

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2025
8:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Arvin Amatorio, Council President Ora Kornbluth, and Council members Thomas Lodato, Buddy Deauna, Domingo Almonte, Hernando Rivera, and Marc Pascual

ABSENT: All members present.

ALSO, PRESENT: Borough Administrator Corey Gallo
Borough Attorney John Schettino
Borough Clerk Marie Quiñones-Wilson

Mayor Amatorio called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. with the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Statement, "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Notice is sent to the Record, Star Ledger, and Cablevision, placed on a Municipal Bulletin Board and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk."

The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilperson Almonte.

AGENDA CHANGES

Council President Kornbluth requested that the Proclamation in honor of Meditation Day be added to Presentations and that Resolution #25-338 to authorize payment to Rutgers University Center for Government Services be added to the agenda. Councilperson Pascual seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mayor Amatorio to approve minutes of the October 21, 2025 Regular Public Meeting, October 21, 2025 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released), November 6, 2025 Work Session Meeting, November 6, 2025 Closed Session Meeting Minutes (not to be released), December 2, 2025 Work Session Meeting, and the December 2, 2025 Closed Session Meeting (not to be released). Councilperson Lodato seconded the motion. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS I

Mayor Amatorio opened the meeting and invited the public for comments on agenda items only, limited to five minutes per speaker.

No one came forward.

There being no one else who wishes to be heard, Mayor Amatorio closed Verbal Communications I.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation in honor of World Meditation Day

Mayor Amatorio stated that World Meditation Day will be celebrated on Sunday, December 21, 2025. The proclamation will be presented in observance of this event.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

ORDINANCES

A. Adoption of Ordinances

Mayor Amatorio read the following into the Record:

The following ordinances published herewith were first read by title only on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 and posted on the bulletin board of the municipal center.

ORDINANCE 25-2656 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 50 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, ENTITLED “OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES”

ORDINANCE 25-2657 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 17 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, ENTITLED “DEPARTMENTS”

ORDINANCE 25-2658 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 299 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”

Public Comments on Ordinances 25-2656, 25-2657, 25-2658.

No one came forward.

Motion by Council President Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Pascual, to close public comments. All present voting in favor, none opposed.

Motion by Councilperson Deauna, second by Councilperson Pascual, to pass Ordinances 25-2656, 25-2657, 25-2658 on second and final reading and are hereby adopted and notice of same shall be published according to law.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

A. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT RESOLUTION 25-332. 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. ~~25-333/To Approve Bill List~~
- b. **25-334/To Approve Proposal – NJPSED Tier A Stormwater Permit Watershed Inventory Report – T&M Associates**
- c. **25-335/To Confirm Endorsements to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Projects – Home Place Improvement Project**
- d. **25-336/To Approve Refund for Overpayment – NJSS LLC**

Council President Kornbluth requested that Resolution #25-333 be considered separately to amend and remove payment to Rutgers University Center for Government Services.

Motion by Council President Kornbluth to approve the Consent Resolution as amended.
Councilperson Pascual seconded the motion.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

Motion by Councilperson Pascual, second by Councilperson Rivera, that Resolution #25-333 be approved as amended. The majority of the members present voted in favor to amend the resolution, Councilperson Almonte recused.

Motion by Council President Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Rivera, to approve Resolution #25-333 to approve the bills list as amended.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

B. Resolutions

25-337/To Approve Contract Agreement – The Bergenfield Fireman’s Association F.M.B.A
Local No.65

Motion by Councilperson Lodato, seconded by Council President Kornbluth, that Resolution #25-337 be approved.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

25-338/To Authorize Payment – Rutgers University Center for Government Services

Motion by Council President Kornbluth, seconded by Councilperson Deauna, that Resolution #25-338 be approved.

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

Councilperson Lodato:	<i>aye</i>	Council President Kornbluth:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Deauna:	<i>aye</i>	Councilperson Rivera:	<i>aye</i>
Councilperson Almonte:	<i>recuse</i>	Councilperson Pascual:	<i>aye</i>

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Updated Parking Ordinance for Johnson Avenue

Borough Administrator Gallo stated there are no updates on this ordinance, this will be done for consideration in 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

Committee/Department Reports

Motion offered by Council President Kornbluth that the Committee/Department Reports be spread upon the minutes in full and filed. Councilperson Pascual seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS II

Mayor Amatorio opened the meeting to Verbal Communications II and invited the public to comment on any subject, limited to five minutes per speaker.

John Smith, resident, thanked the Mayor and Council and the Borough Administrator for the volunteer dinner on Sunday night. He stated that he submitted an OPRA request for overnight parking phone calls, and noticed that a home that is going from a 3-bedroom home to a 6-bedroom home called the Police Department 125 times for overnight parking. He inquired how many times will they call when they have the 6 bedrooms. He commented that requestors should list a reason for a need to park their cars on the street overnight.

Mary Sullivan, resident, commented that the Department of Public Works did a great job cleaning the streets during the latest storm. She also commented that whoever decorated the tree in the main entrance of Borough Hall did a wonderful job. Ms. Sullivan wished all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and happy holidays to all.

It was clarified that the Department of Public Works decorated the tree, which was donated by the Veterans.

Firefighter Christopher Provost, President of FMBA Local 65, thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and for approving their contract. He also thanked Borough Administrator Gallo for being very accommodating and easy to work with during the negotiations.

Yehuda Borg, resident, thanked the Mayor and Council for hosting the Menorah lighting event earlier. It was well attended and everyone had a great time.

There being no one else who wishes to be heard, Mayor Amatorio closed Verbal Communications II.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilperson Lodato thanked all for coming to the meeting and wished all a good night.

Councilperson Deauna thanked everyone for coming, wished everyone a Merry Christmas, and looks forward to seeing everyone again on January 1st.

Councilperson Almonte wished everyone a good night.

Council President Kornbluth thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah for all those who celebrate. The event was great time tonight. There was an unfortunate situation in Australia this past week, it has been tough week for many communities, and so it is nice to come together to show a little light and happiness to celebrate the holiday. Thank you all who joined tonight.

Councilperson Rivera stated he is proud of the Hanukah event celebrated this evening. He expressed that seeing everyone present and the parking lot and plaza full of residents of Bergenfield, brings him joy because people are using the space for the purpose it was created. He

wished everyone a Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanzaa, Feliz Navidad, Merry Christmas, happy holidays to all and wished everyone a prosperous and Happy New Year for all. God bless you.

Councilperson Pascual expressed that our hearts go out to the victims of unnecessary violence in Australia and their families. It was a fruitful year for the borough, we accomplished a lot of things. He thanked everyone from the bottom of his heart as he appreciates being part of this Council. He looks forward to all that is coming in 2026. He stated that he hopes everyone enjoys the holidays with the family and loved ones, and wishes that everyone has happy and safe holiday. Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanzaa, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to all.

Mayor Amatorio thanked everyone for coming. It has been a great honor to work with this magnificent Council, all the professionals, the Borough Administrator, the Borough Attorney, and it has been a great year working with residents and receiving their support and encouragement. We celebrated the third night of Hanukah, but the community is grieving, not just Bergenfield, but the entire world. He hopes that in the new year, we can find peace and that the world is a better place. We can start here in Bergenfield, we stand with the community, and hope that our diverse community will serve as a beacon of hope for the Country. Happy Holidays everyone, see you next year!

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Council President Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Pascual, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Marie Quiñones-Wilson
Borough Clerk