

**MINUTES  
REORGANIZATION MEETING  
JANUARY 1, 2008  
3:00 P.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mayor Menna and Council Members Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi and Horgan.

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

**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 November 28, 2007.

**INVOCATION – Reverend Lawson**

**SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Retired Justice O’Hern issued the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Lee and Councilwoman Horgan

Sheriff Guadagno issued the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Cangemi

**SWEARING IN OF FIRE OFFICIALS:**

Mayor Menna said that Chief Noel Blackwood gives us honor and grace today by becoming in our Centennial Year the first African American Fire Chief and it is quite an honor for us.

Retired Justice O’Hern issued the Oath of Office to:

Chief: Noel Blackwood

First Deputy Chief: Joseph Forgione

Second Deputy Chief: Alan Soden, Jr.

Councilwoman Lee congratulated Fire Chief Noel Blackwood and said that during her time on Council there have been a lot of changes such as the retirement of Councilman Hintelmann a 30-year veteran and Mayor McKenna a 20-year veteran and then our youngest Councilman R. J. Bifani a 16-year veteran and during this short time Council has also launched a Senator-Elect Jennifer Beck and lost another Councilwoman Kaye Ernst to the mountains of Pennsylvania. She said that you cannot lose that much that much collective wisdom and information and historical knowledge from a Governing Body without a few bumps in the road and said she looks forward to serving with our new Mayor Pat Menna and her new and old Council Members and look forward serving the next few years in Red Bank.

Councilwoman Cangemi said that she wanted to acknowledge Jim Coolahan and John Tyler who she ran for office for this year and said that it is a privilege to serve in Red Bank and it is a very difficult commitment to run for office any where. She said that John Tyler and his family have such a dedication to their community and they are here today and she wanted to thank them for making her a part of their family. She said her fellow Council Members since she starting serving have been very helpful to her and said that they have had their differences and also had agreements and said that they have gotten some things done and she is proud and pleased about that. She also said that she wanted to thank John Curley who campaigns like a madman for himself and also her and said they agree and disagree a lot but the philosophy they agree with is do what you think is right. She thanked her friends and family and said this is probably the first time that 3 women have been sworn in together in Red Bank together and said that we also have another woman going to Trenton when Senator-Elect Beck starts her term. She said that she wanted to thank Sheriff Guadagno, our first female Sheriff in Monmouth County, for being a friend and a mentor and said that she believes in good government and that she thinks everyone at this table also believes in good government. She said that she is really pleased to be elected to Council and serve with everyone at this table.

Councilwoman Horgan said it is a very exciting time and said this year has been an incredible journey of growth, learning and development and she said that at this time last year she had no idea she would be sitting here. She also thanked everyone that was involved in her campaign and said that she is looking forward to working with everyone on Council and is very thrilled to have 3 women here and it makes a

nice balance. She said she will always be available to everyone and welcomed them to contact her and thanked Ed Zipprich for all of the work he did on the campaign and said he was the moving force behind herself and Councilwoman Lee. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilman Curley said that last year he spoke at this time about the Republican Party in Red Bank being the loyal opposition and said that we disagree on a number of issues and have different philosophies but we try to work together and get along especially well. He said that he would like to acknowledge former Mayor Ed McKenna for being with us today and said that he misses him sitting up here and congratulated Sheriff Guadagno and Senator-Elect Jennifer Beck on their victories. He also congratulated Councilwomen Horgan and Lee and said that everyone at this table is dedicated to working together for the people of the community to make Red Bank the best it can be. He also said that he was honored to run with Grace Cangemi and said she worked very hard and has done a magnificent job and said she has worked very hard on all of her duties with everything she was involved with as a Councilwoman last year. He congratulated all of the Councilwomen that were sworn into office today and wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Councilman Murphy said that he wanted to congratulate all of the elected officials in Monmouth County and the Borough of Red Bank and wants to acknowledge the swearing in of the new Fire Chief Noel Blackwood and the 2 other Fire Chiefs. He said he would like to recognize and thank Patrick McSorley, the out going Chief, for all of the time he put in answering fire calls day and night and said most people do not know all of the work the Fire Chiefs do while serving and their work does not get recognized. He said that he also wanted to recognize Freda Terry and her staff for all the work she has done at the Senior Center and recognized the former members of the Governing Body Ex-Council Member for 30 years, Ex-Mayor McKenna and Senator-Elect Jennifer Beck. He wished everyone in the room a Happy New Year.

Councilman DuPont wished everyone a Happy New Year and said may it be filled with many blessings. He said that 2008 seems to be the year of the Women. He said today is all about Councilwomen Lee, Horgan and Cangemi and said it will be a pleasure to work with them and said that they all bring a different perspective to the Council. He congratulated all of the Fire Chief's that were sworn in today and all of the public servants especially Frankie Woods who handles our Code Enforcement and said that people do not realize the hours he puts in. He thanked the Borough residents for believing in our Governing Body and said we here at your beckoned call. He said that Members of the Governing Body share different philosophies but everything is for the betterment of Red Bank and their residents. He said he looks forward to serving you and wish everyone a happy New Year.

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

#### **RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR 2008**

08-01            Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION ELECTING COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2008."

Ms. Lee offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. DuPont.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES:            Curley, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi, Horgan

NAYS:            None

ABSTAIN:        Murphy

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

08-02            Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ENGINEER."

Mr. Murphy offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Lee.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES:            Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Horgan

NAYS:            Curley, Cangemi

There being four ayes and two nays, the resolution was declared approved.

08-03        Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH AUDITOR."

Mr. Murphy offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi, Horgan

NAYS:        None

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

08-04        Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY."

Ms. Lee offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. DuPont.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi, Horgan

NAYS:        Curley

There being five ayes and one nay, the resolution was declared approved.

08-05        Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2008."

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

Councilman Curley said that he has voiced a concern about one person sitting in multiple seats and that it is too much power in one person's hands. He said that Borough has become a City and we need someone full time in the Administrators position. He said he has a high regard for Mr. Sickels but he just thinks he is wearing too many hats and said that he does supports all the other appointments.

Mayor Menna said his position is duly noted.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi, Horgan

NAYS:        Curley

There being five ayes and one nay, the resolution was declared approved.

08-06        Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING TIME AND PLACE OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2008."

Mr. Curley offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Cangemi.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi, Horgan

NAYS:        None

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

08-07        Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING NEWSPAPERS TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF MEETINGS."

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi, Horgan

NAYS:        None

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

08-08        Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2008 TEMPORARY BUDGET."

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Lee.

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES:        Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi, Horgan

NAYS:        None

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

**REMARKS OF MAYOR MENNA**

He said a lot has to be said today because this is really a momentous day for us and said that he appreciates everyone that is here today. He said that the Members of the Governing Body that were sworn in today are taking on an enormous responsibility because in public life it is very difficult. He said that by looking around the room he can see that they have the support of so many people. He said that he is pleased that Councilwoman Lee and Councilwoman Cangemi were re-elected and they have served the residents of Red Bank exceedingly well. He said since Councilwoman Horgan moved here 8 years ago she and her late husband have been part of this community and said that he would like to welcome her and said it is an historic day in Red Bank because we have 50 percent women and it is an historic day because this has never happened in Red Bank and that he would like to congratulate her on her election. He thanked Reverend Lawson for participating in the meeting and said he would like to welcome former Councilwoman Jennifer Beck and now State Senator Beck and thanked her for her personal friendship all these years. He thanked Sheriff Guadagno and also all of the former public officials and dignitaries in the room. He said this is his first anniversary as Mayor and he is grateful to all of the residents of Red Bank who have given him their support and encouragement in good times and in bad and said that it is a privilege to serve as Mayor because Red Bank is the lead municipality in New Jersey. He said that we started the year in difficult financial circumstances but with revision and a plan to decrease our budget and share employees in numerous departments it was actually less than it was in 2006. He said that we continued to do infrastructure improvements and monitor the budget and will continue to do this. He said that this could not have been done without the invaluable experience of Councilman DuPont. He said that he would like to thank Frank Mason, Dave Kaplan and all of the Members of the Finance Committee. He said we have the best Police Department and Volunteer Fire Department in the State of New Jersey and after serving 18 years as Chairperson of the Fire Department he stills remains as their Chaplain and thanked Councilman Murphy for serving in this position when he became Mayor because he really cares about the members and their families. He said that he would like to congratulate Noel Blackwood on becoming our first Afro-American Fire Chief and said that he serves as a role model. He thanked Chief Fitzgerald and the men and women of our Police Department and said we had a trying year. He said there is a strong bond between everyone between the Chief and Commissioner and all the members of the Police Department who have done so much to protect our community. He thanked each department in the Borough and the Council Member that oversees the Department for all working hard to make each department the best. He said that he will miss Councilman Bifani who retired at the last Council Meeting and all that he has done as Chairperson of Public Works Committee for so many years.

**BENEDICTION – Reverend Lawson**

**AUDIENCE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES:        Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont, Cangemi, Horgan

NAYS:        None

There being six ayes and no nays, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Vivona