

MINUTES

OATH OF OFFICE/RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

10 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY

SATURDAY JANUARY 2, 2010 12:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Mayor Szabo at 12:10 pm.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

STAR SPANGLED BANNER: Mayor Szabo introduced Emily Lochlear who sang the Star Spangled Banner.

INVOCATION: Mayor Szabo introduced Father Lipnicki who gave the invocation.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor Szabo announced that this meeting is being held in accordance with the open public meetings law, duly announced and posted in the municipal building.

OATH OF OFFICE: Mayor Szabo introduced Brian Chewcaskie, Esq who administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Pasquale A. Pignatelli.

Councilman Pignatelli's remarks:

Good afternoon everyone. I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year-one that will bring good health to everyone, and one with prosperity and a good financial future especially in light of these difficult times.

I want to thank my wife, Kathy, for her understanding and support-especially for all those evenings that I was attending committee or liaison meetings. I would also like to thank my daughter, Jackie, and my son, Michael, for their encouragement. Of course, all this could not have happened without the support from those who helped Chris and me with our campaign. If you have ever run for office, you know that campaigning takes many hours and the support of friends who believe in you. It takes a good pair of comfortable shoes and a willing partner to walk the hills of Oakland.

For the past four years, my pride in Oakland has grown by leaps and bounds. The professionalism of my fellow Councilmembers and their devotion for the common good is awe-inspiring. There are many things that still need to be accomplished. It is frustrating to navigate through the legal system and red tape of State Government. However, we have accomplished a lot. It is with extreme pleasure that I recognize the recent appointments to our professional staff such as our Administrator, Richard Kunze, and our CFO, Jim Mangin. These men have helped us

to bring stability to our staff, improve our financial accountability and helped us to modernize our record keeping. These men have helped us secure grants for recreation, open space, road improvements and feasibility studies that have paid for their salaries many times over. We are also fortunate to have a staff of dedicated career employees that work tirelessly for the residents of Oakland. It warms my heart when residents compliment our employees for a job well done. But the cost of all our services could not be controlled without the endless hours our volunteers put in on various boards, commissions and committees. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your devotion to our residents.

I am extremely proud that the Borough has received over \$ 4 million dollars to preserve open space. This not only helps to stabilize the cost of our infrastructure but also helps us to maintain the beauty of the hills of the Ramapo mountains. This beauty could never be recaptured if it is lost to urban sprawl. We also hope to bring to a close the legal ordeal of the library litigation. At this point, we want the people who were responsible to deliver a completed library to pay for their uncompleted work so that the taxpayers are not burdened with this expense. With some hope and a strong legal team, we should be victorious and be able to complete the library in a reasonable time.

With the help of our financial team of Frank Di Pentima, Chris Visconti, Richard Kunze, and Jim Mangin, our goal of stabilizing taxes is within reach. Once we secure a sanitary sewer line in the downtown area, then you will see the face of Oakland shine like never before. Our vision to beautify the landscape, encourage new commercial business, and provide affordable housing will come to fruition. We will continue to seek and secure grants which will help to ease the burden on our taxpayers. We will continue to foster an open government that values the input of our residents. We don't have all the answers or new ideas to make Oakland a better place to live and work. So please continue to offer your ideas that will help us in our decision-making process. I look forward to hard work over the next three years which will bring about positive change for Oakland.

Thank you for your trust and support and may God bless the residents of Oakland and our nation.

OATH OF OFFICE: Mayor Szabo introduced Brian Chewcaskie, Esq who administered the Oath of Office to Council-elect Christopher Visconti.

Councilman Visconti's remarks:

Friends, Colleagues, Honored Guests, People of Oakland Welcome.

Let me start off with some thanks. First, thanks to my wife, Marybeth, and my family who have given me unconditional support listened to me, counseled and consoled me. Thanks to all my friends and extended family have been unbelievably supportive throughout these years with advice, guidance, and words of confidence for me. Many thanks to the people who worked to get me elected and to the Mayor and my colleagues on the Council who I have enjoyed working with. Lastly, thanks to the citizens of Oakland who have chosen me to help lead the Borough in the coming years.

I am once again honored and humbled by the faith the community has placed in me by electing me to this office.

It has been a quick three years. As I look back, I am proud of what we have accomplished. We have been able to overcome some incredible challenges and made sound decisions that will greatly improve the quality of Oakland for today and many years to come. Some of them large, most of them seem small and of little immediate consequence but this change will bear fruit for the community today and in years to come. None of this could have been accomplished without much thought, hard work and diligent effort by the M&C, borough staff, and our many community volunteers.

We have achieved many of our goals but have much more work to do. I know that to do this work, what we need most of all is community support. We need people to continue to volunteer and get involved so that together we build the community we call our home. We need our citizens to be our eyes and ears. Let us know what you think, share your ideas, be active in helping the Mayor and Council realize the potential of what Oakland can be.

INTRODUCTION OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE: Mayor Szabo introduced County Executive, Dennis McNerney, who presented certificates to Councilman Pignatelli and Councilman Visconti.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I come to the reorganization meeting and find it to be a humbling experience. Every year we have elections, every year people vote. Every year we reorganize and take oaths to serve the community. Every year, the government for the people and by the people goes on. In the overall scheme of things, I realize how insignificant I am in the greater ideal we all represent which is democracy and community and it is humbling. As I reflect, I realize it can only occur as part of a joint effort. It is based upon all of us sharing our vision for the community and having discussions while setting aside our differences to say this is where we are going to go for Oakland. There are many people I need to thank for that. I thank my colleagues on the Council who sacrifice time and share their opinions, experiences and knowledge to guide us through good times and bad. It is a pleasure and honor to work with them. I thank our Administrator and our employees-everyone from DPW who help keep our roads clean when it snows to the clerk who processes vouchers for payment-because they are working together to perform a service we can all appreciate.

Thank you to all our volunteers-our firemen, our First Aid Squad, to those filming today, our Recreation Commission, our Recreation coaches, and those who serve on Public Events. You are the glue that makes us who we are. Thank you to our faith community for reminding us there is a moral compass we must follow and that there is something greater than all of us. Thank you to the Democrats, Independents and Undecideds for reminding us there are other points of view and that service to this community as an elected official is not a God-given right but something that must be earned through debate, the election process and the democracy that we build together as a people. Thank you to our families. Thank you to my wife Donna, my son Stephen, my daughters Kimberly and Danielle. Thank you to all the families of those that serve-you sacrifice something precious and that is time. Time that you do not get back but is unselfishly given out of

love and respect for what we do. Thank you for your sacrifice and understanding. Thank you to those who serve abroad in places whose names we cannot announce, represented here today by Master Sgt. Robert Haemmerle who will serve yet another tour of duty keeping us safe and keeping our democracy alive. Thank you to the Police force who make sure when we go to bed at night that they are ever vigilant for our safety. To the people of Oakland who entrusted us with a tremendous amount of responsibility, this year will be as challenging if not more so than last year. With your patience, confidence and guidance, we will persevere as we have always done as a great community. Thank you all.

Mayor John P. Szabo Jr. administered the oath of office to the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department Officers:

2010 OFFICERS

DEPARTMENT CHIEF	ROBERT KNAPP, JR.
ASSISTANT CHIEF CO.#1	CURTIS LE ROY
ASSISTANT CHIEF CO.#2	PATRICK KELLETT
CAPTAIN CO.# 1	CHARLES KELLY
CAPTAIN CO.# 2	TIMOTHY RYAN
LIEUTENANTS CO.#1	MARK ROMME, VINCENT DIES
LIEUTENANTS CO.# 2	VINCENT INCORVAIA, JOHN MADDEN
SECRETARY	JOSEPH A. GALLUP
FIRE MECHANICS	ROY BAUBERGER, DAVID HUTSEBAUT

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL COMMENDATION

Fire Chief Knapp advised that the Fire Department wanted to give special recognition to Sgt. Major Haemmerle. Years ago, the Fire Department made an Honorary Fire Chief position. Frank Scardo was given that position and no one has received it since. The Fire Department unanimously voted in 2007 for Bob Haemmerle to be the second person to receive that honor. Since Bob keeps going back to Iraq, the Fire Department hasn't been able to present this to him. At the Fire Department's 100th Anniversary picnic, the Fire Department was able to present Bob with his Honorary Chief's helmet. There was a small group of people in attendance and Chief Knapp wanted this to be more publicized. This award is dedicated to people who unselfishly give themselves whether it is to their career or as volunteer. Their whole lives are spent helping others. That is where Bob fits in. He began his career as a Police Officer in Brick then in Oakland where he finally retired in 2006 at the rank of Captain. He belonged to the National Guard and did weekend tours. Bob was in Desert Storm in the 90's. When Bob retired in 2006, he went to the regular Army full-time. Bob reached Sgt. Major which is the highest enlisted rank. He had two deployments in Iraq and is about to start his fourth deployment in Afghanistan. This will be a 400-day deployment. Bob received three Bronze stars for his actions. On October 5, 2006, Bob was in a schoolhouse in Afghanistan that got bombed. He and the other men had to shoot themselves out. Bob received a combat action badge for the incident but he sustained a traumatic brain injury. This injury wasn't found until 2008. Bob is now being awarded a purple heart for that incident as well as the combat action badge. Bob also has a titanium shoulder from injuries he sustained. The Fire Department presented Bob with a small plaque.

Councilman Di Pentima advised that the Mayor and Council would like to present Bob with something as well. Councilman Di Pentima commented that it has been a pleasure to be Bob's friend the past few years. He has been in contact with Bob much more since Bob has been in Walter Reed Hospital. Bob does not like recognition because it is not about him-it is about us. Councilman Di Pentima spoke to Bob in 2006 about the career he was giving up here in Oakland and about putting his life on the line. Bob said he is doing it to help the men and women there to stay safe and so that hopefully my children will never have to do this. When you talk to Bob, he talks about the boys at Walter Reed Hospital such as the 20 year old who was disfigured by a bomb attack and the quadruple amputee. Bob always offers encouragement to these boys. Bob is going back to Afghanistan to work on a new technology called biometrics. Councilman Di Pentima presented Bob with a gift from the Mayor and Council and advised that the community is grateful to know him.

Sgt. Major Haemmerle thanked the Mayor and Council, Fire Department and all officials in attendance. He advised that the core fiber of a foundation is its volunteers. Sgt. Major Haemmerle has been involved with two great volunteer organizations-the U.S. Military and the Oakland Fire Department and First Aid Squad. He asked everyone to keep the great men and women in the military in their prayers. He also asked that everyone keep the men and women at Walter Reed Hospital in their prayers. He said that the 21 year-old amputee's eyes lit up when he received a t-shirt from the Oakland Fire Department. He advised everyone to keep doing what they do to make Oakland the most wonderful place.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Szabo called the meeting to order and the Clerk called the roll. Present: Mayor Szabo, Councilmembers Burns, Di Pentima, Marcalus, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti. Absent: None. Also Present: Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk; Richard Kunze, Borough Administrator; Brian Chewcaskie, Borough Attorney.

ADOPT 2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Di Pentima, the 2010 meeting schedule be introduced, adopted and duly passed by roll call vote:

2010
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
BOROUGH OF OAKLAND
MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BUSINESS MAY BE CONDUCTED AT EACH MEETING. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT 7:00 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/RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 12:00 PM SATURDAY JANUARY 2, 2010 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 LAWLOR DRIVE.

January	2	Oath of Office Ceremony/Re- Organization
	13	Regular Meeting
	27	Regular Meeting
February	10	Regular Meeting
	24	Regular Meeting
March	10	Regular Meeting
	24	Regular Meeting
April	14	Regular Meeting
	28	Regular Meeting
May	12	Regular Meeting
	26	Regular Meeting
June	9	Regular Meeting
	23	Regular Meeting
July	14	Regular Meeting
	28	Regular Meeting
August	11	Regular Meeting
	25	Regular Meeting
Sept	15	Regular Meeting
	29	Regular Meeting
Oct	13	Regular Meeting
	27	Regular Meeting
November	10	Regular Meeting
	23 (Tuesday)	Regular Meeting
December	8	Regular Meeting
	22	Regular Meeting

Roll Call: All Yeas, Councilmembers Burns, Di Pentima, Marcalus, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti.

APPOINT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

On motion of Councilwoman Marcalus, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, Councilman Chris Visconti be appointed as Council President for 2010.

Roll Call: All Yeas, Councilmembers Burns, Di Pentima, Marcalus, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Councilman Visconti made the following recommendations for Council committees and liaisons:

COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR 2010

Finance Committee	Chairperson Member	Frank Di Pentima Chris Visconti
Public Safety Committee Police-Fire-First Aid-Municipal Court	Chairperson Member	Pat Pignatelli Karen Marcalus
D.P.W. Committee Roads-Solid Waste-Recycling Building and Grounds	Chairperson Member	Don Burns Chris Visconti
Water And Sewer	Chairperson Member	Elizabeth Stagg Donald Burns
Inter Governmental Relations/Administration	Chairperson Member	Karen Marcalus Chris Visconti
Land Use Committee Planning & Board of Adjustment	Chairperson	Karen Marcalus

COUNCIL LIAISONS

Public Events	Frank Di Pentima
Environmental Commission	Elizabeth Stagg
Local and Regional Schools	Karen Marcalus
Senior Citizens Liaison	Frank Di Pentima
Board of Health	Pat Pignatelli
Emergency Management	Pat Pignatelli
Flood Commission	Elizabeth Stagg
Recreation Commission	Donald Burns
Municipal Alliance	Donald Burns
Communications Commission	Frank Di Pentima
Shade Tree Commission	Donald Burns
Downtown Improvement	Christopher Visconti
Library	Christopher Visconti
Historical Preservation	Elizabeth Stagg

Community Events	Karen Marcalus
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Councilman Visconti would like to add Councilwoman Stagg to the DPW committee under Buildings and Grounds since there will be discussion this year regarding the DPW building. Councilman Di Pentima commented that according to the bylaws, there cannot be three people on a committee. He suggested that the Mayor could make a sub-committee. He suggested that we could appoint people from the community who have real working experience in plumbing, electrical and large schale construction projects, which is what the DPW project would be. Councilman Burns commented that Councilman Visconti does not have a chairman position for a committee. He suggested that Councilman Visconti take the Chair position for Administration since Councilwoman Marcalus already has Land Use. Councilman Visconti responded that he prefers to leave the assignments as is. Mayor Szabo asked for a vote on the assignments other than a third member for the DPW committee.

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Burns, the Council consents to the Council committee and liaison positions.

Roll Call: All Yeas, Councilmembers Burns, Di Pentima, Marcalus, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti.

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

On motion of Councilman Di Pentima, seconded by Councilwoman Marcalus, the official newspaper for 2010 be the Record with the Suburban Trends as the alternate paper.

Roll Call: All Yeas, Councilmembers Burns, Di Pentima, Marcalus, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti.

MOTION TO CARRY REMAINDER OF AGENDA:

On motion of Councilman Burns, seconded by Councilwoman Stagg, the remainder of the agenda be carried to the January 13, 2010 meeting agenda.

Roll Call: All Yeas, Councilmembers Burns, Di Pentima, Marcalus, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti.

BENEDICTION: Mayor Szabo asked Father Lipnicki to give the benediction.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

On motion of Councilwoman Stagg, seconded by Councilman Visconti, the meeting be adjourned

Roll Call: All Yeas, Councilmembers Burns, Di Pentima, Marcalus, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti.

Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk

John P. Szabo, Jr., Mayor

January 2, 2010

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Date Adopted: _____