia and former Mayor Edward McKenna as well as representatives from neighboring municipalities.

**INVOCATION** – Reverend Christopher Rodriguez of Trinity Episcopal Church

**SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Congressman Pallone issued the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Lewis.

Freeholder McMorrow issued the Oath of Office to Councilman Zipprich.

**SWEARING IN OF FIRE OFFICIALS:**

Retired Superior Court Judge Nicosia issued the Oath of Office to:

Chief: Joseph Forgione  
First Deputy Chief: Alan Soden, Jr.  
Second Deputy Chief: John Mego

Mayor Menna noted that Alan Soden Jr. was serving as a Chief for the second time and said it was a sign of his devotion to the town.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON RESOLUTIONS ON THE AGENDA AND ORDINANCES ON THE AGENDA FOR FIRST READING**

**RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR 2009**

09-01            Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION ELECTING COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2009."

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

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES:            Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee

NAYS:            None

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

09-02        Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ENGINEER.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee

NAYS:        None

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

09-03        Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH AUDITOR.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee

NAYS:        None

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

09-04        Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Lee

NAYS:        None

ABSTAIN:     DuPont

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

09-05        Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2009.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee

NAYS:        None

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

09-06        Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING TIME AND PLACE OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2009.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee

NAYS:        None

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

09-07        Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING NEWSPAPERS TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF MEETINGS.”

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

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES:        Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee

NAYS:        None

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

09-08        Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2009 TEMPORARY BUDGET.”

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

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES:        Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee

NAYS:        None

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

**REMARKS OF MAYOR MENNA**

Mayor Menna asked Councilman Zipprich to make his remarks.

Mr. Zipprich said he was humbled to be sitting here as a representative of the people of Red Bank. He said there was not enough time to thank everyone who participated so offered a broad thank you to his fellow Red Bankers and his friends across the country. He said he was grateful and honored to be seated amongst dedicated public servants and to have been sworn in by his friend Freeholder Barbara McMorrow. He said his commitment to our community would not have been possible without the love and support of his partner J.P. and his daughter Mary Kate. He said he was grateful for their love, their guidance and their criticisms. He said he also wanted to thank his mom and dad, his sister, brother-in-law and many nieces and nephews. He said he considers himself the luckiest Councilman in the history of Red Bank to have run with three sitting Councilwomen—Sharon Lee, Kathy Horgan and Juanita Lewis. He said each of these women offer unique experiences and perspectives. He said he believes they will serve Red Bank well. He said he shares their dedication to serve all of the people of Red Bank. He said Councilmen DuPont and Murphy have offered a great spirit of cooperation, a great deal of communication and have been keen to share their experiences and guidance. He said he was grateful for their assistance and friendship. He said Mayor Menna has been generous in imparting his over 20 years of government service and his amazing knowledge of Red Bank history and families. He said he has provided a structure that you can only find in a close knit community like ours. He said he looked forward to working with all of them. He said a special thank you to Chairman Jim Dean of Democracy for America for being here today. He asked Mr. Dean to extend his gratitude to his staff. He said he also wanted to thank Mr. Dean’s brother Howard Dean for encouraging people across the U.S. to put democracy in action by running for office. He thanked the individuals and organizations who assisted with his campaign and wished everyone a happy New Year.

Mayor Menna asked Councilwoman Lewis to make her remarks

Ms. Lewis commented on the journey she has taken and said she looked toward the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead to make a difference for the citizens of Red Bank. She thanked her mom, sisters and friends as well as various organizations and individuals who assisted with her campaign including her fellow Council members, her running mate Ed Zipprich and his partner J.P. She said she also wanted to thank the citizens of Red Bank for their trust and belief in her. She said closed with “Let’s go to work. Happy New Year.”

Mayor Menna asked if any other Council members wanted to offer any comments.

Councilwoman Lee welcomed Councilman Zipprich and Councilwoman Lewis to the Council.

Councilwoman Horgan welcomed audience members and said it was a thrill to have Ed and Juanita on the Council. She said they earned their seat on the Council by working tirelessly last year. She said she was also thrilled that there were three women still on the Council which she said she felt was very important.

Councilwoman Lee said she was glad to have Councilman Zipprich and Councilwoman Lewis on the Council and that she looked forward to working with them. She thanked their families for lending them

to the town for this period of time. She said learned early on that your family gives up the most when they give you up for public service.

Councilman DuPont said he wanted to welcome them with open arms. He said they had a lot of work and a lot of uncharted territory ahead. He said agreed they had to get to work.

Mayor Menna said he was remiss in not pointing out a very distinguished gentleman and friend of Red Bank who was in the audience. He said he signifies so much that is good in our community. He said he wanted to especially welcome the Rev. Dr. Henry P. Davis. He explained that Dr. Davis is the long standing president of the Greater Red Bank NAACP as well as a pastor of one of our local churches. He said he pointed him out because the NAACP will, this year, will be celebrating a milestone anniversary of 100 years. He said, for 70 of those 100 years, we have had a Red Bank and Greater Red Bank Chapter that has survived crises and challenges, has always stood in our community and has worked with all of us to make the community better. He noted that, as they celebrate 100 years of the establishment of the NAACP, we will be joining them in celebrating 70 years of that anchor being so firmly planted in Red Bank.

Mayor Menna said he owed an enormous debt of gratitude to all of the members of Council who, day in and day out, put so much time and effort into everything that is good in Red Bank. He said, first and foremost, he wanted to thank Councilman DuPont who, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, put in unbelievable hours. He commended the energy of incoming Councilman Ed Zipprich. He reviewed the work that Mr. Zipprich has already done for the borough.

Mayor Menna said Councilwoman Lewis has invested so much time, energy and passion in our children. He commended her service on the Board of Education, as a community leader and as a professional in the educational and business fields. He said it is wonderful that she is going to be joining the Council and giving them the benefit of her expertise as they make some challenging decisions in the years to come.

Mayor Menna noted that Councilwoman Kathleen Horgan does so much on a regular basis. He said she does it with grace and charm. He said everything she does, she does with a great deal of passion.

Mayor Menna noted that he Sharon Lee and her family have been his friends for many years and said it was wonderful to have her as a friend and colleague on the Council. He added that she had put her heart and soul into working with the Borough Public Works Department. He noted that this Department, other than the Police and Fire Department, has the most exposure to the people day in and day out. He said it is sometimes a task that is Herculean in nature because of the unexpected problems that can arise. He said she does it with a smile, rolls up her sleeves and gets the job done. He called her an invaluable asset to the citizens of Red Bank.

Mayor Menna expressed his appreciation to all of the residents for the tremendous outpouring of community support. It said it was evidenced in the celebrations that commenced with our centennial and will be continuing for the better part of the spring. He said the activities brought so many out to take pride in our community. He said it is because of the pride that they had decided to undertake a number of events for 2009. He said Red Bank Day will be an annual event at Count Basie Field which will spotlight our children and the accomplishment of our public schools in music, arts and education. He added that the children are our best ambassadors and we have to be their cheerleaders in whatever they do.

He spoke of the extraordinary Kaboom Fireworks on the Navesink display and thanked all who donated. He noted that the event brought in about 150,000 people into town and thanks to Police Chief Fitzgerald and the Fire Department, there was not one incident. He said the event is all paid for by private funding and commended the work of the Kaboom Committee.

He said the Jazz and Blues Festival has been increasingly successful and this year attracted another 150,000 people into town over a weekend. He noted that these visitors may not know Red Bank and go away with a good feeling which creates a wealth of future monies and expectations for our businesses, restaurants and bars. He said this also increases our residential property values because it creates good feelings in our community and makes people want to live in our community. He thanked those who worked on the many special events, especially RiverCenter, the Arts & Antique District and the two theaters in town.

Mayor Menna pointed out that our merchants are facing challenging times. He said he wanted to remind people that we are a center for the financial services industry, hospital technology, retail and arts and entertainment. He said we have to be more proactive and reach out and make government work with our local community to spearhead a continuation of our retail center. He said we need to encourage housing, encourage development and, perhaps, even a transit village designation in the area of our train station. He said this is only way we can remain competitive. He said he has met with leaders of the financial services industry, both in the city and locally, and he can assure everyone that the financial services industry will continue in Red Bank on a strong basis. He said they are making investments in our future because they believe in our future and they believe that the partnership the Borough has with its business districts provides a policy direction that they can invest in.

He said proposals will be submitted to the Council in the next few months to make the Planning and Zoning applications more streamlined. He said they have started working on this with Borough Engineer T&M Associates. He said they are also working on revamping the Borough's Master Plan and making certain critical changes that will be introduced to the Council in the next few months. He said he believes this will, even in a difficult economic climate, create a substantial interest for people to continue to invest and reinvest in Red Bank.

He said he wanted to thank Councilman DuPont for doing a lot of leg work in conjunction with Freeholder McMorrow, the Office of Governor Corzine and the Office of Economic Development, in hosting an upcoming economic summit to be held at the Count Basie Theatre. He noted that it would bring in stakeholders from the business community, the academic community, the arts community, the retail community, both State and Federal government. He said the Congressman has graciously agreed to provide us with more incentives as the Obama administration develops their recovery program which will be very beneficial for states like New Jersey and especially for our district in terms of public projects that will spur the economy, spur housing and continue to keep people employed and keep them in their homes. He thanked Councilman DuPont again for all of the work he has done on it. Councilman DuPont thanked the Mayor and noted that the exact date of the summit is January 27 at 7 pm. He said more information will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

Mayor Menna said the Borough has continued to work closely with RiverCenter Director Nancy Adams and the entire RiverCenter board and noted that the district has been expanded to include the train station area. He said it is also their hope and emphasis, as part of the Master Plan, to spur retail activity on the corridor of Monmouth Street to link Shrewsbury Avenue through Monmouth Street to Broad Street and have a seamless retail area. He added that, at the same time, proposals will be put before the Council to change some of the zoning to make it more effective for that purpose including exploring the possibility of sustained infrastructure grants from the State as well as the Federal government in terms of public funding for projects that may or may not relate to some sort of vision of a transit village in the immediate area of the train station utilizing construction concepts that are environmentally friendly. He said this will be a benefit not just for the economy but also for our residents. He said they are continuing their dialogue with New Jersey Transit to encourage them to continue them to develop the train station to include garage facilities for their clients.

He said they have been working very closely with the DCA, the Greater Red Bank NAACP and the State Chapter on affordable housing issues. He said many municipalities are involved with expensive and protracted litigation with the DCA in terms of housing issues. He said he believes, as did his predecessor, that affordable housing is not a luxury but a right. He said they have entered into a consent order with the Department of Community Affairs to implement the COAH guidelines and not fight it because people need a place to live. He added that we are ideally suited to provide that noting that we have a state of the art medical center, a business climate that needs people to shop and great transportation facilities. He looked forward to infrastructure assistance from the State and Federal government to develop that and said we are not afraid of the challenges of affordable housing.

He said he really wanted to thank his predecessors. He noted that the Red Bank Housing Authority was created under Mayor Nicosia in the 1950s and said he was a visionary because it is still was one of the best housing authorities, if not the best, in the entire State of New Jersey. He also thanked Mayor McKenna for moving forward on some of our affordable housing plans.

He said the Council is surrounded by some of the best staff in the world. He said without going through all of them, the Borough departments are the best. He said we try to do the best possible job we can with minimal cost. He noted that they have cut back an enormous amount of costs and gave examples such as eliminating the position of Deputy Chief of Police. He said they also eliminated the position of Senior Citizen Director by lumping it with another position and noted that they saved \$60,000 in that move alone. He said he thinks the economic circumstances are going to be such that, without assistance from the State and an economic recovery package, it's going to be very difficult for local governments to be able to do everything they were able to do. He said Councilman DuPont, the CFO and the Auditor have been working on this for the past couple of months and they have already introduced measures to reduce the operating budget by five percent from last year.

He said he is grateful to the Governor and the Governor's staff for providing us with an enormous amount of extraordinary aid last year because of the good work we do and because we are a regional center. He said he looks forward to working with Governor Corzine's office in the future.

He closed by saying that we in Red Bank are uniquely situated in that, as long has he has been sitting around the Council table, he has been blessed by elected officials of the highest caliber. He said the residents of Red Bank are served by their public interest and dedication. He added that, at the same time, our workers are the heart and soul of Red Bank and noted that they often go unrewarded in the terms of name recognition and said that they are the best. He said the Council is humbled by the work they do and the joy with which they do their work and they are very fortunate to have them. He said, as we begin the New Year, his hope would be that all around the table and all of the employees will work to do their part to make the heart of the people of Red Bank open, the minds of our residents sound by example and, most importantly, make their and our collective will righteous. Happy New Year.

**BENEDICTION** – Reverend Dr. Northington

**AUDIENCE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Lee

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi