

THE REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL WAS HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM OF ORADELL PUBLIC SCHOOL 350 PROSPECT STREET ON JANUARY 7, 2024 AT 12:15 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER- OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT – ROLL CALL

Laura Lyons, Municipal Clerk called the meeting to order and the Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act was read. She welcomed Pat Schubert, Borough Historian who served as Master of Ceremonies.

Mr. Schubert provided opening remarks, announced the dignitaries in attendance and welcomed the governing body-elect members and their families.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS – led by Police Officer Dan O’Leary playing bag pipes, Oradell Volunteer Fire Dept as well as members of the Oradell Police Dept.

INVOCATION – The invocation was provided by Father Christian Scalo, Administrator, of St. Joseph RC Church.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION – Bergen County Clerk, John Hogan provided a summary of results from the November 7, 2023 General Election. He stated that overall Bergen County had a 31% turnout of registered votes. He highlighted the remarkable turnout from Oradell at 46.13% and stated it was the highest municipal turnout of all Bergen County towns. The County Clerk presented the Certification of Election, and announced that with a total of 1,614 votes James G Koth III was duly elected to serve as Mayor of Oradell for a full 4-year term.

The County Clerk presented the Certificate of Election, and announced that with a total of 1,484 votes Jonathan Kern was duly re-elected as Councilman for a full 3-year term.

The County Clerk presented the Certificate of Election, and announced that with a total of 1,612 votes, James “Ted” Gullo was duly elected to serve as Councilman for a full term.

OATH OF OFFICE-

Avram Solomon Turkel, Esq administered the oath of office to Councilman Jonathan Kern for a three-year term expiring on 12/31/26 (Councilman Kern was accompanied by his family, with his wife Sonia holding the bible)

Honorable Erik Acosta administered the oath of office to Councilman James “Ted” Gullo for a three-year term expiring on 12/31/26 (Councilman James “ Ted” Gullo was accompanied by his family, with his daughter Claire holding the bible)

INTRODUCTION OF BERGEN COUNTY EXECUTIVE- Steven A. Tanelli, Bergen County Commissioner introduced Mayor -Elect James G. Koth III and Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III and provided comments.

Mr. Tedesco provided commentary regarding serving Bergen County with Mayor-Elect Koth.

Mr. Tedesco administered the oath of office to Mayor James G. Koth III
(Mayor Koth was accompanied by his family with his son James holding the bible)

MAYORS WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS – Mayor Koth thanked the County Executive and Commissioner Tanelli for their comments and participation. He acknowledged Councilwoman Tracy Schoenberg and her running mates for their efforts in the election process. He requested a round of applause for them. He congratulated Councilman Kern and Councilman Gullo on their election and stated he is looking forward to working together along with the other members of the governing body throughout the year. He thanked all those in attendance despite the unfavorable weather conditions. He thanked the DPW and OPS ground crew for storm cleanup as well as the continuous work each day for the community. He remarked on the significance of the inclement weather as symbol of his father's presence on the day. He recognized and thanked his wife Sam and children Maddie and James IV for their support in his entry to the election process. He acknowledged the support of his mother and family members. He thanked the Municipal and Deputy Municipal Clerk for their efforts in preparing for the Re-organization Meeting. He emphasized the decision to move the location of the meeting from Borough Hall to the Oradell Public School Auditorium. He stated it served as an example that the current Mayor and Council will not rest on past practice operations as a means of governing moving forward. He stated he is confident that the future of the community is bright. He thanked the members of the Council for their passion and efforts in their service to the community. He acknowledged former Mayor Didio for her fourteen years of service to Oradell as well as Councilman Robert Jannicelli for his six years of service.

He stated that service to the community requires commitment to twenty-four hours a day, three-hundred sixty-five days a year operation. He stated that challenges arise when not expected as in the need to create an Oradell You Tube channel late in the evening yesterday in order to ensure the broadcasting of today's event. He thanked his wife Sam, Laura Lyons, Municipal Clerk, Megan Bozios, Superintendent of OPS and her staff in the successful establishment of the You Tube Channel. He outlined the commitment of the governing body to maintain ethical standards of transparency of government. He stated that enhancement of communication to the public will be addressed as well as improving operations in the building department and land use boards. He stated the Governing Body will work with Borough staff to increase morale and ensure professional development opportunities. He stated the Council will be focused on financial responsibility to safeguard the public's trust and preserve the sense of community unique to the Borough.

He provided a sincere appreciation to all the volunteers for their exemplary civic dedication by serving in different roles that collectively make Oradell a superlative community.

Pat Schuber gave closing remarks and introduced Reverend Dr. Hansel Asmar, Sr who provided the Benediction.

A brief recess was held to transition to the business portion of the Reorganization meeting.

CALL TO ORDER Laura Lyons, Municipal Clerk issued the roll call, when called the following members acknowledged their attendance:

ROLL CALL

Mayor James G. Koth III
Stephen Carnevale, Councilman
Michael Staff, Councilman
Tracy Schoenberg, Councilwoman
Roger Tashjian, Councilman
Jonathan Kern, Councilman
Ted Gullo, Councilman
Municipal Clerk Laura J. Lyons
Chief Financial Officer Katie Chen
Chief of Police William Wicker
Fire Chief Terry Moran
OEM Coordinator Joseph Gothelf
Tax Assessor James Anzevino
Construction Official Stephen Depken
DPW Superintendent Dan Nywening
Fire Official Chris Petronzio

Tax Collector Victoria Walker was absent

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT – Resolution 23-1

Councilman Kern nominated Councilman Carnevale as Council President, seconded by Councilman Gullo.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Staff, Schoenberg, Tashjian, Kern, Gullo
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: Carnevale

APPOINTMENT TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES- Resolution 23-2

On a motion made by Councilman Staff, seconded by Councilman Carnevale and approved on unanimous voice vote resolution 23-2 was approved.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Carnevale, Staff, Schoenberg, Tashjian, Kern, Gullo
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

RESOLUTION – RESOLUTION 23-3

Mayors' appointment to Planning Board – no council confirmation needed

Mayor Koth appointed Edward Pfleging as Class IV member of the Planning Board for a four-year term expiring 12-31-27

Mayor Koth appointed Min Woo Kang as Municipal Official Class IV member of the Planning Board to a four-year term expiring 12-31-27

Mayor Koth appoints William Snider as Alternate #1 for a two-year term expiring 12/31/25

Mayor Koth appoints Laura Lyons as Municipal Official Class II member of the Planning Board to a one-year term expiring 12/31/24.

Mayor Koth advises that there is a Class III member of the Planning Board (a member of the Governing Body) to be chosen by the Governing Body.

Councilman Staff nominated Councilman Carnevale. Mayor Koth asked for any further nominations. Hearing none, on a motion made by Councilman Staff, seconded by Councilman Kern and carried on unanimous voice vote, Councilman Carnevale was appointed as Class III member of the Planning Board.

Mayor Koth stated in accordance with the terms of the Planning Board Ordinance he automatically becomes and remains a Member (Class I) of the Planning Board for the year 2024.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Staff, Schoenberg, Tashjian, Kern, Gullo

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Carnevale

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment

On a motion made by Councilman Staff, seconded by Councilman Kern and carried on unanimous voice vote, the public comment session was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA: **RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution 23-4	Appointment of Borough Attorney- William J. Bailey of Huntington Bailey for a term of one (1) year
Resolution 23-5	Appointment of Borough Auditor – Lerch, Vinci and Bliss LLP for a term of one (1) year
Resolution 23-6	Appointment of Alan P. Spiniello as Tax Appeal Attorney for a term of one (1) year

Resolution 23-7	Appointment of Gerard Quinn of Conklin & Kraft Agency as Borough's Risk Management Consultant for a term of one (1) year and execute agreement
Resolution 23-8	Appointment of Mayor James G. Koth III as Insurance Commissioner for the Borough for the calendar year 2024
Resolution 23-9	Appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment
Resolution 23-10	Appointment of Councilman Roger Tashjian as Mayor's delegate to Oradell Public Library and Amy Brancato as Alt for OPS Superintendent
Resolution 23-11	Appointments to Board of Health
Resolution 23-12	Appointments to Historical Committee
Resolution 23-13	Appointment to Environmental / Beautification Committee
Resolution 23-14	Appointments to OPTV Committee
Resolution 23-15	Appointment to Recreation Committee
Resolution 23-16	Appointments to Economic Development Committee
Resolution 23-17	Appointments to Stigma Free Committee
Resolution 23-18	Appointments to Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
Resolution 23-19	Appointments to Oradell for All Committee
Resolution 23-20	Appointments to Special Events Committee
Resolution 23-21	Appointments to Information Technology Committee
Resolution 23-22	OEM Committee
Resolution 23-23	Oradell Volunteer Fire Department – Line Officers for 2024
Resolution 23-24	Re-Affirm Fire Mutual Aid Agreement between participating Bergen County Municipalities
Resolution 23-25	Designating the official newspaper of the Borough
Resolution 23-26	2024 Temporary Budget in the amount of \$4,430,500.00
Resolution 23-27	Petty Cash funds for the year 2024
Resolution 23-28	Interest on delinquent taxes, assessments, sewer charges and Borough charges
Resolution 23-29	Designating the official depositories for Municipal Funds for the year 2023
Resolution 23-30	Adopting a Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Oradell
Resolution 23-31	Signature on checks and warrants of the Borough of Oradell
Resolution 23-32	Investment of Borough funds
Resolution 23-33	Annual award Phoenix Advisors, LLC as IRMA
Resolution 23-34	Appointment of Victoria Walker, Tax Collector, as Tax Search Officer for 2023
Resolution 23-35	Appointment of Laura J. Lyons as Assessment Search Officer for 2023
Resolution 23-36	Mailing charges for tax sale
Resolution 23-37	Fire Prevention appointments for 2023
Resolution 23-38	Certification of compliance with US EEOC
Resolution 23-39	Agreement with LESO Program
Resolution 23-40	Annual appointment of Crossing Guards
Resolution 23-41	Appointment of Fred Abbas as Special Class I Police Department
Resolution 23-42	Approving coordinator for Borough's 9-1-1 System
Resolution 23-43	Approve Oradell Police Department Mutual Aid Resolution
Resolution 23-44	Authorize electronic tax sale for 2024

Resolution 23-45	Approve RFP to be issued for various titles: Labor Counsel, Planner, Insurance Broker, Administrative Agent for Affordable Housing Program, Special Land Use Counsel, Bond Counsel and Borough Engineer.
Resolution 23-46	Annual adoption of municipal tort claim form as approved by Bergen County JIF
Resolution 23-47	Approve separation payment with Eric Barker
Resolution 23-48	Appoint Millennium Strategies as Borough Grant Writer for a one (1) year term.
Resolution 23-49	Designation of Sergeant Richard Ligouri as Oradell Police Department representative to Municipal Drug Alliance

Councilwoman Schoenberg inquired as to the appointments of Borough Attorney and Borough Auditor. She asked for clarification as to why the titles were not included on the RFP to be issued for various positions.

Mayor Koth indicated that while many of the positions were identified for the RFP, time sensitive positions were listed for appointment upon Re-organization. He emphasized the need for continuity of service for Borough Attorney and Borough Auditor positions.

Councilwoman Schoenberg asked for clarification on resolutions 23-34 and 23-35. She asked if these resolutions were done in prior years. Ms. Lyons, Municipal Clerk stated these were annual resolutions, listed on all re-organization meeting agendas.

Councilman Tashjian renewed his annual commentary regarding the need for legal advertisement reform. Mrs. Lyons stated that the statutes remain unchanged and therefore the resolution would need to be approved.

On a motion made by Councilman Kern, seconded by Councilman Carnevale and carried on unanimous voice vote, the consent agenda was approved.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Carnevale, Staff, Schoenberg, Tashjian, Kern, Gullo

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Public Comment:

No public comment

On a motion made by Councilman Staff, seconded by Councilman Tashjian and carried on unanimous voice vote, the public comment session was closed.

On a motion made by Councilman Staff, seconded by Councilwoman Schoenberg and carried on unanimous voice vote, the Reorganization Meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:16 PM, the Reorganization meeting adjourned.

Laura J. Lyons, CPM, RMC, RPPO
Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk