BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE(minutes)
REORGANIZATION MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
LAVALLETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
Monday, January 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: **William Burns, Borough Attorney Presiding**

The mayor's flight was cancelled so he was not present at the meeting.

MEETING NOTICE STATEMENT:

Notice of this meeting complies with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was published in the Ocean Star on January 10, 2025. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and the Municipal Website.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: Mr. Burns asked for a moment of silence for Mary Evelyn Woit, a previous long-time resident of WPI, former employee of the Lavallette Tax Office and the mother of our Court Administrator, Beth Boettger. Also, John Zidzunis of Newark Avenue and Jean Haderer of Jersey City Avenue

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Councilman Finter led us in the Salute to the Flag.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE:

Michael Stogdill took his Oath of Office as Councilman which was administered by William Burns, Esq.. The bible was held by his son Craig. Three (3) year term of office from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.

George Shenewolf took his Oath of Office as Councilman which was administered by William Burns, Esq. The bible was held by his wife Kristen and his daughter. Three (3) year term of office from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.

CALL TO ORDER: William Burns, Borough Attorney

ROLL CALL:
Councilwoman Anita F. Zalom
Councilwoman Joanne Filippone
Councilman James G. Borowski
Councilman Michael Stogdill
Councilman David Finter
Councilman George Shenewolf

Also Present:
Donnelly Amico, Municipal Clerk
John Bennett, Borough Administrator

ELECTION OF BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2026: (requiring Council approval)

A Motion was made by Councilman Finter to elect Councilwoman Anita Zalom as Council President for 2026. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill.

Vote: All of Council was in favor. The Motion Passed.

2026 BOROUGH APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR: (not requiring Council approval)
Planning Board / Board of Adjustment

Term	Position	Appointee
1 Year	Class I Member/Mayor's Designee	Mark Speaker
1 Year	Class II Member	John Bennett
4 Year	Class IV Member	Jennifer Hartman-Sica
4 Year	Class IV Member	Alex Barletta
2 Year	Alternate Member #1	Mary Chyb

2026 BOROUGH APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR: (requiring Council approval)

1 Year	Class III Member	Joanne Filippone

A Motion to appoint Councilwoman Joanne Filippone to the Planning Board was made by Councilman Finter. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Borowski.

Vote: All of Council was in favor. The Motion Passed.

2026 COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Committee Assignments of Borough Council

By Borough Council (Resolution 2026-01)

A Motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Finter. The Motion was Seconded by Councilwoman Filippone.

Vote: Council Members Zalom, Borowski, Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

2026 BOROUGH APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR: – (requiring advice and consent of Council)

Borough Attorney- Hartman/Duff-William Burns, Esq.

By Borough Council (Resolution 2026-02)

A Motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilwoman Filippone. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill.

Vote: Council Members Zalom, Borowski, Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

Borough Auditor- Oliwa & Company

By Borough Council (Resolution 2026-03)

A Motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Stogdill. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Borowski.

Vote: Council Members Zalom, Borowski, Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

Consulting Engineer- Morgan Municipal Engineering Services
Remington & Vernick Engineers
ACT Engineers
Colliers Engineering & Design
Keystone Engineering Group, Inc.

By Borough Council (Resolution 2026-04)

A Motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilwoman Stogdill. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Shenewolf.

Vote: Council Members Zalom, Borowski, Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

Various Professional Appointments -

Bond Counsel-Dilworth, Paxson, LLP
Bonnie Peterson, Esq.-Borough Prosecutor
Alternate Prosecutor-David Casadonte, Esq.
Special Prosecutor- Steven Zabarsky, Esq.
Public Defender - Margarie Herlihy, Esq.
Conflict/Alternate Public Defender-John Nolan, Esq.
Special Counsel-Jean Cipriani, Esq.

By Borough Council (Resolution 2026-05)

A Motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilwoman Filippone. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill.

Vote: Council Members Zalom, Borowski, Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

Various Advisory Committees-

Mayor Advisory Committee:

Al DeBenedictis, Chairman

CDBG / Tourism / Grants Committee:

Anita Zalom, Liaison
Elaine Schardien
Joseph Palinsky
Patricia Hoffman

Municipal Utility Advisory Committee:

James Borowski, Liaison
Al DeBenedictis
Glen Mazzarano
Ken Meiser
Dave Finter, Liaison
Joseph Palinsky
Mark Speaker

Ordinance Committee:

Joanne Filippone, Liaison
Sheila Sharkey
Martin Morales
Nicholas Zaccaria
Adele Ronchetti
David Finter, Liaison
Landon Hoberman
Audrey Zylinski
Mark Speaker
Barbara Susinno

Recreation Advisory Committee:

Anita Zalom, Liaison
Patricia Hoffman
Bart Coleman
Chief Christian LaCicero
Theresa Coleman
Joyce Hornung
Audrey Zylinski
Michael Stogdill, Liaison
Dr. Jim Enright
Judith Josephs
Sgt. Adam LaCicero
Harriet Sheridan
Bruno Hornung

Beautification Committee:

Anita Zalom, Liaison
Vicki Guy, President
Joanne Filippone, Liaison
Susan Kotch, Vice President

Theresa Coleman	Bruno Hornung
Joyce Hornung	Anne Schneider
Adele Ronchetti	Rich Traverso
Kaitlyn Hajisafari	Arlene Maglionico

Environmental Protection Advisory Committee:

Anita Zalom, Liaison	Dave Finter, Liaison
Mark Speaker, Chairman	Donna Franzoso
Patricia Hoffman	Barbara Susinno
Jennifer O'Reilly	

Goose Patrol Committee:

Joanne LaCicero, President	Glenn Mazzarano
Susan Kotch	Sandra Mazzarano

Memorabilia Advisory Committee:

Joanne Filippone, Chairperson	Council President Anita Zalom
Harry Dews	Mary Jo Austin

Business & Tourism Committee

Mark Speaker, Chairman

By Borough Council (Resolution 2026-06)

A Motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Finter. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill.

Vote: Council Members Zalom, Borowski, Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

RESOLUTIONS – ON CONSENT:

2026-07	Authorizing execution of Schedule "C" Agreement with the County of Ocean for year 2026
2026-08	Increasing minimum wage hourly rates to $15.92 effective January 1, 2026
2026-09	appointing Charles Farrah as the Clean Communities Coordinator
2026-10	Authorizing the appointment of Phoenix Advisors for the continuing disclosure agent services and independent registered municipal advisor for the year 2026

2026-11	Designating Official Newspapers
2026-12	Authorizing officials to sign checks, disbursement funds, checks and drafts
2026-13	Establishing 2026 Petty Cash Funds
2026-14	Designating Official Depositories
2026-15	Establishing calendar of 2026 Council Meetings-Councilwoman Filippone requested this be put off consent.
2026-16	Adoption of Rules for the Mayor and Council
2026-17	Fixing rate of interest to be charged on delinquent taxes or assessments
2026-18	Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to make certain timely payments for specific monetary obligations
2026-19	Establishing the allocation of salaries of certain employees within the Borough
2026-20	Reaffirming Cash Management Plan
2026-21	Temporary Budget
2026-22	Adopting federal guidelines for mileage reimbursement for Public Officials
2026-23	Authorizing participation in the State of NJ Cooperative Purchasing Program
2026-24	Approving appointment of John Bennett as Ocean County JIF/MEL Fund-Fund Commissioner
2026-25	Establishing the allocation of the funds received from the State drunk driving enforcement fund and authorizing Mayor Walter LaCicero to sign the quarterly DWI reports
2026-26	Establishing Change Funds
2026-27	Endorsing submission of year 2026 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application
2026-28	Authorizing Software Contract – Edmunds & Associates $13,878.13
2026-29	authorization to approve seasonal appointments prior to meeting confirmation
2026-30	Designating Public Agency Compliance Officer in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5 – Borough Administrator

2026-31	Authorizing the Tax Assessor to act as agent for Lavallette and File Appeals for tax year 2026
2026-32	Appointing Sergeant Michael Monica as Internal Affairs Officer for the Lavallette Police Department
2026-33	Approving contract for Licenses-Charles Farrah
2026-34	Approving appointment of Public Power Association of New Jersey Representatives: Councilman James G. Borowski – Representative / Dave Finter - Alternate
2026-35	Approving appointment of Emergency Management Team for 2026
2026-36	Approving appointment of members to the Lavallette Emergency Planning Committee
2026-37	Approving appointments within the Lavallette Police Department for 2026: Special Police, Class I & II, Crossing Guards, Part-time Dispatchers, and Matrons
2026-38	Approving appointments of ADA Coordinator – Councilmember Anita F. Zalom, Deputy ADA Coordinator – Elaine Schardien, and members to the Lavallette Community Partners for People with Disabilities for 2026
2026-39	Approving appointment of Charles Farrah as Lavallette Safety Coordinator
2026-40	Appointing Meridian Occupational Health, P.C. as Municipal Physician Practice for the Borough of Lavallette
2026-41	Authorizing Mayor Walter G. LaCicero to execute an agreement with Commerce Risk Control Services and Dynamic Testing Services to provide services relating to an Alcohol and substance program for CDL drivers
2026-42	certifying to the Local Finance Board that all members of the Governing Body have reviewed, at a minimum, the sections of the 2024 audit entitled, “Comments and Recommendations”
2026-43	awarding a contract to Seacoast Construction, Inc. for the Newark Avenue Phase 2 Road Improvement Project in the amount of $327,014.72
2026-44	appointing Peter Kane as Acting Superintendent for a period of three months commencing January 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026
2026-45	appointing Laura Wicki as the part-time Municipal Court Administrator at an hourly rate of $35.00 effective January 5, 2026

2026-46 adopting and establishing a "Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual" for years 2026/2027

A Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilwoman Filippone. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill.

Mr. Burns opened the floor to the public and asked if anyone wished to comment on the consent agenda.

No one wished to comment. Mr. Burns closed the floor to the public and asked Council for a vote on the consent agenda.

Vote: Council Members Zalom, Borowski, Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

RESOLUTIONS OFF-CONSENT:

2026-15 Establishing calendar of 2026 Council Meetings-Councilwoman Filippone requested this be put off consent.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that December 21st is always the date no matter what day of Lavallette's Birthday Party and just in case we do have the party this year, it falls on a Monday and should be our last meeting of 2026 so I am making a motion to change the meeting date from Monday, December 21st to Tuesday, December 22nd for year 2026.

A Motion to modify this resolution to change Monday, December 21, 2026 Council Meeting to Tuesday, December 22, 2026 was made by Councilwoman Filippone. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Stogdill.

Mr. Burns opened the floor to the public and asked if anyone wished to comment on the consent agenda.

No one wished to comment. Mr. Burns closed the floor to the public and asked Council for a vote on this modified resolution.

Vote: Council Members Zalom, Borowski, Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

2026-47 Establishing non-contractual employee annual salaries for 2026

A Motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Finter. The Motion was Seconded by Council President Zalom.

Vote: Council Members Zalom, Borowski, Finter, Shenewolf and Filippone voted Yes. Councilman Stogdill Abstained. The Motion Passed.

2026-48 Appointing Lori Stogdill as the 2026 Right to Know Coordinator

A Motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilman Borowski. The Motion was Seconded by Councilwoman Filippone.

Vote: Council Members Zalom, Borowski, Finter, Shenewolf and Filippone voted Yes. Councilman Stogdill Abstained. The Motion Passed.

2025 BILLS LIST:

2026-49 Bills List in the amount of $309,588.97

A Motion to approve the bills list was made by Councilman Borowski. The Motion was Seconded by Councilwoman Filippone.

Vote: Council Members Zalom, Borowski, Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

2026 BILLS LIST:

2026-50 Bills List in the amount of $1,982,964.88

A Motion to approve the bills list was made by Councilman Stogdill. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Borowski.

Vote: Council Members Zalom, Borowski, Finter, Shenewolf, Stogdill and Filippone voted Yes. The Motion Passed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

There were no comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Shenewolf thanked all who voted for him for the support and stated he was very grateful to be a part of this Council. Happy New Year!

Councilman Stogdill thanked everyone for the support again this year. Happy New Year!

Councilman Borowski congratulated Mike and George. Happy New Year!

Councilman Finter congratulated Mike and George. Happy New Year!

Councilwoman Filippone congratulated Mike and George. Happy New Year!

Council President Zalom congratulated Mike and George. Happy New Year!

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting was made by Councilman Stogdill. The Motion was Seconded by Councilman Finter.

Vote: All of Council was in favor. The Motion Passed.

The Reorganization Meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

CERTIFICATION

I, Donnelly Amico, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Lavallette, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, does hereby attest these to be a true copy of the minutes of the Reorganization meeting held on the **5th** day of **January 2026.**

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Donnelly Amico
Municipal Clerk