

Borough of Tenafly

Annual Meeting of the Mayor and Council

Sunday, January 3, 2021

MINUTES

At 12:06p.m. Mayor Zinna 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#20-473 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 Zinna.

Borough Clerk Stovall called the roll of the present Council, which consisted of Councilmembers Venugopal Menon, Adam Michaels, Daniel Park, and Mayor Zinna

Senator Weinberg acknowledge Council-Elect Lauren Dayton’s family and wish the residents of Tenafly a happy and health new year.

State Senator Loretta Weinberg administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Lauren Dayton

C. Dayton thanked Senator Weinberg and District 37 service to the community.

Assemblywoman Huttler administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Jeffrey Grossman

C. Grossman expressed thanks to Senator Weinberg, Assemblywoman Huttler, Councilwoman Dayton, and Councilwoman O’Connor in their efforts to continue to advocate for Women’s Rights and their service to the community.

Assemblywoman Huttler administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Julie O’ Connor

C. O’Connor expressed that democracy is the greatest form of government and she thanked the residents of Tenafly for having faith in her.

Borough Clerk Stovall called the roll of the 2021 Mayor and Council.

PRESENT: Council members Lauren Dayton, Jeffrey Grossman, Venugopal Menon, Adam Michaels, Julie O’Connor, Daniel Park, and Mayor Mark Zinna

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Financial Officer/Acting Borough Administrator Susan Corrado
Borough Clerk Omar Stovall
Human Resources Director Victoria Rebello

Appointment of Borough Attorney

Mayor Zinna appointed Wendy Rubinstein, Esq. to serve as Borough Attorney in 2021 and asked for confirmation of his appointment by the Council.

#R20-01/Confirmation of Appointment of Borough Attorney

Motion by C. Michaels, second by C. O’Connor that #R20-01 be approved.

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

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O’Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

Selection of Council President for 2021.

Mayor Zinna asked the Council for nominations for Council President.

C. Grossman nominated C. Dayton to serve as Council President. C. Michaels seconded the nomination.

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

Mayor Zinna read the following statement:

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.

Peter Rustin – 295 Woodland Street- Mr. Rustin congratulated sworn in councilmembers. Mr. expressed that he believed that Zoom is an easier platform to use opposed to WebEx.

State Senator Weinberg congratulated the newly elected councilmembers. She thank Councilman Grossman in regards to his remarks about the 100th year celebration of Women’s Voting Rights. Senator Weinberg acknowledged C. Dayton’s daughter as a future leader. She wished the residents of Tenafly a happy 2021.

Susan Zeveloff – 22 Ridge Road - Ms. Zeveloff thank M. Zinna for his phone calls to the residents. Ms. Zeveloff requested for a list of local business in a newsletter. Ms. Zeveloff expressed that there is an excess of the COVID-19 vaccine and that is time proceed to go into the 1B and 1C category for the general population. She expressed frustration of how this being communicated. She asked for advice because she does not understand the

rollout. M. Zinna explained that information about the vaccine has been posted on the Borough's website. He added that not information has been provided about future roll outs. He added that a holiday guide is posted on the website to assist those who are looking to shop in the Borough.

Christine Evron – 39 Leroy Street – (via WebEx's chat feature wrote): That she would like the list to include all businesses. She added that if you leave businesses off the list people will assume that they are closed.

#R21-02/Confirm Appointment of Labor Counsel – Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC

#R21-03/Confirm Appointment of Borough Auditor – Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP

#R21-04/Confirm Appointment of Bond Counsel - JP Capizzi, LLC.

#R21-05/Confirm Appointment of Borough Engineer – Maser Consulting, P.A.

#R21-06/Confirm Appointment of Tax Appeal Attorney – McCusker, Anselmi, Rosen & Carvelli, PC,

#R21-07/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, 2022.

Prosecutor	Mark Fierro
1 st Alternate Municipal Prosecutor	Andrew Cimiluca
2 nd t Alternate Municipal Prosecutor	Gloria Oh
Public Defender	Jordan Yuelys
1 st Alternate Public Defender	Robert Metxdorf
2 nd Alternate Public Defender	Linda Khorozian
Borough Historian	Paul Stefanowicz

Motion by C. Grossman, second by C. Menon that #R21-02 through #R21-07 be approved. On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

Mayor Zinna read the following:

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

PLANNING BOARD	Term	Expires
Craig Feinberg	4 yrs.	1/1/2025
Dan Oelsner	4 yrs.	1/1/2025
Jon Warms (Class II Member)	3 yrs.	1/1/2024
1 st Alternate – Julia Park (unexpired Feinberg/Oelsner)	2 yrs.	1/1/2022
2 nd Alternate – Nicole Osborne	2 yrs	1/1/2023

#R21-08/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 Jeff Grossman is hereby designated as a Class III member of the Planning for a one-year term to expire on January 1, 2022.

C. Dayton nominated C. Grossman to serve as a Class III Member to Planning Board. C. Menon seconded the nomination that #R21-08 be approved.

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

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

Mayor Zinna read the following:

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

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT	Term	Expires
Sean Callahan	4 yrs.	1/1/2025
Ralph Cho	4 yrs.	1/1/2025
2 nd Alternate – Joan Toro	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Venugopal Menon, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2022

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION	Term	Expires
Olga Milanos (Chairperson)	3yrs.	1/1/2024
Anna Makrinos	3 yrs.	1/1/2024
Jon Warms(Planning Board Class II Member)	3 yrs.	1/1/2024
2 nd Alternate - Eve Bolkin	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Julie O' Connor, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2022

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	Term	Expires
Richard Bennett (Class A)	4yrs.	1/1/2025
Rita Heller (Class C)	4 yrs.	1/1/2025
2 nd Alternate – Emily Yang	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Jeff Grossman, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2022

#R21-09/Confirm Appointments to the Board of Health

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,	4 yrs.	1/1/2025
Julie O’ Connor, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2022

Motion by C. Michaels, second by C. Grossman that #R21-09 be approved.

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

C. Dayton: aye	C. Michaels: aye
C. Grossman: aye	C. O’Connor: aye
C. Menon: aye	C. Park: aye

#R21-10/Confirm Appointments to the Library Board of Trustees

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.	1/1/2026
Meena Dogan	5 yrs.	1/1/2026
Shama Haider, Mayor’s Alternate	1 yr.	1/1/2022

Motion by C. Dayton, second by C. Menon that #R21-10 be approved.

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

C. Dayton: aye	C. Michaels: aye
C. Grossman: aye	C. O’Connor: aye
C. Menon: aye	C. Park: aye

#R21-11/Confirm Appointments to the Recreation Board

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
Jason Alvator	3 yrs.	1/1/2024
Adam Michaels, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2022

Motion by C. O’ Connor, second by C. Grossman that #R21-11 be approved.

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

C. Dayton: aye	C. Michaels: aye
C. Grossman: aye	C. O’Connor: aye
C. Menon: aye	C. Park: aye

#R21-12/Confirm Appointments to the Access for All Committee

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
Robert Pecorella	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Carol Somerville	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Andrew Pecorella	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Tami Luchow Sachs	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Hercules Invictus	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Sammy Ghazal	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Robert Byrnes, Sr., Construction Official	1 yr.	1/1/2022
Jamie Cannon, Recreation Director	1 yr.	1/1/2022
Michael Cassidy, DPW Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2022
Frank Primiani, School District Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2022
Jeff Grossman, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2022

Motion by C. Grossman, second by C. Dayton that #R21-12 be approved.

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

C. Dayton: aye	C. Michaels: aye
C. Grossman: aye	C. O’Connor: aye
C. Menon: aye	C. Park: aye

#R21-13/Confirm Appointment to the Tenafly Municipal Alliance Committee

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.	1/1/2022

Motion by C. Dayton, second by C. Michaels that #R21-13 be approved.

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

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR ZINNA

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

YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
Ziv Lavi	3 yrs.	1/1/2024
Jonathan Nacht	3 yrs.	1/1/2024
Mark Slawson, Youth Services Director	1 yr.	1/1/2022
Venugopal Menon, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2022

SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICE COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
Gerry Kotch	3 yrs.	1/1/2024
Soyung Pak	3 yrs.	1/1/2024
Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison	1 yr.	1/1/2022

TENAFLY WELCOME! COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
Bianca Hahn	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Alida Kratnoff	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Nina Wong	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Phyllis Lin	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Regina Herring	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Roxana Surrey	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison	1 yr.	1/1/2022

STIGMA FREE COMMITTEE

Pam Kulisek

Phillis Lin

Tom Song

Gia Shin

Miranda Lee

Suzanne Bassett

Jodi Bienenfeld

Rachel Goldberg

Hercules Invictus

Amy Morik

Robin Pierce

Jen Rosen

Sarah Shultz

Gina Toddings

Lynne Weber

Simone Zinna

Jeff Grossman, Council Liaison

DOG PARK COMMITTEE

Alison Chertoff

Christine Evron

Daniel Park, Council Liaison

BOROUGH/JOINT USE COMMITTEE

Mayor Mark Zinna, Chair;

Councilmember Adam Michaels

Councilmember Daniel Park

TENAFLY NATURE CENTER

Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison

TENAFLY PRESENTS

Mayor Mark Zinna

Jeff Grossman, Council Liaison

Alona Wartofsky

Jason Hart

Richard Baratta

Joe Halajian

Hadar Baron

TENAFLY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Daniel Park, Council Liaison

Venugopal Menon, Council Liaison

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Mark Zinna
Howard Seiden
Joseph McDermott
Byron "Gus" Allen, Jr.
Robert Chamberlain, Police Chief
Kevin Tremble
Michael Bishop
Alexandra Burshatsky

NORTHERN VALLEY GREENWAY COMMITTEE

Daniel Park, Council Liaison
Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Scott Ostfeld
Alex Chau
Darren Esser
Natalya Michaels
Stephen Selver
Todd Kushman
Venugopal Menon, Council Liaison

SHARED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mark Aronson
Linda Khoroizian
Ethan Levine
Katie Kahn
Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison

DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Michele Ross
Daniel Zausner
Victor Alvarez
Gary Gabriel
Sharon Nevins
David Jang
Jeanne Rivkin
Jamie Corsair
Adam Michaels, Council Liaison

CANNABIS GUIDANCE COMMITTEE

Councilmembers Jeff Grossman, Adam Michaels, and Julie O'Connor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mayor Mark Zinna,
Jeff Grossman
Lauren Dayton

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenaflly Senior Center

Venugopal Menon, Council Liaison

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenaflly Fire Department

Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenaflly Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Daniel Park, Council Liaison

Appointment of Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Zinna

Daniel Park, Council Liaison

Venugopal Menon, Council Liaison

CONSENT AGENDA

#R21-14/Adopt 2021 Meeting Schedule/Holiday Calendar

#R21-15/Confirm Time and Place for 2021 Council Meetings

#R21-16/Authorize Adoption of Minutes and Consent Agenda at Regular Meetings

#R21-17/Confirm Process for Determination of 2020 Salaries

#R21-18/Confirm Elected Officers to the Tenaflly Fire Department

#R21-19/Designate Official Depositories and Accounts/Authorize Signatures

#R21-20/Appoint Tax Search Officer

#R21-21/Appoint Insurance Commissioner

#R21-22/Appoint Official Municipal Improvement Searcher

#R21-23/Ratify Public Official Bonds/Finance Office

#R21-24/Designate Official Newspapers

#R21-25/Appoint Deputy Treasurer

#R21-26/Appoint Apportionment Officer

#R21-27/Authorize Adjustments/Assessor

#R21-28/Authorize Stipulations/Assessor

#R21-29/Authorize Semi-Monthly Payrolls

#R21-30/Appoint Risk Management Consultant

#R21-31/Appoint Public Agency Compliance Officer

#R21-32/Authorize Cancellation of Tax Refunds/Delinquencies

#R21-33/Designate Locations for Temporary Signage Displays

#R21-34/Confirm Interest Rate for Delinquent Taxes 2021

#R21-35/Continue Petty Cash Funds

#R21-36/Authorize Investments and Transfers

#R21-37/Authorize Wire Transfers

#R21-38/Approve Cash Management Plan

#R21-39/Reaffirm Personnel Manual for 2021

#R21-40/Adopt Robert's Rules of Order

#R21-41/Authorize Insufficient Funds Fee

#R21-42/Authorize participation in the Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force

#R20-43/Appoint Deputy Tax Collector

#R20-44/Appoint Interim Borough Administrator

Motion by C. O'Connor, second by C. Dayton that the Consent Agenda be approved.

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

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

All members present voting in favor, the Consent Agenda was approved.

Mayor to recognize new members of Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Mayor to recognized Senator Loretta Weinberg, Assemblywoman Valerie Huttie, Assemblyman Gordon Johnson, and Former Mayor Peter Rustin

Mayor Zinna read the following State of the Borough Address:

Good afternoon and Happy 2021. Thank you for attending this virtual Reorganization meeting today. Thank you to Senator Loretta Weinberg, Assemblywoman Valerie Huttie, and Assemblyman Gordon Johnson for sharing this day with us. Since we are not meeting in person together, and I cannot see everyone who is attending, please forgive me if I miss you. Congratulations to Councilmembers Dayton, Grossman, and O'Connor on your reelection. Coming through the past ten months, we all owe a huge amount of gratitude to our Police, Firefighters, Ambulance Corp, and Department of Public Work staff for all the work they have done, and continue to do, to keep our community safe. This has an especially significant meaning during the time of covid as they continue to perform professionally in the face of risks while they protect our community.

Thank you to all our Borough Hall employees who have adjusted their work and life schedules to provide continuous services to Tenaflly during the challenges of 2020. Thank you also to the members of our boards and committees, and for all the WebEx and Zoom meetings they have been enduring to continue to serve our Tenaflly community. 2020 was a year of loss and challenges, but also a year of changes and triumphs. In 2020, we lost twenty-four Tenaflly residents to covid. We also lost members of the Franciscan Sisters Convent and residents of the two long term care facilities in Tenaflly. These were Grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, and siblings. Covid also took our Borough Attorney, Bill McClure, who served Tenaflly for eighteen years. Larry Gragnano, a member of our Public Works team for forty-eight years also succumbed to Covid. Bill, Larry, and the residents we lost are very missed and will not be forgotten.

In 2020 we made several leadership changes at Borough Hall. We have a new Public Works Director, Michael Cassidy. We hired a Human Resources Director, Victoria Rebello. We have a new Municipal Court Judge, the Honorable Benjamin Choi. Wendy Rubenstein is our newly appointed Borough Attorney. Ruby Kumar Thompson joins us as our new Labor Attorney. Bill Rupp is our new Tax Appeal Attorney. Jimmy Homsy is the new Tenaflly Borough

Administrator, starting this month. And Omar Stovall has been promoted to the role of Borough Clerk.

The changes at Borough Hall are in furtherance of the goal to prioritize the needs of Tenaflly residents as the Council and I work to provide the best services possible for the resident's tax dollars.

In 2020 we responded to the covid pandemic by, among other things, increasing communications to residents and adjusting all sports, Senior and recreation programs to meet new safety protocols. Special acknowledgements go out to Jamie Cannon, our Director of Recreation and Michele Hausch, the Director of the Senior Center for their continuous willingness to adjust, change, restart, and work to deliver programs to our youth and Seniors under the most challenging circumstances. Michele Hausch and her team launched a phone outreach and food delivery program to hundreds of Tenaflly Seniors who were and continue to be home bound during covid.

Last January at this time we discussed three priorities, roads & traffic safety, green spaces & recreation, and our downtown.

In furtherance of these priorities, in 2020 the Borough Council and I increased the amount of dollars dedicated to road repaving. We have been putting extra energy and work into filling potholes. We have responded to and installed speed control measures at additional locations. We saw the renewal and renovation of the Churchill Preserve, thanks to the Boy Scouts. We opened a dog park. We safely continued and expanded the programming of our Summer Concert series under the leadership of Council President Grossman and his team of volunteers in the face of the pandemic.

Our Tenaflly restaurants faced numerous challenges in the face of covid, but thanks to the Council and the Downtown Committee an entirely new downtown outdoor dining program was created in response to the challenges brought by indoor dining in 2020.

We coordinated with Suez Water as they upgraded water service and water mains in various locations. We increased recycling schedules during holiday times to prevent the accumulation of material at residents' homes.

In the next several months the Department of Public Works will be rolling out a new recycling pick-up program utilizing our new automated recycling trucks. This will result in cost savings for the taxpayers. Full details will be communicated to all residents before any change takes place. Until then, please continue your normal recycling routine and schedules.

The plan to build Tenaflly's second 100% affordable housing location is being brought to fruition. This will continue Tenaflly's multiyear effort to protect the Borough from adverse litigation and meet a direct social need. It is very possible that this second program will directly benefit Veterans and their families.

In 2020, we experienced the best of our fellow Tenaflly residents reflected in the Tenaflly Cares program. This program, driven by Councilman Adam Michaels and resident Andrew Till, with the support and help of the Council, raised over \$70,000 in donations from Tenaflly residents to provide meals to those in need while at the same time purchasing those meals from Tenaflly restaurants suffering from the financial effects of the covid shutdowns.

*My commitment in 2021 is to continue to work together with my colleagues on the Borough Council as we provide and improve services to Tenaflly residents. We look forward to 2021 as we move Tenaflly forward through new triumphs and opportunities.
Thank you and have a healthy and Happy New Year.*

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion from C. Michaels second by C. Grossman, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 12:54p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Omar Stovall, MPA, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk