

**MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 1, 2007
3:00 P.M.**

Mayor McKenna said that in accordance with law and tradition it is his distinct honor to say that he is calling this meeting order for the last time and said Congressman Pallone would be leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

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

ABSENT: Councilman Bifani

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 19, 2006.

INVOCATION – Monsignor Lowery

SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Retired Justice O'Hern issued the Oath of Office to Mayor Menna

Retired Justice O'Hern issued the Oath of Office to Councilman Murphy

Retired Judge Nicosia issued the Oath of Office to Councilman DuPont

Mayor Menna asked if Councilman Murphy would like to offer a few comments

Councilman Murphy said that first and foremost he would like to thank his family who has supported me the second time running for office and without my wife and her great patience I do not know if I could endure another round of this. He said he had a good time campaigning with his running mates and said that he wishes them luck. He said we campaigned hard and thanked everyone for their support and letting him be able to serve this community for the next three years.

Councilman DuPont said it is my distinct honor and my quite humble beginnings that I thank the Red Bank residents. He said we starting walking the town of Red Bank at the end of June and got to know Red Bank and realized how great this town is after so many trips through the town. He said that he wanted to thank his wife and his neighbors on South Street who were activists and took an active role in his campaign. He said he wanted to thank Miriam McManus and also his best friend, best man and law partner Ed McKenna. He said this is a new year and a new governing body and hopefully a new spirit of non-partisan government in order to accomplish the services and tasks for the Red Bank residents. He said one of the first and foremost issues we have to address is taxes and overcrowding. He said he looks forward to serving on the Finance Committee and resolving a number of these issues. He thanked all in attendance and wished them a happy New Year.

Councilman Curley said he would like to take this opportunity to say we had a very lively campaign in the fall and both parties worked very hard. He said we do have a new sense of cooperation and Councilman Menna was always a colleague and became my adversary during the election and now he has become my Mayor and we will still bring forth our views that we brought out in the campaign and make sure there is a balance but I think we have an excellent Council and thanked everyone for the opportunity to run for Mayor and for the opportunity to serve on the Borough Council and said that he hopes it is a great year for everyone.

Councilwoman Ernst wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

SWEARING IN OF FIRE OFFICIALS:

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

Chief: Patrick McSorley
First Deputy Chief: Noel Blackwood
Second Deputy Chief: Joseph Forgione

Mayor Menna invited Father Michael Lankford to come up to offer a prayer for all of our volunteers.

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

ORDINANCES – First Reading

2007-1 Mayor Menna read “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER II, “ADMINISTRATION,” SECTION 2-6.5(b), “STANDING COMMITTEES APPOINTED AT ANNUAL MEETING.”

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Curley.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Curley, Lee, DuPont, Murphy, Ernst

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the ordinance was declared adopted on first reading.

Public hearing and final adoption scheduled for January 22, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR 2007

07-01 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION ELECTING COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2007.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lee, DuPont, Murphy

NAYS: Ernst

ABSTAIN: Curley

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

07-02 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ENGINEER.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Curley, Lee, DuPont, Murphy, Ernst

NAYS: None

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

07-03 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH AUDITOR."

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lee, DuPont, Murphy, Ernst

NAYS: Curley

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

07-04 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: Curley, Lee, Murphy, Ernst

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: DuPont

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

07-05 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2007."

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lee, DuPont, Murphy

NAYS: Curley, Ernst

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

07-06 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING TIME AND PLACE OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2007."

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Curley, Lee, DuPont, Murphy, Ernst

NAYS: None

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

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

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Curley, Lee, DuPont, Murphy, Ernst

NAYS: None

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

07-08 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2007 TEMPORARY BUDGET."

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Curley, Lee, DuPont, Murphy, Ernst

NAYS: None

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

REMARKS OF MAYOR MENNA

Mayor Menna said that a lot of you that know him know that he spends a lot of time with the clergy from the Afro-American churches and it's always traditional to thank our creator and that our creator has been profoundly good to me and most of us in this room and that fortunately he has given light that my decisions may have an impact on others and to give me guidance as I go a long. Your Honor Justice O'Hern, former Mayor, Former Police Commissioner, Former Fire Commissioner, is one of the reasons why I am in public life today and your presence is always welcomed and appreciated. Judge Nicosia you are always a friend and Happy Birthday again, Monsignor Lowery it is always a special grace to have you here, and he welcomed Father Lankford, Rev. Dr. Porter, Rev. Davis, the President of the NAACP and also one of our leading clergy. He also welcomed all of the other members of the clergy and said it is great to have them in attendance. He said all of us here are important, but politicians like to be recognized and welcomed Congressman Pallone and said that he has known him for twenty-five years and his presence today really means a lot and thanked him for being in attendance. He welcomed Assemblyman Panter, His Excellency Baron Dr. Robert La Rocca. I know you are here representing Prince Ferndinado di Borbone of the Two Sicilies and thank them for being here on His Royal Highness' behalf. Uff. David Skoblow representing Prince Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy and thanked them for being there representing the American Foundation of Savoy Orders. The two of you represent my roots of north and south Italy and said their presence is very important and thanked them for making the trip. He recognized additional elected officials that were in attendance from other municipalities and thanked them for being with us. He said that I want to thank my parents and my entire family for making their presence in my life and development which has made me what I am today and your love and affection has given me a tremendous amount of encouragement in my life. Mayor Menna said that his grandfather was a resident in Red Bank in 1908 and 1909 and went back to Italy to fight in the Italian Army during World War I and was disabled in the war and remained in Italy. He said that he is honored to serve in Red Bank because he believes there is a legacy here. He said he would be remiss if he did not express his own thoughts on what Mayor McKenna has been to us as a town and him individually, as most of you know Ed and I are no strangers, we were born in different continents and have different cultural differences but faith brought us together and we both matured on the streets of Red Bank. He said we formed a dynamic team with the rest of the members of council and we were able to work to revitalize this town. In 1990 you became my Mayor and I hope that since that time I have been a faithful representative, but you brought drive, vision and enthusiasm that is unparalleled in any municipality and you really did turn this town around so thank you on all of our behalf and looking at this town is a monument of all the beauty you have done in turning this town around. Mayor Menna said there are a substantial amount of Hispanic members in our community and delivered a message in Spanish. He said he would like to get back to the serious issues of finances and taxes. He said New Jersey has the third most people moving out of the state in recent statistics and it is an awful reflection of what is going on but the vast majority of people are moving because of taxes, so I really cry out to our elected officials in Trenton where the real work has to be done to bring in the New Year with a strong revision of the very fabric of our tax code. I think Trenton could fix it but on the other hand we can't advocate our own responsibility we also have to work locally and I have asked Councilman DuPont to Chair the Finance Committee and I am certain he will provide us with initiatives to continue running the municipality efficiently. He said he would like to initiate open budget hearings to the public in January with all departments where the public will have the ability to cross examine the Chief Financial Officer and to ask questions and also every department head in terms of presenting their budget will present it in an open forum where the public has the right to comment. He said the salary ordinance will be struck in the first quarter of the year instead of the last quarter of the year. He said we will continue to apply for extraordinary aid with the State since we are a regional center and will continue to lobby for the state legislation to permit certain municipalities to assess a different structure of taxation. Mayor Menna welcomed Frank Mason and said he is our CFO and he is smart and he is going to take us into the 21st Century. He said he would like us to be able to pay taxes and water bills on line and also implement the use of credit cards for Municipal Court. He said he would also like to see our smart cards used more efficiently for parking and nobody knows about them and we have to make them easier for the public to purchase. He said that we have eliminated certain individual positions that have not been carried over such as the Special Administrator of Special Projects, the Parking Administrator, Assistance Prosecutor and the Qualified Purchasing Agent and they are not on the

appointment list for 2007. He said we will continue to be as efficient and orderly without those positions and we can do it. He said the duties of the Parking Administrator have been taken over by Gary Watson with excellent results and for the Qualified Purchasing Agent I am looking to do an interlocal service agreement with another town instead of having a salaried position with pension benefits. He said the prosecutor will be responsible for any assistant prosecutor out of his own funds. He said the vehicle fleet which is a source of a lot of press commentary will be reduced. I think the message has gone out at Borough Hall that when we are purchasing vehicles we will be taking a different approach, the age of the gas guzzling public muscle trucks are over and we have responsible stewards of our resources. We will encourage compact and sub-compact vehicles and I looked to my good friend Ken Pringle who has started an initiative in Belmar on the use of electric vehicles for different activities at one-third the cost of our gas driven vehicles without the maintenance costs. He said the best part about the use of the electric driven vehicles is that we can create traffic calming, by creating electric vehicle zones. He said there are so many good things going on and we are blessed to have such good people working for us. He said we are looking at our health insurance and we are going to seek competitive quotes and also reviewing health insurance for part-time employees. He said he is very proud about what RiverCenter and what the business community has done since we took office in 1990 the business community contributed 22 percent of the taxes and now it is 43 percent. He said he is encouraged with RiverCenter expanding the business community to the train station and Bridge Avenue and hopes this will create one district with the same streetscape and same street life. He thanked Tricia Rumola and Harriet Cook for all they do and is grateful that we have a world class international headquarters for Hovnanian Enterprises that is fully taxable. The PRC building will be built soon and will be an enormous boom to our tax revenue without a burden on the school system. He said there are so many good things going on with abandoned properties that are being developed. He also said there are so many positive improvements being done on Shrewsbury Avenue. He said Councilman Bifani spent a lot of time with the NPP projects that used funding for improvements on the Westside of Red Bank along with the entire Council. He commended the Borough Employees and said that although finances are important the vision is to continue the progress and a smart review of the development of our properties. He said he is committed to affordable housing and is so proud of the work this Council has done and the Housing Authority is doing with Cedar Crossing and getting state funding to purchase that land and now getting federal funding to get the Housing Authority to create building owner-occupied units. He said that he is so grateful for Dr. Davis, Rev. Porter and all of the other members of the Westside Ministerial Consortium who are actively working and collaborating with me and trying to maintain our African-American presence which is the very fabric of this town and must be maintained in terms of our housing stock. He said our educational system is the best and I went to public school and most of you did in this room and they are again one of our best kept secrets, the reason behind the newly created Education Committee is to get the schools working together. He thanked the Police and Fire Departments, the Borough Professionals, all of the members on the governing body and their families. He thanked the members of the press and said he will always have an open door for them. He said that he knows that there are going to be a lot of challenges but he will always do the best he can and study the issues and thanked everyone for their support.

Mayor Menna read a resolution thanking, commending and honoring Edward J. McKenna, Jr. and presented him with a crystal ice boat.

Mayor McKenna thanked everyone for their support over the years.

BENEDICTION – Reverend Porter

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Curley, Lee, DuPont, Murphy, Ernst

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Vivona