

BOROUGH OF BRADLEY BEACH

**REORGINIZATION MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
JANUARY 1, 2023 AT 12:00 P.M.**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, PUBLIC MEETINGS MAY BE HELD IN PERSON OR BY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE STREAMING SERVICES AND OTHER ONLINE MEETING PLATFORMS (N.J.S.A. 10:4-8b).

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND THROUGH THE ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM, BEING BROADCAST FROM BOROUGH HALL, 701 MAIN STREET, BRADLEY BEACH, NJ 07720. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THIS COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 1, 2023 WAS AVAILBLE IN PERSON OR THROUGH THE ZOOM LINK POSTED TO THE WEBSITE. THE REMAINDER OF COUNCIL MEETINGS (RESOLUTION 2022-265 ADOPTED DECEMBER 13, 2022) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023 WAS ADVERTISED IN THE COAST STAR AND THE NEW COASTER ON DECEMBER 15, 2022 AND THE ASBURY PARK PRESS ON DECEMBER 17, 2022.

WITH ADEQUATE NOTICE HAVING BEEN GIVEN, THE MUNICIPAL CLERK IS DIRECTED TO INCLUDE THIS STATEMENT IN THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION

“A Statement of the Determination of the Board of County Canvassers relative to an Election held in the Borough of Bradley Beach on the 8th day of November, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two for the election of Municipal Officers for said Borough of Bradley Beach. The said Board to determine that at said Election **John Weber, Meredith DeMarco, Jane DeNoble, and Al Gubitosi** were duly elected to the Office of Borough Council for a Full Three-Year Terms.

Mayor Fox announced the Administration of Oath of Office for the Fire Department and First Aid Squad Officers would be administered first.

FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST AID SQUAD OATHS OF OFFICE

Fire Department Captain and First Aid Squad Vice President Ronald Minsky was administered the “Oath of Office” by Mayor Fox.

Fire Department Deputy Chief and First Aid Squad First Lieutenant John W. Zech was administered the “Oath of Office” by Mayor Fox.

Fire Chief Kelly Hagerman was administered the “Oath of Office” by Mayor Fox.

Mayor Fox:

Welcome to the 2023 Reorganization Meeting. At our 2021 meeting we organized via Zoom. We thought we were at “the beginning of the end” of the COVID pandemic. In 2022, just when we thought it was safe, we went back into a Zoom mode late in the year and held the Reorganization again on Zoom. It seemed like we were drifting into the end of the beginning. We shifted back to some level of normalcy. Here we are, almost three years since COVID overwhelmed the world and we are still battling. I had Christmas at my house just yesterday due to a COVID interruption. I hope we weather the “triple threat”, and true normalcy returns soon. Thanks to our EMS, DPW, Police, Administration and OEM resources for executing and guiding us through these challenges. Through all of this we have been able to maintain a continuity of government.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

Jane DeNoble was administered the “Oath of Office” by the Honorable Luanne Peterpaul, J.M.C.

Meredith DeMarco was administered the “Oath of Office” by Michael Mangan, Manasquan Councilman

Alan Gubitosi was administered the “Oath of Office” by the Honorable Luanne Peterpaul, J.M.C.

John Weber was administered the Oath of Office” by the Honorable Luanne Peterpaul, J.M.C.

Mayor Fox:

First, I would like to thank Tim Sexsmith for performing the role of Council President in 2022. It is much appreciated by me and sometimes underestimated by the public. Tim went beyond the base responsibility of the role, trying to better organize the priorities and requirements of the Council. Thank you, Councilman.

ROLL CALL 12:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Fox
Council: Ms. DeMarco, Ms. DeNoble, Mr. Gubitosi, Mr. Weber

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ON MOTION by Fox/Weber to approve the Council Business Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2022.

ROLL CALL:

**AYES: Gubitosi, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: DeMarco, DeNoble, Weber**

APPROVED

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to approve the Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2022.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Gubitosi, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: DeMarco, DeNoble, Weber

APPROVED

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE 2023-1

CALENDAR YEAR 2023

**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION
LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14).**

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to introduce Ordinance 2023-1.

Councilwoman DeNoble voted no and stated she feels she cannot make an impartial decision on this Ordinance without speaking to the Chief Financial Officer. Ms. DeNoble stated she looks forward to making an acquaintance with the CFO soon.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: DeNoble
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

INTRODUCED

ORGANIZATION OF MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mayor Fox announced Meredith DeMarco for Nomination of Council President for the term commencing January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

ON MOTION by Fox/DeNoble to move this nomination to the Consent Agenda.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

NOMINATION MOVED TO THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Fox mentioned the Council Liaison Assignments for 2023.

<u>Fletcher Lake Commission</u>	<u>Councilman Weber</u>
<u>Sylvan Lake Commission</u>	<u>Councilman Gubitosi</u>
<u>Recreation Commission</u>	<u>Mayor Fox</u>
<u>Mayor's Wellness Committee</u>	<u>Mayor Fox</u>
<u>Tourism Commission</u>	<u>Councilwoman DeNoble</u>
<u>Library</u>	<u>Mayor Fox</u>
<u>Environmental Commission</u>	<u>Councilwoman DeMarco</u>
<u>Shade Tree Commission</u>	<u>Councilwoman DeNoble</u>
<u>Board of Education</u>	<u>Councilwoman DeNoble</u>
<u>Arts Council</u>	<u>Councilman Weber</u>
<u>Land Use Board</u>	<u>Councilwoman DeMarco</u>
<u>Police Liaison</u>	<u>Councilman Gubitosi</u>
<u>Fire/EMS Liaison</u>	<u>TBD</u>

**CONSENT AGENDA OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Resolution 2023-1: Nomination of Council President.**

Resolution 2023-2: Adopting a Temporary Budget.

Resolution 2023-3: Temporary Debt Service Budget for 2023.

Resolution 2023-4: Establishes Depositories for funds received by the Borough.

Resolution 2023-5: Establishes Change Funds for 2023.

Resolution 2023-6: Establishes Petty Cash Funds for 2023.

Resolution 2023-7: Establishes the Grace Period for Delinquent Tax Payments for 2023.

**Resolution 2023-8: Designates Cash Management Plan for the Deposit of all monies
Received by the Borough.**

**Resolution 2023-9: Designates the Asbury Park Press, The Coast Star, The New Coaster
and the Newark Star Ledger as official Newspapers and the internet
website for the Borough of Bradley Beach.**

**Resolution 2023-10: Authorizing the Borough Council to donate two 2023 Adult Seasonal
Beach Badges to various Bradley Beach Non-Profit Organizations.**

**Resolution 2023-11: Authorizing the Tax Assessor to act as an agent for the Borough for the
purpose of filing and settling Tax Appeals up to \$20,000.00, on behalf of
the Tax District for the 2022 Tax Year.**

Resolution 2023-12: Appointing Kimberly M. Humphrey as the Borough’s Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Resolution 2023-13: Appointing Michele Whille as the Public Agency Compliance Officer (PACO) from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Resolution 2023-14: Elected Fire Department Officers for 2023.

Resolution 2023-15: Elected First Aid Squad Officers for 2023.

Resolution 2023-16: Authorizing Contracts with approved State Contract Vendors for Contracting Units pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a through December 31, 2023.

ON MOTION by Fox/DeMarco to approve the Consent Agenda Resolutions.

ROLL CALL AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

INDIVIDUAL RESOLUTIONS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Resolution 17: Authorizing the Re-Appointment of the Borough Tax Assessor Erick Aguiar.

ON MOTION by Fox/DeMarco to adopt Resolution 2023-17.

ROLL CALL AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED

Resolution 18: Authorizing Transfers between Budget Appropriations.

Councilman Weber stated he noticed several of the transfers are being transferred to an account named “Dump Fees” and inquired if the Borough has changed procedures this year with garbage and recycling or if the amount was underestimated.

Administrator Humphrey explained the rates have increased and an allocation for Dump Fees did not Exist previously.

ON MOTION by Fox/Gubitosi to adopt Resolution 2023-18.

ROLL CALL AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED

Resolution 19: Approval to appoint the 2023 Professional Appointments at the Council Business Meeting of January 11, 2023.

Mayor Fox explained the reason for this resolution being appointments are usually awarded within the first ten days of the Calendar Year. The first Council Business Meeting will take place on January 11th, hence the reason for this resolution.

Mayor Fox further explained the reason for not awarding the appointments at this meeting is to give the two new Council Members the opportunity to review the proposals.

ON MOTION by Fox/Weber to adopt Resolution 2023-19.

ROLL CALL AYES: DeMarco, DeNoble, Gubitosi, Weber, Mayor Fox
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Varoious Term Appointments Memo for 2023.**
- **Yearly Term Appointments Memo for 2023.**

Mayor Fox extended thanks to all of the volunteers listed in the Memos.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman DeMarco:

Wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for their faith and confidence and allowing to represent the Borough. Ms. DeMarco spoke of her experience in State and Local Government as well as Non-Profit Organizations and stated Local Government is where Democracy needs its people. Ms. DeMarco spoke about motivation and perspectives and thanked all her supporters during the election campaign, her family, her neighbors, fellow Council Members, the Borough Employees and congratulated all of the Fire and First Aid Officers. Ms. Demarco further stated her future visions and hopes while serving as Councilwoman.

Councilwoman DeNoble:

Thanked all who were in attendance and thanked Dr. Heflich for his service as Chair on the Shade Tree Commission and iterated Dr. Heflich's accolades and accomplishments for the Commission. Ms. DeNoble thanked all her supporters that voted for her.

Councilman Gubitosi:

Wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and a brighter future from a health and safety Standpoint. Mr. Gubitosi thanked everyone in attendance for coming to the Reorganization Meeting, welcomed Councilwoman DeMarco and Councilwoman DeNoble and congratulated Ms. DeMarco on her nomination for Council President. Mr. Gubitosi thanked Dr. Heflich for his role of Chair on the Shade Tree Commission and thanked all of the volunteers on the Commissions and Committees.

Councilman Weber:

Wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mr. Weber thanked everyone in attendance and his family for their support. Mr. Weber thanked all the volunteers in the Borough. Mr. Weber congratulated Ms. DeMarco and Ms. DeNoble and stated he looks forward to working with them on Council.

Mayor Fox:

Congratulations to Councilwoman DeMarco and Councilwoman DeNoble.

Here we are in 2023. Many thanks for the extra efforts Public Works, our Public Safety Team- Police, Fire, Ems, and OEM, our borough staff, Council, and volunteers that made 2022 a success.

The responsibilities of governance continue to be daunting, satisfying, and challenging.

We continue to be in a great position as a community. We are blessed with both opportunities and challenges which, if we choose to work on them in a smart, unified manner we will ensure success in 2023 and beyond, together. We are ending 2022 fiscally sound and our financial systems and controls continue to improve.

So, what else happened in 2022?

In the area of Safety, Security, and Services-

Our Police, Fire, EMS, and Dept. of Public Works continued to serve the community and improve an already great record- All Teams are to be commended. On a special note, I'd like to congratulate the Police Department on keeping us safe. We live close to a few "challenging" towns with high crime rates. Our Team is dedicated to keeping us safe- always.

On Affordability-

Our Municipal Tax Levy, which we control, is almost 40% of the total tax levy for our residents. In the last two years, our TOTAL tax levy has remained relatively low. We have reduced the level of spend increase by 60%. Our Municipal Tax Rate has come down by about 10%. We need to keep this increase to an absolute minimum in 2023 and beyond.

On Main Street-

I view the beachfront as a priceless asset that we are the stewards of. Similarly, Main Street should be viewed as our 401K. We did some preliminary work in 2021 and 2022. This year, 2023, needs to be the year we take the Main Street Plan to the next level. We need to keep a focus on a 2-3 year plan.

On Strategic Plan and BBBCA

In 2019, we had had dozens of active volunteers develop a strategic plan for our community. This initiative was led by Paula Gavin. This featured a focus on Main Street, our beachfront/ocean front, and our communications, among other things. We will retire the Strategic Plan Team so we can focus on implementation in 2022 and look to a re-charge some time in 2023. On as related note, thanks to Paula Gavin for her continued leadership with the BBBCA, which I am sure will continue do great things in 2023 and beyond! The BBBCA really came into its own in 2021 and 2022.

2023 and beyond-

Last year at this time I said Bradley Beach has a few big opportunities and challenges to address. Those were:

The Showroom Theater closing, Cinema Labs acquisition.

Moving forward for the idea of a Community Center in the church the Borough purchased in 2020; significant progress and nearing a final determination.

A continued focus on Affordability spending and Municipal Tax Rate achieved.

A renewed strategy for Main Street started with lots more to do.

Continued improvements to the Beachfront including a coastal resilience assessment.

Moving through a number of Infrastructure projects, among which is our “Phase II” Sewer Replacement Project and Sump Pump Outflow Remediation.

“Operational Excellence” program. a focus on our internal processes and organization.

For 2023:

A continued focus on Affordability.

A renewed strategy for Main Street.

Continued improvements to the Beachfront

Infrastructure improvements

Sewers

Outfall pipes

Coastal resilience

Our parks

Kim Humphrey has submitted to me five ordinances that need attention, the most important

Short-Term Rentals- which we will be workshopping and introducing early this year

Closing out the 319 LaReine transaction

Affordable Housing: completing, submitting, and starting our plan.

In conclusion, I will continue to seek Feedback and Communication from our residents and professionals. I know I will disappoint some of you as we go forward- one cost of progress. My focus has been and will be the greater good of all residents. I hope we get most of it right. I am sure you will let us know.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Mangan, Manasquan Councilman congratulated all the Council Members on behalf of the Borough of Manasquan.

Councilman Gubitosi recognized Senator Gopal's Assistant Bernadette Grippin.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION by Fox/DeMarco moved to adjourn.

ADJOURN 12:55 p.m.


Erica Kostyz, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk