

## MINUTES

### OATH OF OFFICE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MUNICIPAL COURT /COUNCIL CHAMBERS 10 LAWLOR DRIVE, OAKLAND, NEW JERSEY SUNDAY JANUARY 6, 2019 AT 12:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Mayor Schwager at 12:06 pm.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

INVOCATION: Reverend Nathan Busker 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: Mayor Schwager introduced Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop who administered the Oath of Office to Councilman John P. Biale.

Councilman Biale's Message:

Good afternoon. Thank you all for being here on this very special occasion. I want to congratulate Councilman Lew Levy as he begins his first full term on our Council. What better way to start my fourth term on the Council than to have the Mayor of my hometown swear me into office. I thank my good friend, Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop, for making the trip to swear me in. Steve and I became friends five years ago when he joined me and my high school classmates at a dedication ceremony for a refurbished gymnasium. I want to congratulate Steve and his wife Jaclyn on the arrival of their first baby, Jaxson James. I admire his leadership as Mayor of the second largest city in the State and I treasure our friendship.

As I was writing my remarks, I reflected on some of the goals that I spoke about at the beginning of this past term and during the past three years. Our Water and Sewer Committee has convinced the DEP that it is time to incorporate a sewer system in Oakland. We will see construction of the system in the next 18 months to two years. There has been no development on the Bi-County tract and we continue to work on cobbling the necessary funds together to purchase the property and take the issue off the table. The sewer system will provide the gateway opportunity for the development of Affordable Senior Housing in town. We are pursuing a grant and have Boswell Engineering reviewing old plans to provide the residents on the north end of town a safe means of walking to our downtown area. Since the LED light program offered by Rockland Electric was started three years ago, we have installed 50 LED street lights throughout the town at locations deemed necessary for the safety of pedestrians and motorists. The great lawn at Great Oak Park is ready to be seeded in the spring and the amenities of a Dog Park and amphitheater will soon be a reality thanks to Mike Guadagnino and Ryan Schwertfeger. Thanks to the Station Park Committee, plans have been assembled and grants applied for to enhance the gateway into our downtown area. We anticipate the DOT will complete the initial repair of the Patriot's Way Bridge and the opening of the bridge is scheduled for this Wednesday. We will continue to add new and enhanced programs at our Senior Center, continue to improve our state of the art Recreation program and develop plans to improve and enhance our downtown shopping district.

Last but not least, I promise to continue to listen to our residents for their ideas and feedback on issues of importance.

I want to congratulate the officers of the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department as you are sworn in for your next term. I also want to thank all the members of the Fire Department, Police Department and First Aid Squad for your tireless efforts to keep the residents of our Borough safe throughout the year. I also want to send a thank you to the backbone of our community, Anthony Marcucilli and the entire DPW crew who work tirelessly to keep our community running like a top.

I want to thank my fellow Councilmen for the opportunity to serve as your Council President this past year. I again thank the residents of Oakland for the confidence they have placed in me as I begin my tenth year serving our beautiful community. I am keenly aware of the obligation I have to the entire town and will do my best to serve faithfully, honorably and effectively. Last but not least, I want to thank my wife Tricia for her patience, love and unending support in dealing with me and my ever-changing schedule. I also want to thank my daughter Lauren Rose for her love and support. I want to congratulate Lauren and my son-in-law to be Peter Manke on their upcoming wedding this summer. May God bless the Borough of Oakland and my God bless the United States of America. Thank you!

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Mayor Schwager introduced Brian Chwaskie, Esq. who administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Lewis Levy.

**Councilman Levy's Message:**

I want to thank everyone in attendance today. I never thought I would be on the Council but I wanted to do something for my community looking forward. This past year we worked diligently on restoring the river project. We are looking forward to starting work on traffic issues in town. There has been talk for years about an alternate access to town. Borough Engineer John Yakimik has been working on setting up a meeting with various officials to discuss the alternate access plan.

I thank the members of the Fire Department, Police Department, Borough employees and fellow Councilmembers. I am looking forward to the next year.

**Mayor's Message:**

Congratulations to Councilmen Biale and Levy. 2018 was an interesting year in Oakland. We have had many goals accomplished and had many innovative successes. Open government remains a priority. Oakland has an informative website and a Facebook page. We send out notices via email, texts and do reverse 911 messages. This year the Oakland Communications Commission started an online newsletter sent out monthly. Thanks to Salma Chiu for doing the newsletter. It was another fabulous year for our children who participated in our highly reputable Recreation program. Our Recreation Commission and Chairman Mike Guadagnino work very hard.

We held the ribbon cutting in October for our completed Library. It could not have been done without our Library Director's guidance and the generosity of Ronnie and Larry Levine. The Public Events Committee has made each event bigger and better. She thanked Chopper Russo and the Committee. This year we had a Holiday Decorating contest. Chopper Russo and Mike Rose led the Holiday Lights Committee. It was a spectacular success. Their plan is to work with the Chamber of Commerce to decorate the downtown next year.

Sewers are no longer a fantasy but are a reality. This will revitalize our downtown improvement. The Patriot's Way Bridge will reopen imminently. The State of NJ has done the emergency repairs and the paving will be done this week. I will send out a reverse 911 this week with the information. Our Police Department has new leadership and new officers. Officer-in-Charge Keith Sanzari has done an outstanding job. Thanks to our Traffic Safety Officer Frank Fiore because Oakland has received the Award of Excellence from AAA for traffic safety.

Our Fire Department and First Aid volunteers are exemplary. Our DPW is the best around. We do not have to worry about our roads in Oakland in the snow. With the help of Congressman Josh Gottheimer, a bill was passed and signed into law to rename the Oakland Post Office in memory of former Postmaster Frank Leone. A ceremony will be held in the spring.

I thank all the members of the Oakland Council for working together for the good of the residents.

Mayor Schwager introduced Freeholder Mary Amoroso. Freeholder Amoroso spoke about the natural beauty of Oakland. Oakland has a real small town feel and everyone cares about one another. The Mayor loves this community and the Council members serve for the love of the citizens. Freeholder Amoroso congratulated Councilman Biale and Councilman Levy.

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

2019 OFFICERS

Fire Chief	Vincent Dies
Assistant Chief	Lewis Thurston III
Captain	Donald Johnston
Lieutenants	Matthew Sorce
	Cesar Arredondo
	Daniel DeRisi

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL: Mayor Schwager called the meeting to order and the Clerk called the roll. Present: Mayor Schwager, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Kulmala, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini. 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 Biale, seconded by Councilman Kulmala, this portion of the meeting be opened for public discussion.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Kulmala, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini.

No comments made.

**CLOSED FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Kulmala, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini.

**ADOPT 2019 MEETING SCHEDULE**

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Knapp, the following meeting schedule be adopted for 2019:

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 JANUARY 6, 2019 AT 12:00 PM AND THE RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7:30 PM ON JANUARY 9, 2019 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 10 LAWLOR DRIVE.**

January	6	Oath of Office
	9	Re-Organization
	23	Regular Meeting
February	13	Regular Meeting
	27	Regular Meeting
March	13	Regular Meeting
	27	Regular Meeting
April	10	Regular Meeting
	24	Regular Meeting
May	8	Regular Meeting
	22	Regular Meeting
June	12	Regular Meeting
	26	Regular Meeting
July	10	Regular Meeting
	24	Regular Meeting
August	14	Regular Meeting
	28	Regular Meeting
Sept	11	Regular Meeting
	25	Regular Meeting

Oct	16	Regular Meeting
	30	Regular Meeting
November	13	Regular Meeting
December	4	Regular Meeting
	18	Regular Meeting

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Kulmala, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini.

#### ADOPT OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

On motion of Councilman Biale, seconded by Councilman Levy, The Record be designated as the official newspaper.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Kulmala, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini.

#### APPOINT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

On motion of Councilman Levy, seconded by Councilman Pignatelli, Councilman Robert Knapp be appointed as Council President for 2019.

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Kulmala, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini.

BENEDICTION: Reverend Nathan Busker gave the Benediction.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED:

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

ROLL CALL: All yeas, Councilmembers Biale, Knapp, Kulmala, Levy, Pignatelli, Talamini.

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Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk  
January 23, 2019

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Linda H. Schwager, Mayor

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Date Approved