

The Annual Re-Organization Meeting of the Borough of Riverdale Mayor and Council opened on the above date at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING OF THE CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION:

Abubakar T. Jalloh, Municipal Clerk read the Certification of the Determination of the November 7, 2023 General Election as follows:

NAME	OFFICE	TERM
Paul M. Carelli	Mayor	4 Years
Councilman Michael Kheyfets	Borough Council	3 Years
Councilman Vincent Pellegrini	Borough Council	3 Years

OATHS OF OFFICE/COMMENTS:

The Oath of Office was administered to the Mayor by Commissioner Tom Mastrangelo and Borough Council Members by Abubakar T. Jalloh, Clerk.

COUNCILMAN MICHAEL KHEYFETS

I would like to thank the residents of Riverdale that voted for us the employees that make our jobs easier and do a great job every day. Thank you to our distinguished guests and council members that make it easier to work together. Most importantly my family that gives me the time and the ability to do what we do up here which we all know it takes a lot of time. Thank you!

COUNCILMAN VINCENT PELLEGRINI

I would like to thank everyone for appointing me and I will do the best I can. Thank you!

MAYOR'S ADDRESS 2024:

I would like to start out by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and best wishes for a healthy and successful 2024.

Today marks the start of my third term as Mayor. It has been incredible honor to serve the residents of Riverdale for the past 8 years. We started this journey back in 2016 and have been able to establish a great team on the Borough Council. Each individual on the dais brings a level of expertise and professionalism that has served the community well. Our success over the years is a result of their continued efforts to make Riverdale the best place to live and raise a family.

As you all know, we celebrated our 100th anniversary last year in the Borough of Riverdale. Our anniversary committee did a fantastic job planning events throughout the year. The signature event was our gala held at the Legacy Castle last April. Close to 600 people attended and the response was overwhelming. Everyone had a great time as we shared our memories of being part of the Riverdale experience.

I would like to take some time to reflect on the accomplishments of the last 8 years with this team.

SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

- We have successfully provided access to the borough's sewer system to 256 residential properties since 2016. To date, 180 residents have connected to the system. (70% connection rate)
- The next phase of our expansion will start in 2024 with an additional 86 residential properties bringing the total to 342 homes.
- After 40 years, the Borough of Riverdale became voting members of the Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewer Authority with Councilman Dave Desai and Council President Vincent Pellegrini representing Riverdale on the board.
- Our signature accomplishment included our persistent push and ultimate change to the sewer authority's billing methodology to provide what we considered a fairer approach. The change resulted in an annual savings of approximately \$175,000. This savings enabled us to take an aggressive approach to our sewer expansion.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

- When we embarked on the sewer expansion project, the Council decided to upgrade the streets that added sewer lines.
- These improvements included Belgian block curbing and new sidewalks to replace existing ones. These improvements were made in part by utilizing NJDOT grant funding.
- Since 2016, Riverdale has been awarded \$2,376,645 in NJDOT grants.
- Overall, out of the 57 borough owned streets, we have upgraded 36 streets (63.2%) and have an additional 7 planned for 2024.

INDEPENDENCE PARK

- Independence Park has received a much-needed face lift. In 2023, we completed the new retaining wall and walking path. This improvement cost over \$450,000. This is the first step in our vision to provide a walking path around the entire perimeter of the park set to begin in 2025.
- With the efforts of Councilman Matt Oswald, the park has been refurbished with upgraded fields and sidewalks. The park is now the home field for the Pompton Lakes High School Girls softball team. We even hosted several County tournaments.
- We will expand the playground area with a Toddler Playground in the spring.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- In 2023, we held our first annual Riverdale Carnival at the Armory.
- The Labor Day Street Fair continues to be a great event enjoyed by all.
- Unfortunately, in 2023, Riverdale Day was postponed. It will be back in 2024.
- We were able to enjoy our 100th anniversary fireworks. A special thanks to Councilman Paul Purcell arranging that great display

PERSONNEL

- 2023 saw several retirements.
- Chief Kevin Smith retired on July 1, 2023.
- Officers Gary Keil, Rob DiGiralamo, and Chris Biro retired as well.
- We thank all of them for the years of dedication and service to Riverdale.
- Our longtime Front Office secretary Linda Roetman retired on March 1, 2023.
- Linda was always a great asset to the team and is already missed.

LOOKING AHEAD

- We are all excited to work with our new Police Chief Chuck Quant.
- In the last year, we hired several new officers as the department takes shape.
- A special thanks to Councilman Steve Revis and Councilman Mike Kheyfets who were instrumental in negotiating a new 4-year contract with the PBA.
- The Police Department transition is complete and we look forward to working with this exceptional group of officers in the years ahead.

WHAT'S NEXT

- It's no secret that the Riverdale Quarry is set to close at the end of 2024.
- The Quarry Redevelopment Committee has been working with the owners of the property to plan the next chapter.
- I can assure you; this project will have a significant impact for years to come.
- We need to get this right.
- On Hamburg Turnpike, we are seeing the start of some new buildings going up, primarily the old Wes' site and the new "Diamonds by Dawn" location. Both will be a great addition to our downtown area.
- We have been in meetings with officials from Morris County to start the process of expanding the rail trail from the Pequannock border up to Independence Park at Post Lane.
- Part of this project includes the purchase of the old JCP&L property on Post Lane with the plans to create a parking lot to service the trail.

SUMMARY

I want to thank the hard-working borough employees who make it all happen.

- Connie Anderson – our Finance and Tax Assistant
- Lisa O'Neill – our Deputy Clerk / Office Manager
- Stephanie Colella – our new Borough Secretary / Planning Board Secretary
- Steve Schotanus – our Public Works Superintendent and his team.
- A.J. Jalloh – our Borough Clerk
- Jill Morano – our new Recreation Director
- Terri Pellegrini – Police Secretary

I would also like to thank the members of the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department under the leadership of Chief Jim Regeling who is here tonight. They do a great job keeping us safe in the community.

And the countless volunteers on all of our Boards

Thank you all – we appreciate your hard work and dedication to Riverdale.

As we begin year 101, I am excited about the future of Riverdale. As I stated in my gala address, it will always be about the people of Riverdale.

Time will continue to move on. Old stomping grounds will be replaced with new ones. Old buildings will be replaced with modern structures. The landscape will change, but I am confident that Riverdale will continue to prosper and be a great place to live and raise a family.

At the end of the day, it's people that make a community great. And we have 100 years of history to back that up.

***HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MY GOD CONTINUE
TO BLESS THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE.***

***Mayor Paul M. Carelli
January 3, 2024***

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Carelli called the meeting to order at 7:54p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini

Abubakar T. Jalloh, Municipal Clerk announced that proper notice of this meeting was made as to time, date, place and agenda.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF COUNCIL BY-LAWS:

Councilman Oswald set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Purcell, to approve the following resolution:

01-2024: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE BY-LAWS OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE FOR 2024

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
Nays: None
(6 ayes - 0 nays - motion carried)**

COPY OF RESOLUTION IN FULL ON PAGE NO 4-A

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT RESOLUTIONS:

Councilman Desai set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Oswald, to approve the following resolution:

02-2024: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL BOROUGH ATTORNEY SERVICES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 - Robert Oostdyk, Esq.

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
Nays: None
(6 ayes - 0 nays - motion carried)**

Councilman Oswald set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Revis to approve the following resolution:

03-2024 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL BOROUGH WATER AND SEWER ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 - Anderson & Denzler Associates, Inc.

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
Nays: None
(6 ayes - 0 nays - motion carried)**

Councilman Kheyfets set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Oswald to approve the following resolution:

04-2024: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL BOROUGH AUDITOR SERVICES FOR 2024 – Nisivoccia LLP

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

Councilman Purcell set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Kheyfets, to approve the following resolution:

05-2024 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL BOROUGH BOND COUNSEL SERVICES FOR 2024 - McManimon, Scotland and Baumann, LLC

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

Councilman Revis set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Oswald, to approve the following resolution:

06-2024: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL BOROUGH PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 – John Grey, Esq.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

Councilman Kheyfets set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Purcell, to approve the following resolution:

07-2024: AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMES E. LASALA, ESQ. AS MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR FOR 2024

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

COPY OF RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 5-A THROUGH 5-F

RESOLUTIONS – CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilman Oswald set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Kheyfets, to approve the following resolutions:

08-2024: AUTHORIZING ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS AND REGULAR MEETING FOR 2024

09-2024: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL BOROUGH HOLIDAYS FOR 2024

10-2024: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL BOROUGH NEWSPAPER FOR 2024

11-2024: DESIGNATING THE OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES OF THE BOROUGH FOR THE YEAR 2024

12-2024: AUTHORIZING INTEREST FOR NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES OR ASSESSMENTS

- 13-2024:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WORK PERIODS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
- 14-2024:** RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE FOR 2024
- 15-2024:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS.
- 16-2024:** RESOLUTION APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONERS FOR THE MORRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND
- 17-2024:** RESOLUTION APPOINTING CLASS II SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FOR 2024
- 18-2024:** RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOARD MEMBER TO FIVE TOWN REGIONAL DIAL-A-RIDE BOARD FOR 2024
- 19-2024:** AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 2024
- 20-2024:** AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2024
- 21-2024:** AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS
- 22-2024:** AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE RIVERDALE RECYCLING COORDINATOR FOR THE YEAR 2024
- 23-2024:** AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CLASS III PLANNING BOARD MEMBER
- 24-2024:** RESOLUTION APPOINTING PENSIONS AND BENEFITS CERTIFYING OFFICER & CERTIFYING SUPERVISOR
- 25-2024:** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL HOURS OF OPERATION FOR BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE EMPLOYEES FOR 2024

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis, Pellegrini
 Nays: None
 (6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)**

COPY OF RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 6-A THROUGH 6-R

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

- 26-2024:** ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2024

Councilman Desai offered the name of Vincent Pellegrini as Council President; motion seconded by Councilman Kheyfets.

**ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Purcell, Revis
 Nays: None
 Abstain: Pellegrini
 (5 ayes – 0 nays – 1 abstain - motion carried)**

COPY OF RESOLUTION IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 6-S

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Mayor Carelli announced the Council Committees for 2024.

Councilman Oswald set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Desai, to approve the following resolution:

27-2024: RESOLUTION APPOINTING COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR 2024

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Desai, Kheyfets, Oswald, Revis, Pellegrini
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

COPY OF RESOLUTION IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 7-A

MAYOR APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Carelli stated that Resolutions 28-2024 through 37-2024 are Mayor's appointments and do not require a Council vote. He announced the appointments.

28-2024: MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF CLASS I PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

29-2024: MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF CLASS II SECRETARY AND ALTERNATE PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS

30-2024: MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF CLASS IV PLANNING BOARD MEMBER

31-2024: MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF HUD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

32-2024: MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS

33-2024: MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEMBERS

34-2024: MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR

35-2024: MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2024

36-2024: MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF QUARRY REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2024

37-2024: MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE GREEN TEAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2024

COPY OF APPOINTMENTS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 7-C THROUGH 7-K

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Carelli opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Gina Hollenstein, 8 Federal Place – asked about Summer Rec and if who will be running it and if the sign ups will still be February 1st. If there were changes what would those changes be. Mayor responded we are not cancelling summer rec we will be hiring a summer camp director and he has already started working with the front staff in the office to create the calendar. He doesn't need to hire the director right now because there is nothing to do. We have the calendar and we know that we have to fill 24 days. The calendar will be basically the same and may have a little bit of changes.

Jennifer Adams, 1 Evans Road – asked when the sewers will be done. Mayor responded we received a grant to do that whole section. In April we will be doing the curbing and roads. We can have the engineer take a look and give us an estimate.

There being no further comments, Mayor Carelli closed the public session.

ALL IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Kheyfets set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Oswald, to adjourn the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 8:14p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Abubakar T. Jalloh, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk