



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

MAYOR & COUNCIL

MINUTES • JANUARY 1, 2022

Reorganization Meeting

Clement V. Sommers Municipal Building

12:00 PM

910 Oceanport Way, Oceanport, NJ 07757

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** Mayor Jay Coffey called to order the Reorganization Meeting of the Oceanport Governing Body on January 1, 2022 at 12:00 PM
2. **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 16, 2021 of this virtual/remote meeting and its location, date and time to the Asbury Park Press and Two River Times and by the posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough's Web Site.
3. **Flag Salute:** Mayor Coffey led attendees and members of the Council in the flag salute.
4. **Clerk's Certificate of Election and Administrates Oaths of Office to:** Ms. Smith read the Certificate of Election from the Board of County Canvassers of Monmouth County, New Jersey certifying MICHAEL O'BRIEN and WILLIAM DEERIN were duly elected Councilpersons full term.

Michael O'Brien
William Deerin

COUNCILMAN
COUNCILMAN

3-year term
3-year term

Term Expiring 12/31/24
Term Expiring 12/31/24

5. **Roll Call of the 2022 Governing Body:**

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

6. **Mayor Coffey's Greeting:**

7. **Election of Borough Council President:**

1. **#2022-001** RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT ELECTING THE 2022 BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

RESULT:	ADOPTED [3 TO 0]
MOVER:	Michael O'Brien, Councilman
SECONDER:	William Deerin, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, O'Brien
ABSTAIN:	Walker
ABSENT:	Keeshen, Tvrdik

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

1. **#2022-002** RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT APPOINTMENT OF CLASS III MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2022 to DECEMBER 31, 2022

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

9. **Borough Council Adoption of 2022 ByLaws:**

1. **#2022-003 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT ADOPTING THE BOROUGH BYLAWS FOR CY2022**

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

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

1. **#2022-004 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT APPOINTMENT OF 2022 BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

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

11. **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
James Whitson	Class IV	4yr Term
Michael Dailey	Class IV	4yr Term
Leslie B. Widdis	Alternate I	Unexpired Term ending 12/31/22
Michael Savarese	Alternate 2	2yr Term

The PLANNING BOARD is now composed of the following members:

Patricia Cooper	Class I	1yr Term expiring 12/31/22
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 12/31/25
Michael Dailey	Class IV	4yr Term expiring 12/31/25
Leslie B. Widdis	Alternate I	2yr Term expiring 12/31/22
Michael Savarese	Alternate 2	2yr Term expiring 12/31/23

12. **Mayor Coffey's Appointments to the Environmental Commission:**

BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Coffey makes the following appointments to the Environmental Commission:

Robert Broege	3yr Term expiring 12/31/24
Bruce Lane	3yr Term expiring 12/31/24
Thomas Cox	3yr Term expiring 12/31/24
Jack L. Harris	1yr Term expiring 12/31/22

The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION is now composed of the following members:

Joseph Foster	1yr Term expiring 12/31/22
Jack L. Harris	1yr Term expiring 12/31/22
Patricia Cooper	2yr Term expiring 12/31/23
Richard Gruskos	2yr Term expiring 12/31/23
Robert Broege	3yr Term expiring 12/31/24
Bruce Lane	3yr Term expiring 12/31/24
Thomas Cox	3yr Term expiring 12/31/24
Vacant	Alter #1 Term expiring 12/31/22
Vacant	Alter #2 Term expiring 12/31/22

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 2022 Officers: The Mayor and Council recognized the following First Aid Officers for 2022. Ms. Smith administered the Oath of Office to the following:

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

15. FIRE DEPARTMENT 2022 Officers: The Mayor and Council recognize the following Fire Department Officers for 2022. Ms. Smith administered the Oath of Office to the following.

1. 2nd Assistant Chief, Joseph Wolfe
2. 1st Assistant Chief, Thomas Gallo
3. CHIEF, Francis Lippolis

16. Acknowledgment of Outgoing Chief Paul Van Brunt: Mayor Coffey acknowledged outgoing Chief Van Brunt who was presented with a special badge for Ex-Chief. Mayor Coffey added that he is an emblem of what Oceanport survives on – wonderful group of volunteers.**17. 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.

- #2022-005** 1. Resolution fixing date, time and place of the Governing Body meetings
- #2022-006** 2. Resolution designating the official newspapers for Borough advertising
- #2022-007** 3. Resolution approving the 2022 temporary budget
- #2022-008** 4. Resolution setting a fee schedule for various miscellaneous administrative items
- #2022-009** 5. Resolution designating depositories
- #2022-010** 6. Resolution authorizing the signature of checks
- #2022-011** 7. Resolution approving a Cash Management Plan and Investment Policy
- #2022-012** 8. Resolution permitting prepayment of certain items
- #2022-013** 9. Resolution authorizing a tax grace period and interest on delinquent taxes
- #2022-014** 10. Resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel small balances
- #2022-015** 11. Resolution authorizing the annual tax sale
- #2022-016** 12. Resolution of Police Department Appointments
- #2022-017** 13. Resolution setting fees for extra duty assignments for 2022
- #2022-018** 14. Resolution awarding contract for 2022 Towing Services
- #2022-019** 15. Resolution authorizing participation in the 1033 LESA program for 2022
- #2022-020** 16. Resolution appointments to Boards & Committees
- #2022-021** 17. Resolution re-appointing Django Wiegers as Fire Subcode Official

- #2022-022 18. Resolution appointing 2022 Borough Officials
- #2022-023 19. Resolution appointing a Public Agency Compliance Officer
- #2022-024 20. Resolution appointing Community Development Representatives
- #2022-025 21. Resolution appointing Clean Communities Coordinator
- #2022-026 22. Resolution appointing an ADA Coordinator for CY2022
- #2022-027 23. Resolution appointing Designated Employer Representative for CDL requirements
- #2022-028 24. Resolution appointing Fire Police members
- #2022-029 25. Resolution appointing a Municipal Prosecutor
- #2022-030 26. Resolution appointing a Borough Attorney
- #2022-031 27. Resolution appointing a Borough Auditor
- #2022-032 28. Resolution appointing a Bond Counsel
- #2022-033 29. Resolution appointing a Borough Engineer
- #2022-034 30. Resolution appointing a Borough Planner
- #2022-035 31. Resolution appointing Special Projects Engineer(s)
- #2022-036 32. Resolution appointing Special Counsel for Redevelopment
- #2022-037 33. Resolution awarding contract for Special Counsel for Affordable Housing
- #2022-038 34. Resolution authorizing limited waiver of alcoholic beverage hours – Monmouth Park

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

18. Borough Council Remarks:

1. Councilman William Deerin – thanked everyone for their prayers and support during his health issues; he happy to say goodbye to 2021; Rec Committee did an outstanding job the past year – increased use of the parks and fields, more involvement in recreation activities and already working on Summer's End 2022. They are looking for additional members if anyone interested in volunteering.
2. Councilman Richard Gallo – congratulated Councilmen Deerin and O'Brien on re-election; Councilwoman Walker on her appointment as Council President, thanked the outgoing and incoming officers for fire and first aid; thanked DPW employees for the work they've done throughout the year under the direction of Steve Briskey and wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.
3. Councilman Bryan Keeshen - Absent
4. Councilman Michael O'Brien – thanked everyone for coming; last year had individual challenges for everyone; but the Borough did a nice job and came together last year; there's a number of volunteers here today who care about the Borough as reflected in Ms. Smith's earlier comment that she loves Oceanport and we all can find commonality in that simple statement. He wished all the new officers lots of luck, wished Ms. Walker well in her position of Council President and extended happiness and health to everyone in 2022.
5. Councilman Thomas J. Tvrdik – Mayor Coffey advised he was unable to attend and read a statement prepared by Councilman Tvrdik that commented on getting through another difficult year but looks forward to 2022; Oceanport is defined by volunteerism and thanked the outgoing and incoming officers each by name and wished everyone a healthy and safe new year; congratulated Councilmen Deerin and O'Brien on their re-election and Councilwoman Walker as Council President
6. Councilwoman Meghan Walker – thanked fellow Council members for their vote of confidence and looks forward to serving as Council President this coming year. She is proud of the work this group has done over the course of her first two years, progress on the parks and road improvements with more to come, a new borough hall that our dedicated employees deserve and the police headquarters and add to their ranks, emergency services are supported, public works department is crushing it and there's a functional relationship between this governing body and the board of education and school administration. For those who voted for her, and those who did not, as we head into a new year, she rededicates herself to that service, and the spirit of inclusiveness, and helping shape the governing body that is responsive, respectful, and representative of our beautiful borough. She thanked all of the outgoing officers and welcomed the incoming ones. Thank you for your service. And I wish everybody a happy and most of all, healthy New Year.

19. **Mayor Remarks:** Mayor Coffey's statement summarized events of the past year, the COVID19 pandemic, everyday life continues – maybe different, but life goes on, reminders of blessed we are to live in the US and Oceanport; and while there's problems, they're really opportunities and there's a whole array of opportunities before the Borough – Monmouth Park Racetrack, affordable housing, park maintenance, increased garbage removal cost, recycling market, road maintenance, school closures, public safety, flooding, taxes, infrastructure. All of which the Borough is dealing with pretty well because of the fantastic, hard-working bunch of volunteers here on the school board, the first aid and volunteer fire department, sports organizations and committees all working to make Oceanport better each and every day. He added that the Borough has incredibly hardworking people in its employ and each and every one of them – police and municipal staff bears very much and do their jobs to the best of their ability and making sure the public's money is well spent. He is confident that the Borough has the collective wherewithal to get through anything and everything that life throws its way because this community cares and contributes to each other.
20. **Petitions from the Public:** Mayor Coffey opened the meeting to petitions from the public.
- Mike Demaio, South Amboy, NJ, appeared as a person who has used medical cannabis in terms of his recovery, his struggle with drug addiction, opioids, heroine, methadone; he successfully changed his life around 3 years ago and owes a lot of his success to medical cannabis, and came today to hopefully spark a discussion amongst the Council to consider lifting the ban on medical cannabis which would say a lot to the public. He commented on the epidemic in overdoses and mental health issues rising and hopes they will consider lifting the ban.
- Edward Leftie Grimes, Bayonne, NJ, appearing on behalf of a non-profit organization that advocates for disabled veterans and for cannabis patients in New Jersey. He expressed disappointment in Mayor Coffey for not convincing the Council to rescind the ban on medical cannabis; commented at length how the veterans are treated and not provided access resources such as a cannabis dispensary on all the property in town, lack of wheelchair access in NJ, the fight made by Jeff Oakes – no longer with us and that he would carry on the fight.
- Mayor Coffey requested that Mr. Grimes remain in order to respond to some of his comments. Mayor Coffey addressed Mr. Grimes that to say that this Council does not do anything for the veterans was not true and believes it is a misdirected statement to say so – Oceanport did not choose anything – the land of the Fort is overseen by the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority on which the Borough has 1 vote. Habcorp will be building 16 units here and the Borough is not neglecting its affordable housing obligation for the homeless or veterans. This is a totally different Council than before, they do listen and work with him. He urged him to go to places where there is a need for change. There are also discussions with Lunch Break and Family Promise. Having Netflix or another entity like it was not the Borough's choice but in fact will do a lot for this town. Oceanport cares about veterans and has done what it needs to do including affordable housing. He encouraged Mr. Grimes to visit other places to express his anger and frustration. As there was no one else from the public, Mayor Coffey closed that portion of the meeting.
21. **Adjournment:** As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 PM on a motion by Council President Walker, seconded by Councilman O'Brien and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Smith
BOROUGH CLERK