

**BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
2026 REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 1, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting called to order at _____ p.m.

2. MAYOR’S STATEMENT

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting by Resolution #25-324 has been sent to The Record, The Star Ledger, and Cablevision, placed on a Municipal Bulletin Boards, and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

4. INVOCATION

SWEARING-IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

5. Reading of the Election Certificate of Councilwoman-Elect Ora C. Kornbluth.

Councilwoman-Elect Ora C. Kornbluth to be sworn in by New Jersey State Assemblyman Chris Tully.

6. Reading of the Election Certificate of Councilman – Elect Salvador “Buddy” Deauna.

Councilman-Elect “Buddy” Deauna to be sworn in by Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III.

7. Roll Call of 2026 Council

Roll Call	Present	Absent
MAYOR ARVIN AMATORIO		
COUNCILMAN DOMINGO ALMONTE		
COUNCILMAN BUDDY DEAUNA		
COUNCILWOMAN ORA KORNBLUTH		
COUNCILMAN THOMAS LODATO		
COUNCILMAN MARC PASCUAL		
COUNCILMAN HERNANDO RIVERA		

8. **PRESENTATIONS** – At this time, any presentations may be made.

9. STATEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Mayor Amatorio opens the meeting and invites the public to comment on any subject matter, limited to five (5) minutes per speaker.

11. **RESOLUTION 26-001**/To Appoint Councilman Domingo Almonte as Council President.

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

12. **RESOLUTION 26-002**/To Establish the Seating Order of the 2026 Governing Body.

Councilman Thomas A. Lodato
 Councilman Buddy Deauna
 Council President Domingo Almonte
 Mayor Arvin Amatorio
 Councilwoman Ora C. Kornbluth
 Councilman Hernando Rivera
 Councilman Marc Pascual

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

13. Mayor recommends and nominates John L. Schettino, LLC to the position of Borough Attorney for a one-year term, expiring 12/31/2026.

RESOLUTION 26-003/To Confirm Mayor’s nomination of John L. Schettino, LLC as Borough Attorney.

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

14. Mayor recommends and nominates Franklin S. Montero, Esq. to the position of Municipal Court Judge for a three-year term, term expiring 12/31/28.

RESOLUTION 26-004/To Confirm Mayor’s nomination of Franklin S. Montero, Esq. as Municipal Court Judge.

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

15. **CONSENT RESOLUTION 26-005.** All matters listed below are considered by the Governing Body to be routine in nature. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by the Governing Body, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

- a. **26-006/**Adopt By-Laws for 2026
- b. **26-007/**Establishing Meeting Dates
- c. **26-008/**Reaffirming Interest Rates and Dates on Delinquent Taxes
- d. **26-009/**Authorizing Fire Department Mutual Aid
- e. **26-010/**Confirming Source Separation and Recycling
- f. **26-011/**Reaffirming Petty Cash and Change Funds
- g. **26-012/**Designate Official Depositories for Current Operating Funds
- h. **26-013/**Designate Secondary Bank Accounts, Signatories and Fiduciary Responsibilities
- i. **26-014/**Authorizing the Utilization of GovDeals, Inc. for the Purpose of Disposing of Surplus Equipment
- j. **26-015/**Authorizing Tax Collector to Cancel Tax Overpayments or Delinquent Amounts less than \$10.00
- k. **26-016/**Authorizing \$20.00 Fee for Tax Payments Returned for Insufficient Funds
- l. **26-017/**Authorizing Police Department Mutual Aid
- m. **26-018/**Approving the December 16, 2025 Regular Public Meeting Minutes
- n. **26-019/**Approving the 2026 Tow Companies
- o. **26-020/**Approving a Tax Sale Certificate \$50.00 Fee for Third Redemption Request or More

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					

ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

16. **RESOLUTION 26-021**/To Approve Temporary Budget Appropriations in CY 2026.

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

17. **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor recommends and nominates the following professionals for a one-year term, term expiring 12/31/26:

- a. Borough Engineer: Remington & Vernick Engineers
- b. Special Projects Engineer: T&M Associates
- c. Bond Counsel: Rogut McCarthy, LLC
- d. Labor Counsel: Trenk Isable Siddiqi & Shahdnian, P.C.
- e. Tax Appeal Counsel: Boggia Boggia & Betesh, LLC
- f. Borough Auditor: Lerch, Vinci, & Bliss, LLP
- g. Risk Manager: GJEM Insurance Agency, Inc.
- h. Grant Writer and Consultant: Millennium Strategies, LLC
- i. Borough Appraiser: Appraisal Systems, Inc.
- j. Borough Prosecutor: Marc A. Calello, P.C.
- k. Alternate Borough Prosecutor: Linda H. Schwager, Esq.
- l. Public Defender: Metzdorf Law Office
- m. Planner/Engineer for Economic Development: Neglia Engineering Associates
- n. Continuing Disclosure and Independent Registered Municipal Advisor Services: Phoenix Advisors, LLC

RESOLUTION 26-022/To Confirm Professional Nominations and Authorize Execution of Contracts.

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					

KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

18. ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor recommends and nominates the following for a one-year term, term expiring 12/31/26:

- a. Wastewater Consultant C-3 Licensed Collection Operator: John Pampaloni
- b. Director of Recreation: Edward Volmer
- c. Assistant to Director of Recreation: Chris Brown
- d. Public Agency Compliance Officer: Corey Gallo
- e. Safety Coordinator: Alexandra Cacciatore
- f. Town Historian: Eva Gallione

RESOLUTION 26-023/To Ratify Administrative Appointments for 2026.

MOTION OFFERED by _____, **SECONDED** by _____.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

RECOMMENDATIONS AND NOMINATIONS FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Mayor Amatorio recommends and nominates the following to serve on the respective boards and committees:

BARRIER FREE COMMITTEE

19. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Barrier Free Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

- Lee Brinkman
- Milagros Cabuhat
- Patti Enders
- Lorraine Forcier
- Dana Macaluso Falcicchio
- Neha Puniani
- Sharon Thiermann
- Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse
- Robert Giacomelli, DPW Superintendent
- Jayne Mania, Building Dept.
- Police Officer Robert Mader

BOARD OF HEALTH

20. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Board of Health for the following terms:

Jeremy Rivera	4-year term, term exp. 12/31/29
Niharika Nath	4-year unexpired term, term exp. 12/31/28

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

21. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Environmental Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Jessica Aleman
Cris Bontia
Robert Gallione
Angela Meister
Laura Michelson
Rachana Nair
Niki Nath
Venus Rose
Paul Stypulkoski
Joseph Verga
Elena Villanueva
Craig Vogt
Robert Giacomelli, DPW Superintendent

GREEN TEAM

22. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Green Team for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Jessica Aleman
Robert Gallione
Rachana Nair
Paul Stypulkoski
Sarah Stypulkoski
Joe Verga
Corey Gallo, Administrator
Robert Giacomelli, DPW Superintendent
Dr. Chris Tully, Board of Education
Craig Vogt, Jefferson School Principal
Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

23. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Library Board of Trustees for the following terms:

Laurie Phipps 5-year term, term exp. 12/31/30

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

24. Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Local Emergency Planning Council for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Ryan Shell, Emergency Management Coordinator
Richard Goddin Jr., Deputy OEM Coordinator
Arvin Amatorio, Mayor
Ora Kornbluth, Council Liaison
Corey Gallo, Borough Administrator
Mustafa Rabboh, Police Chief
Ryan Zadrozna, Fire Chief
Alex Cacciatore, Safety Coordinator
Robert Giacomelli, DPW Superintendent
Mike Ravenda, Construction Code Official
James "Jim" Fedorko,
Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse
Dr. Christopher Tully, Board of Education Liaison

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

25. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Municipal Alliance Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Jennifer DaCosta
Linda DePinto
Mr. Robert Ragasa, Bergenfield High School
Corey Gallo, Borough Administrator
Bochy Lora
Michael Merlo, Chairperson
Nicholas Montello, County of Bergen
Thomas O'Reilly
Captain William Duran, Bergenfield Police Department
Dr. Christopher Tully, Superintendent
Student Member
Liezl Cruz, Public Health Nurse

RECREATION COMMITTEE

26. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Recreation Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

- Mariann Canino
- Diana Cifuentes
- Kevin Barlow, PAL President
- Jose Duran
- Bryan Gilligan
- Kathie Lacey
- Cesar De La Rosa
- Ines De La Rosa
- Tony Londono
- Vinnie Malley
- Ryan Martin
- Pedro Martinez
- Belinda Mendez
- Ricardo Mendoza
- Anthony Roldan
- Brian Timmons
- Melissa Weigl

RENT LEVELING BOARD

27. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Rent Leveling Board as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Diane Carlson | Tenant, 3-year term, term exp. 12/31/28 |
| Andrew "Andy" Lehr | Member, 3-year term, term exp. 12/31/28 |
| Maureen Sullivan | Tenant, 3-year term, term exp. 12/31/28 |
| Christopher Arp | Member, unexpired 3-year term, term exp. 12/31/26 |
| Sylvia Rosario | Alt. Member, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/26 |
| _____ | Alt. Member, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/26 |
| _____ | Alt. Tenant, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/26 |

MAYOR'S SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

28. Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Senior Citizen Committee for a one-year term, term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

- Loretta Amara
- Marge Alfano
- Steven Bellavia
- Lorraine Bernich
- Pat Braun
- Eileen Conroy
- Helen Folli
- Barbara Gerin

John Horsman
Linda Horsman
Gwendolyn “Wendy” McDowell
Annette Roge
Gary Romano

SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

29. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Shade Tree Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Jules Orkin
Joe Schade
Robert Giacomelli, DPW Superintendent
_____, Secretary

SITE PLAN COMMITTEE

30. Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Site Plan Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Nick Garafano, Fire Captain
Jason Bergman, Zoning Board of Adjustment
Ryan Zadrozna, Chief of the Fire Department
Robert Giacomelli, DPW Superintendent and Shade Tree Committee
John Pampaloni, WWC Operator
Mustafa Rabboh, Police Chief
Mike Ravenda, Construction Code Official
Robert Rivas, Planning Board
_____, Chair/Resident Member
Lora Shade, Bergenfield Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

STIGMA FREE COMMITTEE

31. Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Stigma Free Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Maryann Rivera — Chairwoman
Giselle Dean — Vice Chairman
Liliza Pancho
Niharika Nath
Maria Tubale-Balajadia
Bartolome Pancho
Kelle Garcia Supan
Frederick R. Quiambao
Brittney Von der Osten
Fanny Cruz Betesh

Maria Rena Penecilla
Jenny Ancheta
Rev. Rich Gelson
Kirsty Nicole Bocado

VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

32. Mayor recommends and nominates the following to serve on the Veterans Advisory Committee for a one-year term, term expiring December 31, 2026.

Venus Carpenter
Kean Castillo
Joseph J. Cutolo, American Legion Representative
Gerald J. Ferra Jr.
Edgar Garcia
Thomas Lang, Treasurer
Edward Lora, Secretary
Richard Morf
Dina Moore
Willie Moree Jr.
Dr. Samuel Paul, Chaplin
Frederick Sahlberg
Amos White
Jose Vasquez
John Smith, Ex Officio
Jesus Martinez, VFW Commander

MOTION by _____, that all nominations be confirmed.
_____ seconded the motion. R.C. All in favor _____

PLANNING BOARD

26. Mayor appoints the following to serve on the Planning Board for the following terms:

Joseph Picheo	Class II, 1-year term, term exp. 12/31/26
Romeo Abenoja	Class IV, 4-year term, term exp. 12/31/29
Oriole Familia	Class IV, 4-year term, term exp. 12/31/29
Edgar Dimaren	Class IV, 4-year term, term expiring 12/31/29
Praveen Joseph	Alternate #1, 2-year term exp. 12/31/27
Yehuda Borg	Alternate #2, 2-year unexp. term, term exp. 12/31/26

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, to appoint Thomas A. Lodato as a Class III, 1-year term, expiring 12/31/26 and Hernando Rivera as Class III, 1-year term, expiring 12/31/26. All present in favor, none opposed. R.C. All in favor _____

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

34. Council President Almonte recommends and nominates the following to serve as members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment:

Richard Morf	Member, 4-year term, term exp. 12/31/29
Jose Morel	Member, 4-year term, term exp. 12/31/29
_____	Alternate #1, 2-year term, term exp. 12/31/27
_____	Alt. #2, 2-year unexp. term, term exp. 12/31/26

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations be confirmed. R.C. All in favor _____

STANDING COMMITTEES

35. Council President Almonte nominates the following Councilmembers to serve on the following committees. The first named of each shall be the Chairperson.

FINANCE	Rivera	Pascual	Kornbluth
POLICE	Kornbluth	Almonte	Rivera
FIRE	Lodato	Deauna	Pascual
DPW & PARKS	Pascual	Kornbluth	Rivera
BUILDING & GROUNDS	Deauna	Almonte	Lodato
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	Almonte	Lodato	Deauna

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations for all Standing Committees named by Council President Almonte be confirmed.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

36. Council President Almonte nominates the following Councilmembers to serve as Liaisons to the following Boards and Committees:

AMBULANCE CORPS	Kornbluth
BARRIER FREE COMMITTEE	Deauna
BOARD OF EDUCATION	Pascual
BOARD OF HEALTH	Rivera
COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM	Almonte

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (Ecology)
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
GREEN TEAM
LIBRARY BOARD
MAYOR'S SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE
RECREATION COMMITTEE
RENT LEVELING BOARD
SHADE TREE COMMITTEE
SITE PLAN
STIGMA FREE COMMITTEE
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Rivera
Kornbluth
Deauna
Lodato
Deauna
Deauna
Kornbluth
Pascual
Almonte
Rivera
Almonte
Rivera
Pascual
Lodato

MOTION by _____, seconded by _____, that the nominations for Liaison to all Boards and Committees named by Council President Almonte be confirmed.

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Recuse
LODATO					
DEAUNA					
ALMONTE					
KORNBLUTH					
RIVERA					
PASCUAL					
AMATORIO (tie)					

ADJOURNMENT

37. There being nothing further to come before the meeting on **MOTION** offered by _____, seconded by _____, and carried the meeting adjourned at _____ p.m. R.C. All in favor _____