

Borough of Tenafly

Annual Meeting of the Mayor and Council

Council Chambers, Borough Hall
Municipal Center
100 Riveredge Road, Tenafly, New Jersey

Sunday, January 2, 2022

MINUTES

At 12:37 p.m. Mayor Zinna read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement: “In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, chapter 231, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting by Resolution#21-437 has been sent to the Record, the Suburbanite, and Northern Valley Press and has been posted on the public bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center and Borough website.”

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Zinna.

Borough Clerk Stovall called the roll of the present Council, which consisted of Councilmembers Lauren Dayton, Jeffrey Grossman, Adam Michaels, and Dan Park, and Mayor Zinna

State Senator – Elect Gordon Johnson administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Venugopal Menon

State Senator – Elect Gordon Johnson administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Dr. Julie O’ Connor

Borough Clerk Stovall called the roll of the 2022 Mayor and Council.

PRESENT: Council members Lauren Dayton, Jeffrey Grossman, Venugopal Menon, Adam Michaels, Julie O’ Connor, Daniel Park, and Mayor Mark Zinna

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Jimmy Homsi
Deputy Borough Clerk Omar Stovall
Human Resources Manager Alisha Dawkins

Appointment of Borough Attorney

Mayor Zinna appointed Wendy Rubinstein, Esq. to serve as Borough Attorney in 2022 and asked for confirmation of his appointment by the Council.

#R22-01/Confirmation of Appointment of Borough Attorney

Motion by C. Michaels, second by C. Park that #R22-01 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O’Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

The Oath of Office to Borough Attorney Wendy Rubinstein, Esq was administered by Mayor Zinna.

Selection of Council President for 2022.

Mayor Zinna asked the Council for nominations for Council President.

C. Menon nominated C. Grossman to serve as Council President. C. Park seconded the nomination.

On a voice vote, with all members voting in favor, the nomination was unanimously approved.

C. Dayton requested discussion for a mask mandate resolution. The Governing Body expressed scheduling the special meeting for Tuesday, January 4, 2022. M. Zinna asked the clerk to circulate an email amongst the Governing Body to get a consensus of the start time for the proposed special meeting.

Mayor Zinna read the following statement:

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Citizens are welcome to address the Mayor and Council on any governmental item of concern to them, whether or not it is scheduled on the agenda below. A total of 15 minutes has been allocated for all public comments to be presented. Citizens must give their names and addresses when recognized to speak. Large groups are urged to select someone to represent them. Please be advised these meetings are recorded and are subject to the Open Public Records Act.

Bergen County Board of County Commissioner Mary J. Amoroso praised C. Menon and C. O'Connor for their renewed service to the Borough of Tenafly.

State Senator – Elect Gordon Johnson thanked the Governing Body and the residents of Tenafly.

Julia Guttilla presented a certificate to C. O'Connor on behalf of Bergen County (Women's Environment & Development Organization) WeDo.

#R22-02/Confirm Appointment of Labor Counsel – Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC

#R22-03/Confirm Appointment of Borough Auditor – Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP

#R22-04/Confirm Appointment of Bond Counsel - JP Capizzi, LLC.

#R22-05/Confirm Appointment of Tax Appeal Attorney – Gloria Oh Law Group, LLC,

#R22-06/Confirm Appointment of Municipal Court Judge – Benjamin B. Choi, Esq.

#R22-07/Confirmation of Mayor's Appointments

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey that all of the following appointments are hereby confirmed for a one-year term to expire on January 1, 2023.

Prosecutor	Mark Fierro
1st Alternate Municipal Prosecutor	Andrew Cimiluca
Public Defender	Jordan Yuelys
1st Alternate Public Defender	Robert Metzdorf
Borough Historian	Paul Stefanowicz

Motion by C. Michaels, second by C. Grossman that #R22-02 through #R22-07 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

Mayor Zinna read the following:

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD – no confirmation required

PLANNING BOARD	Term	Expires
1st Alternate – Sima Mandelzis	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
2nd Alternate – Eyal Shay (unexpired Osborne)	2 yrs.	1/1/2023

#R22-08/Appointment of Class III Member to Planning Board

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey that Councilmember Jeffrey Grossman is hereby designated as a Class III member of the Planning for a one-year term to expire on January 1, 2023.

C. Michaels nominated C. Park to serve as a Class III Member to Planning Board. C. Michaels seconded the nomination that #R22-08 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

Mayor Zinna read the following:

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - no confirmation required

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT	Term	Expires
Adam Kominsky	4 yrs.	1/1/2026
Allan Cytryn	4 yrs.	1/1/2026
2 nd Alternate - Linda Khorozian (unexpired Toro)	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Venugopal Menon, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2023

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION - no confirmation required

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION	Term	Expires
Nina Seiden	3 yrs.	1/1/2025
Allison Chertoff	3 yrs.	1/1/2025
John Purdy	3 yrs.	1/1/2025
1 st Alternate – Zinovia Spezakis	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
Julie O' Connor, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2023

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION - no confirmation required

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	Term	Expires
1 st Alternate – Emily Yang	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
2 nd Alternate – Brendan Lee (unexpired Yang)	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Jeffrey Grossman, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2023

#R22-09/Confirm Appointments to the Board of Health

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that all of the following appointments to the Board of Health are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Howard Bader,	4 yrs.	1/1/2026
Etta Frankel,	4 yrs.	1/1/2026
Julie O' Connor, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2023

Motion by C. O'Connor, second by C. Park that #R22-09 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

#R22-10/Confirm Appointments to the Library Board of Trustees

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that the following appointments to the Library Board of Trustees are hereby confirmed.

Term	Expires
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Elizabeth Warms	5 yrs.	1/1/2027
Nicole Motz, Mayor's Alternate	1 yr.	1/1/2023

Motion by C. Grossman, second by C. Park that #R22-10 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

#R22-11/Confirm Appointments to the Recreation Board

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that all of the following appointment to the Recreation Board is hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Judy Feinberg	3 yrs.	1/1/2025
Nahuel Quiroga	3 yrs.	1/1/2025
Adam Michaels, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2023

Motion by C. Grossman, second by C. Park that #R22-11 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

#R22-12/Confirm Appointments to the Access for All Committee

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that all of the following appointments to the Access for All Committee are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Jodi Friedman	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
Robert Byrnes, Sr., Construction Official	1 yr.	1/1/2023
Jamie Cannon, Recreation Director	1 yr.	1/1/2023
Michael Cassidy, DPW Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2023
TBD, School District Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2023
Jeff Grossman, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2023

Motion by C. Park, second by C. Grossman that #R22-12 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

#R22-13/Confirm Appointment to the Tenafly Municipal Alliance Committee

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that the following appointment to the Tenafly Municipal Alliance Committee is hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Daniel Park, Council Liaison	1 yr.	1/1/2023

Motion by C. Park, second by C. O'Connor that #R22-13 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dayton:	nay	C. Michaels:	aye
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C. Grossman: aye
C. Menon: aye

C. O'Connor: aye
C. Park: aye

Mayor Zinna read the following:

ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR ZINNA

Note: The appointments to the following non-statutory Committees do not require Council confirmation.

SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICE COMMITTEE

	Term	Expires
Marianne Reilly	3 yrs.	1/1/2025
Max Basch	3 yrs.	1/1/2025
Michele Hausch	1 yr.	1/1/2023
Patricia Ramella	1 yr.	1/1/2023
Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison	1 yr.	1/1/2023

TENAFLY WELCOME! COMMITTEE

	Term	Expires
Katherine Kojanis	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
Constantine Rigas	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
Orly Chen	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
Doreen Hawkins	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
Vanessa Semone	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
Jamie Corsair	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
Ariella Shoham	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
Mary Emmi	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
Jazmine Elson(unexpired Herring)	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Yuliya Sandler(unexpired Hahn)	2 yrs.	1/1/2023
Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison	1 yr.	1/1/2023

STIGMA FREE COMMITTEE

Pam Kulisek
Phillis Lin
Tom Song
Gia Shin
Miranda Lee
Suzanne Bassett
Jodi Bienenfeld
Rachel Goldberg
Hercules Invictus
Amy Morik
Robin Pierce
Jen Rosen
Sarah Shultz
Gina Toddings
Lynne Weber
Simone Zinna
Jeff Grossman, Council Liaison

DOG PARK COMMITTEE

Alison Chertoff
Christine Evron
Daniel Park, Council Liaison

BOROUGH/JOINT USE COMMITTEE

Mayor Mark Zinna, Chair and Councilmember Adam Michaels and Daniel Park

TENAFLY NATURE CENTER

Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison

TENAFLY PRESENTS

Mayor Mark Zinna
Jeff Grossman, Council Liaison

Alona Wartofsky
Jason Hart
Richard Baratta
Joe Halajian
Hadar Baron
Adam Michaels, Councilmember

TENAFLY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Daniel Park and Venugopal Menon, Council Liaisons

AD HOC COMMITTEE (1 year term) - TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Mark Zinna
Howard Seiden
Robert Chamberlain, Police Chief
Kevin Tremble
Michael Bishop
Alexandra Burshatsky

NORTHERN VALLEY GREENWAY COMMITTEE

Daniel Park and Lauren Dayton Council Liaisons

DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Michele Ross
Daniel Zausner
Gary Gabriel
Sharon Nevins
David Jang
Jeanne Rivkin
Jamie Corsair
Kevin Shin
Alyssa Brody
Stephanie Cohen
Thara Natalie
Shepard Grinker
Alex Sakin
Adam Michaels, Council Liaison

CANNABIS GUIDANCE COMMITTEE

Councilmembers Jeff Grossman, Adam Michaels, and Julie O'Connor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mayor Mark Zinna and Councilmembers Jeff Grossman and Lauren Dayton

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenaflly Senior Center

Venugopal Menon, Council Liaison

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenaflly Fire Department

Venugopal Menon, Council Liaison

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenaflly Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Jeff Grossman, Council Liaison

Appointment of Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Zinna and Councilmembers Daniel Park and Lauren Dayton

CONSENT AGENDA

- #R22-14/Adopt 2022 Meeting Schedule/Holiday Calendar
- #R22-15/Confirm Time and Place for 2022 Council Meetings
- #R22-16/Authorize Adoption of Minutes and Consent Agenda at Regular Meetings
- #R22-17/Confirm Process for Determination of 2022 Salaries
- #R22-18/Confirm Elected Officers to the Tenaflly Fire Department
- #R22-19/Designate Official Depositories and Accounts/Authorize Signatures

- #R22-20/ Appoint Tax Search Officer
- #R22-21/ Appoint Insurance Commissioner
- #R22-22/ Appoint Official Municipal Improvement Searcher
- #R22-23/ Ratify Public Official Bonds/ Finance Office
- #R22-24/ Designate Official Newspapers
- #R22-25/ Appoint Deputy Treasurer
- #R22-26/ Appoint Apportionment Officer
- #R22-27/ Authorize Adjustments/ Assessor
- #R22-28/ Authorize Stipulations/ Assessor
- #R22-29/ Authorize Semi-Monthly Payrolls
- #R22-30/ Appoint Risk Management Consultant
- #R22-31/ Appoint Public Agency Compliance Officer
- #R22-32/ Authorize Cancellation of Tax Refunds/ Delinquencies
- #R22-33/ Designate Locations for Temporary Signage Displays
- #R22-34/ Confirm Interest Rate for Delinquent Taxes 2022
- #R22-35/ Continue Petty Cash Funds
- #R22-36/ Authorize Investments and Transfers
- #R22-37/ Authorize Wire Transfers
- #R22-38/ Approve Cash Management Plan
- ~~#R22-39/ Reaffirm Personnel Manual for 2022~~
- #R22-40/ Adopt Robert's Rules of Order
- #R22-41/ Authorize Insufficient Funds Fee
- #R22-42/ Authorize participation in the Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force
- #R22-43/ Authorize the Tenaflly Police Department to Participate in the LESO 1033 Program
- #R22-44/ Reappoint Tax Collector

C. Dayton requested that **#R22-39/ Reaffirm Personnel Manual for 2022** be pulled from the consent agenda and tabled and to be discussed at the January 11th Mayor and Council meeting.

Motion by C. Park, second by C. O'Connor that the Consent Agenda as amended be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Dayton:	aye	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	aye	C. Park:	aye

Mayor Zinna read the following State of the Borough Address:

Happy New Year everyone.

Congratulations to reelected Council members Venu Menon and Doctor Julie O'Connor. Congratulations to Tenaflly resident and former member of this Borough Council, Shama Haider on her election to the State Assembly. Congratulations to our newly elected State Senator Gordon Johnson.

As we move into 2022, let us take a moment to reflect on 2021 and the foundations we are continuing to build for the future of Tenaflly. It was quite a year, and there are several highlights I would like to share.

I am incredibly pleased to report that Tenaflly has a covid vaccination rate of over 92% of all adults over 18 years old.

During the past year, the Tenaflly Council and I helped to provide the opportunity to receive vaccines by reaching out and partnering with the Mayor and Council of Leonia. Together, we operated multiple vaccine clinic days, which provided covid vaccine and booster shots to residents of both of our communities.

A special thank you to the Tenaflly Volunteer Ambulance Corp which volunteered to be on-site to monitor all those receiving vaccines.

Our Police and Fire Departments in 2021 continued to exemplify their professionalism in the face of road disruptions, major storms, flooding, and car accidents. We thank you for all the work you perform for our residents and community.

When storm Ida hit last year, dozens of Tenaflly residents suffered storm water and flood damage to their homes, cars, and property. Four of the Boroughs roads suffered significant damage and the bridge on Bliss Avenue was destroyed. The roads have been repaired and we estimate that the Bliss Avenue bridge reconstruction will be completed by this coming September.

We were proactive and coordinated with FEMA to come to Tenaflly to meet with residents to discuss storm damage recovery and financial support.

We would like to thank our Public Works team for all the work and effort they performed in cleaning our roads in the aftermath of the Ida storm damage. In conjunction with our Borough Engineer, we have been inspecting all of our storm water culverts and street bridges in order to identify any potential storm caused structural repairs that may be necessary.

At the Tenaflly Nature Center, decades of plant overgrowth in Pfisters Pond was choking and potentially destroying the pond. We brought in professionals to perform a process called hydro-raking to successfully restore the pond. The result is absolutely beautiful, and I encourage everyone to make a visit. We also rebuilt and repaved the Nature Center Parking lot.

We continue to applaud the Nature Center Trustees and the Executive Director, Debora Davidson, and her team for the excellent work they perform as stewards of this community treasure.

The Tenaflly Senior Center has been an oasis over the past year and will continue to be so in 2022. Thank you to Michele Hausch and her staff for all the work they have been doing to provide a home away from home for our Seniors during a most trying time. We all applaud you.

Last year, we received half of the 1.4 million dollars designated to Tenaflly from the American Rescue Act. We expect to receive the balance of the dollars this spring. The Council and I are discussing options for the use of the money that benefits Tenaflly residents in the most direct way possible.

In 2021 the Borough Council and I again focused tax dollars and energy on continuing our road improvement paving program throughout Tenaflly and will continue to do so in 2022.

Residents often ask how we decide which roads are chosen for paving each year.

Our Borough Engineer completed a road paving study which graded the quality of our roads using measurements such as age, cracks, and pothole volume. We then take this data, establish a paving budget, and spread the work roughly equally in all neighborhoods on those road identified as most in need.

In 2021 we encouraged and coordinated with our local water supplier, SUEZ, to continue their improvements to supply pipes that deliver water to our homes. The SUEZ program has included replacing water mains and removing lead service lines in our streets. We look forward to these improvements continuing in 2022.

Many communities are experiencing an increase in car thefts. Together with Borough Council support, the Police Chief, and the County Prosecutors Office we are installing camera equipment and processes to assist in the protection of our community to help discourage potential car thefts and collect vital information in the event of a theft. Our immediate goal is to increase the tools available to assist our law enforcement professionals in carrying out their work protecting our residents.

In 2021 our Downtown Committee invested significant time and energy conducting public discussions and soliciting resident feedback to help identify important ideas for improving Tenaflly's downtown areas.

Some of the resident feedback priorities include improvements to traffic flow, safer walking paths, and increasing the quality of places to meet. Feedback focused on increasing Tenaflly's business friendly attitude and working to removing barriers for businesses. Feedback also included that we should be proactively pursuing business interest in Tenaflly.

The rejuvenation and evolution of our downtown areas reflects the changing nature of resident expectations and behaviors. I look forward to working with the Council to move the ideas of the Downtown Committee forward, into action this season.

The Council and I are looking forward to 2022. We have much work to do paving roads, improving the quality of our downtown, keeping our parks beautiful, and providing programs for our youth and seniors.

As always, we will continue to focus on the priorities of the residents and taxpayers as our primary responsibility.

Thank you everyone and have a very happy and healthy New Year in 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion from C. Dayton second by C. Michaels, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Omar Stovall, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk