

The Annual Re-Organization Meeting of the Borough of Riverdale Mayor and Council opened on the above date at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor William Budesheim presiding.

Mayor Budesheim announced that proper notice of this meeting was made as to time, date, place and agenda.

MUNICIPAL CLERK READS CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION:

Municipal Clerk Carol Talerico read the certification of the determination of the November 6, 2007 General Election as follows:

NAME	OFFICE	TERM
William Budesheim	Mayor	4 Years
Garrett Astarita	Borough Council	3 Years
Joseph J. Falkoski	Borough Council	3 Years

Mayor Budesheim introduced Freehold Director Margaret Nordstrom and Freeholder Doug Cabana. They have been great friends of Riverdale and were of great assistance with the acquisition of the Van Ness house. We are very proud to have them here this evening.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

The Oath of Office was administered to the Mayor and Borough Council Members.

ROLL CALL: **Present:** **Astarita, Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzels, Falkoski,**
 Absent: **None**

INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REMARKS BY SAME.

COUNCILMAN GARRETT ASTARITA:

Good evening everybody. First let me say that it has been an honor to serve Riverdale as your Councilman for the last 12 years and I want to thank my fellow residents for having the trust and confidence in me to elect me to a fifth term. In reviewing the speech I made after my first years on Council, I noticed how development in our town would bring Riverdale into a new era. I also noted that we must be careful not to allow overdevelopment. At that time, Bograd's and what are now the Demassi dealership, as well as the Sunoco station were in the news. Since then we have several condominium complexes and a Route 23 retail development near completion. At that time, as Finance Chairman, I was happy to report there was no increase in the property tax and for many years there were no increases. We are now working hard to limit any increases in our property tax rate. At the time we were fighting the railroad and the quarry for encroachment on our resident's quality of life. Although we had met with some successes, our efforts are ongoing. In the years since that time, we have accomplished a lot for Riverdale. Our highway development is just about complete, we have a library, senior community center, and soon-to-be youth center second to none and our town is thriving. We have limited some development to create parks and open space for our residents to enjoy. Our Volunteer Fire Department has the newest equipment, including a new ladder truck, so they might protect us safely. We have implemented a plan to keep our DPW and police vehicles up to date. We have a Master Plan in the works that will determine the future of our downtown area and quarry when it is ready for development. We have a Sewer Master Plan that we will be implementing that will affect

COUNCILMAN GARRETT ASTARITA (continued):

all of our homes and businesses. During my campaign I've had the opportunity to speak to many of you as I walk door-to-door. From those discussions I've received insight to what is important to the residents of Riverdale. There's no surprise that property taxes are at the forefront along with improving our quality of life. This Mayor and this Council is very aware of that and we are committed to keeping the lowest taxed community in Morris County as well as improving our lives. Riverdale has entered that new era and will bring many challenges, but I pledge to our residents that I always have your best interests at heart and work towards keeping our town the wonderful place to live that it is. I would be amiss if I didn't thank my fellow Council Members and Mayor for their support and our Borough Employees for all the hard work they do on a day-to-day basis. If it were not for them, our town simply would not function. Carol Talerico and our office staff, Chief Soules and our Police Department, Walt Mahon and our DPW staff, all of our department people and of course, our volunteers without which our budgets would explode. They include Pat Cleary, to whom we are grateful for his years of selfless service as Fire Chief, our new Fire Chief Mike Norton, and all of our dedicated firefighters. Our dedicated CERT Team headed by Charlie Quant, our dedicated First Aid Squad members, the volunteers of our Planning Board, Recreation Board and Friends of the Library. A big debt of gratitude is owed to you all. In closing I feel confident that the future is bright for Riverdale, and I am privileged to be a part of that future.

COUNCILMAN JOSEPH FALKOSKI:

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the voters who have re-elected me to another term on the Council. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as your Councilman for the past five years, and what a five years it has been. This Mayor and Council has worked together to accomplish much in the past few years. For example, the Public Safety Committee which I chair. With the support and cooperation of the Mayor and Council, we completely upgraded the equipment and manpower for our Police and Fire Departments thereby equipping them to better address the increased safety concerns related to the additional new development that has occurred. As a result of this, by providing the proper equipment and tools, the professional pride and output of the department members has increased to the point where the professionalism and efficiency of both Police and Fire Departments is the envy of surrounding communities. The additional development which has occurred in Riverdale over the past few years has been mind boggling. With this development surge there have been both benefits and problems. Addressing the problems will be one of the challenges the Governing Body will be facing in the coming year. As for the future development of Riverdale, the Mayor and Council will have to be concerned with protecting the overdevelopment of the remaining land left in the community. To this end, the Borough has engaged a professional firm who has created a new Master Development Plan for Riverdale. With the input of both citizens and officials of the town, this plan is about to be introduced and eventually adopted this year. We will then tackle the review and revision of our zoning and land development ordinances with an eye to protecting and preserving the environmental and aesthetic sensitivity of our remaining developable land. These are just some of the challenges that I look forward to engaging in with the Mayor and Council in the coming year. Thank you again for giving me this opportunity.

APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY – BY MAYOR AND CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL:

Mayor Budesheim offered the name of Robert Oostdyk as Borough Attorney.

Thereupon, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to appoint Robert Oostdyk as Borough Attorney.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Astarita, Bush, Carelli, Falkoski, Guis, Wetzel
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

RESOLUTIONS:

Councilman Guis set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, to approve the following resolutions:

- 1) **Resolution No. 1-2008;** Re: Official Legal Newspaper – Suburban Trends.
- 2) **Resolution No. 2-2008;** Re: Annual meeting schedule – 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- 3) **Resolution No. 3-2008;** Re: Bank Signatures and Depositories.
- 4) **Resolution No. 4-2008;** Re: Delinquent Taxes.
- 5) **Resolution No. 5-2008;** Re: Local Public Contracts Law.
- 6) **Resolution No. 6-2008;** Re: Work Periods – Law Enforcement.
- 7) **Resolution No. 7-2008;** Re: Official Holidays – Borough Employees.
- 8) **Resolution No. 8-2008;** Re: Cash Management Plan

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Astarita, Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

COPY OF RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGES 3-A, B, C, D, E, F, G AND H

COUNCIL TO SELECT PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL:

Councilman Falkoski stated he has been honored to be selected Council President for the past four years and believes it is time to pass the baton.

Thereupon, Councilman Falkoski offered the name of Paul Carelli as Council President; motion seconded by Councilman Guis.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Astarita, Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

MAYOR BUDESHEIM NAMES COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Mayor Budesheim stated the 2008 Council Committees:

Councilperson Carelli	Finance	2 nd Bush
Councilperson Falkoski	Public Safety	2 nd Wetzel
Councilperson Guis	Public Works	2 nd Astarita
Councilperson Wetzel	Community Relations	2 nd Falkoski
Councilperson Astarita	Buildings & Grounds	2 nd Guis
Councilperson Bush	Personnel	2 nd Carelli
Councilperson Guis	Vehicles	2 nd Carelli

2008 APPOINTMENTS MADE BY MAYOR BUDESHEIM AND CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL:

Mayor Budesheim read the names into the record of the 2008 Appointments.

Mayor Budesheim requested Council confirmation of the 2008 Appointments.

Thereupon, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, for Council confirmation of the 2008 Appointments as listed.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Astarita, Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

The Oath of Office was administered to the Appointees.

COPY OF 2008 BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE APPOINTMENT LIST IN FULL PAGE NO. 4-I

Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to appoint Paul Carelli as council representative to the H.U.D. Committee.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Astarita, Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

Councilwoman Bush set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, to appoint Joseph Falkoski as council representative to the Planning Board.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Astarita, Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

APPOINTMENTS OF POLICE CAPTAINS – RICHARD ROEMMELE AND JOHN PEINE:

Mayor Budesheim read statements highlighting the education, awards and achievements of Lieutenants Roemmele and Peine during their service on the Riverdale Police Department. He offered their names for promotion to Police Captain.

Thereupon, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, to appoint Lieutenants Richard Roemmele and John Peine to the position of Police Captain for the Riverdale Police Department.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Astarita, Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

The Oath of Office was administered to the Captains Roemmele and Peine.

PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING FIRE CHIEF PAT CLEARY:

Mayor Budesheim stated that Pat Cleary has been serving as Chief Officer for the past 14 years. He has raised the position of Fire Chief to meet the times and we'll surely miss him. Mayor Budesheim and Councilman Guis presented Chief Cleary with a silver handmade belt buckle and presentation box.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:

Certificates of appreciation were presented to various individuals, businesses and organizations that supported the borough throughout the year.

SWEARING IN OF OFFICERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mayor Budesheim introduced Lieutenant William Revis, Lieutenant George Giordanetti, Assistant Fire Chief Daniel Sturm, and Fire Chief Michael Norton.

Thereupon, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to appoint Michael Norton as Fire Chief of the Riverdale Fire Department.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Astarita, Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski**
 Nays: None
 (6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

The Oath of Office was administered to the officers of the Fire Department.

REMARKS MADE BY MAYOR WILLIAM BUDESHEIM:

I want to thank you for your support and I pray that I will justify your confidence in me. I especially would like to thank the Riverdale Governing Body. Everything that we accomplish is as one body, not any one individual. What I so appreciate is the lack of pettiness and small-time politics which afflicts so many other organizations. When an issue is decided and done with, everyone goes on to the next order of business with no leftover resentment or anger. The biggest beneficiary of your graciousness is the residents, because we are free to do what is right for the entire community, not some special interest group acting as the squeaky wheel. You have no idea how grateful I am for that. That cooperation extends throughout the entire workforce of the borough, from the front office to the DPW, the Building and Police Departments and so forth. Because we are a small town, many employees wear more than one hat which makes their performance even more remarkable. We have a dedicated group of individuals who offer their time and expertise serving on one of the various boards or committees, assisting us in maintaining the levels of service our residents have come to expect. Those residents who fill the memberships of the Planning Board, the Library Board of Trustees, the Board of Education, the Board of Health, the newly restarted Shade Tree Commission, the Recreation Committee, the Open Space Committee, the Office of Emergency Management, the CERT Team, the Friends of the Library, the Riverdale Land Conservancy and the Redevelopment Committee are in large part the reason why living in Riverdale is so special. Four years ago when we first came into office we noted that politicians have their own patron saint, Saint Thomas More, we would invoke during our tenure to provide guidance and direction. We are grateful for all of his assistance in addition to the fact that we have not suffered his end, at least not yet. In those four years we have made considerable changes. Not the changes of a revolution which overturns the established order, but a gentle change in our course that we may better arrive at our full potential. Riverdale has been known as a town with one of the lowest tax rates in the area, a characterization which we will do all in our power to preserve. But more is needed. If a low tax rate is all that matters then a desert would be the most desirable community of all. But who wants to live in a desert? There are so many quality of life issues that make a town, not only one in which you can afford to live, but one in which you are proud to live. While preserving the first, we have been striving towards the second. Our first major accomplishment was the acquisition of the Van Ness house which saved one of the oldest houses in Riverdale from the wrecking ball. But more importantly, it preserved one of the last remaining open parcels of land this side of Route 23 thus maintaining the integrity of the Pequannock River and keeping additional traffic off an already overburdened turnpike. Working together with the Board of Education we

REMARKS MADE BY MAYOR WILLIAM BUDESHEIM (continued):

were able to build a 10,000 square foot Senior Community Center which has truly become an asset. Never before have we had such a facility available to our residents for their family events. Our residents voted for a municipal open space tax giving us the means to acquire open space as well as improve our recreational facilities, included the fields off of Post Lane, fields that are constantly being used during the sports season. The free summer concerts in the park have brought friends and neighbors together to enjoy pleasant music and friendly company. Each year the attendance grows in numbers as well as the areas from which the people come. Our library is becoming the jewel of Riverdale, just as we had hoped when we established the Board of Trustees and became a full-fledged library just a few short years ago. The programs for young and old are available and well-attended throughout the year. We've begun a monthly newsletter bringing the latest in events and schedules and the happy milestones in your neighbor's lives. Our website is one of the most comprehensive in the state and was awarded webmaster of the year by E-Government.com. We are nearly finished in completing redoing our Master Plan, the most comprehensive plan ever in Riverdale's history. Included are provisions for the redevelopment of Hamburg Turnpike and the quarry when its operations are concluded. According to our Planner, we will be one of the first communities in New Jersey to have a Green Element as a part of our plan which requires any future building in the undeveloped areas to be done in a responsible manner to protect those natural resources that are so important to maintaining our quality of life. Among the many issues we have addressed these past four years has been the upgrading of our infrastructure, restructuring our Police Department to bring it in line with today's needs as well as providing the necessary vehicles and equipment for our Fire Department which just celebrated its 100th Anniversary. These past four years have seen the Borough of Riverdale receive approximately \$4,000,000 in grants and awards. This is nearly twice as much as we received in all previous years. As for the future, we hope to continue to improve and maintain all of these essential services. While it's becoming more and more difficult to keep taxes down, we believe that we have structured this year's budget and that the municipal tax rate for 2008 will not increase. On such a positive note, I would like to again thank you for coming out this evening and wishing all of you a Happy New Year.

Mayor Budesheim introduced Reverend Howard Ball, Chaplain for the Police and Fire Departments, who lead a benediction for the close of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Carelli, to adjourn the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 7:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol J. Talerico, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk