

Borough of Tenafly

Annual Meeting of the Mayor and Council

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

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

MINUTES

At 07:32p.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#22-409 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 on January 1, 2023.”

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Zinna

County Clerk John S. Hogan certified Tenafly’s election results from the November 8, 2022 General Election.

Borough Clerk Omar Stovall called the roll of the present Council, which consisted of Councilmembers Lauren Dayton, Jeffrey Grossman, Venugopal Menon, and Julie O’ Connor, and Mayor Zinna

Bergen County Executive James Tedesco administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Dan Park

Bergen County Executive James Tedesco presented a certificate of accommodation to Council-Elect Dan Park

Special Master of the United States Court of Federal Claims Mindy Michaels Roth administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Adam Michaels

Bergen County Executive James Tedesco presented a certificate of accommodation to Council-Elect Adam Michaels

Borough Clerk Stovall called the roll of the 2023 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
Borough Clerk Omar Stovall
Chief Financial Officer Susan Corrado

Appointment of Borough Attorney

Mayor Zinna appointed Wendy Rubinstein, Esq. to serve as Borough Attorney in 2023 and asked for confirmation of his appointment by the Council.

#R23-01/Confirmation of Appointment of Borough Attorney

Motion by Grossman, second by C. Park that #R23-01 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 2023.

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.

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.
None.

#R23-02/Confirm Appointment of Labor Counsel – Weiner Law Group, LLP

Motion by C. Dayton second by C. Park that #R23-02 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: nay	C. Park: aye

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

Motion by C. Dayton second by C. Park that #R23-03 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

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

Motion by C. Grossman second by C. Park that #R23-04 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

#R22-05/ Confirm Appointment of Tax Appeal Attorney – Trenk Isabel Siddiqi & Shahdanian P.C.

Motion by C. Menon second by C. Dayton that #R23-05 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

#R22-06/ Confirm Appointment of Alternate Tax Appeal Attorney – Gloria Oh Law Group, LLC

Motion by C. Dayton second by C. Menon that #R23-06 be approved.

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

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

#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. Park second by C. Dayton that #R23-07 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
Mary Beth Wilmit	4 yrs.	1/1/2027
2nd Alternate – Darren Esser	2 yrs.	1/1/2025

M. Zinna thanked Mary Beth Wilmit for years of service on the Planning Board.

#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 Grossman is hereby designated as a Class III member of the Planning for a one-year term to expire on January 1, 2024.

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

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

C. Dayton:	nay	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
Paul Brensilber	4 yrs.	1/1/2027
2nd Alternate – Linda Khorozian	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Venugopal Menon, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2024

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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION	Term	Expires
2nd Alternate – Eve Bolkin	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Dan Park, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2024
Julie O' Connor, Council Liaison	1 yr.	1/1/2024

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	Term	Expires
Brendan Lee	4 yrs.	1/1/2027
1 st Alternate – Thorin Tritter(unexpired Yang)	2 yrs.	1/1/2024
2nd Alternate – Steven Standler	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Jeff Grossman, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2024

#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
Berton Greenberg, PhD	4 yrs.	1/1/2027
Julie O' Connor, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2024

Motion by C. Grossman, 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
Kathleen Cook	5 yrs.	1/1/2028
Nicole Motz, Mayor's Alternate	1 yr.	1/1/2024

Motion by C. Michaels, second by C. Dayton 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
Angela Leone Hitchcock	3 yrs.	1/1/2026
Glen Anderson	3 yrs.	1/1/2026
David Reichel	3 yrs.	1/1/2026
Chad Coleman (unexpired Alvator)	3 yrs.	1/1/2024
Adam Michaels, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2024

Motion by C. Park, second by C. Grossman 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
Robert Pecorella	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Carol Somerville	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Andrew Pecorella	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Tami Luchow Sachs	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Hercules Invictus	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Sammy Ghazal	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Mayor Mark Zinna	1 yr.	1/1/2024
Robert Byrnes, Sr., Construction Official	1 yr.	1/1/2024
Jamie Cannon, Recreation Director	1 yr.	1/1/2024
Michael Cassidy, DPW Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2024
TBD, School District Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2024
Julie O' Connor, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2024

Motion by C. Grossman, second by C. Park 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.	1/1/2024

Motion by C. Grossman, second by C. Park that #R22-13 be approved.

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

C. Dayton:	nay	C. Michaels:	aye
C. Grossman:	aye	C. O'Connor:	aye
C. Menon:	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
Mehru Cama	3 yrs.	1/1/2026
Carol Petrovich	3 yrs.	1/1/2026
Steve Savas	3 yrs.	1/1/2026
Mary Ann Barzelatto	3 yrs.	1/1/2026
Michele Hausch	1 yr.	1/1/2024

Patricia Ramella	1 yr.	1/1/2024
Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison	1 yr.	1/1/2024

TENAFLY WELCOME! COMMITTEE

	Term	Expires
Yuliya Sandler	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Alida Kratnoff	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Nini Wong	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Phyllis Lin	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Roxana Surrey	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Lily Lee	2 yrs.	1/1/2025
Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison	1 yr.	1/1/2024

STIGMA FREE COMMITTEE

Mayor Mark Zinna
 Pam Kulisek
 Phillis Lin
 Tom Song
 Gia Shin
 Miranda Lee
 Suzanne Bassett
 Jodi Bienenfeld
 Rachel Goldberg
 Hercules Invictus
 Jen Rosen
 Sarah Shultz
 Gina Toddings
 Lynne Weber
 Simone Zinna
 Julie O’ Connor, Council Liaison

DOG PARK COMMITTEE

Alison Chertoff
 Christine Evron
 Peter Rustin
 Daniel Park, Council Liaison

BOROUGH/JOINT USE COMMITTEE

Mayor Mark Zinna, Chair
 Councilmember Adam Michaels
 Councilmember Daniel Park

TENAFLY NATURE CENTER

Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison

TENAFLY PRESENTS

Mayor Mark Zinna
 Jeff Grossman, Council Liaison
 Alona Wartofsky
 Richard Baratta
 Sam Rosmarin

TENAFLY PRIDE COMMITTEE

Natalie Kavanagh, Chair
 Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison

TENAFLY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Adam Michaels, Council Liaison

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Mark Zinna
 Howard Seiden
 Robert Chamberlain, Police Chief

Kevin Tremble
Michael Bishop
Alexandra Burshatsky

NORTHERN VALLEY GREENWAY COMMITTEE

Andrew Mikesch
Michael Coven
Chad Coleman
Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison

DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Jeanne Rivkin, Co-Chair
Jamie Corsair, Co-Chair
Michele Ross
Sharon Nevins
Daniel Zausner
David Jang
Deborah Adler
Jenny Jackson
Stephanie Cohen
Shepard Grinker
Alex Sakin
Adam Michaels, Council Liaison

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Stephen Selver
Gary Gabriel
Todd Kushman
Dan Park

CANNABIS GUIDANCE COMMITTEE

Councilmembers Jeff Grossman, Venugopal Menon, and Julie O'Connor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mayor Mark Zinna,
Jeff Grossman
Lauren Dayton

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenafly Senior Center

Venugopal Menon, Council Liaison

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenafly Fire Department

Venugopal Menon, Council Liaison

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenafly Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Jeff Grossman, Council Liaison

Appointment of Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Mark Zinna
Daniel Park, Council Liaison
Lauren Dayton, Council Liaison

CONSENT AGENDA

- #R23-14/Adopt 2023 Meeting Schedule/Holiday Calendar
- #R23-15/Confirm Time and Place for 2023 Council Meetings
- #R23-16/Authorize Adoption of Minutes and Consent Agenda at Regular Meetings
- #R23-17/Confirm Process for Determination of 2023 Salaries
- #R23-18/Confirm Elected Officers to the Tenafly Fire Department
- #R23-19/Designate Official Depositories and Accounts/Authorize Signatures
- #R23-20/Appoint Tax Search Officer
- #R23-21/Appoint Insurance Commissioner
- #R23-22/Appoint Official Municipal Improvement Searcher
- #R23-23/Ratify Public Official Bonds/Finance Office

- #R23-24/Designate Official Newspapers
- #R23-25/Appoint Deputy Treasurer
- #R23-26/Appoint Apportionment Officer
- #R23-27/Authorize Adjustments/Assessor
- #R23-28/Authorize Stipulations/Assessor
- #R23-29/Authorize Semi-Monthly Payrolls
- #R23-30/Appoint Risk Management Consultant
- #R23-31/Appoint Public Agency Compliance Officer
- #R23-32/Authorize Cancellation of Tax Refunds/Delinquencies
- #R23-33/Designate Locations for Temporary Signage Displays
- #R23-34/Confirm Interest Rate for Delinquent Taxes 2023
- #R23-35/Continue Petty Cash Funds
- #R23-36/Authorize Investments and Transfers
- #R23-37/Authorize Wire Transfers
- #R23-38/Approve Cash Management Plan
- #R23-39/Reaffirm Personnel Manual for 2023
- #R23-40/Adopt Robert's Rules of Order
- #R23-41/Authorize Insufficient Funds Fee
- #R23-42/Authorize participation in the Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force
- #R23-43/Authorize the Tenaflly Police Department to Participate in the LESO 1033 Program
- #R23-44/ Adopt Notice of Tort Claim Form
- #R23-45/ Intend to Work Cooperatively for the Planning and Development of a Green Way within the Municipalities of Tenaflly, Englewood, Cresskill, Demarest, Closter, Norwood and Northvale, Hereto Referred to as the Northern Valley Towns
- #23-46/Authorize Professional Services of a Municipal Financial Advisor
- #R23-47/ Adopt No Cash Policy
- #R23-48/Approve Temporary Budget 2023

Motion by C. Park, second by C. Dayton 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 and welcome to 2023.

Congratulations to Council members Dan Park and Adam Michaels on their reelection. Thank you both for your continued service to the Tenaflly community.

The number one priority of a municipal government is to provide services to the residents they serve. Our focus at Borough Hall continues to be road paving, pothole repair, park beautification and upgrades, senior programs, the library, recreation and downtown improvements.

I would like to thank the approximately 130 plus residents who volunteer to serve on our different commissions, committees and boards. And thank you to all the resident coaches and trainers that volunteer for our youth sports programs. Without your help, Tenaflly could not maintain its high levels of services and opportunities.

Today, I would like to recognize the Public Works Department for their non-stop work serving the residents of Tenaflly. In addition to their normal responsibilities of communicating with residents, scheduling work, street cleaning, leaf pick-up, snow plowing, pothole repair, park and playground maintenance, recycling collection, operating the Recycling Center, storm clean-up and a host of other hidden tasks, they are also out there in the community, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, solving emergent problems as they occur. I would like to personally thank all the team members of the Public Works Department for their work and commitment to the residents of Tenaflly.

By the way, in 2022 the Public Works Department used approximately 275 tons of blacktop to repair potholes throughout Tenaflly. About 10% more than in 2021.

Our Ambulance Corp continues to exemplify the art of volunteer public service to our community. This group of trained, skilled and young volunteers responded to 837 emergency ambulance calls in 2022. Thank you to all our volunteer ambulance members.

Thank you to our Police and Volunteer Fire professionals. Your efforts and commitment to safety, service and saving lives is deeply appreciated by all the residents of Tenaflly.

In an effort to deter car thefts and assist in law enforcement efforts, our Police department recently installed sixteen license plate camera readers at eight different major street locations in Tenaflly. With guidance and coordination from the Bergen County Prosecutors Office, we expect the cameras to be fully online shortly.

Thank you to our Borough Hall, Library and Senior Center employees who maintain our facilities, provide the backbone of our government administration, manage our tax dollars, and administer all the operations necessary for the borough to function.

Over the past several years storm water has been emerging as an increasingly major issue in Tenaflly, and throughout our region. Simply put, rainfalls have been increasing in intensity, with higher volumes of water falling in shorter periods of time. The result is that our storm drain systems and streams become quickly overwhelmed, flooding neighborhoods and basements.

Our borough's storm drain system was designed decades ago to remove water created by much smaller rain storms than we are experiencing today. This problem is compounded because of the accumulation of brush, leaves and fallen trees from streams on private property.

We are tasking our borough engineer to locate and map the entire storm drain system so we can identify the systems capabilities, weak points and portions in need of repair.

While the Borough cleans and maintains that portion of streams located on public property, individual homeowners have been traditionally responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of streams that run through their private property. This means that there is presently no organized process to clean out and maintain the free flow of water on private property.

We have begun discussions with our borough engineer on the most cost effective way to keep all our waterways clear and free flowing within their banks. There is no way for us to prevent every storm variable, but we can move forward to help improve the situation.

In addition to the efforts within Tenaflly to address the water situation, we have enlisted the help of our representatives at the State and Federal level to develop a regional solution to this challenge.

In 2023 we will need to make decisions about the most cost effective way to pick up our residential garbage. Towns in northern New Jersey that are renewing their garbage contracts with private haulers are experiencing 40% to 60% price increases. Our garbage contract is up in 2024 and we are in the midst of analyzing whether to continue utilizing private contractors or to bring garbage pick up in-house for our DPW to perform.

After a successful 2021 of public feedback and planning, 2022 was about action for our Downtown Revitalization. From further beautifying Huyler Park with enhanced seating and beautification, to upgrading our lighting on Washington Street and Railroad Avenue, we are now fully in the results phase of our work. We have already kicked off 2023 with two new initiatives: engineering work to improve traffic flow and public safety downtown and branding work to bring our downtown to life for our residents, visitors and businesses. Be on the lookout for public input sessions in the coming months.

2023 is here. Regardless of any day to day obstacles, the overall goal of serving residents is our priority. We will continue paving roads, improving the parks and playgrounds, and provide quality programs for our youth and seniors.

The Council and I recognize that the tax dollars of our residents is a valuable resource that needs to be administered and utilized as efficiently as possible. As residents of Tenafly we all expect quality services for the tax dollars we pay.

Thank you everyone for joining us here today, and may we all have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2023.

Mayor Mark Zinna

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion from C. Park second by C. Grossman, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Omar Stovall, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk