

MINUTES
OATH OF OFFICE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL COURT /COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY
SUNDAY JANUARY 2, 2022 AT 12:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Mayor Schwager at 12:01 pm.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

INVOCATION: Pastor Courtney Smith gave the Invocation.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor Schwager advised that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, duly announced, advertised and posted in the Municipal Building.

Oath of Office: Assemblyman Robert Auth administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Steven Saliani.

Oath of Office: Assemblywoman Deanne DeFuccio administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Kevin Slasinski.

Assemblyman Auth stated it is always wonderful to come to Oakland. He is blessed to have a great relationship with everyone on the Council. It is great to be asked and to be able to help Oakland. He thanked everyone for allowing them to be their servants. He hopes Oakland stays in District 39 with the redistricting.

Assemblywoman DeFuccio advised she lived in Oakland for five years when she was born and it holds a special place in her heart. She attended the Dog Park ceremony and Eagle Scout ceremonies and stated that Oakland is a wonderful community. She stated they hope to keep Oakland in the redistricting. She wished everyone a Happy, healthy 2022.

Mayor Schwager administered the Oath Of Office to the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department Officers:

	2022 OFFICERS
SECRETARY:	TIMOTHY DeBLOCK
FIRE ENGINEERS:	MARK ROMME
	ANDREW COLURCIELLO
LIEUTENANTS:	SEAN TORPEY
	MATTHEY SORCE
	DANIEL DeRISI
	BRIAN FASSETT
CAPTAINS:	CESAR ARREDONDO
	CHRISTOPHER HOITSMA
ASSISTANT CHIEFS:	DONALD JOHNSTON
	VINCENT INCORVAIA
CHIEF:	VINCENT DIES

PRESENTATION OF MAYORAL PORTRAITS AND PLAQUE

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Mayor Schwager explained that all the Mayor's portraits were reframed and were now being presented to the public. She introduced former Mayor Bob Piccoli and thanked him for being in attendance. Mayor Schwager thanked all the previous Mayors for helping to make Oakland what it is today.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING COMMENCES.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Schwager called the meeting to order and the Clerk called the roll. Present: Mayor Schwager, Councilmembers Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini, Van Eck. Absent: Councilman Kulmala. Also Present: Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk; Richard Kunze, Borough Administrator; Brian Chewcaskie, Borough Attorney.

OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Slasinski, this portion of the meeting be opened for public comment.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.

No comment made.

CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Slasinski, this portion of the meeting be closed to public comment.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.

ADOPT 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Talamini, the following 2022 meeting schedule be adopted:

2022
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
BOROUGH OF OAKLAND
MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BUSINESS MAY BE CONDUCTED AT EACH MEETING. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT 6:30 PM TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE LITIGATION, NEGOTIATIONS, AND PERSONNEL MATTERS. ALL REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS, WHICH ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, WILL COMMENCE AT 7:30 PM.

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT/COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY.

OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY JANUARY 2, 2022 AT 12:00 PM AND THE RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7:30 PM ON JANUARY 12, 2022 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 LAWLOR DRIVE.

January	2	Oath of Office
	12	Re-Organization
	26	Regular Meeting
February	9	Regular Meeting
	23	Regular Meeting

January 2, 2022

March	9	Regular Meeting
	23	Regular Meeting
April	13	Regular Meeting
	27	Regular Meeting
May	11	Regular Meeting
	25	Regular Meeting
June	8	Regular Meeting
	22	Regular Meeting
July	13	Regular Meeting
	27	Regular Meeting
August	10	Regular Meeting
	24	Regular Meeting
Sept	14	Regular Meeting
	28	Regular Meeting
Oct	12	Regular Meeting
	26	Regular Meeting
November	9	Regular Meeting
	22 Tuesday	Regular Meeting
December	7	Regular Meeting
	21	Regular Meeting

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.

ADOPT OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Talamini, The Record be named the official newspaper for 2022.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.

APPOINT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor Schwager suggested this be tabled until the full Council is present. Councilman Pignatelli stated that will hold up Council Committee appointments. Mr. Chewcaskie stated that the existing Committee assignments can move forward until the new appointment.

Motion to Table:

On motion of Councilman Talamini, seconded by Councilman Talamini, the appointment of Council President be tabled until the meeting of January 12, 2022.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Pignatelli, Saliani, Slasinski, Talamini.

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Councilman Slasinski thanked the residents of Oakland for trusting him and allowing him the privilege of doing work that he loves. He is looking forward to working with the Governing Body and Administration during his term and working hard to keep Oakland the amazing town it is.

Councilman Saliani commented he has served the community in a lesser capacity for the last ten years. He is truly humbled and honored that the residents voted to allow him to serve them for the next three years. He looks forward to good things from this group on the Council. Councilman Saliani thanked the Assemblyman and Assemblywoman for working with him during the campaign.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE:

Mayor Schwager wished everyone a Happy New Year. Last year, the Oath of Office meeting was held remotely. We are optimistic for this year and are meeting in person. It is her hope that by the end of the year, we can say the virus is no longer a reality. We are starting 2022 on a high note by meeting in person. Many towns are meeting remotely

Today is a special day. We uncovered the Mayors' photos. It is an honor to share the room with all the Mayors who sat in this chair. Mayor Schwager thanked those Mayors for their dedication to the town. Without their leadership and guidance, we could not have accomplished all that we have accomplished for Oakland. She thanked Mayor Piccoli for attending the meeting today.

This past year, we have evolved and adapted to the pandemic. Many projects moved forward. She thanked the Public Events Committee for still holding the Tree and Menorah lighting ceremony with adaptations. She advised that our Municipal Building remains open although many towns remain closed. Our DPW has continued their hard work and she thanked all the DPW workers. She thanked the Fire Department and First Aid Squad volunteers who don't get paid but are there when we need them. She thanked the Police Department for continuing to keep us safe.

We continue to televise our meetings thanks to the Communications Commission. Mayor Schwager thanked and congratulated Liz Llorente, the newsletter chair, for winning the Congressman's Hometown Hero award. Mayor Schwager thanked all the volunteers who serve on Boards and Commissions. It is hard work to serve the community. She asked anyone who is interested in serving to fill out a Citizen Leadership form.

Mayor Schwager thanked the Council for working together last year to meet goals. She thanked former Councilman John Biale for his perseverance in getting the Stream House dismantled. She advised a new building is going to be put up as a museum for the children. She thanked former Councilman Biale for his perseverance on the sidewalk project for the north end of town and stated it has been a long time coming. Mayor Schwager thanked the cannabis committee. It was a group of people on both sides of the issue. They worked together and did research. They came together with a very respectful ordinance that the Council adopted. That will be revenue generating for the town. She explained that there will be no retail establishments and nothing will be located in the center of town. She thanked Councilman Pignatelli and Councilman Van Eck for being on the committee. The revenue that comes from this will be used for capital projects.

Mayor Schwager advised everyone is working together on Patriots Way Bridge and Allerman Brook. She thanked Assemblyman Auth for being there for Oakland. She advised that the Dog

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Park at Great Oak Park is now open. This year, we should have the Band Shell. Mayor Schwager wishes she can thank all the volunteers and employees personally for all they do for Oakland. She wished everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2022.

Councilman Pignatelli echoed the Mayor's sentiments. He gave special thanks to the Emergency Services of Police, Fire and First Aid. Their compassion and how they serve our community is unbelievable. The people who serve on the Boards and Commissions give us their time to perform a service. Councilman Pignatelli welcomed the new Council members. He stated that everyone on the dais has a different field of expertise. He thanked Assemblyman Auth and Assemblywoman DeFuccio who have done so much to help Oakland. He stated that we could not have asked for better representation in Trenton. They have come to Oakland's assistance more than once. Councilman Pignatelli gave special thanks to Pastor Courtney Smith.

Councilman Talamini wished everyone a Happy New Year. He thanked all the volunteers and employees. He stated the Governing Body takes credit for all that the volunteers and employees do. He hopes everyone stays safe and healthy

Mayor Schwager advised that the Assistant Administrator Michael Carelli put together a beautiful town calendar at no cost to the taxpayers. He spends so much time putting this together and the Mayor thanked him for all his hard work.

Councilman Pignatelli gave special thanks to Borough Clerk Lisa Duncan and Borough Administrator Richard Kunze who provide so much information for the Mayor and Council and are an asset to the town. He thanked the Borough employees for all their patience in dealing with the public.

BENEDICTION: Pastor Courtney Smith gave the Benediction.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Talamini, the meeting be adjourned at 12:37 pm.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini.

Lisa M. Duncan

Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk
January 12, 2022

Date Approved

Linda H. Schwager

Mayor Linda H. Schwager