

**Minutes REORGANIZATION MEETING JANUARY 1, 2024 at 11 A.M.**

A Reorganization Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Berkeley was held on Monday, January 1, 2024, at the Municipal Building, Pinewald Keswick Road, Bayville, New Jersey. Present were Council Members Gingrich, Guadagno, Byrnes, Buscio, Signorile, Bowens and Grosse. Also present were Mayor Amato, Administrator Camera, Chief Santucci, Attorney Staiger, Engineer Dittenhofer, Engineer LeCompte and Planner Oris.

Mayor Elect Bacchione led in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a recording of Jim Mooney singing the National Anthem

Reverend Shawn Hyland gave the Invocation

Township Clerk read the Certification of November Election from the County Clerk and Board of Canvassers as follows: **Pursuant to the November 27, 2023 certification of the November 7, 2023 General election made by the Ocean County Clerk Scott Colabella and attested to By the County Board of canvassers, The Results of the November 7, 2023 election are as follows:**

**John A. Bacchione as Mayor for a 4 Year term**

**L. Thomas Grosse, Jr, Council- At -Large for a 4 Year term**

**Keith A. Buscio Council- At -Large for a 4 Year term**

**Douglas Bowens Council- At -Large for a 4 Year term**

Attorney Staiger advised that the Official Swearing in was dine by her prior to the Meeting and t Senator elect Amato will conduct a ceremonial Swearing in:

**HONORABLE Carmen F. Amato, Jr. administered the Oath of Office for:**

**COUNCILMAN TOM GROSSE**

**HONORABLE Carmen F. Amato, Jr. administered the Oath of Office for:**

**COUNCILMAN KEITH BUSCIO**

**HONORABLE Carmen F. Amato, Jr. . administered the Oath of Office for:**

**COUNCILMAN-ELECT Douglas Bowens**

Swearing in Ceremony of Mayor:

**HONORABLE Carmen F. Amato, Jr. . administered the Oath of Office for:**

**MAYOR John A. Bacchione**

**The Honorable Senator Elect Carmen F, Amato, Jr. thanked everyone for their support it was an honor a privilege to serve and look forward to his next chapter and feels he is leaving the Township in good hands.**

**Councilman Keith Buscio wishes Senator Elect Amato good luck in Trenton and adds the Council will support him and thanks the residents for their support.**

**Councilman Tom Grosse thanks everyone for their support for their team and congratulates everyone on their victories and a happy New year.**

**Councilman Douglas Bowens explains what an honor and privilege it tis to serve Berkeley Township and looking forward to doing his best and thanks everyone for their support including his family.**

**George Gilmore thanks mayor Bacchione for the opportunity to speak and adds the Township is undergoing a changing of the guards and adds the Township isn't losing carmen Amato but putting in a higher position of service. Th eTownship is also getting a seasoned Mayor ib John Bacchiome.**

**Mayor John A. Bacchione states he is overwhelmed and appreciative of everyone who came to this ceremony today and wished everyone a safe, healthy, prosperous New Year and thanks his family for their love and support. He further thanks the residents and lays out his plan for the next four years.**

Reverend Shawn Hyland gives the Benediction: .

Mayor Bacchione announces they will take a short breakan invites everyone to the Forehouse for lunch.

**ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Buscio, Signorile, Bowens, Grosse

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ABSENT: None

On motion by Councilman Grosse, seconded by Councilman Guadano, to appoint Councilman Keith Buscio as Council President for 2024.

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

On motion by Councilman Grosse, seconded by Councilman Bowers, to appoint Councilman Angelo Guadagno as *Council Vice President*

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Grosse approval of *Resolution. #24-01-R re: Appointment of Deputy Clerk*

***Vanessa Borio***

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Council President Buscio announced he would read five resolution titles into the record and then ask for a motion and roll call vote for the group.

Attorney Staiger advised at any time a Council member can ask to pull a resolution out for a separate vote

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Grosse approval of *Resolutions #24-02-R through #24-06-R*

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

*Resol. #24-02-R re: Appointment of Auditing, Special Auditing and Related Services (1-yr. Term to expire 12/31/2024)*

***Holman, Frenia & Allison, PC, Auditor***

*Resol. #24-03 -R re: Appointment of Golf Advisory Committee (1-yr. Term to expire 12/31/2024)*

***Mbr. #8 Angelo Guadagno Council Liaison***

***Mbr. #1 Scott Selby***

***Mbr #2 Taylor Butler***

***Mbr #3 Brendan Villano***

***Mbr. #4 Nick Donatiello***

***Mbr. #7 Marc Slack***

*Resol. #24-04-R re: Appointment of Planning Board Class III Member – & Council Liaison- Michael Signorile*

*Resol. #24-05-R re: Consenting to the Appointment of Chief Municipal*

*Prosecutor – 1-yr. term - 1/1/24 expiring 12/31/24*

***Steven Zabarsky, Esq. of Citta, Holzapfel & Zabarsky (Lead)***

From the Firm of Citta, Holzapfel, & Zabarsky:

***Barry Stieber, Esq.*** David Bakardjiev, Esq.

*Resol. #24-06-R re: Consenting to the Appointment of Alternate Municipal*

*Prosecutors – 1-yr. terms - 1/1/24 expiring 12/31/24*

***Bonnie Peterson, Esq.***

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Grosse approval of

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Resolutions #24-07-R through #24-11-R

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowens, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Resol. #24-07-R re: Consenting to the Appointment of Municipal Public Defender –  
1-yr. term 1/1/24 and expiring 12/31/24 **Brian DiStefano, Esq.**

Resol. #24-08-R re: Consenting to the Appointment of Additional Conflict Public Defenders  
– 1-yr. terms – 1/1/24 and expiring 12/31/24

**John J. Novak, PC** **Garrick Slavick, Esq.**

Resol. #24-09-R re: Appointing Conflict Township Engineers

**Morgan Engineering** **Najarian Associates, Inc.**

**Alaimo Group** **Van Cleef Engineers**

**CME Associates** **Suburban Consultants**

**Owen Little Engineers** **Colliers Engineering**

Resol. #24-10-R re: Appointing Conflict Township Planners

**CME Associates** **ARH Associates**

Resol. #24-11-R re: Appointing Consulting Township Engineers

**T&M Associates** **Najarian Associates, Inc.**

**Alaimo Group, CME Associates, Colliers Engineering**

**Suburban Consultants** **Morgan Engineering, ACT Engineers**

On motion by Councilman Grosse, seconded by Councilman Guadagno approval of  
Resolutions #24-12-R through #24-16-R

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowens, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Resol. #24-12-R re: Appointing Capital Project Township Engineers

**Remington, Vernick & Vena Engineers** **Najarian Associates, Inc.** **Alaimo Group**

**CME Associates** **Morgan Engineering**

**T&M Associates** **ACT Engineers** **Suburban Consultants**

**Owen Little & Associates,** **Van Cleef Engineering,**

Resol. #24-13-R re: Appointing a Computer Consultant

**Coastal Solutions, LLC**

Resol. #24-14-R re: Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

**Council Liaison** **Michael Signorile**

**Mbr. #9** **Sylvia Orlando** **3-yr. Term expiring 12/31/2026**

Resol. #24-15-R re: Appointing Mills & Schnoering for Architectural Services for  
Manitou Park Schoolhouse Project

Resol. 24-16-R re Appointing Yezzi & Associates General Architectural Services

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Grosse approval of  
Resolutions #24-17-R through #24-21-R

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowens, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Resol. #24-17-R re: Appointing Conflict Township Attorneys

