

**MINUTES**

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

COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
10 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY  
SUNDAY JANUARY 5, 2014 AT 12:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Mayor Schwager at 12:05 pm.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

INVOCATION: Fire Chaplain Russell Stammer gave the invocation.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: Mayor Schwager made the announcement "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 Cardinale administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Timothy Jensen.

OATH OF OFFICE: Senator Cardinale administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Eric Kulmala.

Councilman Jensen's Message:

Thank you Mayor Schwager, Councilmembers, Guests, Dignitaries, and fellow Oaklanders. I stand before you today as I did three years ago after taking my first Oath of Office with thanks and eagerness as I started serving Oakland as a Councilmember. I am just as grateful to the voters of Oakland this year as I was then for trusting me to serve another three years.

During my first term as Councilman, I have met and worked with many volunteers and employees of the Borough. I have heard many sounds...the sound of the police and fire sirens echoing down the valley as first responders answer calls for help. I have heard the sound of children and adults emanating from the Recreation fields and school playgrounds. I have heard the sound of machinery and trucks as men and women work to make Oakland a better place for all of us. I have heard the sound of customers patronizing the various commercial and retail establishments in town. And, I have heard the sound of neighbors and friends doing the every day things that make us who we are.

As Ronald Reagan said in his second Inaugural Address, "It is the American sound. It is hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent, and fair. That's our heritage; that is our song. We sing it still. For all our problems, our differences, we are together as of old, as we raise our voices to the God who is the Author of this most tender music. And may He continue to hold us close as we fill the world with our sound-sound in unity, affection and love-one people under God, dedicated to the dream of freedom that He has placed in the human heart, called upon now to pass that dream on to a waiting and hopeful world". I look forward to working even smarter and listening even harder to the sounds of Oakland to serve you more effectively in my second term. Thank you and God bless all of us.

Councilman Kulmala's message:

I want to thank Senator Cardinale, the Mayor and Council and everyone who came to this event. Thank you so much. I just want to say thank you to a few people. I got some good advice from a former member of Council who said "Eric, when you are dealing with people, speak from the heart. If you speak from the heart, they can really see the truth and what you are trying to accomplish."

Thank you to my wife, Brenda. The first time I ran for Council, she said "are you sure you want to do this?" And when I ran for Council the second time, she said "are you sure you want to do this again?" Thank you for supporting me. You are the master of time management and I love you. I also want to thank my two daughters. Thank you for sharing Daddy with the people of Oakland. I may not be able to make every basketball or softball game but I'll do the best I can. Thank you to two very important people-my mother and father-who moved to Oakland in 1965. They instilled who I am and gave me a sense of community like joining the Fire Department and First Aid Squad and just serving the people of Oakland. This is my opportunity to pay forward.

I have to give props to my brothers and sisters of the Fire Department because they have always been there. I encourage everyone to get involved and volunteer for the Fire Department or First Aid Squad because they are a wonderful group of people.

I also want to thank the people of Oakland for placing their trust in me and electing me to the Borough Council. I'm both honored and humbled to take on this position. While campaigning, someone asked me to make a promise on an issue that was important to them and I said no. They asked why and I said "First of all, I am not elected and second, I hate to make a promise I couldn't keep." So I said that the only promise I'll make is that if I get elected, I would do the best that I can. To the people of Oakland, I'll do the best that I can for you. Communication is very important between the electorate and the elected so call me, talk to me. In a few months, let me know how we are doing. It's important for the Council to hear from the community to know we are doing the right thing.

The year 2014 is shaping up to be a wonderful year. I don't know if a lot of people heard, but there was a tremendous rescue that took place by the members of the Fire Department, First Aid Squad and Police Department. They do extraordinary work. We have a new park coming to town and that project will continue to evolve. I am looking forward to new lighting at the Recreation Field and we have never been closer to sewers so let's keep the momentum going.

Thank you so much and Happy New Year!

Mayor's Message:

Mayor Schwager congratulated Councilman Tim Jensen and Councilman Eric Kulmala. She thanked our Fire Department and commented that Oakland is so lucky to have a dedicated Fire Department. She spoke of an incident that occurred on Friday where a man fell through the ice at Ramapo State Park. She spoke of the dedication of our first responders-Police Department, Fire Department, First Aid Squad-for saving that person.

