



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

MAYOR & COUNCIL

MINUTES • JANUARY 7, 2021

Reorganization Meeting

REMOTE/VIRTUAL

7:00 PM

Clement V. Sommers Municipal Building, 910 Oceanport Way, Oceanport, NJ 07757

- Meeting Called to Order:** Mayor Jay Coffey called to order the Reorganization Meeting of the Oceanport Governing Body on January 7, 2021 at 7:03 PM
- Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act:** This meeting complies with the Open Public Meetings Act by adequate and electronic notification on December 29, 2020 of this virtual/remote meeting and its location, date and time to the Asbury Park Press, Two River Times and the Star Ledger and by the posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough's Web Site. This meeting is also being broadcast on the Borough's Local Public Access Channel, Verizon FiOS Channel 28. Mayor Coffey then read the virtual/remote meeting advisory advising the public how to attend and participate during public portions of the meeting.
- Flag Salute:** Mayor Coffey led the attendees and members of the Council in the flag salute.
- Invocation - Rev. Stacey Deerin:** Borough Chaplain Stacy Deerin gave the invocation.
- Clerk's Certificate of Election and Administration Oaths of Office to:** Ms. Smith read the Certificate of Election from the Board of County Canvassers of Monmouth County, New Jersey certifying RICHARD A. GALLO and BRYAN KEESHEN were duly elected Councilpersons full term.

Richard A. Gallo

COUNCILMAN

3-year term

Term Expiring 12/31/23

Bryan Keeshen

COUNCILMAN

3-year term

Term Expiring 12/31/23

The Honorable Serena DiMaso administered the Oaths of Office. Afterwards Assemblywoman DiMaso wished everyone a Happy New Year and on behalf of LG13, Senator O'Scanlon and Assemblyman Scharfenberger congratulated them on coming through 2020 and all that they've done for their community through this difficult time and taking care of the residents and offered their assistance for anything they needed in 2021 and congratulated Councilmen Gallo and Keeshen on their re-election.

6. Roll Call of the 2021 Governing Body:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jay Coffey	Mayor	Remote	
William Deerin	Councilman	Remote	
Richard Gallo	Councilman	Remote	
Bryan Keeshen	Councilman	Remote	
Michael O'Brien	Councilman	Remote	
Thomas Tvrdik	Councilman	Remote	
Meghan Walker	Councilwoman	Remote	
Jeanne Smith	Borough Clerk	Remote	
Scott Arnette	Board Attorney	Remote	
Donna M. Phelps	Borough Administrator	Remote	
Catherine D. LaPorta	Chief Financial Office	Remote	

- Mayor Coffey's Greeting:** Mayor Coffey welcomed everyone, commented on the past year and coronavirus impacts, news stories of the last year, the pleasure of working with a great team and this Council and looking forward to moving into the new municipal building and getting back to business in person.

8. **Election of Borough Council President:** Councilman Deerin nominated and made the motion to appoint Michael O'Brien as Council President for 2021 which was seconded by Councilman Keeshen and received the following vote:

1. RESOLUTION #2021-1 ELECTING THE 2021 BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	William Deerin, Councilman
SECONDER:	Bryan Keeshen, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdek, Walker

9. **Borough Council Appointment of Class III Member to the Planning Board:**

1. RESOLUTION #2021-2 APPOINTMENT OF CLASS III MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2021 to DECEMBER 31, 2021

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Meghan Walker, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Bryan Keeshen, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdek, Walker

10. **Borough Council Adoption of 2021 By-Laws:**

1. RESOLUTION #2021-3 ADOPTING THE BOROUGH BYLAWS FOR CY2021

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael O'Brien, Councilman
SECONDER:	William Deerin, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdek, Walker

11. **Mayor Coffey's Appointments for Council Standing Committees:**

1. RESOLUTION #2021-4 APPOINTMENT OF 2021 BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Meghan Walker, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Richard Gallo, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdek, Walker

12. **Mayor Coffey's Appointments to the PLANNING BOARD:**

BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Coffey makes the following appointments to the Planning Board:

Patricia Cooper	Class I	1yr Term
Robert Kleiberg	Class IV	4yr Term
Darren Davis	Class IV	4yr Term
John Kahle	Class IV	4yr Term
Michael Daley	Alternate I	2yr Term

The PLANNING BOARD is now composed of the following members:

Patricia Cooper	Class I	1yr Term expiring 12/31/21
Joseph Foster	Class II	3yr Term expiring 12/31/22
Christopher Widdis	Class IV	4yr Term expiring 12/31/23
Robert Kleiberg	Class IV	4yr Term expiring 12/31/24
Darren Davis	Class IV	4yr Term expiring 12/31/24
John Kahle	Class IV	4yr Term expiring 12/31/24

James Whitson	Class IV	4yr Term expiring 12/31/21
Michael Savarese	Class IV	4yr Term expiring 12/31/21
Michael Daley	Alternate I	2yr Term expiring 12/31/22
Jacob Rue	Alternate 2	2yr Term expiring 12/31/21

13. Mayor Coffey's Appointments to the FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION and FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

OEM Director Baldanza	Chairperson
Kevin Kubik	One year term
Bob Kelly	One year term

14. FIRST AID SQUAD 2021 Officers: The Mayor and Council recognize the following First Aid Officers for 2021.

1. Sergeant, Kelsey Bernaducci
2. 2nd Lieutenant, Frank Lippolis
3. 1st Lieutenant, Doris Agaman
4. Captain, Fred Filippone

15. FIRE DEPARTMENT 2021 Officers: The Mayor and Council recognize the following Fire Department Officers for 2021.

1. 2nd Assistant Chief, Thomas Gallo
2. 1st Assistant Chief, Francis Lippolis
3. CHIEF, Paul Van Brunt

16. Acknowledgment of Outgoing Chief Michael Lippolis. Mayor Coffey recognized outgoing Chief Michael Lippolis, present, who thanked everyone for their support over the last difficult year; Mayor Coffey commented that Chief Lippolis had to serve under an unusual year, was wonderful to work with and hopes to see his name again on the list for the future. Praised our volunteers that run into places that most people run away from and couldn't say enough about the wonderful work of our volunteers.

17. Resolutions:

1. RESOLUTION #2021-5 RE-APPOINTING CATHERINE D. LAPORTA AS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael O'Brien, Councilman
SECONDER:	Bryan Keeshen, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdek, Walker

2. RESOLUTION #2021-6 APPOINTMENT OF TIM GRIFFIN AS FIRE OFFICIAL OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bryan Keeshen, Councilman
SECONDER:	Thomas Tvrdek, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdek, Walker

3. RESOLUTION #2021-7 APPOINTMENT OF TIMOTHY P. GRIFFIN AS HOUSING INSPECTOR FOR THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Tvrdek, Councilman
SECONDER:	Bryan Keeshen, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdek, Walker

18. Consent Agenda: All items listed under Consent Agenda, are considered routine by the Borough Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will not be separate discussion of these

items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately. There will be one motion for all items listed.

- #2021-8 Resolution fixing date, time and place of the Governing Body meetings
- #2021-9 Resolution designating the official newspapers for Borough advertising
- #2021-10 Resolution approving the 2021 temporary budget
- #2021-11 Resolution setting a fee schedule for various miscellaneous administrative items
- #2021-12 Resolution designating depositories
- #2021-13 Resolution authorizing the signature of checks
- #2021-14 Resolution approving a Cash Management Plan and Investment Policy
- #2021-15 Resolution permitting prepayment of certain items
- #2021-16 Resolution authorizing a tax grace period and interest on delinquent taxes
- #2021-17 Resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel small balances
- #2021-18 Resolution authorizing the annual tax sale
- #2021-19 Resolution of Police Department Appointments
- #2021-20 Resolution authorizing participation in the 1033 LESA program for 2021
- #2021-21 Resolution awarding contract for 2021 Towing Services
- #2021-22 Resolution setting fees for extra duty assignments for 2021
- #2021-23 Resolution appointments to Boards & Committees
- #2021-24 Resolution appointing 2021 Borough Officials
- #2021-25 Resolution appointing a Public Agency Compliance Officer
- #2021-26 Resolution appointing Community Development Representatives
- #2021-27 Resolution appointing Clean Communities Coordinator
- #2021-28 Resolution appointing an ADA Coordinator for CY2021
- #2021-29 Resolution appointing Designated Employer Representative for CDL requirements
- #2021-30 Resolution appointing Fire Police members
- #2021-31 Resolution appointing a Municipal Prosecutor
- #2021-32 Resolution awarding contract for Borough Attorney
- #2021-33 Resolution awarding contract for Borough Auditor
- #2021-34 Resolution awarding contract for Borough Bond Counsel
- #2021-35 Resolution awarding contract for Borough Engineer
- #2021-36 Resolution awarding contract for Borough Planner
- #2021-37 Resolution awarding contract for Special Projects Engineer
- #2021-38 Resolution awarding contract for Special Counsel for Affordable Housing
- #2021-39 Resolution awarding contract for Special Redevelopment Counsel
- #2021-40 Resolution appointing Acacia Financial Group as Financial Advisor for 2021
- #2021-41 Resolution authorizing limited waiver of alcoholic beverage hours – Monmouth Park

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael O'Brien, Councilman
SECONDER:	Richard Gallo, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker

- 19. Borough Administrator Remarks:** Ms. Phelps wished everyone a health and happy new year; last year was tough year but was proud of Oceanport employees who worked hard to be sure Oceanport residents were well served; thanked public works, police department, first aid and fire departments and OEM whose jobs were made more difficult as a result of COVID19; and the many other borough volunteers including planning board, recreation, historical, environmental, water watch members, parents and volunteers who

worked hard to make Oceanport a great place to live including the volunteerism and dedication of the mayor and council. She congratulated Councilmen Gallo and Keeshen on re-election and to Councilman O'Brien as new Council President. Despite 2020 being a difficult year there were many accomplishments – the biggest being the completion of the new municipal complex and looks forward to departments moving in over the next weeks.

20. Borough Council Remarks:

1. Councilman William Deerin – Councilman Deerin wished everyone a happy and healthy new year, thanked the Council and the staff at town hall for doing a great job in these challenging times as well as the Borough's committees and volunteers; acknowledged the aid of the recreation committee in keeping spirits high through various activities; proud that Oceanport kept things as normal as possible and credits our mayor for not closing parks and letting people use the facilities; he outlined 2020 accomplishments including resurfacing of basketball courts, tennis courts, total upgrade of Evergreen Park, new playground. Parks getting much more use and since little has been done in last 20 years, these are great steps forward but can't stop there; they've implemented a 5-year maintenance program; grant funds obtained for additional improvements to Community Center; looks forward to working on improvements for pickleball courts, Trinity Park and Gatta Park. This year they are looking for a solution for the pool as well as volunteers being sought for the recreation committee. He concluded by congratulating Councilmen Gallo and Keeshen on re-election
2. Councilman Richard Gallo – Councilman Gallo thanked residents for his re-election and opportunity to continue serving; congratulated Councilman Keeshen on re-election; thanked his wife Susan on her help with his campaign and looks forward to working with everyone in 2021. This year the Public Works Committee will work towards completing the 2020 road program delayed last year and begin looking at the 2021 road program and recycling. Wished everyone a happy new and prosperous new year.
3. Councilman Bryan Keeshen – Councilman Keeshen thanked everyone for their support, congratulated Councilman Gallo and Councilman O'Brien; the Public Safety Committee and public safety departments faced a busy and challenging year in 2020; the undertook an unthinkable situation and rose to the occasion and dealt with it professionally; they look forward to moving into the new police station which will be fully operational as of noon tomorrow along with the OEM center, fire chief and the new facility will bring more organization and professionalism to our departments. He thanked Chief Kelly especially for a job well done in 2020 who was in the forefront of a lot of decisions, policy and procedures that came about everyday; thanked Captain Filippone for a job well done on what seemed like an insurmountable task last year and wished him luck this coming year; thanked outgoing Chief Lippolis for his efforts and completion of a massive capital program to improve radio and extrication equipment which hand' bee replaced in over 35 years and thanked him for spearheading the upgrades to keep our firefighters safe; also thanked Robert Pascorelli who assisted with the radio purchasing; thanked OEM Director Buzz Baldanza for all his efforts, COVID updates and storm updates; he looks forward to a quieter year and will continue to work on a fiscal plan to keep Oceanport up to date and modernizing equipment and training standards.
4. Councilman Michael O'Brien – Councilman O'Brien thanked the council members for their confidence in his service as Council President. Much to look forward in 2021, new buildings, Centennial celebrations to hold. Congratulated Councilmen Gallo and Keeshen on their re-election and looks forward to working with Council in 2021.
5. Councilman Thomas J. Tvrdek – Councilman Tvrdek congratulated Councilmen Gallo and Keeshen on their re-election as well as Council President O'Brien; thanked first responders, first aid, fire, police and OEM. Thanks to Chief Lippolis for his service and the Lippolis family for their service to the town and their time; thanked Borough employees of the police department have been working hard, setting up the new municipal complex, may coming in on their own time and helping with the move when they couldn't get a moving company - they just rolled up their sleeves; welcomed Tim Griffin aboard and wished the Mayor, Council and all of the employees a Happy New Year.
6. Councilwoman Meghan Walker – wished everyone a Happy New Year, congratulated Councilmen Gallo and Keeshen and O'Brien; thanked everyone for their continued faith in her to serve as councilwoman; its been an honor to serve this past year and while difficult, they got through it; its been really nice to see the mutual respect amongst council and how well they all get along, roll up their sleeves and do the work; her family suffered a lot of losses this past year and she thanked everyone for their sympathies and kindness through that; very grateful for the borough hall staff and to all the Borough's professionals; police, first responders, volunteers and all the hard work and long hours; Borough Hall didn't miss a beat as well as others throughout the Borough – just adapted to the restrictions and got their jobs done; she looks forward

