

BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK

Planning and Zoning Board
Minutes of the Reorganization Meeting
Thursday, January 14 , 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Michael Witt with a reading of the Open Public Meeting Law Statement followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael Witt stated the following:

Like most Americans, I watched in horror, disgust, and dismay as last week's events at our nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C., unfolded. The invasion of the chambers of the United States Congress by an unruly mob of insurrectionists is not something that any of us contemplated that we would ever have to endure, let alone see broadcast live for the entire world to witness.

To add insult to the grave injury done to our national psyche, we watched as symbols of hate, racism, and oppression were proudly paraded up and down the hallways of the birthplace of our laws. Incredibly, these scenes seemingly played out at the behest of some of our highest elected officials – the very same people who have sworn an oath to defend our Constitution from all enemies, foreign or domestic.

As public servants, we take the same oath as do those elected officials – to protect and defend the Constitutions of the United States and the State of New Jersey against all enemies, foreign or domestic. It is with this solemn duty in mind that I must once again speak out.

We must condemn violence, particularly violence committed with the aim to intimidate and terrorize our fellow citizens. We must reject the use of force as a means of promoting a political agenda, regardless of the ideology behind that agenda. We must continue with resolute steadfastness to oppose all forms of racism, bigotry, and intolerance, wherever and whenever found.

Some have looked at this extremist violence and attempt to dismiss it by saying, “that is not who we are” as Americans. That attempt is misguided. This is exactly who we are, and the mirror held up to us last week showed that ugly truth in vivid, living color. But it is not who we have to be.

America is not perfect. Far too often its promises have proven empty, particularly to those who do not look like the people who founded it. Despite their own foibles and shortcomings, those same founders gave us a roadmap to our future in the form of the United States Constitution. They knew that America would be an ever-evolving entity, and that its diversity would be its strength. It is why our Constitution starts with the words, “We, the People, in order to form a more perfect union...”

We decide who and what we want to be. We decide how we will get there.

It is, thus, more important than ever that we all rededicate ourselves to the oaths we have taken, to the ideals on which this country was founded and to working every single day, in all aspects of our lives, to ensure that those ideals apply to everyone.

A “more perfect union” will never just be given to us; we must work for it.

Thank you.

Oath of Office for New Board Members/ Reappointments

The Oath of Office was given by Mayor Robert Fazen for the reappointed board members.

Mike Witt	Class 4, 2024
Scott Sloan	Class 4, 2024
Jim Ayotte	Class 2, 2021
Wale Adewunmi	Alt. 2, 2022
Jake Hardin, Council	Class 3, 2021

Mayor’s Message

Mayor Fazen reported on the increase of covid cases within the Borough and provided an update on vaccinations.

Roll Call

The following were recorded present:

Mayor Robert Fazen
Councilman Jake Hardin
Michael Witt, Chair
Linda Brnicevic
Howard Wagner
Jim Ayotte
Scott Sloan
Erick Chandler

Board Nominations

Upon a motion by Mayor Robert Fazen, seconded by Howard Wagner, Michael Witt was nominated as Chairman, Scott Sloan was nominated as Vice Chairman and Linda Brnicevic was nominated as Board Secretary. All were in favor.

Designation of Official Newspapers: Courier News and Star Ledger

Upon a motion by Mayor Robert Fazen, seconded by Dr. Adewunmi, the Courier News and Star Ledger were unanimously designated as official newspapers.

Adoption of By-laws

Upon a motion by Mayor Robert Fazen, seconded by Scott Sloan, the by-laws were unanimously adopted.

Appointment of Board Professionals

Upon a motion by Mayor Robert Fazen, seconded by Jim Ayotte, McElroy Deutsch was appointed as Board Attorney. All were in favor

Upon a motion by Mayor Fazen, seconded by Jim Ayotte, Maser Consulting was appointed as Board Engineer. All were in favor.

Councilman Jake Hardin, seconded by Mike Witt, nominated Design Solutions for a Crowded Planet for Board Planner. Mayor Robert Fazen, seconded by Howard Wagner, nominated T&M Associates for Board Planner. Discussion was held on both nominations.

Upon a roll call vote, T&M associates was appointed as Board Planner.

Roll Call: Aye: Scott Sloan, Linda Brnicevic, Howard Wagner, Mark Speed, Jim Ayotte, Erick Chandler, Mayor Robert Fazen

 Nay: Mike Witt, Jake Hardin

Resolutions

Upon a motion by Erick Chandler, seconded by Scott Sloan, Resolution 2021-01 was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public. Linda Brnicevic expressed concerns of her experience as a member of the public during the Urban Developers hearing.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.