

Borough of Tenafly

Annual Meeting of the Mayor and Council

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

Saturday, January 2, 2016

MINUTES

At 1:04 p.m. Borough Clerk Lissette Aportela 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#15-412 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 Borough Clerk Aportela.

Borough Clerk Aportela called the roll of the present Council, which consisted of Council members Maxim Basch, Daniel Park, Paul Stefanowicz, and Mark Zinna

Richard Weiss, Esq. administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect Peter S. Rustin

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

State Senator Loretta Weinberg administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Shama Haider

Borough Clerk Aportela called the roll of the 2016 Mayor and Council.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Rustin and Council members Anthony Barzelatto, Maxim Basch, Shama Haider, 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 2016 and asked for confirmation of his appointment by the Council.

#R16-01/Confirmation of Appointment of Borough Attorney

Motion by C. Barzelatto, second by C. Park that #R16-01 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. Haider:	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 2016.

Mayor Rustin asked the Council for nominations for Council President.

C. Basch nominated C. Zinna to serve as Council President. C. Barzelatto 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.

Christine Evron – 39 Leroy Street – Chamber of Commerce President –stated that she is looking forward to working with the Council liaisons. She also recognized former Councilmember LaMastra for her service.

Paul Tomasko - Alpine Mayor – stated that Mayor Rustin gives his time beyond Tenafly. He noted that Mayor Rustin is the First Vice President for the Bergen County League for Municipalities.

Ellen Bustie - Councilwoman in River Edge – presented a certificate of achievement to C. Haider. She stated that the certificate encourages participation of women in political service.

Hercules Invictus - 3 Columbus Drive - Thanked the Mayor and Council for their wise governance and vision. He added that he is looking forward to 2016.

#R16-02/Confirm Appointment of Labor Counsel – Ruderman, Horn & Esmerado, PC.
Motion by C. Basch, second by C. Zinna that #R16-02 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. Haider:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

#R16-03/ Confirm Appointment of Borough Auditor – Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP
Motion by C. Zinna, second by C. Basch that #R16-03 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. Haider:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

#R16-04/Confirm Appointment of Municipal Court Judge – Allen M. Bell, Esq.
Motion by C. Barzelatto, second by C. Zinna that #R16-04 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. Haider:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

#R16-05/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, 2017.

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. Zinna, second by C. Barzelatto that #R16-05 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. Haider:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

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

PLANNING BOARD	Term	Expires
Mayor Peter Rustin (Class I member)	4 yrs.	12/31/2019
Sheryl Gaines	4 yrs.	12/31/2019
1st Alternate – Eugene Kwon	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
2nd Alternate – Adam Michaels (unexpired Kwon)	2 yrs	12/31/2016

#R16-06/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, 2016.

Motion by C.Stefanowicz, second by C. Haider that #R16-06 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. Haider:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

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

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT	Term	Expires
Allan Cytryn (unexpired Levene)	4 yrs.	1/1/2018
Jeff Grossman	4 yrs.	1/1/2020
Mitchell Lieberman	4 yrs.	1/1/2020
1st Alternate – Sean Callahan (unexpired Li/Cytryn)	2 yrs.	1/1/2018
2nd Alternate – Venu Menon (unexpired Callahan)	2 yrs.	1/1/2017
Shama Haider, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2017

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION	Term	Expires
Nina Seiden	3 yrs.	12/31/2018
Herucles Invictus	3 yrs.	12/31/2018
John Purdy	3 yrs.	12/31/2018
1st Alternate – Olga Milanos	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
2nd Alternate – Allison Chertoff	2 yrs.	12/31/2016

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	Term	Expires
Mario Turchi (Class C)	4 yrs.	12/31/2019
1st Alternate – Sereno Danese	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
Nicholas Stefanowicz, Student Liaison	1 yr.	12/31/2016
Paul Stefanowicz, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2016

#R16-07/Confirm Appointments to the Board of Health

Motion by C. Zinna, second by C. Haider 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
Daniel Feit, DMD	4 yrs.	1/1/2020
Maria Xylas	4 yrs.	1/1/2020
Maxim Basch, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2017

#R16-08/Confirm Appointments to the Library Board of Trustees

Motion by C. Haider, 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
Patrick Rouse	5 yrs.	1/1/2021
Mabel Allen	5 yrs.	1/1/2021
Martha Kerge, Mayor’s Alternate	1 yr.	1/1/2017

#R16-09/Confirm Appointments to the Recreation Board

Motion by C. Haider, 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
John Finnerty (unexpired Zaccario)	5 yrs.	12/31/2019
Nadine Shubailat	5 yrs.	12/31/2020
Mark Zinna, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2016

#R16-10/Confirm Appointments to the Access for All Committee

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 Access for All Committee are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Tami Luchow Sachs (unexpired vacancy)	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Hercules Invictus (unexpired vacancy)	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Sammy Ghazal (unexpired vacancy)	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Giuseppe LaMastra	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
Jackie Salzman	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
Robert Byrnes, Sr., Construction Official	1 yr.	12/31/2016
Matthew Mercurio, Recreation Director	1 yr.	12/31/2016
Robert J. Culvert, DPW Director	1 yr.	12/31/2016
Tom Lepore, School District representative	1 yr.	12/31/2016
Jonah Gold, Student Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2016
Shama Haider, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2016

#R16-11/Confirm Appointment to the Tenafly Municipal Alliance Committee

Motion by C. Zinna, second by C. Haider 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.	12/31/2016

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.	1/1/2019
Alan Bendes	3 yrs.	1/1/2019
June Johnston	3 yrs.	1/1/2019
Matthew Mercurio, Recreation Director	1 yr.	1/1/2017
Anthony Barzelatto, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2017

SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICE COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
David Burstein	3 yrs.	12/31/2018
Mark Feldman	3 yrs.	12/31/2018
Gloria Layne	3 yrs.	12/31/2018
Julie Villafuerte, Director	1 yr.	12/31/2016
Rebecca Stauffer, Assistant Director	1 yr	12/31/2016
Maxim Basch, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2016

TENAFLY WELCOME! COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
Nini Wong (unexpired Lipson)	2 yrs.	12/31/2016
Christine Evron	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
Katherine Kojanis	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
Constantine Rigas	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
Stanley Kapp	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
Chiew Kwei Kaw	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
Carol Schulter	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
Deisi Chavez	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
Lourdes Lopez	2 yrs.	12/31/2017
Paul Stefanowicz, Council Liaison	1 yr.	12/31/2016

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 and Shama Haider, Council Liaisons

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

Maxim Basch, Council Liaison

Appointment of Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Rustin, Councilmembers Daniel Park and Paul Stefanowicz

CONSENT AGENDA

#R16-12/Reaffirm Personnel Manual for 2016

#R16-13/Adopt 2016 Meeting Schedule/Holiday Calendar

#R16-14/Confirm Time and Place for 2016 Council Meetings

#R16-15/Authorize Adoption of Minutes and Consent Agenda at Regular Meetings

#R16-16/Confirm Process for Determination of 2016 Salaries

#R16-17/Confirm Elected Officers to the Tenafly Fire Department

#R16-18/Designate Official Depositories and Accounts/Authorize Signatures

#R16-19/Appoint Tax Search Officer

#R16-20/Appoint Insurance Commissioner

#R16-21/Appoint Official Municipal Improvement Searcher

- #R16-22/Ratify Public Official Bonds/Finance Office
- #R16-23/Designate Official Newspapers
- #R16-24/Appoint Deputy Treasurer
- #R16-25/Appoint Apportionment Officer
- #R16-26/Authorize Adjustments/Assessor
- #R16-27/Authorize Stipulations/Assessor
- #R16-28/Authorize Semi-Monthly Payrolls
- #R16-29/Appoint Risk Management Consultant
- #R16-30/Appoint Public Agency Compliance Officer
- #R16-31/Authorize Cancellation of Tax Refunds/Delinquencies
- #R16-32/Designate Locations for Temporary Signage Displays
- #R16-33/Approve Temporary Budget 2016
- #R16-34/Confirm Interest Rate for Delinquent Taxes 2016
- #R16-35/Continue Petty Cash Funds
- #R16-36/Authorize Investments and Transfers
- #R16-37/Authorize Wire Transfers
- #R16-38/Approve Cash Management Plan
- #R16-39/Appoint Acting Borough Clerk
- #R16-40/Adopt Robert's Rules of Order
- #R16-41/Authorize Insufficient Funds Fee
- #R16-42/Authorize participation in the Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force

Motion by C. Zinna, second by C. Stefanowicz 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. Haider:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

Mayor Rustin recognized Alpine's Mayor, Paul Tomasko; Closter's Mayor, John Glidden and Harrington Park's Mayor, Paul Holsher.

The Mayor also recognized former Councilmembers that were in attendance.

Mayor's State of the Borough Address.

Good afternoon. This is the fourth time I have had the privilege of addressing you following a successful election campaign. The first time, I was the candidate advocating for change; the need to do something different to help our community reach its full potential. Then as an incumbent, I concentrated on our successes, how Tenafly was doing great, and how voters should stay the course. Now, having completed what I considered to be a difficult campaign, I believe we would best be served by combining those two themes.

We must appreciate and acknowledge all of the positives that make Tenafly the wonderful town that it is, but we must continue to strive to make improvements; and to always be open to changing the manner in which we do business.

This past year Cliffside Park lost its long-time Mayor, Gerry Calabrese, who served as mayor for a record 51 years. When asked how he managed to hold on to the mayorship for so long he replied, "I return all calls, I'm accessible to the public, and I try to help people." Well, although I may be 39 years behind Mayor Calabrese's record, my job description for the position of Mayor is identical to his.

The first challenge Borough Hall faces every year is putting together a budget that serves our community by taking into account our needs and the common sense constraints we face. In 2010, Governor Christie signed a bill which created a 2% cap on property tax levy increases. Since that time, Tenafly has met or bettered that measurement each year, unlike many neighboring municipalities that were not as well fiscally prepared, or as well governed. But those involved in the process will tell you that each year staying under the 2% cap has become a greater challenge. There's a limit to how much staff attrition we can endure. Our employees are entitled to a fair wage. We can streamline the services we provide but we do not look to cut or eliminate them. This year's budget process will be the toughest that Tenafly has ever experienced. I wish to share with you some of my concerns.

There is talk of building a community center in Tenafly. It is a grand idea, one that I would like to support, but we need to consider many aspects of this potential project. First, of course, is the cost. Can a project of this magnitude actually be built without taxpayer dollars? If so, what would be the cost to furnish and maintain such a facility? The concept of a "community center": first needs to be defined. What type of center is envisioned? We are addressing that question by forming a committee whose only charge is to go out and bring back to us, a description of similar facilities in New Jersey. Then, if we choose to proceed, the next step would be to define the type of center that would best fit Tenafly. Members of the Council have recently said that it is not their intention to spend taxpayer dollars building a community center. I certainly agree with that sentiment. However, I would also point out that it is unlikely that you would find a town the size of Tenafly that is blessed with two facilities such as the JCC on the Palisades and the Korean Community Center, which also has a need for a community center.

We are in the process of increasing the amount budgeted for street repair by at least threefold. We can no longer afford to fall farther behind in maintaining our streets. We must charge our Borough Engineer with making sure the money is well spent and the streets we repair are done properly.

Your Mayor and Council are determined to provide our Seniors with a van which will provide those in need with a level of accessibility that until now has been lacking in Tenafly. But we must remember that the purchase of the van is only the beginning of the cost of this service. Seniors are a growing segment of our community and to this point have been under served. But we need to balance the need for senior services and our desire to provide those services with the fiscal restraints we continue to face. We must look to solve this type of challenge in a creative manner, perhaps using shared services.

Current events have been focused on the effects of climate change, not only in third world countries, but also in many areas across the United States. Tenafly has been blessed not be challenged by natural disasters such as flooding, tornadoes, and forest fires, but we have had our share our hurricanes and blizzards. We have been fortunate that the two major storms that have hit our area in the past few years, resulted in only minimal damage, suffering, and inconvenience compared to many other communities. We should not and will not assume that we will always be so lucky. 2016 must be the year where emergency shelters are created, including generators and basic provisions. Our residents must be educated about these services so that should a need arise, we are prepared to help those who need assistance.

I could spend a great deal of time talking about our downtown. When a Business Improvement District was proposed over five years ago, I was wary of creating a new tax, but I was won over by the overwhelming support that business owners gave to the concept. Now, with the B.I.D. dissolved we must not give the impression that we are satisfied with the condition of our downtown business district. My plan is to create a small committee of professionals to brainstorm about possible initiatives that could be taken to upgrade our business district. A number of years ago a consultant was hired by the Borough to propose improvements to the downtown. Their presentation was not given proper consideration and in my opinion the negative response to their proposal was primarily an aversion to change. Yes, we have too many nail salons and not enough restaurants, but the reason for that is residents apparently support all of those nail salons and do not support the restaurants; several of which have gone out of business.

I will ask the Council to consider some small changes to the downtown which could lead to improved traffic flow. I also hope that our zoning boards consider proposals that may lead to more people coming into our downtown.

It is also time to review our parking plan. Remember proposed changes must be received with an open mind. Change can be scary, but without change problems and issues will remain. Many of us can remember when the avenues in Manhattan were made one-way after years of two-way traffic. This change was not well received at first, the long term impact was very positive. Just a few years ago the traffic patterns in downtown London were drastically changed to much disdain and ridicule by the public. Today those changes have been deemed a complete success. Several years ago, a significant change was made in

the traffic pattern in Tenafly but the resistance was so strong, after only a few weeks the change was reversed.

I plan to form a committee to develop Sgt. Nicholas Oresko Memorial Park. This project, approved a year ago, needs to be jumpstarted and completed in 2016.

I will ask the Planning Board once again look at the proliferation of new two family homes in Tenafly. A balanced approach needs to be taken with this issue. The rights of property owners must be recognized, but the character of Tenafly must not be altered by a radical change in density in residential areas.

Two final goals for 2016: I would like to identify another location for a second special needs project. I believe the partnership with the Bergen County United Way on Tenafly Road was a total success. Besides making Tenafly more inclusive, its impact on our COAH requirements was substantial. And second, trees; I am pleased that in 2015 our DPW planted over 100 trees. We need to increase that number in 2016. Our tree fund will allow us to do so without putting the burden on taxpayers.

Finally, to answer the many inquiries I received during the recent campaign as to why I would like to continue to serve as your Mayor for the next four years, I can simply say, I love Tenafly. I think you will agree it's a great town in which to live and raise a family, and I look forward to overcoming the challenges we face. Tenafly has the benefit not only of an excellent staff of professionals in Borough Hall, but also a spectacular mix of residents willing to get involved and assist in maintaining the quality of our community. With your help, we will keep Tenafly the great town that it is. I believe that I speak, not only for myself, but also for the members of the Council, when I say, thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve. To each and every one of you, have a very Happy and a Healthy New Year.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion from C. Zinna, second by C. Haider, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela, MPA, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk