



BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 6, 2022, 7:00 pm
ZOOM

Mayor Zachary Houck called the Reorganization Meeting to Order at 7 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Houck asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION:

Mayor Zachary Houck welcomed Reverend Eliza C. Jaremko of First Presbyterian Church to open with the invocation. Reverend Jaremko delivered the Invocation, giving thanks for bringing the citizens of Haddon Heights together and asked for blessings. Mayor Houck thanked Reverend Jaremko.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:

Mayor Houck read the following statement, "In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, 1975, notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board designed for that purpose and notice was transmitted to the official newspapers on December 29, 2021."

Mayor Houck began by welcoming peers from council alongside the dignitaries present: Mayor Houck acknowledged dignitaries present: Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez, Assemblyman William Spearman from the 5th legislative district and Camden County Commissioner Jeffrey Nash. Mayor Houck welcomed everyone who joined the meeting virtually and said that under normal circumstances, Reorganization would have been held in Borough Hall. Mayor stated that he is hopeful that we will return to meeting again in person in 2022 and getting back to a sense of normalcy.

ADMINISTERING OF THE OATH OF OFFICE TO COUNCIL MEMBERS-ELECT:

Mayor Houck invited Councilwoman-elect Kathryn Russo and her family as well as the Honorable Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez for administering the Oath of Office. Senator Cruz-Perez administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman-elect Russo. Senator Cruz-Perez then congratulated Councilwoman Russo. Councilwoman Russo thanked Senator Cruz-Perez. Mayor Houck congratulated Councilwoman Russo and thanked the Senator.

Mayor Houck invited Councilman-elect Christopher Morgan and his family as well as the Honorable Assemblyman William Spearman for administering the Oath of Office. Assemblyman Spearman administered the Oath of Office to Councilman-elect Morgan. Following the Oath, Assemblyman Spearman congratulated Councilman Morgan. Mayor Houck thanked Assemblyman Spearman and congratulated Councilman Morgan.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Houck asked Clerk Santosusso for the roll call.

Under roll call the following were present: Councilmembers Morgan, Ottoson, Egbert, Philipps, Russo and Mayor Houck.

Also present were Solicitor Chris Long and Borough Clerk Kelly Santosusso.

Resolution 2021:01- Resolution Fulfilling the Vacancy on Council Pursuant to NJS 40A:16-4 Municipal Vacancy Law: Motion nominating Scott Schreiber to fill the vacancy was made by Councilwoman Egbert, seconded by Councilman Morgan. Under a roll call vote, all members voted yes.

OATH of OFFICE Mayor Houck invited Honorable Camden County Commissioner Jeffrey L. Nash to administer the oath of office to Councilman Scott Schreiber. Commissioner Nash administered the Oath thereby swearing in Councilman Schreiber. Councilman Schreiber thanked Council and thanked Commissioner Jeffrey L. Nash; stating that it was a great honor to be sworn in by him. Commissioner Nash stated explained he enjoys working with Councilman Schreiber every day and that he does a great job leading the CCMUA. He continued his praises, saying that Residents of Camden County are lucky and the residents of Haddon Heights (including his grandson) are lucky to have him as a Councilman.

Borough Clerk Kelly Santosusso reminded Mayor Houck that a roll call of full Council was required. Mayor Houck requested Roll Call. Under roll call, all members were present.

Mayor Houck opened the floor to the dignitaries present. Gina Marie Espinoza of Congressman Norcross's office greeted all attendees and thanked Mayor Houck for recognizing her, stating that the Congressman requested that she attend the meeting to thank all for their continued public service. Espinoza said their office appreciate their service to the community and extended the offer to reach out to the Congressman's office if ever needed.

Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez of the 5th District thanked Mayor Houck and congratulated Councilmembers Schreiber, Russo and Morgan. She expressed that she looks forward to working with Mayor and the entire Council to move the agenda forward in Haddon Heights. She wished all attendees a happy and healthy New Year.

Assemblyman Spearman of the 5th Legislative District also thanked Mayor Houck and said that it is always a pleasure to visit Haddon Heights. He continued, saying that the 5th district looks forward to continuing to support Haddon Heights and are working with Council on a number of projects. Specifically, flooding projects in Camden County.

Commissioner Jeffrey Nash also congratulated Councilmembers Morgan and Russo. He said he is pleased to see Councilman Schreiber return to public service. Thanked everyone who works in local government and especially to our first responders who have been working tirelessly through this pandemic.

Mayor Houck congratulated and thanked Councilwoman Russo for her overall dedication to the community and noted that her experience as a traffic engineer will be an asset to Haddon Heights. He extended congratulations to Councilman Morgan for another term of office. Thanked him for continuing the ongoing projects. Mayor Houck thanked Councilman Schreiber for filling the vacancy on Council. He thanked his peers on Council and team, which he believes makes Haddon Heights a wonderful place in Camden County; namely employees, professionals, volunteers and residents. He stated that he is privileged to serve.

COMMENTS FROM NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Councilwoman Russo wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year. She said we are so fortunate to live in this community. Councilwoman Russo described an article she read about the top trendiest affordable cities in the United States. The metrics they used in the article were reminiscent of Haddon Heights in her

opinion; which made her all the more excited to join Council. Haddon Heights has all of these attributes including walkability, coffee shops, breweries, a farmers market and more. She highlighted infrastructure, community and smart growth combined and with continuing focus she believes Council will do a great job for this community. She is excited and thanks all of Council as well as former Councilwoman Kurtz for her service. Honored to work with everyone on Council and thanked Michael Madden and the people of Haddon Heights. She went on to thanked dignitaries, especially while they were canvassing during election time. She again thanked Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez for swearing her in. She thanked her Pastor Eliza Jaremko and our first responders for their immeasurable service. She recognized our educators for serving and the Board of Education. She concluded by thanking her husband, son for their support and her extended family for being present this evening. She said although 2021 has been a difficult year she is optimistic for the year ahead.

Councilman Morgan thanked all dignitaries present and those who helped with the campaign. He said it was humbling to be elected three years ago and to be reelected again. He looks forward and appreciates that he has the opportunity to serve a second term. Thanked Councilwoman Russo for being his running mate. Thanked the Haddon Heights Democratic Club. Thanks to Mike Madden, Casey Orlando, Holly Cass and all who supported the campaign. He thanked Colleen Copper who tragically passed away this past year. Her friendship, support and contributions to the Democratic Club are very much missed. Morgan thanked Mayor Houck and all of his colleagues who volunteer so much of their time. Thanked professionals and Borough staff. He expressed his appreciation to his wife Heather and their children who are his inspiration. He then described setting the stage for more tangible progress over the next couple of years. Mayor Houck thanked Councilman Morgan.

Councilman Schreiber thanked his peers for being selected to fill the vacancy on Council. He appreciates the support he has been shown and thanked his colleagues for their confidence in him. He thanked Cruz-Perez, Assemblyman Spearman and Commissioner Nash for the extraordinary work they do. He said he is so pleased to see Kathryn Russo, whom was already active on committees and volunteer work, to be elected into a position on Council. Thanked the staff especially to Clerk Kelly Santosusso; he is pleased to work for another year with Clerk Santosusso saying she is an asset to the town.

Councilman Ottoson said he is happy to see Councilman Morgan is back. He said that Councilwoman Russo's roots in the community and impressive background bring a lot to the table, he is thrilled to work with her. Thanked Councilman Scott Schreiber for his fascinating contributions and his knowledge of the inner workings of the government. Thanked everyone who works at the Borough and wished everyone a happy New Year.

Councilwoman Egbert welcomed Councilwoman Russo as she is so excited to work with her. She believes it will be great to work with her. Councilwoman Egbert thanked the residents of Haddon Heights. She thanked Councilman Chris Morgan, thanked him for being a wonderful leader, terrific friend and wonderful leader of the town. Recognized Councilman Schreiber's expertise. She stated everyone is thrilled to have Schreiber back. She thanked Clerk Kelly Santosusso. She is delighted to be a member of the team. Looks forward to accomplish a lot and hit the ground running.

Councilwoman Philipps said Council and the Borough are fortunate to have Morgan and Schreiber continue their service. Honored to have served you. Councilwoman Russo – welcome. Cannot imagine a more qualified person for Council. Philipps said she respects Russo as a woman, mother and now a colleague. Thanked Councilwoman Kurtz for her service. Thanked Clerk Santosusso and the Borough staff for all of their efforts every day in putting together this Reorganization. She mentions she did not expect to be virtual and that it is important in this life to appreciate where we are even when it is not where we expected to be. She looks forward to a great New Year and all of the things to come.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Houck called for Public Comment on Agenda items only.

Seeing no one movement forward, Mayor Houck closed the public comment portion of the meeting. All members were in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to appoint Councilman Christopher Morgan to the position of Council President. A motion was made by Councilman Schreiber, seconded by Councilwoman Philipps. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted yes.

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve the following Directorships:

Administration/Personnel/Inter-Government	Councilwoman Regina Philipps, Director Councilwoman Trisha Egbert Council President Christopher Morgan
Finance/Budgets/Grants	Council President Christopher Morgan, Director Councilman Scott Schreiber Councilwoman Kate Russo
Public Works Department	Councilwoman Kate Russo, Director Councilman Scott Schreiber
Construction/Zoning Department	Councilman Tom Ottoson, Director Councilwoman Kate Russo
Public Safety (Police, Fire & Municipal Court)	Councilman Tom Ottoson, Director Councilwoman Regina Philipps
Parks/Recreation	Councilwoman Trisha Egbert, Director Councilman Tom Ottoson Councilwoman Kate Russo

A motion to approve the directorship appointments was made by Councilwoman Philipps, seconded by Councilman Morgan. Upon a roll call vote, all members were in favor.

Mayor Houck read Resolutions 2021:01 through Resolutions 2021:33.

Resolution 2022:02 – Resolution Appointing Borough Solicitor – *Wade, Long, Wood & Long, LLC*
Howard C. Long, 1 yr.

Resolution 2022:03 – Resolution Appointing Conflict Borough Solicitor – *The Platt Law Group, PC, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:04 – Resolution Appointing Auditor for 2022 – *Bowman & Company, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:05 – Resolution Appointing Borough Bond Counsel for 2022 – *Parker McCay, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:06 – Resolution Appointing Borough Engineers – *Bach Associates & T&M, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:07 – Resolution Appointing Risk Manager for 2022 – *Conner, Strong & Buckelew, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:08 – Resolution Appointing Broker of Record for Health Insurance for 2022 – *Hardenbergh Insurance Group, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:09 – Resolution Appointing Licensed Site Remediation Professional for 2022 – *Woodard & Curran, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:10 – Resolution Appointing Borough Planners – *Bach Associates, T&M and LFB Land Planning, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:11 – Resolution Appointing Municipal Court Judge Pursuant to Shared Services Agreement Between the Borough of Haddon Heights and the Borough of Audubon Regarding Municipal Court Services – *Honorable Charles Shimberg*

Resolution 2022:12 – Resolution Appointing Municipal Court Prosecutor Pursuant to Shared Services Agreement Between the Borough of Haddon Heights and the Borough of Audubon Regarding Municipal Court Services – *Steve Peterson, Esq.*

Resolution 2022:13 – Resolution Appointing Municipal Court Public Defender Pursuant to Shared Services Agreement Between the Borough of Haddon Heights and the Borough of Audubon Regarding Municipal Court Services – *Charles Wigginton, Esq.*

Resolution 2022:14 – Resolution Appointing Court Administrator Pursuant to Shared Services Agreement Between the Borough of Haddon Heights and the Borough of Audubon Regarding Municipal Court Services – *Jean Phillips*

Resolution 2022:15 – Resolution Appointing Deputy Court Administrator Pursuant to Shared Services Agreement Between the Borough of Haddon Heights and the Borough of Audubon Regarding Municipal Court Services – *Barbara Borgesi*

Resolution 2022:16 – Resolution Appointing The Platt Law Group, P.C. as Special COAH Counsel – *Stuart A. Platt, Esq., 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:17 – Resolution Appointing Code Enforcement Officer – *Dave Taraschi, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:18 – Resolution Appointing Affordable Housing Planner – *LFB Land Planning, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:19 – Resolution Authorizing Thomas J. Colavecchio, Tax Assessor to File Tax Appeals and Assessor's Appeals on Behalf of the Borough of Haddon Heights

Resolution 2022:20 – Resolution Appointing Recycling Coordinator – *Dave Taraschi, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:21 – Resolution Appointing Special Law Enforcement Officers – *David Bauman, Class II, Stephen Graham, Class III*

Resolution 2022:22 – Resolution Appointing Tax Search Officer – *Eric Fitzgerald, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:23 – Resolution Appointing Fire Chief – *Michael Kinky, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:24 – Resolution Appointing Fund Commissioner and Alternate to the Camden County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund – *Dave Taraschi and Council President Christopher Morgan*

Resolution 2022:25 – Resolution Appointing Zoning Code Enforcement Officer – *Dave Taraschi, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:26 – Resolution Designating Delegates to the Camden County Community Development Block Grant Program – *Mayor Zachary Houck and Kelly Santosusso, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:27 – Resolution Appointing Fire Inspectors for the Haddon Heights Fire Department – *Benjamin Zwaska, Ian Muenzenberger, Steve Mach and Rob Fowler, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:28 – Resolution Appointing Members of the Haddon Heights Fire Department

Resolution 2022:29 – Resolution Authorizing Chief of Police to Issue Gun Permits – *Chief Michael Scardino*

Resolution 2022:30 – Resolution Appointing Crossing Guards for the Haddon Heights Police Department, *1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:31 – Resolution Appointing Licensed Collection System Operator (C-2 Sewer License) – *Martin Finger 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:32 – Resolution Designating a Public Agency Compliance Officer – *Kelly Santosusso, 1 yr.*

Resolution 2022:33 – Resolution Concerning Attached 2022 Appointments

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS 2022:01 THROUGH 2022:33: All individuals named in the above Resolutions please stand to receive the Oath of Office from Mayor Zachary Houck.

Resolution 2022:34 – Resolution Regarding Rules of Council for 2022

Resolution 2022:35 – Resolution Regarding Interest Rate for 2022

Resolution 2022:36 – Resolution Authorizing Funding Petty Cash Fund for 2022

Resolution 2022:37 – Resolution Authorizing Use of a Cash Management Plan for 2022

Resolution 2022:38 – Resolution Authorizing the Designation of Newspapers to Receive Notices of Meetings as Required Under the Open Public Meetings Act

Resolution 2022:39 – Resolution Establishing 2022 Council Meeting Dates

Resolution 2022:40 – Resolution Approving Borough of Haddon Heights Temporary Budget Appropriations for 2022

Resolution 2022:41 – Resolution Designating Depositories of Funds for Various Accounts for 2022

Resolution 2022:42 – Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Small Tax Balances for the Year 2021

Resolution 2022:43 – Resolution Authorizing the Utilization of State Contract Vendors

Resolution 2022:44 – Resolution Authorizing Agreement Between the Borough of Haddon Heights and Phoenix Advisors, LLC, Independent Registered Municipal Advisor of Record for the Purpose of Providing Continuing Disclosure Agent Services for 2022

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 2022:33 through 2022:44. A motion to adopt Resolutions 2022:33 through 2022:44 was made by Councilwoman Egbert, seconded by Councilman Ottoson. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Houck called for Public Comment on any matter the public wishes to address. Seeing and hearing no comment, Mayor Houck closed the public comment portion and moved to end meeting with the Benediction. Mayor Houck invited Reverend Eliza Jaremko to deliver the Benediction.

BENEDICTION:

Reverend Jaremko congratulated all elected officials, especially Councilwoman Russo, a parishioner and then offered the Benediction. Mayor Houck thanked Reverend Jaremko.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Schreiber, seconded by Councilwoman Philipps. All members present were in favor. 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted:



Kelly Santosusso, RMC, Borough Clerk