

**MINUTES
ORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2006
5:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

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

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Mayor McKenna 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 22, 2005.

**SWEARING IN OF – COUNCILWOMAN ERNST
COUNCILMAN CURLEY**

State Senator Joseph Kyrillos issued the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Ernst.

State Senator Joseph Palaia issued the Oath of Office to Councilman Curley.

Councilwoman Ernst and Councilman Curley thanked their families, friends and residents for all of their support. They also congratulated and thanked Assemblywoman Beck for all of the work she has done for the Red Bank community and said they look forward to working with the Mayor and all of the Council Members to best serve Red Bank. They also wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

SWEARING IN OF FIRE OFFICIALS:

State Senator Joseph Palaia issued the Oath of Office to the Fire Officials

Chief: Larry Brooks

First Deputy Chief: Patrick McSorley

Second Deputy Chief: Noel Blackwood

RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR 2006

Councilwoman Ernst said that since she had just received the packet for the Council Meeting late last night she was not prepared to vote on some of the resolutions.

06-01 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION ELECTING COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2006.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Ernst, Lee, Menna, Bifani, Murphy, Curley

NAYS: None

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

06-02 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ENGINEER.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lee, Menna, Bifani, Murphy, Curley

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Ernst

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

06-03 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH AUDITOR.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lee, Menna, Bifani, Murphy, Curley

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Ernst

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

06-04 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lee, Menna, Bifani, Murphy, Curley

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Ernst

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

06-05 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2006.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lee, Menna, Bifani, Murphy, Curley

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Ernst

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

06-06 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING TIME AND PLACE OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2006.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Ernst, Lee, Menna, Bifani, Murphy, Curley

NAYS: None

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

06-07 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING NEWSPAPERS TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF MEETINGS.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Ernst, Lee, Menna, Bifani, Murphy, Curley

NAYS: None

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

06-08 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2006 TEMPORARY BUDGET.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lee, Menna, Bifani, Murphy, Curley

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Ernst

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

REMARKS OF MAYOR MCKENNA

Mayor McKenna wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year and thanked the Administration, Department Heads and all of the Borough Employees for working so hard in 2005. He thanked Mr. Pringle and Mr. Hall and said they did a great job in their first year as the Borough’s attorneys. He thanked Chief Fitzgerald and all the members of the Police Department and said we have one of the finest Police Departments in the State. He also thanked all of the Members of the Red Bank Fire Department, First Aid Squad, Ladies Auxiliary and all of the Boards, Committees and Commissions who all volunteer their time and serve so selflessly. He extended his thanks to Jennifer Beck for all she has done for the Borough and said that he is sure she will do a great job in the Assembly. He said that on a personal note it has been a very difficult year for his family and he wanted to thank everyone that expressed their concern over the last year. He said that 2006 will be a great year and that he is very optimistic. He said it is easy to be self critical until you travel throughout the State, County and even the world. He said that the State of New Jersey has repeatedly indicated that they consider Red Bank to be a model of how municipal government should be run and that the League of Municipalities constantly calls upon Red Bank to serve as a model of how other communities should operate and we are asked to give lectures and are asked to go around the State speaking to other municipal officials about how to run a town. We do have some tough issues this year and one of them is going to be the budget and it is not just going to be a difficult year for Red Bank but for all municipalities in New Jersey because the State is wrestling with a four to five billion dollar deficit. He said he does not know what that means to us on a municipal level and hopes that our municipal aid is not cut and that we receive at least what we did last year. He said that it is a tribute to this municipality that we have been successful in receiving grants and extraordinary aid totaling \$270,000 last year from the State to supplement our budget and that is recognition from the State of the hard work we have been doing here. He said at the State level it is going to be a very tough year and he is not sure what that is going to mean to us as taxpayers and that he has been working with the League of Municipalities to get a Constitutional Convention together to deal with the property tax issue and hopes that the legislature agrees that sometime in the future it will take place so that we can deal with the issue of property taxes because it is always on the minds of everyone here in New Jersey and we all know it is a very difficult issue for everyone to deal with. He said one of the issues that he would like to suggest the Council deals with immediately is the issue of affordable housing in the Borough with the Round 3 Certification with the Council on Affordable Housing because for the first time in the Borough’s history we have an affordable housing obligation and we have to create some affordable housing. He said we are already looking at some significant opportunities and that it is the socially correct thing to do because we have already lost so many families that are unable to afford to stay not only in Red Bank but in the State of New Jersey. He said with the funding that is available from the State to municipalities it would make it possible to create affordable housing in Red Bank. He also said that the Governing Body must work together to do what is in the best interest of the town and said that he is looking forward to working with everyone on the Governing Body. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said he is looking forward to a great 2006.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Ernst, Lee, Menna, Bifani, Murphy, Curley

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Vivona