

January 7, 2024

MINUTES
OATH OF OFFICE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL COURT /COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY
SUNDAY JANUARY 7, 2024 AT 12:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Councilman Slasinski at 12:00 pm.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Led by Councilman Pignatelli

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

INVOCATION: Fire Chaplain Russell Stammer

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Councilman Slasinski 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: Senator Holly Schepisi administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Eric Kulmala

Mayor Kulmala Message: Thank you Senator Schepisi, Assemblyman Auth for attending today's meeting. I also want to thank my wife and daughters for supporting me with this endeavor.

I want to thank all the residents for electing me to represent them as the Mayor of Oakland. I consider this an honor and a privilege that you have entrusted me with this office.

Abraham Lincoln quote speech Clinton Illinois September 8, 1854,

"If you ever forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and esteem"

I as your mayor will do my best to service you the residents of Oakland and earn your trust every day for the next 4 years.

Why do people move to Oakland? Schools, Strong Recreation program. Safe community. Not to mention access to the State Parks and hiking in the scenic Ramapo Mountains. Oakland is also one of a few towns in Bergen County that has a seiner center.

Oakland residents are proud of our community. I was just speaking to a resident that recently moved back to Oakland....Oakland is her home and this was where she raised her family.

Oakland has a good soul, this is evident by community involvement, Recreation coaches, Girls and Boy Scouts, Volunteer Fire Dept, Volunteer first aid squad. Residents that serve on boards and commissions that keep this great Borough running! Thank you all.

Many cities and towns have turned their backs on the police and gone as far as defunding the police... I want to say to the police and all first responders I have your back! Every resident wants to feel safe in their community.

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I also want to ensure the hard working employees of Oakland that the work you do for our residents has not gone unnoticed. Continue providing outstanding service to our residents and always look for ways to improve the services you provide to our residents.

Goals for the upcoming Year.

1. Recycling center/ Dump. We as a governing body will do whatever it takes to oppose this center!!! As I have stated before it is 60ft from the first residential community and 80 feet away from the Ramapo River.
The governing body has already authorized 10,000 dollars to secure legal services!
2. Bring the State, County and Railroad to the table to address the neglected areas of Oakland that fall within their control. Route 287n Exit 58. West Oakland Ave. barrels guardrail etc. Same for the exit by the EXXON. How nice would it be to have a sign at the corner welcoming visitors to Oakland? Trim the trees by the tracks when you turn left on west Oakland Avenue. New signage by welcoming everyone to Oakland!
3. Complete Bush plaza! Thank you to all the volunteers that had the vision to start this project, now it time to finish it!
4. Van Allen house property. The ugly fence has to go! This property has to be completed so it is a bookmark that at one end with Bush Plaza at the other. I have asked volunteers to create a land scape design rendering of the property! The governing body will get this done!
5. Downtown-I will say it again we need to be ready and have vision of down town Oakland when sewers come into town. We need to develop a 5 year plan with a vision for what's best for Oakland. I will more information once we get this initiative going.
6. Patriots way bridge... As soon as our borough engineer and contractor provides us with a project plan and timeline, I will call for a public meeting with all residents of the Reserve so that our engineer can share this information and set exceptions for the residents. I will task them to have the meeting in the next 30 to 60 days. The borough will also provide monthly updates to the Reserve board and meet with them as required! Good communication is the key to success.
7. Reverse 911. This will only be used in the case of an emergency for official information. I have been working with Mr. Kunze to expand the service for phone and text messaging for residents that wish to subscribe to community events and general information.

And to my colleges on the Oakland Council I look forward to working with you, together we can we can move Oakland forward.

Once again thank you for entrusting me as the Mayor of Oakland and let's get to work.

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Oath of Office: Borough Attorney Matthew Gilson administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Pasquale Pignatelli

Councilman Pignatelli Message:

Thank you Mayor Kulmala, First I want to thank the voters of Oakland for their overwhelming support this past November. This past year marks my 16th year on the Council.

It has always been my priamy concern to do what is best for the Borough, a town that I have loved fro almost 50 years.

I want to thank the team that helped me to get elected, especially Councilman Saliani our campaign manager and our County Committee who put in so many hours getting the message out to residents.

I want to thank the entite Council for the committement of time doing what is necessary to complete our goals. And thank you to Mayor Schwager for her service.

I deeply appreciate our dedicated employees and all the volunteers that make Oakland the Jewel of Bergen County.

My heartfelt thanks to my family that has always supported me these past 16 years.

I know that 2024 will see the fruits of our labor. We ill begin the process of revitalizing our downtown. We already told out planner to expedite her suggestions and recommendations.

The process will begin with the creation of a new park at Bush Plaza. This could not have been accomplished without the help of the Bush Plaza Committee.

We will also see the beginning of the project to replace the Patriot's Way Bridge, which by the way will be paid for with state grants and not cost our taxpayers.

I am sure we will all be reveieved when out water filtration system is completely operational.

In conclusion, I will continue to place the needs of our community first in all my decisions.

Thank you and may God Bless us all with good health and prosperity on 2024.

Oath of Office: Assemblyman Robert Auth administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Russell Talamini

Councilman Talamini Message:

Good afternoon,

Thank you Assemblyman Auth for once again swearing me in. It is truly an honor. If we do this again we will get a hat trick.

I'd like to wish everyone a Happy and healthy New Year. Let me take a moment to thank the many people who helped elect me to the Oakland council.

First let me thank my running mate, Pat Pignatelli and also Mayor Eric Kulmala. We made a great team. And many thanks to Steve Saliani, Mike Best and the Oakland County Committee and also thank you to the Oakland Republican club.

Thank you to all the people who voted for me. I will do my best to make you proud that you did vote for me. But most of all I want to thank my wife Lucy and my children for sharing me with the town. Without their support I would not be able to do this.

I'm looking forward to a great year and I can't wait to see what we will accomplish. And finally thank you to all the Borough employees, you are the ones that make us look good. We just take the credit.

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Mayor Kulmala administered the Oath of Office to the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department Officers:

2024 OFFICERS

FIRE ENGINEERS: Lewis Thurston III

LIEUTENANTS: Daniel Binder
Andrew Palkewick

CAPTAINS: Sean Torpey
Daniel DeRisi

ASSISTANT CHIEFS: Donald Johnston
Vincent Incorvaia

CHIEF: Vincent Dies

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING COMMENCES.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Kulmala called the meeting to order and the Clerk called the roll.

Present: Mayor Kulmala, Councilmembers McCann, Pignatelli, Slasinski, Talamini.

Absent: Councilman Saliani. Also Present: Wendi Seelin, Acting Borough Clerk; Richard Kunze, Borough Administrator; Matt Gilson, Borough Attorney.

On Motion by Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Talamini Steven Saliani be excused from the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR

OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

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

ADOPT 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Slasinski, the following 2024 meeting schedule be adopted.

2024
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 7:00 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 7, 2024 AT 12:00 PM AND THE RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7:00 PM ON JANUARY 9, 2024 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 LAWLOR DRIVE.

January	7	Oath of Office
	9	Re-Organization
	23	Regular Meeting
February	13	Regular Meeting
	27	Regular Meeting
March	12	Regular Meeting
	26	Regular Meeting
April	9	Regular Meeting
	30	Regular Meeting
May	14	Regular Meeting
	28	Regular Meeting
June	11	Regular Meeting
	25	Regular Meeting
July	17	Regular Meeting
August	14	Regular Meeting
Sept	10	Regular Meeting
	24	Regular Meeting
Oct	8	Regular Meeting
	22	Regular Meeting
November	12	Regular Meeting
	26	Regular Meeting

December

10
23

Regular Meeting
Regular Meeting

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

ADOPT OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Slasinski, The Record be named the official newspaper for 2024.

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

APPOINT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

On motion of Councilman Talamini, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli Steven Saliani be Council President for 2024

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


BENEDICTION: Fire Chaplain Russell Stammer.

MEETING ADJOURNED:


On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Talamini, the meeting be adjourned at 12:33 pm.

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

APPROVED BY:


Eric Kulmala, Mayor

ATTEST:


Wendi Seelin, Acting Borough Clerk