**Steven A. Zabarsky, Esq.** **Gregory McGuckin, Esq.** **Kevin B. Riordan, Esq.**

**Garrick Slavick, Esq.** **John J. Novak, Esq.** **Joseph Coronato, Esq.**

**Parker McKay, Rothstein, Mandell, Strohm, Halm, & Cipriani,**

**Dillworth Paxton, DiFrancesco Bateman Coley Yospin Kunzman Davis Lehrer & Flaum, PC**

Resol. #24-18-R re: Appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer **Christine J. Manolio**

Resol. #24-19-R re: Hurricane SANDY Relief Fund Committee Appointments

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- Mbr. #1**     **James J. Byrnes**     **1-yr. Term expiring 12/31/2024**  
Resol. #24-20-R re: Appointing Fire Committee
- Mbr. #1**     **L. Thomas Grosse (council liaison)**     **1-yr term expiring 12/31/2024**  
**Mbr. #2**     **Kenneth Anderson**     **2-yr. term expiring 12/31/2025**  
**Mbr. #3**     **Chief Of Bayville Fire CO**     **2-yr. term expiring 12/31/2025**  
**Mbr. #4**     **Chief Of Pinewald Fire CO**     **2-yr. term expiring 12/31/2025**  
**Mbr. #5**     **Chief Of Manitow Fire CO**     **2-yr. term expiring 12/31/2025**
- Resol. #24-21-R re: Appointment – Open Space Planner for 1-yr term expiring 12/31/24:  
**Remington & Vernick**

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Grosse approval of Resolutions #24-22-R through #24-27-R

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

- Resol. #24-22-R re: Appointment – Real Estate Appraisal Services for 1-yr term expiring 12/31/24: **Henry Mancini, MAI**
- Resol. #24-23-R re: Appointment – Recreation Advisory Council  
**Mbr. #11**     **Keith Fischer**     **1-yr. term expiring 12/31/2024**
- Resol. #24-24-R re: Appointment – Zoning Board of Adjustment  
**Mbr. #1**     **William McGrath**     **Unexpired Term ending 12/31/24**  
**Mbr. #6**     **Ralph Ferrara**     **4-yr. term expiring 12/31/2027**  
**Mbr. #7**     **Edward Gudaitis**     **4-yr. term expiring 12/31/2027**  
**Alt. Mbr. #1**     **Trent Stone**     **2-yr. term expiring 12/31/2025**  
**Alt. Mbr. #3**     **Raymond Sager**     **2-yr. term expiring 12/31/2025**  
**Alt. Mbr. #4**     **Shawn Hyland**     **2-yr. term expiring 12/31/2025**
- Resol. #24-25-R re: Appointment – Municipal Utilities Authority  
**Alt. Mbr. #2**     **William McGrath**     **5-year term expiring 1/31/2028**
- Resol. #24-26-R re: Appointment – Sewerage Authority  
**Mbr. #1**     **Wendy Colombo**     **5-yr. term expiring 12/31/2028**
- Resol. #24-27-R re: Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee  
**Council Liaison – Sophia Gingrich**     **1 yr. term exp. 12/31/2024**

On motion by Councilman Grosse, seconded by Councilman Guadagno approval of Letter from Mayor Bacchione with his appointments requiring Advice & Consent of Council:Items 1-8

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

1. Resol. #24-28-R re: Appointment of Bond Counsel – 1-yr. Term Expiring 12/31/24  
**Meghan Bennett of the firm of Dillworth Paxson**
2. Resol. #24-29-R re: Appointment of Historian 1-yr. Term Expiring 12/31/24 **Gerard Morey**
3. Resol. #24-30-R re: Appointment of Labor Counsel 1-yr. Term Expiring 12/31/24  
**Armando Riccio**
4. Resol. #24-31-R re: Appointment of Alternate Labor Counsel 1-yr. Term Expiring 12/31/24  
**Citta, Holzapfel & Zabarsky Rothstein, Mandell, Strohm, Halm, & Cipriani Gregory McGuckin, Esq.**
5. Resol. #24-32-R re: Appointment of Licensing Official for Dogs  
1-yr. Term Expiring 12/31/2024 **Frank Casalino**
6. Resol. #24-33-R re: Appointment of Township Physician & Police Surgeon  
1-yr. Term Expiring 12/31/24  
**Dr. Theodore Ende Concentra**
7. Resol. #24-34-R re: Recommendation of Workmen’s Compensation Doctors  
1-yr. Term Expiring 12/31/24  
**Dr. Theodore Ende Worknet Occupational Medicine**
8. Resol. #24-35-R re: Community Development Block Grant Coordinator

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**Alan Dittenhofer Ernie Peters (alternate)**

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Grosse approval of Resolutions #24-36-R through #24-40-R

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Buscio #24-36-R

ABSENT: None

Resol. #24-36-R re: Official Depositories for Township Funds

Resol. #24-37-R re: Designation of Official Newspapers-

**Asbury Park Press Press of Atlantic City Berkeley Times**  
Resol. #24-38-R re: Annual Schedule of Meetings

January 22 <i>4th Monday</i>	March 18	May 20	July 15	September 16	November 18
February 26 <i>4th Monday</i>	April 15	June 17	August 19	October 21	December 16

Resol. #24-39-R re: Cash Management Plan

Resol. #24-40-R re: Temporary Budget Appropriations

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Grosse approval of Resolutions #24-41-R through #24-45-R

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Resol. #24-41-R re: Fix the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes or Assessments

Resol. #24-42-R re: Authorizing the Business Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with

**Conner, Strong & Buckelew** to Act as the Township's Risk Manager.

Resol. #24-43-R re: Appointment of Disciplinary Hearing Officers- 1-yr, term expiring 12/31/24

**Bonnie Peterson, Esq. Citta, Holzapfel & Zabarsky**

**Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky & Connors, Kevin Rirodan, Esq.**

Resol. #24-44-R re: Appointment of Commissioners to the Garden State

Joint Insurance Fund – 1-yr, term expiring 12/31/24

Fund Commissioner – **James J. Byrnes**

Fund Alternate Commissioner – **John Camera**

On motion by Councilman Signorile, seconded by Councilman Grosse approval of Resolutions #24-45-R through #24-50-R

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Resol. #24-45-R re: Appointment – Waterways Advisory Commission

**Council Liaison James Byrnes 1 yr term expiring 12/31/2024**

**Alt. Mbr. #2 James Blavat 2 yr term expiring 12/31/2025**

Resol. #24-46-R re: Appointing Tax Appeal Attorneys

**Kevin B. Riordan, Esq., Dasti and Staiger PC.;**

Resol. #24-47-R re: Appointing Director of Law

**Lauren R. Staiger, Esq.**

**of the firm of Dasti and Staiger PC**

Resol. #24-48-R re: Appointing Director of Engineering

**Alan Dittenhofer, P.E. of Remington & Vernick**

Resol. #24-49-R re: Appointing Director of Planning

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**James M. Oris of Remington & Vernick**

Resol. #24-50--R re: Appointment – Veterans Advisory Commission

**Council Liaison – James Byrnes**      **1-yr term expiring 12/31/2024**  
**Mbr. #2**      **James Egan**      **1-yr term expiring 12/31/2024**  
**Mbr. #3**      **Fritz Mueller**      **2-yr term expiring 12/31/2025**  
**Mbr. #4**      **Michael Tier Sr.**      **2-yr term expiring 12/31/2025**  
**Mbr. #5**      **Todd Crouse**      **2-yr term expiring 12/31/2025**

On motion by Councilman Grosse, seconded by Councilman Guadagno approval of Resolutions #24-51-R through #24-55-R

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Resol. #24-51-R re: **Appointing Grant Writer Bruno Associates**  
Resol. #24-52-R re: **Appointing Special Redevelopment Bond Counsel Archer & Greiner**  
Resol. #24-53-R re: **Appointing Township Financial Advisor Phoenix Advisors, LLC**  
Resol. #24-54-R re: **Appointing Township Affordable Housing Administrative Agent Community Grants, Planning & Housing**  
Resol. #24-55-R re: **Appointing Tax Foreclosure Attorney Joseph Coronato, Esq.**

On motion by Councilman Guadagno, seconded by Councilman Grosse approval of Resolutions #24-56-R through #24-60-R

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Resol. #24-56-R re: **Appointing Title Services Agent Mid-State Abstract Company**  
Resol. #24-57-R re: **Appointing Affordable Housing Consultant NW Financial Group**  
Resol. #24-58-R re: **Economic Development Commission Appointments**  
**Council Liaison- Keith Buscio**      **1 yr expiring 12/31/2024**  
Resol. #24-59-R re: **Appointing Shawn Thomas as Director of Public Works and Authorizing a Contract**  
Resol. #24-60-R re: **Authorizing a Contract with Maureen Cosgrove as Tax Collector**

On motion by Councilman Guadagno, seconded by Councilman Grosse approval of Resolutions #24-61-R through #24-65-R

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Resol. #24-61-R re: **Appointing John Camera as Administrator and Authorizing a Contract**  
Resol. #24-62-R re: **Appointing Christine J. Manolio as Director of Treasury Finance and Collection and Authorizing a Contract**  
Resol. #24-63-R re: **Appointing Gina Russo as Human Resources Director and Authorizing a Contract**  
Resol. #24-64-R re: **Authorizing a Contract with Eric Zanetti as Tax Assessor**  
Resol. #24-65-R re: **Authorizing a Contract with Kevin Santucci as Chief of Police**

On motion by Councilman Grosse, seconded by Councilman Guadagno approval of Resolutions #24-66-R through #24-70-R

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowers, Grosse, Buscio  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

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- Resol. #24-66-R re: *Authorizing a Contract with Karen Stallings as Township Clerk*  
Resol. #24-67-R re: *Authorizing a Contract with Michael Tier as Assistant Administrator*  
Resol. #24-68-R re: *Authorizing a Contract with Stacey Georgakilis as Secretary to the Mayor*  
Resol. #24-69-R re: *Authorizing a Contract with Anthonie Ricciardi as Confidential Aid to the Mayor*  
Resol. #24-70-R re: *The Tax Assessor Or Tax Appeal Attorney Is Hereby Authorized To Act As The Agent For The Taxing District During The Year Of 2024*

On motion by Councilman Signorile, seconded by Councilman Byrnes approval of Resolutions #24-71-R through #24-74-R

**ROLL CALL:**

AYE: Gingrich Guadagno, Byrnes, Signorile, Bowens, Grosse, Buscio  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Resol. #24-71-R re: *Designating Official Depositories Designated To Affix Their Signatures or Facsimile to the Signature Cards For Banking*

Resol. #24-72-R re: *Authorizing Purchasing Through Various Cooperative Purchasing Programs*

Resol. #24-73-R re: *Appointments to the Municipal Alliance Committee*

Mbr. #1	Stacey Georgakilis
Mbr. #2	Police (DARE) -Mikki Baranyay
Mbr. #3	Pres Of School Board -Michele Shedlock
Mbr. #4	Superintendent James Roselli
Mbr. #7	Chamber of Commerce Member -John Crisafulli
Mbr. #10	Civic Group Rep - Beth Collis
Mbr. #11	Treatment Group Rep - Christine Selby
Mbr. #12	Religious Group Rep - Shawn Hyland
Resol. #24-74-R re:	Appoint Municipal Alliance Coordinator 1 year term expiring 12/31/24 Jennifer Bacchione

**Council President Buscio opened the Meeting for Public Comments. There being None.**

On motion by Councilman Byrnes, seconded by Councilman Signorile, to close the public portion of the meeting and adjourn/

A voice vote was taken with no **NAYS** heard.

Following are the Ordinances and Resolutions adopted by the Township Council and made a part of this meeting.

Karen Stallings  
Township Clerk

Keith Buscio  
Council President

