

Borough of Tenafly

Annual Meeting of the Mayor and Council

Council Chambers, Borough Hall
Municipal Center
100 Riveredge Road, Tenafly, New Jersey

Sunday, January 6, 2013
MINUTES

At 1:35 p.m. Mayor Rustin read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act P.L. 1975, chapter 231, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting by Resolution #12-429 has been sent to the Record, Suburbanite, Northern Valley Press and has been posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center."

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Rustin.

Borough Clerk Lissette Aportela-Hernandez called the roll of the present Council, which consisted of Mayor Rustin and Council members Barry Honig, Martha Kerge, Jon Warms, and Mark Zinna

Judge Robert Cohan administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Barzelatto.

Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect LaMastra.

Borough Clerk Lissette Aportela-Hernandez called the roll of the 2013 Mayor and Council.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Rustin and Council members Anthony Barzelatto, Barry Honig, Martha Kerge, Nadia LaMastra, Jon Warms, and Mark Zinna

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Jewel Thompson-Chin

Mayor Rustin recognized State Senator Lorretta Weinberg, Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle, and Assemblyman Gordon Johnson. State Senator Weinberg wished everyone a happy, healthy, and peaceful 2013. She stated that she owes a lot to the citizens of Tenafly and commented on the integrity for which this community stands. She offered her wishes for a great new year and congratulated the Council and Borough staff.

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle offered her best wishes to the Mayor and Council for a wonderful 2013 and stated that she is proud to serve Tenafly. She congratulated C. LaMastra and C. Barzelatto and recognized Chief Michael Bruno, thanking him for his service and wishing him the best in his continuing public service.

Assemblyman Johnson wished everyone a happy New Year. He explained that he was involved in daily conference calls with PSE&G after Hurricane Sandy and advised that Mayor Rustin fought for the people of Tenafly by explaining the specific problems within the Borough that PSE&G was not addressing. Assemblyman Johnson expressed his opinion that Mayor Rustin's interaction with PSE&G was a good example of public service and what he did in Tenafly needs to be taken to Washington. He gave a special thanks to the Councilmembers' spouses and congratulated Chief Bruno.

Appointment of Borough Attorney

Mayor Rustin appointed William R. McClure, Esq. to serve as Borough Attorney in 2013 and asked for confirmation of his appointment by the Council.

#R13-01/Confirmation of Appointment of Borough Attorney

Motion by C. Warms, second by C. Zinna that #R13-01 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

Oath of Office was administered to Borough Attorney McClure by Kathy McClure, Esq.

Selection of Council President for 2013.

Mayor Rustin asked the Council for nominations for Council President.

C. Warms motioned to nominate C. LaMastra as Council President with a second by C. Zinna.

On a voice vote, with all members voting in favor, the nomination was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Citizens are welcome to address the Mayor and Council on any governmental item of concern to them, whether or not it is scheduled on the agenda below. A total of 15 minutes has been allocated for all public comments to be presented. Citizens must give their names and addresses when recognized to speak. Large groups are urged to select someone to represent them. Please be advised these meetings are recorded and are subject to the Open Public Records Act.

No one came forward.

Mayor Rustin recognized Chief Bruno as he is retiring after 10 years serving as Police Chief and 28 years on the force. He commented that as a Mayor, he oversees a lot of departments and areas in the community and stated that this department is one area that he hardly had to think about as it was so well run. He pointed out that other than the quality of the school system, one of the main reasons that people move to Tenafly is how safe it is. He expressed his opinion that Chief Bruno has done a tremendous job in preparing his department for his departure.

#R13-02/Confirm Appointment of Labor Counsel – Ruderman & Glickman, P.C.

Motion by C. Warms, second by C. LaMastra that #R13-02 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	nay	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

#R13-03/Confirm Appointment of Bond Counsel – Jack Kraft, Esq., LLC

Motion by C. Warms, second by C. Zinna that #R13-03 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

#R13-04/Confirm Appointment of Municipal Court Judge – Allen M. Bell, Esq.

Motion by C. Warms, second by C. Kerge that #R13-04 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

Mayor Rustin remarked that he does not take any of these appointments lightly. He explained that he confers with the Council and staff who work directly with the appointees on a regular basis.

#R13-05/Confirmation of Mayor's Appointments

Motion by C. Kerge, second by C. Warms.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey that all of the following appointments are hereby confirmed for a one-year term to expire on January 1, 2014.

Prosecutor	Mark Fierro
1st Alternate Municipal Prosecutor	Andrew Cimiluca
Public Defender	Jordan Yuelys
1st Alternate Public Defender	Robert Metzdorf
2nd Alternate Public Defender	Nina C. Remson
Borough Historian	Alice Rigney
Assistant Historian	Paul Stefanowicz

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD – no confirmation required

PLANNING BOARD	Term	Expires
Eugene Marcantonio	4 yrs.	12/31/2016
Byron "Gus" Allen	4 yrs.	12/31/2016
2nd Alternate – Sheryl Gaines	2 yrs.	12/31/2014

#R13-06/Appointment of Class III Member to Planning Board

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Barzelatto.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey that Councilmember Jon Warms is hereby designated as a Class III member of the Planning for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2013.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	nay	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - no confirmation required

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT	Term	Expires
Jane Gilbert	4 yrs.	1/1/2017
Timothy Farrell	4 yrs.	1/1/2017
1st Alternate – Sean Li (unexpired Babcock)	2 yrs.	1/1/2014
2nd Alternate – Allan Cytryn	2 yrs.	1/1/2015
Martha Kerge, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2014

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION - no confirmation required

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION	Term	Expires
Nina Seiden	3 yrs.	12/31/2015
Jeffrey M. Miller	3 yrs.	12/31/2015
David Cavilla	3 yrs.	12/31/2015
2nd Alternate – John Purdy	2 yrs.	12/31/2014

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION - no confirmation required

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	Term	Expires
Donald Merino (class A)	4 yrs.	12/31/2016
Rita Heller (class C)	4 yrs.	12/31/2016
2nd Alternate – Michael Barone	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Martha Kerge, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2013

#R13-07/Confirm Appointments to the Board of Health

Motion by C. Honig, second by C. LaMastra and unanimously approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that all of the following appointments to the Board of Health are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Michael Basista, M.D.	4 yrs.	1/1/2017
Jon Warms, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2014

#R13-08/Confirm Appointments to the Library Board of Trustees

Motion by C. Kerge, second by C. Zinna and unanimously approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that all of the following appointments to the Library Board of Trustees are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Kathleen Cook	5 yrs.	1/1/2018
Martha Kerge, Mayor's Alternate	1 yr.	1/1/2014

#R13-09/Confirm Appointments to the Recreation Board

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Warms and unanimously approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that all of the following appointments to the Recreation Board are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Sara Levinson	5 yrs.	12/31/2017
David Reichel	5 yrs.	12/31/2017
Nadia LaMastra, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2013

#R13-10/Confirm Appointments to the Access for All Committee

Motion by C. Barzelatto, second by C. Zinna and unanimously approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that all of the following appointments to the Advisory Committee for the Disabled are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Guiseppe LaMastra (unexpired Shapiro)	2 yrs.	12/31/2013
Ellen Kaplan	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Joseph N. Reilly	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Andrew Pecorella	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Rebecca Moldover	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Jonathan Moldover	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Tania Gold	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Robert Byrnes, Sr., Construction Official	1 yr.	12/31/2013
Recreation Dept. representative TBD	1 yr.	12/31/2013

J. Robert Beutel, DPW representative	1 yr.	12/31/2013
Vincent Benenati, School District representative	1 yr.	12/31/2013
Gerry Migliore, (CVS), Business Community representative	1 yr.	12/31/2013
Mark Zinna, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2013

#R13-11/Confirm Appointment to the Tenafly Municipal Alliance Committee

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C.Zinna and unanimously approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that all of the following appointment to the Tenafly Municipal Alliance Committee is hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Barry Honig, Council Liaison	1 yr.	12/31/2013

#R13-12/Confirm Appointments to the Tenafly Business Improvement District Management Corporation

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Kerge to table Resolution #R13-12.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

All members present voting in favor, Resolution #R13-12 was tabled.

Council decided to invite Stephanie Pasternak and Khalid Mansoor to the January 8th Work Session and relist this resolution on the January 15th Public Meeting agenda.

ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR RUSTIN

Note: The appointments to the following non-statutory Committees do not require Council confirmation.

YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
Anthony Mayo	3 yrs.	1/1/2016
Alan Bendes	3 yrs.	1/1/2016
June Johnston	3 yrs.	1/1/2016
Recreation Commission Liaison, TBD	1 yr.	1/1/2014
Mark Zinna, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2014

SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICE COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
David Burstein	3 yrs.	12/31/2015
Bert Holtje	3 yrs.	12/31/2015
Gloria Layne	3 yrs.	12/31/2015
Julie Villafuerte, Director	1 yr.	12/31/2013
Rebecca Stauffer, Assistant Director	1 yr.	12/31/2013
Nadia LaMastra, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2013

TENAFLY WELCOME! COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
Pam Kulisek	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Millie Rapp	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Judith Lipson	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Phyllis Lin	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Diana Buck	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
April Uram, Chair	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Roxana Surrey	2 yrs.	12/31/2014
Nadia LaMastra, Council Liaison	1 yr.	12/31/2013

BOROUGH/JOINT USE COMMITTEE

Mayor Peter Rustin, Chair; Councilmembers Barry Honig and Mark Zinna

TENAFLY NATURE CENTER
Jon Warms, Council Liaison
Barry Honig, Council Liaison

TENAFLY PRESENTS
Mayor Peter Rustin
Jon Warms, Council Liaison

TENAFLY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Jon Warms, Council Liaison
Barry Honig, Council Liaison

AD HOC COMMITTEE (1 year term) - TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Mayor Peter Rustin
Councilman Barry Honig
Councilman Mark Zinna
Howard Seiden
Joseph McDermott
Byron "Gus" Allen, Jr.
Michael P. Bruno, Police Chief
Kevin Tremble
Michael Bishop
Michael Sudnow

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenafly Fire Department
Anthony Barzelatto, Council Liaison
Barry Honig, Alternate Council Liaison

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenafly Volunteer Ambulance Corps
Nadia LaMastra, Council Liaison
Barry Honig, Alternate Council Liaison

Appointment of Board of Police Commissioners
Mayor Rustin, Councilmembers Martha Kerge and Mark Zinna

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Zinna that the Consent Agenda be approved.

#R13-13/Confirm Time and Place for 2013 Regular Meetings
#R13-14/Authorize Adoption of Minutes at Regular Meetings
#R13-15/Designate Official Newspapers
#R13-16/Confirm Process for Determination of 2013 Salaries
#R13-17/Confirm Elected Officers to the Tenafly Fire Department
#R13-18/Designate Official Depositories and Accounts/Authorize Signatures
#R13-19/Appoint Tax Search Officer
#R13-20/Appoint Insurance Commissioner
#R13-21/Appoint Official Municipal Improvement Searcher
#R13-22/Ratify Public Official Bonds/Finance Office
#R13-23/Appoint Acting Borough Clerk and Acting Official Improvement Search Officer
#R13-24/Appoint Deputy Treasurer
#R13-25/Appoint Apportionment Officer
#R13-26/Authorize Adjustments/Assessor
#R13-27/Authorize Stipulations/Assessor
#R13-28/Authorize Semi-Monthly Payrolls
#R13-29/Appoint Risk Management Consultant
#R13-30/Appoint Public Agency Compliance Officer
#R13-31/Reaffirm Borough Personnel Manual for 2013
#R13-32/Designate Locations for Temporary Signage Displays
#R13-33/Approve Temporary Budget 2013
#R13-34/Confirm Interest Rate for Delinquent Taxes 2013
#R13-35/Continue Petty Cash Funds

- #R13-36/Authorize Investments and Transfers
- #R13-37/Authorize Wire Transfers
- #R13-38/Approve Cash Management Plan
- #R13-39/Adopt 2013 Meeting Schedule/Holiday Calendar
- #R13-40/Adopt Robert's Rules of Order

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye, #R13-18 & #R13-38 abstain	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

Mayor Rustin recognized Tom Swift, former Recreation Board member and lifetime member of the Fire Department.

Mayor's State of the Borough Address.

Each year I look forward to Reorganization Day. It comes several weeks after our final meeting of the previous year; after the holidays, and after the start of the New Year. The opportunity to speak, at the end of this meeting gives me the feeling that we are done with the formalities and now we, the governing body, can roll up our sleeves and get to work. Sometimes this meeting brings us new faces, other times such as this year, we have continuity. There are advantages to both. But no matter how you look at it, enormous challenges lay ahead of us.

For the third year, the government in Trenton has presented us with a cap on our spending. As is typical of Trenton, they limit the spending of municipalities but place no such restraints on themselves. For the past two years, I have told you at this meeting that Tenaflly is well positioned to get under the cap; something many communities either struggle to accomplish or actually are unable to do. Tenaflly succeeds because of excellent planning, an exceptional group of Borough employees and a governing body that knows when to put aside politics and come to a consensus. But let's not kid ourselves; getting under the cap will become more difficult every year; especially when you add in the caveat that keeps Tenaflly unique. We insist on maintaining our services at the highest level. In 2013, we will maintain the services we provide our residents and at the same time produce a budget that falls under the 2% cap.

A quick review of 2012 presents some successes and some low points. For the time being, Light Rail seems to have taken a step back. Elected officials in Trenton and Hackensack as well as NJ Transit have acknowledged Tenaflly's feelings, and have suggested that should the project ever move forward, it would not go further than Englewood.

The new police station was opened, as was the restrooms and concession stand at the Municipal Field. As a result of a joint use project with our Board of Education, a generator was installed at the High School computer center which allows Borough Hall to maintain network and internet communication even during a power outage. The significance of this was made very clear in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Although our town was without power for many days, Tenaflly maintained essential services to our residents with our volunteers at Fire and TVAC shining alongside our Police and DPW. Despite some personnel issues, we created a shared service venture with the Borough of Little Ferry in which we share a Registrar at a significant cost savings. We should note that Little Ferry maintained this service to Tenaflly even in light of the devastation their community experienced from Hurricane Sandy.

In 2012, contracts were negotiated with five of the six bargaining groups at Borough Hall. We are currently at the table with the sixth, our PBA. We asked all of our employees to forego salary increases for two years, 2011 & 2012. This was not an easy thing to ask of our employees, who have inherited increased workloads as we have shrunk our work force thru attrition, but they are dedicated and hardworking; and they supported us through this time of personal sacrifice. It is not hard to understand why some of our employees feel unappreciated. I believe Governor Christie is wrong in making many public employees out

be villains. Most are guilty only of taking what elected officials have in the past given them. All of us must now recognize that the times they are a' changing. We can no longer afford to give our employees what we gave out in the past. Hopefully, they understand that it is not a lack of appreciation; we just don't have the financial where with all to continue those past practices. As I mentioned last year, our team of employees is one of the reasons I enjoy my work as Mayor. It is a privilege to serve with them and our town is very fortunate to have them serving us.

I would be remiss if I did not mention one other special group, our residents. You need go no further than Hurricane Sandy. For the most part, our residents understood the challenges our community was facing; and they were patient and extremely self-reliant. When it became clear that some of our neighbors needed assistance, as soon as the call went out, people came forward to offer their homes or whatever else was needed. I was not surprised. From the first day on the job, I realized that Tenafly's greatest asset was its people.

In 2012 we lost two former Police Chiefs who served Tenafly well for many years, Chiefs Amicucci and Layne, and our current Police Chief Mike Bruno announced his retirement after serving us for 28 years, the last 10 as chief. Another upcoming retirement I would like to mention is that of Dee Lorberbaum. Dee has been a true asset to our town, serving us in so many capacities I won't try to name them.

2012 also saw a continued reduction in our tree population due to both construction and storms. Once again we have failed to address the need for more trees to be planted. I will ask our Environmental Commission, along with our Green team to give tree planting a high priority in 2013.

And finally, I look at our downtown and admit that we are not successfully addressing the issues facing our business district. So in 2013 we need for our Business Improvement District to be energized. Downtown has seen some new businesses open in 2012, but we have continued to gain vacancies; most visibly in some of our larger properties. We must see some identifiable results for the additional tax we have placed on our commercial properties. We have a beautiful downtown, but at the same time it is not the magnet for shoppers or diners that we want it to be. This is a challenge the BID Board must meet in 2013.

Your governing body will be appointing a new Police Chief shortly. We will also be looking at a new method of repaving our streets called micro-surfacing. If successful, it will allow us to catch up with the volume of streets that need repair and it would be done at a much more economical price. Hopefully, our partnership with the Bergen County United Way will lead to a special needs project on Tenafly Road that will provide housing for some of our residents who at this time have no independent housing options.

Another subject that I have mentioned at a previous Reorganization Meeting, I hope that this year we will partner with our Board of Education to turf and light Geisinger Field so that our residents may get full use of that facility. I look forward to working with the director of our Farmer's Market in an effort to revitalize it before we lose it. And lastly, together with Council members and volunteers, I look to expand our summer concert series, our town deserves nothing less.

Before I close, I would be remiss to not mention the proposed Nature Center project. To those that oppose the project let me say the following: the Tenafly Nature Center has been the steward of land on the East Hill for over 50 years, even before the large purchase of land made in the late 1970's. They are a group of conservation and environment minded volunteers who have for over 50 years maintained those lands in their natural state. They are looking to build a facility which will enhance their mission, which is not only to protect the land but to present to those who wish to experience it and to teach conservation and how to protect the environment, especially to our children. That mission will be first and foremost in their minds as they pursue this project; which, should it move forward, would be discussed and voted on at public meetings each step of the way.

And to those who are proponents of this project; we need to respect the work done 40 years ago that led to the purchase of this property in question. We need to acknowledge the

concerns of those questioning this project and we need to address any sense of a lack of transparency in this process. As a community we must come together; our goal is the same; to keep Tenafly the great town that it is and to preserve its greatness for future generations.

I believe I speak for each member of the governing body when I pledge that we will work diligently to keep Tenafly as affordable as possible for all of our residents, that we will maintain our high level of services and we will continue to remain accessible to our residents. And personally, I pledge to keep the lines of communication open for any resident who needs assistance and is not sure where to turn. It is a privilege to be able to serve our friends and neighbors in this wonderful town. Thank you for this opportunity. Have a healthy and a happy New Year!

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion from C. Honig, second by C. Kerge, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela-Hernandez, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk