

Borough of Tenafly

Annual Meeting of the Mayor and Council

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

Saturday, January 3, 2015

MINUTES

At 1:02 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#14-372 has been sent to the Record, the Suburbanite, and Northern Valley Press and has been posted on the public bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center and Borough website"

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Rustin.

A moment of silence for Former Mayor Walter Hemberger was observed, who passed away this past Friday.

Borough Clerk Lissette Aportela called the roll of the present Council, which consisted of Mayor Rustin and Council members Anthony Barzelatto, Maxim Basch, Nadia LaMastra, and Daniel Park

State Assemblyman Gordon Johnson administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Stefanowicz.

State Senator Loretta Weinberg administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Zinna.

Borough Clerk Lissette Aportela called the roll of the 2015 Mayor and Council.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Rustin and Council members Anthony Barzelatto, Maxim Basch, Nadia LaMastra, Daniel Park, Paul Stefanowicz, and Mark Zinna

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Jewel Thompson-Chin

Appointment of Borough Attorney

Mayor Rustin appointed William R. McClure, Esq. to serve as Borough Attorney in 2015 and asked for confirmation of his appointment by the Council.

#R15-01/Confirmation of Appointment of Borough Attorney

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Zinna that #R15-01 be approved.

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

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. Park:	aye
C. Basch:	aye	C. Stefanowicz:	aye
C. LaMastra:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

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

Selection of Council President for 2015.

Mayor Rustin asked the Council for nominations for Council President.

C. Barzelatto nominated C. Zinna to serve as Council President. C. Park seconded the nomination.

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

Assemblywoman Valerie Huttel – wished everyone a happy and healthy 2015. She congratulated C. Stefanowicz and C. Zinna. Assemblywoman Huttel also commended the Borough for their public service.

Dave Wall – 11 Cameron Road – Stated that he serves as Chairman on the HPC. He congratulated C. Zinna and C. Stefanowicz. He added that C. Stefanowicz is an Assistant Historian on the HPC and praised his work with the committee.

#R15-02/Confirm Appointment of Labor Counsel – Ruderman & Glickman, P.C.

Motion by C. Zinna, second by C. Basch that #R15-02 be approved.

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

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. Park:	aye
C. Basch:	aye	C. Stefanowicz:	aye
C. LaMastra:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

#R15-03/Confirm Appointment of Bond Counsel – Kraft & Capizzi

Motion by C. Basch, second by C. Park that #R15-03 be approved.

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

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. Park:	aye
C. Basch:	aye	C. Stefanowicz:	aye
C. LaMastra:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

#R15-04/Confirm Appointment of Borough Auditor - Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Park that #R15-04 be approved.

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

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. Park:	aye
C. Basch:	aye	C. Stefanowicz:	aye
C. LaMastra:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

#R15-05/Confirmation of Mayor's Appointments

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, 2016.

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

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Zinna that #R15-05 be approved.

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

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. Park:	aye
C. Basch:	aye	C. Stefanowicz:	aye
C. LaMastra:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

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

PLANNING BOARD	Term	Expires
Jon Warms (Class II member)	3 yrs.	12/31/2017
Mary Beth Wilmit	4 yrs.	12/31/2018
2nd Alternate – Eugene Kwon	2 yrs	12/31/2016

#R15-06/Appointment of Class III Member to Planning Board

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey that Councilmember Zinna is hereby designated as a Class III member of the Planning for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Motion by C. Park, second by C. Basch that #R15-06 be approved.

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

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. Park:	aye
C. Basch:	aye	C. Stefanowicz:	aye
C. LaMastra:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

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

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT	Term	Expires
Paul T. Brensilber	4 yrs.	1/1/2019
1st Alternate – Allan Cytryn (unexpired Li)	2 yrs.	1/1/2016
2nd Alternate – Sean Callahan	2 yrs.	1/1/2017
Paul Stefanowicz, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2016

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION	Term	Expires
John Purdy (unexpired Cavilla)	3 yrs.	12/31/2015
James Coyle	3 yrs.	12/31/2017
Anna Makrinos	3 yrs.	12/31/2017
Jon Warms (Planning Board Class II member)	3 yrs.	12/31/2017
Daniel Park, Council member	3 yrs.	12/31/2017
1st Alternate – Gillian Garrett (unexpired Purdy)	2 yrs.	12/31/2015
2nd Alternate – (vacant)	2 yrs.	12/31/2016

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	Term	Expires
Karen Neus (class C)	4 yrs.	12/31/2018
2nd Alternate – Michael Barone	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Nicholas Stefanowicz, Student Liaison	1 yr.	12/31/2015
Paul Stefanowicz, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2015

#R15-07/Confirm Appointments to the Board of Health

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 appointments to the Board of Health are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Berton L. Greenberg	4 yrs.	1/1/2019
Mark Alvarez	4 yrs.	1/1/2019
Maxim Basch, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2016

#R15-08/Confirm Appointments to the Library Board of Trustees

Motion by C. Zinna, second by C. Park 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
Martin Gilbert	5 yrs.	1/1/2020
Arthur Peck	5 yrs.	1/1/2020
Martha Kerge, Mayor’s Alternate	1 yr.	1/1/2016

#R15-09/Confirm Appointments to the Recreation Board

Motion by C. Park, 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 Recreation Board are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Michelle Merchant	5 yrs.	12/31/2019
Monica Zaccario	5 yrs.	12/31/2019
Nadia LaMastra, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2015

#R15-10/Confirm Appointments to the Access for All Committee

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Park 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 Access for All Committee are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Rebecca Moldover	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Jonathan Moldover	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Tania Gold	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Carol Somerville	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Robert Byrnes, Sr., Construction Official	1 yr.	12/31/2015
Matthew Mercurio, Recreation Director	1 yr.	12/31/2015
Robert J. Culvert, DPW Director	1 yr.	12/31/2015
Vincent Benenati, School District representative	1 yr.	12/31/2015
Gerry Migliore, (CVS), Business Community representative	1 yr.	12/31/2015
Jonah Gold, Student representative	1 yr.	12/31/2015
Anthony Barzelatto, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2015

#R15-11/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
Daniel Park, Council Liaison	1 yr.	12/31/2015

#R15-12/Confirm Appointments to the Tenafly Business Improvement District Management Corporation

Motion by C. Zinna, second by C. Stefanowicz 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 Tenafly Business Improvement District Management Corporation are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Councilmember Nadia LaMastra, Class A Director	1 yr.	12/31/2015
Stephanie Pasternak, Class B Director	1 yr.	12/31/2015

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
Diane Schiller	3 yrs.	1/1/2018
Arthur May	3 yrs.	1/1/2018
Matthew Mercurio, Recreation Director	1 yr.	1/1/2016
Maxim Basch, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2016

SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICE COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
Rose Kao	3 yrs.	12/31/2017
Gerry Kotch	3 yrs.	12/31/2017
MaryAnn Harte	3 yrs.	12/31/2017
Julie Villafuerte, Director	1 yr.	12/31/2015
Rebecca Stauffer, Assistant Director	1 yr.	12/31/2015
Nadia LaMastra, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2015

TENAFLY WELCOME! COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
Pam Kulisek	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Alida Kratnoff	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Judith Lipson	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Phyllis Lin	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Regina Herring	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Roxana Surrey	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Nadia LaMastra, Council Liaison	1 yr.	12/31/2015

BOROUGH/JOINT USE COMMITTEE

Mayor Peter Rustin, Chair; Councilmembers Mark Zinna and Daniel Park

TENAFLY NATURE CENTER

Daniel Park, Council Liaison

TENAFLY PRESENTS

Mayor Peter Rustin

Mark Zinna, Council Liaison

TENAFLY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mark Zinna, Council Liaison.

AD HOC COMMITTEE (1 year term) - TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Peter Rustin

Councilman Mark Zinna

Howard Seiden

Joseph McDermott

Byron "Gus" Allen, Jr.

Robert Chamberlain, Police Chief

Kevin Tremble

Michael Bishop

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenafly Fire Department

Anthony Barzelatto, Council Liaison

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenafly Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Nadia LaMastra, Council Liaison

Appointment of Board of Police Commissioners
Mayor Rustin, Councilmembers Daniel Park and Paul Stefanowicz

Appointment of Council Representatives to Open Space Recreation Trust Fund Review
Committee
Councilmembers Nadia LaMastra and Mark Zinna

CONSENT AGENDA

- #R15-13/Adopt 2015 Meeting Schedule/Holiday Calendar
- #R15-14/Confirm Time and Place for 2015 Council Meetings
- #R15-15/Authorize Adoption of Minutes and Consent Agenda at Regular Meetings
- #R15-16/Confirm Process for Determination of 2015 Salaries
- #R15-17/Confirm Elected Officers to the Tenafly Fire Department
- #R15-18/Designate Official Depositories and Accounts/Authorize Signatures
- #R15-19/Appoint Tax Search Officer
- #R15-20/Appoint Insurance Commissioner
- #R15-21/Appoint Official Municipal Improvement Searcher
- #R15-22/Ratify Public Official Bonds/Finance Office
- #R15-23/ Designate Official Newspapers
- #R15-24/Appoint Deputy Treasurer
- #R15-25/Appoint Apportionment Officer
- #R15-26/Authorize Adjustments/Assessor
- #R15-27/Authorize Stipulations/Assessor
- #R15-28/Authorize Semi-Monthly Payrolls
- #R15-29/Appoint Risk Management Consultant
- #R15-30/Appoint Public Agency Compliance Officer
- #R15-31/Authorize Cancellation of Tax Refunds/Delinquencies
- #R15-32/Designate Locations for Temporary Signage Displays
- #R15-33/Approve Temporary Budget 2015
- #R15-34/Confirm Interest Rate for Delinquent Taxes 2015
- #R15-35/Continue Petty Cash Funds
- #R15-36/Authorize Investments and Transfers
- #R15-37/Authorize Wire Transfers
- #R15-38/Approve Cash Management Plan
- #R15-39/Appoint Acting Borough Clerk
- #R15-40/Adopt Robert's Rules of Order
- #R15-41/Authorize Insufficient Funds Fee
- #R15-42/Reaffirm Personnel Manual for 2015

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

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

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. Park:	aye
C. Basch:	aye	C. Stefanowicz:	aye
C. LaMastra:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

Mayor Rustin recognized former council members Shama Haider, Miriam Reyes and Jon Warms who attended the Reorganization meeting.

Mayor's State of the Borough Address.

Good afternoon and welcome to the first meeting of the year 2015 of the Borough of Tenafly Mayor and Council. Personally, I found 2014 to be a very difficult year; and it did not come as a surprise to me. A year ago I spoke of my desire to have our town's participation in a community-wide referendum go smoothly and in a non-divisive manner. Each one of us had a preference as to which way we would have liked to see the vote go, but equally important to me was the process. We put in place a committee, composed of proponents and opponents to the proposed project to define the ballot question. That committee did a wonderful job of creating a neutral referendum question and interpretive statement which satisfied all of the involved parties. All of the players agreed to abide by the results of the referendum so that everything was in place for a true exercise in democracy.

Unfortunately, what followed met my worst fears. Our town was extremely divided; rhetoric was both hurtful and hateful; and the election process was marred by acts of vandalism and uncivil speech and actions. Just last week, in the Record, there was a review of the major stories in each of the local municipalities during 2014; I turned the page looking to see in what manner Tenafly would be highlighted. I guessed correctly about what would be written. Of course, the story The Record picked to summarize the year in Tenafly was the referendum and how poorly it went down.

In my experience in Tenafly, I can think of only a few issues that created a similar level of interest in our town. School regionalization was a very emotional issue; the Eruv brought out the worst in many people; and the proposed Light Rail project even brought on a referendum. But, Tenafly has moved on from each of these issues and became stronger and I think a better town in which to live. I look forward to the continued healing process following last year's referendum and I hope our community can continue to grow and thrive.

Looking back at 2014 there were numerous events and accomplishments for which I believe we can be proud. Your Mayor and Council, working with the Historic Preservation Commission, has started the process of honoring Sgt. Nicholas Oresko, a long-time resident who was a recipient of the Nation's Highest military award, The Medal of Honor, for his valor during World War II. A park bearing his name will be dedicated in 2015. Just last week, site work started on 311 Tenafly Road where Bergen County United Way is partnering with the Borough to build our first Special Needs Housing project, a project similar to those already built in several communities thru out Bergen County. Borough Hall partnered with the Tenafly Board of Education to reconstruct Geissinger Field. The new turf field and lights will serve our high school athletes and recreation programs for years to come. A great deal of care has and will continue to be taken to insure that the neighbors' quality of life is not negatively impacted. The Borough and the Board of Education also agreed to create the position of School Resource Officer which provides a uniformed police officer to serve primarily in our high school. This concept which is becoming more widespread throughout the nation, serves a multitude of purposes going well beyond just student safety. Establishing a bond between our youth and our public safety agencies can create long-term positive benefits, not just for our students but for our community as a whole.

Although some vacancies remain in our downtown business district, numerous new businesses have come to Tenafly. In 2014, the Planning Board and the Council streamlined the process of opening businesses in Tenafly as we strive to be as business friendly as possible. The Mayor and Council worked with BMW of Tenafly to successfully alleviate a parking problem caused primarily by their business's success. It is important that we work with the businesses in town in a manner that allows them to grow and succeed while not hurting our resident's quality of life.

Last but not least, I would be remiss if I did not mention with pride, the fact that once again a budget was adopted in 2014 which allowed Tenafly to maintain its high level of services while still falling under the 2% cap which is regulated by the State of New Jersey. As I said last year this is no small achievement, each year it gets harder and we must share the credit for this accomplishment with the employees at Borough Hall, a finer group I cannot imagine.

So much for the past, now what can we look forward to in 2015? The Mayor and Council's first task each year is the formulation of the year's budget. This will be a major test for us, each year the challenge is the same only tougher; many fixed costs are well beyond a 2% increase yet we will introduce a total increase no larger than 2%. Among my goals for this process are the following: First I wish to acknowledge the contributions of our employees by offering a fair level of compensation within the constraints of the state mandated cap. Second, we need to increase the funding for our roads; due to the increased cost of maintaining our streets, we have fallen further behind then we care to be and we need to sit with our Engineer and DPW Director and establish a long term plan that helps us to catch up. Our residents pay too much in taxes to accept potholes in their streets.

I wish to further address our downtown business district. Our Business Improvement District was created five years ago and we have little to show for it. Many years ago, a committee formed by the Mayor served a similar purpose and it too was disbanded for lack of progress. I am suggesting that maybe that type of committee could be considered again. I ask Council members and the public to review what is going on in Hackensack. It took over ten years, which included ten years of a special taxation, before results finally started to become visible in the Hackensack business district. I am not ready to throw in the towel with the B.I.D. but I am not pleased with their lack of progress and I look forward to hearing back from them in January as well as listening to Downtown New Jersey when they make a presentation at our meeting on January 27th.

Finally, at the end of each year your Mayor is charged with appointing people to our many boards and commissions. Each year I do my best to recruit people to fill those positions. If you read today's meeting agenda, you will get a sense of the numerous boards and commissions that present opportunities for willing volunteers.

We currently have several vacancies. Anyone interested in serving on our Environmental Commission, our Access for All Committee or our Youth Services Advisory Committee should please contact the Mayor's office. Also if you would like additional information on those or any other committee, please contact me. These boards, commissions and committees serve a very important function in our community and serving on them can be very rewarding.

In closing, I look forward to serving with our new Borough Council and I wish to congratulate our newest Council member, Paul Stefanowicz. The seven of us can help make our municipal government more efficient and responsive and that has always been my goal. I am very optimistic that this year will be a very good year for Tenafly. Despite the challenges we face, I never fail to be thankful for the opportunity not only of living in Tenafly but the privilege of serving our community. I wish each and every resident a very healthy and happy new year. Tenafly is a great place in which to live and raise our families. The main reason that is so is the people who live here. I ask that you take the time to appreciate what we have here in Tenafly and to work with us to continue to make Tenafly the best it can be. Have a great day!

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion from C. Basch, second by C. Park, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela, MPA, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk