

The minutes of the Sine Die Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook held on January 2, 2023 at 11:00 AM at the Senior Center, 8 Caldwell Avenue, Saddle Brook, NJ.

Council President Mazzer called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

The Township Clerk called the roll:

Councilman Cimiluca – present
Councilman Gierrek – present
Councilman Accomando – present
Councilwoman D’Arminio – present
Council President Mazzer – present

Mayor White – present
Robert Klein - Township Engineer - present
Anthony Suarez – Township Attorney - present
Maureen Ruane - Interim Business Administrator - present

Council President Mazzer asked everyone to please rise for the salute to the flag.

Council President Mazzer announced that adequate notice of this meeting has been sent to all Council members by police messenger and to all legal newspapers in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

The Township Clerk announced that the public is hereby advised that any statements made during the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Saddle Brook may not be privileged or protected and that persons or entities who take issue with such comments or are offended by same, may, and have in the past, sought legal redress through the courts.

Any member of the public who addresses the Council speaks for themselves and not for the Council.

Council President Mazzer asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Motion: Councilwoman D’Arminio

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes
Councilman Gierrek – yes
Councilman Accomando – yes
Councilwoman D’Arminio – yes
Council President Mazzer – yes

Council President Mazzer - Seeing no one can I have a motion to close.

Motion: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca – yes

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman D'Arminio – yes

Council President Mazzer – yes

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Lo Dico – We have a presentation for outgoing Councilwoman D'Arminio.

Mayor White presents Councilwoman D'Arminio with a bouquet of flowers. I want to thank you so much for your eight years of service you've done an enormous amount to help and you're a fabulous council person your time with projects and activities you took that to a new level also everything you do with the Senior Center. I know you're going to still stay involved with that and most importantly the last nine months being the point person for the construction of the Municipal Complex being the person that oversaw everything that was going on there we really appreciate that and I am proud to have served with you. I think we along with the Council accomplished many of our goals and I also think that you were an asset and we developed a mutual friendship and respect for one another. I think that you more often than not convinced me to go in a different direction or make a different decision than the other way around and I think you have an intuition and insight into things that helps you know the right path to go on but we're going to miss you and I certainly want you to be available and come back and help us whenever you can and offer your advice because we need you you're sorely missed thank you Karen.

Council President Mazzer presents Councilwoman D'Arminio with a plaque and she reads the inscription.

Councilwoman D'Arminio – I'm shaking you can see that and I haven't shaken since I got on the Council the accolades it's overwhelming it's humbling but you know what I've had a great ride and I've enjoyed every part of it. I have to say it's a privilege when you get elected by the people in the town you live in. Today when I walked in I looked at the building across the street and as the Mayor said when we get elected this team we wanted to enhance the quality of the people's lives and we do it in small ways and sometimes in bigger ways but the building across the street was started under another administration thirty people now live there and have a better quality of life because they're on a fixed income and they have a little bit more money to spend so that's one of the things we accomplished we accomplished many. The bus for the seniors they go to the doctor they go grocery shopping but we got the bus to pick them up for bingo when they can't drive little things. I look at Saddle Brook celebrating our seniors nineties and this is one of my favorite parts being on the Council nine o'clock at night I'd call up Pete and say I have an epiphany and he would say how much is this going to cost. During COVID it was such a bad time that we came up with the idea of celebrating the 90th birthday got on the bus got flags from

the capitol for our veterans tiaras and flowers for our women and drove the bus for two days and celebrated all of those that participate great things great things. The building oh my goodness it's amazing. I got to know all the employees so much better I got to know the Fire department better I got to know the Ambulance Corps better and it was a great experience. To my team I'm going to miss you guys, we had a really good run. Finally I want to say thank you to the Town thank you to everybody in the County who I've come to meet along the way Anthony it's been my pleasure to work with all of you. I just have one more thing I want to do if you would hold this for me.

Councilwoman D'Arminio takes off her Council pin and tells incoming Councilwoman Sanchez that she will be getting a pin of her own at some point but that she wants Ms. Sanchez to have her pin and pins it on her. She congratulates her and tells her she will do a great job.

Incoming Council President Gierak comes forward with a box that has a plaque for outgoing Council President Mazzer and presents it to her. Mayor White also gives her a bouquet of flowers.

Councilman Gierak – On behalf of the Township of Saddle Brook I'd like to present you I know you've seen this box before it says presented to Council President Florence Mazzer Council President in 2007, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022 in recognition of your leadership in the Township of Saddle Brook thank you.

Mayor White – Thank you Flo for all those years of service and Flo is the voice of reason on the Council Pete watches the money. I'm sure within the next four years you'll be back as the Council President during that time but thank you so much.

Council President Mazzer – It certainly has been my privilege thank you.

COMMENTS

Councilman Accomando – I just want to thank Karen for her eight years I can't say too much because you know how I feel about you but you will be missed.

Councilman Gierak – I also would like to thank Karen for eight years of service between projects and activities the seniors that she holds dear to her heart the municipal complex Council President during COVID. I've enjoyed serving with you I have the utmost respect for you Karen and your work ethic thank you for serving I appreciate it.

Councilwoman D'Arminio – Thank you.

Councilman Cimiluca – Karen knows how I feel about her I met her a hundred years ago.

Councilwoman D'Arminio – I'm not a hundred yet.

Councilman Cimiluca – I started out in politics with Lou, Joe Setticase and Flo as their attorney in the 1996 election and have been involved ever since and that's when I met Karen and got to know her great person great family and I appreciate the fact that she would feel comfortable enough to contact me on issues and I felt that it was important and it was good that she got the opinion of someone who did not necessarily agree with everything that was going on with the rest of the Council or with her sometimes. That's the great thing about being involved in this Town we don't hold it against each other if we have differing opinions. I know that in certain

towns it is like you know they're like pit bulls against each other. If you vote for something I have to vote against it just because you came up with it and I've been up here for fourteen years and even before that I've noticed that that is not the case at one point it was but since I've been up here I have not experienced that and hopefully going forward it will continue to be that way because we're all in this together and as Karen said you look around the little things improving the Senior Center improving senior services the building across the street the affordable housing project that we set aside years ago maybe fifteen twenty years ago that is going to come into fruition the upgrade of Veterans Field and obviously our new big project which is the Town Hall and almost all of them had their detractors and everyone's got their own opinion but I say that I think that in retrospect the Town did the right thing on all of those issues and I believe that long after I'm gone the people of Saddle Brook are going to appreciate that and enjoy it so again Karen thank you and thank you Mayor and thank you Council for putting up with my stuff.

Mr. Lo Dico – Karen I just want to thank you for your years of service sitting here as Clerk you get to meet many people who serve on the Council who serve as Mayor. I'm fortunate that we developed a relationship and became friends. I do listen to your epiphanies when you do have them I don't act on them but I do listen to them but I want to thank you it's really been great having you up here.

Mr. Suarez – I just want to congratulate you on everything that you did for the Township and certainly over the time that you've been here you made the Township a better place to live. I just want to thank you for the opportunities that you've given me and I wish you the best of luck. I know you are going to continue to stay active and I work with a lot of elected officials and truly you're one of the most caring and dedicated ones that I know.

Council President Mazzer – Thank you Karen you know how I feel I'm not going to say goodbye I'll see you later.

Councilwoman D'Arminio – And we'll have dinner next week.

Council President Mazzer – Can we have a motion to adjourn?

Motion: Councilwoman D'Arminio

Second: Councilman Accomando

Roll call:

Councilman Cimiluca – absent

Councilman Gierek – yes

Councilman Accomando – yes

Councilwoman D'Arminio – yes

Council President Mazzer – yes

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lo Dico, RMC, CMC
Township Clerk

David Gierak
Council President

Approved: February 16, 2023