

NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP REORGANIZATION MEETING

JANUARY 2, 2024 - 7:02 PM

MINUTES

The North Brunswick Township Council held its Reorganization Meeting on Tuesday January 2, 2024 at 7:02 pm in person at the North Brunswick Board of Education Meeting Room located at 25 Linwood Place, North Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Mayor Womack welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Invocation was done by Rabbi Wolkoff

Councilman Bob Davis led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miss Tangie Cobb sang Star Spangled Banner

Ms. Russo certified the election.

Ms. Russo administered the Oath of office to Francis 'Mac' Womack III – bible held by wife Carol Womack Mayor Womack reads his Mayoral speech. He speaks of what's going on with the Municipal Building, the status of the train station and upcoming changes within North Brunswick Township.

Mayor Womack administered the Oath of Office to Robert 'Bob' Davis – bible held by his son, his daughter and girlfriend Nan also stood up with him

Councilman Davis gives thanks to the Mayor, his family and his "sweetheart" Nan. He can't believe this is his 8th term on the Council. He gives thanks for all that voted for him and thanks to everyone who puts their all into North Brunswick. He wishes everyone a Happy and safe New Year!

Mayor Womack administers the Oath of Office to Rajesh Mehta – bible held by Chief Battaglia

Councilman Mehta gives thanks to everyone. He states he has a great family. He thanks everyone for trusting them in North Brunswick. He gives special thanks to the Emergency Services for their hard work. He wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

Mayor Womack called the meeting to order at 7:34pm

Roll call:

Present: Ms. Hutchinson and Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Andrews, Davis, Socio and Mehta
Absent: None

Ms. Russo announced that the notice requirements of the Sunshine Law have been satisfied. Notices were sent to the following newspapers on November 9, 2023: The Home News & Tribune, the Star Ledger and the North Brunswick Sentinel. Also, notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Complex and filed in the Clerk's office on November 9, 2023.

Council President Mehta states it was wonderful to be Council President for 2023. It is his pleasure to nominate Councilwoman Hutchinson as Council President for 2024.

Mayor Womack called for a motion for election of Council President. So moved by Council President Mehta to nominate Councilwoman Hutchinson, second by Council Davis.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ms. Hutchinson and Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Andrews, Davis, Socio and Mehta
Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Mayor Womack administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Mary Hutchinson – bible held by her daughter.

Council President Hutchinson gives thanks to Council for nominating her for Council President. She states she will strive to open communication and channels, support small businesses and support each other in the upcoming year. She greatly appreciates the first responders and gives thanks to the Township employees for their dedication. She is honored to be the Council President.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to approve Resolution # 1-1.24 – Authorizing A Professional Service Agreement With Ronald Gordon, Esq. Of The Firm Rainone Coughlin Michello LLC To Serve As Municipal Attorney. So moved Councilman Socio, second by Councilman Andrews.

**Roll Call: Ayes: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Mehta, Andrews, Davis, Socio and Ms. Hutchinson
 Nays: None
 Abstain: None
 Absent: None**

Mayor Womack administered the Oath of Office to Township Attorney, Ronald Gordon, Esq. – bible held by son George.

Mayor Womack asked that items a. through az. be approved on the consent agenda.

Councilman Socio asked that item an. “#41-1.24 – Appointing individuals and terms of Committee Members to the Recreation Advisory Committee” be pulled from the consent agenda for revision. The item will be placed on an upcoming meeting for reconsideration.

Mayor Womack asked that items a. through am. And items ao. through az. be approved on the consent agenda. Motion made by Councilman Socio seconded by Councilman Davis.

**Roll Call: Ayes: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Mehta, Andrews, Davis, Socio and Ms. Hutchinson
 Nays: None
 Abstain: None
 Absent: None**

Consent Agenda

See attached Reorganization Meeting Agenda for Consent Agenda

Mayor Womack administered Oath of Offices to Business Administrator Justine Progebin, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Development Community Services Louise Ann Benson, Director of Community Development Michael C. Hritz and Director of Public Works Steven R. Bloyed – bible held by all Directors

Mayor Womack administers Oath of Offices to Fire Chief Michael Lettieri and Second Assistant Chief Kenneth Graulich –

bible held by daughter

Fire Chief Michael Lettieri expresses his thoughts and prayers to the Colony Oaks fire victims and the volunteer

firefighters how was injured during a fire that occurred there. He gives thanks to the North Brunswick Police Department, First Aid Squad, the Governing Body and Mayor for all their support. Emergency Management is taking donations for the fire victims.

Councilman Socio introduced dignitaries and special guests at today's meeting. Business Administrator Justine Progebin, Township Clerk Lisa Russo, Administrative Secretary Marilu Ruiz and Clerk 3 Nellie Sowell. Director of DPRCS Lou Ann Benson, Director of Community Development Michael Hritz, Director of Public Works Steven Bloyed, Township Attorney Ronal Gordon, Carol Womack, Chief of Police Joseph Battaglia, Chief Financial Officer Cavel Gallimore, Middlesex County Commissioner Shanti Narea, Surrogate Claribel Cortez, BOE President Rich Ligouri, Zaire Ali, Township Auditor Andy Hodulik, Confidential Assistant to the Mayor Janice Larkin, North Brunswick Democratic Organization Chairman Rich Zangara, Vice Chair Ro Tucker, Tangie Cobb and members of the North Brunswick Township Fire Companies.

Benediction given by Sami Catovic, Executive Director of North Brunswick Islamic Center

Mayor Womack opened the Public Hearing

Gregory Burke (North Brunswick Resident) speaks of the 3 fires in the past 24hrs. that took place in Colony Oak. There are still residents that live in that complex in fear that the fires will continue. He asks why the fire alarms did not go off and why there were no emails sent to give any of the residents any alarm to the fires. They are having difficulty with the property management. Asks how the Township can help them. The Mayor responds. Discussion continues between resident and Mayor.

2nd Colony Oaks resident speaks, did not state her name. She states some of her concerns and fears. She has concerns about safety measures. Discussion continues between her, the Mayor and Chief.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to close Public Hearing, so moved by Councilman Socio second by Councilwoman Guadagnino

Roll Call: Ayes: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Mehta, Andrews, Davis, Socio and Ms. Hutchinson
 Nays: None
 Abstain: None
 Absent: None

Mayor Womack called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, so moved by Councilwoman Guadagnino second by Councilman Davis

Roll Call: Ayes: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Mehta, Andrews, Davis, Socio and Ms. Hutchinson
 Absent: None
 Abstain: None
 Absent: None

Adjourn 8:08 P.M.

Municipal Clerk
Lisa Russo

NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

REORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA
25 LINWOOD PLACE
NORTH BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY

January 2, 2024
7 p.m.

1. **Welcome**
2. **Invocation – Rabbi Wolkoff**
3. **Salute to the Flag**
4. **Star Spangled Banner – Tangie Cobb**
5. **Certification of Election: Mayor & Council**
6. **Administration of Oath To:**
Francis ‘Mac’ Womack III
Robert ‘Bob’ Davis
Rajesh Mehta
7. **Call to Order, Roll Call, Sunshine Notice**
8. **Election of Council President/Administration of Oath**
Mary Hutchinson
9. **Resolution/Professional Service Contract/Township Attorney:**
 - a. **1-1.24 Authorizing a PSA with Ronald Gordon, Esq. of the firm Rainone Coughlin Minchello LLC to serve as Municipal Attorney**
10. **Administration of Oath/Township Attorney**
Ronald Gordon, Esq.
11. **Resolutions on Consent Agenda**
Professional Services
 - a. **2-1.24 Authorizing a PSA with DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP to serve as Municipal Labor Counsel**
 - b. **3-1.24 Authorizing a PSA with McCarter & English, LLP and McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC to provide Bond Counsel Services**

- c. 4-1.24 Authorizing a PSA with Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas, LLP to provide Environmental Legal Services
- d. 5-1.24 Authorizing agreements with Acacia Financial Group Inc. and Phoenix Advisors to provide Financial Advisory Services
- e. 6-1.24 Authorizing a PSA with CME Associates to provide Landscape Architectural Services
- f. 7-1.24 Authorizing a PSA with T&M Associates and CME Associates to provide Mechanical Engineering Services
- g. 8-1.24 Authorizing PSA with Arcari and Iovino Architects, LLC and USA Architects, Planners and Interior Designers Ltd. to provide Architectural Services
- h. 9-1.24 Authorizing a PSA with PKF O'Connor Davies to provide Municipal Auditing Services
- i. 10-1.24 Authorizing a PSA with CME Associates to serve as Municipal Consulting Engineer
- j. 11-1.24 Authorizing a PSA with David P. Lonski of the firm Shamy, Shippers & Lonski, PC to serve as Municipal Prosecutor
- k. 12-1.24 Authorizing a PSA with CME Associates and Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc. to provide Traffic Engineering Services
- l. 13-1.24 Authorizing an agreement with Acrisure, LLC to provide Risk Management Consulting Services
- m. 14-1.24 Authorizing a PSA with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to provide Wastewater Collection System Oversight Services for the North Brunswick Wastewater System
- n. 15-1.24 Authorizing agreements with BRB Valuation and Consulting Services and Sockler Realty Services Group Inc. for Appraisal Services
- o. 16-1.24 Authorizing an agreement with CME Associates to provide Water and Wastewater Consulting Services
- p. 17-1.24 Authorizing an agreement with Lexipol, LLC to assist the Police Department in maintaining accreditation from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police

Authorize

- q. 18-1.24 Requesting an extension for the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Audit

- r. 19-1.24 Authorizing the Tax Assessor to file Tax Appeals on behalf of the Township of North Brunswick
- s. 20-1.24 Designating a Public Agency Compliance Officer in the Township of North Brunswick, County of Middlesex
- t. 21-1.24 Appointing Tax Search Officer
- u. 22-1.24 Authorizing and empowering the Tax Collector of the Township of North Brunswick to cancel Property Tax Refund or Delinquency less than Ten (\$10.00) Dollars
- v. 23-1.24 Authorizing collection of interest for delinquent payment of utility charges
- w. 24-1.24 Authorizing fee for returned checks
- x. 25-1.24 Fixing the interest rate on delinquent taxes
- y. 26-1.24 Establishing a Cash Management Plan and Naming Official Cash Depositories
- z. 27-1.24 Bill List

Designate

- aa. 28-1.24 Designating Representatives to the Middlesex County Housing and Development Committee Township of North Brunswick, County of Middlesex
- ab. 29-1.24 Designating Senior Citizen and Disabled Protected Tenancy Officer in the Township of North Brunswick, County of Middlesex
- ac. 30-1.24 Appointing Ralph Andrews Council Representative to the North Brunswick Planning Board
- ad. 31-1.24 Appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of North Brunswick
- ae. 32-1.24 Appointing individuals and terms of Committee Members to the Board of Health
- af. 33-1.24 Appointing individuals and terms of Committee Members to the Open Space Committee
- ag. 34-1.24 Appointing individuals and terms of Committee Members to the Heritage Day Committee
- ah. 35-1.24 Appointing individuals and terms of Committee Members to the Youth Council Committee

- ai. 36-1.24 **Appointing individuals and terms of Committee Members to the Municipal Alliance Committee**
- aj. 37-1.24 **Appointing individuals and terms of Committee Members to the Citizens Advisory Committee**
- ak. 38-1.24 **Appointing individuals and terms of Committee Members to the Rent Leveling Board**
- al. 39-1.24 **Appointing individuals and terms of Committee Members to the Environmental Commission**
- am. 40-1.24 **Appointing individuals and terms of Committee Members to the September 11 Committee**
- an. 41-1.24 **Appointing individuals and terms of Committee Members to the Recreation Advisory Committee**
- ao. 42-1.24 **Appointing a Fund Commissioner and Safety Representative to the Central Jersey Joint Insurance Fund**
- ap. 43-1.24 **Appointing North Brunswick Fire Department Members**
- aq. 44-1.24 **Adopting Special Rules of Order for Meetings of Council**
- ar. 45-1.24 **Authorizing Mayor and Council to enter into Executive Session**
- as. 46-1.24 **Date, Place and Time of Township Council Meetings**
- at. 47-1.24 **Designating Official Newspapers for the Calendar Year 2024**
- au. 48-1.24 **Providing for an "Annual Notice of Meetings" pursuant to Open Public Meetings Law**

Directors/Other Appointments

- av. 49-1.24 **Confirming the Mayoral appointment of Justine Progebin to serve as Business Administrator for the Township of North Brunswick**
- aw. 50-1.24 **Confirming the Mayoral appointment of Mark Cafferty to serve as Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township of North Brunswick**
- ax. 51-1.24 **Confirming the Mayoral appointment of Louise Ann Benson to serve as Municipal Department Head for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services**
- ay. 52-1.24 **Confirming the Mayoral appointment of Michael C. Hritz to serve as Municipal Department Head for the Department of Community Development**

az. 53-1.24 **Confirming the Mayoral appointment of Steven R. Bloyed to serve as Municipal Department Head for the Department of Public Works**

12. Administration of Oath:

Justine Progebin – Business Administrator

Louise Ann Benson – Municipal Department Head – Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Michael C. Hritz – Municipal Department Head – Community Development

Steven R. Bloyed – Municipal Department Head- Department of Public Works

Michael Lettieri – Fire Chief

Salvatore Georgianna – First Assistant Chief

Kenneth Graulich – Second Assistant Chief

Thomas Lettieri – Chief: Bureau of Fire Prevention

13. Public Hearing (15 Minute Session)

14. Adjourn

15. Benediction - Sami Catovic, Executive Director Of North Brunswick Islamic Center