Mayor Schwager looks forward to another great year of bipartisan teamwork. She thanked the Council for working with her and for working together. She advised that sewers are a reality for the downtown. Affordable Senior Housing is coming. The residents will see progress at the Van Allen House. The flood buyouts will be happening. The Community Rating System program is being implemented for those who need flood insurance. The Borough is soliciting proposals from

architects in order to complete the Library project. Great Oak Park will become a reality. She thanked Mike Guadagnino, the Park Committee and Councilman Visconti for their work on the project. Mayor Schwager invited the public to contact her and the Councilmembers with their concerns.

**MAYOR SCHWAGER ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE TO THE OAKLAND  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

**2014 OFFICERS**

SECRETARY  
FIRE ENGINEERS  
LIEUTENANTS  
  
CAPTAINS  
ASSISTANT CHIEFS  
DEPARTMENT CHIEF

TIMOTHY DeBLOCK  
THOMAS TORPEY , TIM RYAN  
GARY WALKER, DONALD JOHNSTON  
TYLER LeROY, BRIAN FASSETT  
VINCENT INCORVAIA, VINCENT DIES  
DAVID HUTSEBAUT, CHARLES KELLY  
CURTIS LeROY

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Schwager called the meeting to order and the Clerk called the roll. Present: Mayor Schwager, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti. Absent: None. Also Present: Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk; Richard Kunze, Borough Administrator; Brian Chewcaskie, Borough Attorney.

**OPENED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

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

**ROLL CALL:** All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti.

No comments made.

**CLOSED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilwoman Stagg, this portion of the meeting be closed to public discussion.

**ROLL CALL:** All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti.

**ADOPT 2014 MEETING SCHEDULE**

On motion of Councilman Jensen, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the 2014 meeting schedule be adopted.

**2014  
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 PM ON JANUARY 5, 2014 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 LAWLOR DRIVE.**

January	5	Oath of Office Ceremony/Re-Organization
	8	Regular Meeting
	22	Regular Meeting
February	12	Regular Meeting
	26	Regular Meeting
March	12	Regular Meeting
	26	Regular Meeting
April	9	Regular Meeting
	23	
May	14	Regular Meeting
	28	Regular Meeting
June	11	Regular Meeting
	25	Regular Meeting
July	9	Regular Meeting
	23	Regular Meeting
August	13	Regular Meeting
	27	Regular Meeting
Sept	10	Regular Meeting
	23 (Tuesday)	Regular Meeting
Oct	8	Regular Meeting
	22	Regular Meeting
November	12	Regular Meeting
	25 (Tuesday)	Regular Meeting
December	10	Regular Meeting
	22 (Monday)	Regular Meeting

#### APPOINT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilwoman Stagg, Councilman Chris Visconti be appointed as Council President for 2014.

ROLL CALL: Yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti.  
Nay, Councilman Jensen.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

Councilman Visconti read the following Council Committee assignments:

**COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR 2014**

Finance Committee	Chairperson Member	Tim Jensen Chris Visconti
Public Safety Committee Police-Fire-First Aid-Municipal Court	Chairperson Member	Pat Pignatelli Tim Jensen
D.P.W. Committee Roads-Solid Waste-Recycling Building and Grounds	Chairperson Member	Sandra Coira Tim Jensen
Water And Sewer	Chairperson Member	Elizabeth Stagg Chris Visconti
Inter Governmental Relations/Administration	Chairperson Member	Chris Visconti Eric Kulmala
Land Use Committee Planning & Board of Adjustment	Chairperson	Eric Kulmala

**ADOPT OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER**

On motion of Councilman Pignatelli, seconded by Councilman Jensen, The Record be appointed the official newspaper for 2014.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti.

BENEDICTION: Fire Chaplain Russell Stammer gave the benediction.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

On motion of Councilman Jensen, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, the meeting be adjourned at 12:45 pm.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Coira, Jensen, Kulmala, Pignatelli, Stagg, Visconti.

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Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk

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Linda H. Schwager, Mayor

February 12, 2014

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Date Adopted