to continuing her role with Health and Human Services, working with the schools, the school successes in 2020 such as building improvements, pulling off 8th grade graduation despite COVID and wished success to new Board's leadership and wished everyone a health productive year.

- 21. Mayor Remarks:** Mayor Coffey commented on the difficulties of being a municipal worker in the last year, knowing in his own experience with municipal law; a number of things needed to be fixed coming into the the New Year last year, not knowing the catastrophe that was going to happen; the first thing needed to be fixed was how the council operated in function and Ricky, Tom, Brian, Billy, Mike, Meg - you fixed it. Based on what he does for a living, he couldn't express enough how enjoyable it was to deal with the six of them on a daily or weekly basis; the exchange of information that has taken place over the past year has really put, wind back in his sails, and I can't thank you enough for that again. I know how hard it is to be a Municipal worker, especially, when you can't come to work every day because of COVID and how we've dealt with it. And Jeannie, Katie, Donna, and John, I think the world of all of you, you've done an unbelievable job in unbelievably hard circumstances, and I can't say, no one really understands what it takes to get from point A to point B In lieu of municipal law. And what you do on a daily basis is borderline heroic, especially given these circumstances; Oceanport, when he was first elected was a small town with big city problems. I think I can change that now that we're a small town with big city issues. There are still problems but with this Council he believes they'll be dealt with 1 by 1 over the next couple of years and make sure that the taxpayers and residents are well served. He further commented on the 430 acres from the former fort and its development, new ratables, the Borough's relationship with FMERA; how te Borough handled the past year beautifully; echoed comments on OEM, Buzz and his crew; Chief Lippolis; First Aid, Captain Filippone, police with Chief Kelly and is officers. The new municipal complex is beautiful and the only thing pending is the court/council meeting room and has space to grow. Hopefully the crisis wraps up faster and thanked everyone again for making the past year a pleasure.

- 22. Petitions from the Public:** Mayor Coffey opened the meeting to the public and provided the participation information.

While waiting for the public to respond, Councilman Tvrdik recognized members of the Planning Board for their service including Patty Cooper, Jack Kahle for 9 years, Rusty Kleiberg for his 13 years.

Mayor Coffey asked Councilman Gallo about the issue concerning Christmas trees for pickup. Ms. Phelps advised that the garbage contractor would be picking up. Ms. Smith added that the website notices that put it our for 2nd pickup through the end of January.

Colleen Smith, 56 Comanche Drive, presented concerns about speeding along Comanche Drive. There was a lengthy discussion about the current issues and the tools the Borough was looking at to be used to address the issue including radar signage that flashes.

Ms. Smith also provided her thoughts on the pool as requested by Councilman Deerin and suggested a splash park similar to Dorbrook Park which would be a lower maintenance feature than a pool.

As there was no one else from the public, Mayor Coffey closed that portion of the meeting. Councilman Deerin lastly commented that he was looking forward to seeing how the bobbleheads come out.

- 23. Adjournment:** As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM on a motion by Council President Gallo, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Smith
BOROUGH CLERK