

**BOROUGH OF WOOD-RIDGE  
REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2026**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting is called to order at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. by \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. SUNSHINE NOTICE:**

This meeting is being held in accordance with Public Law 1975 Chapter 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, also known as the “Sunshine Law”. The public meeting notice stating the date, time and place of this meeting was posted on the town’s bulletin board and website and was forwarded to The Record and TAPinto of Hasbrouck Heights/Wood-Ridge/Teterboro.

**3. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS:**

Announcement of results of November 4, 2025 Municipal Election.

- a. Michele Mabel elected to a full three-year term as Councilmember with a vote of 2,636.
- b. Michael Donato elected to a full three-year term as Councilmember with a vote of 2,645.

Councilmembers Mabel and Donato to the Dais.

**4. ROLL CALL:**

Mayor:	Paul Sarlo
Council President:	Michele Mabel
Council Members:	Ezio Altamura
	Dominick Azzolini
	Philip Romero
	Michael Donato
	Richard Wall
Borough Attorney:	Paul Barbire
Borough Engineer:	Brian Intindola
Borough Clerk:	Gina Affuso
Borough Administrator:	Chris Eilert

**5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**6. ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

- a. Oath of Office is administered to Michele Mabel by Mayor Paul Sarlo.
- b. Oath of Office is administered to Michael Donato by Mayor Paul Sarlo.

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**7. ADOPTION OF THE BY-LAWS OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:**

Mayor Sarlo calls for a Motion to adopt the By-Laws.

Motion: Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ to adopt the By-Laws.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Mabel, Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Donato, Wall

**8. SELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL:**

Mayor Sarlo requests Members of the Council to select a President of the Council.

Motion: Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ to nominate Councilmember **Romero** as Council President.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Mabel, Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Donato, Wall

**9. ADOPTION OF THE ROLL CALL OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:**

Mayor Sarlo calls for a motion adopting the following Roll Call.

Mayor:	Paul Sarlo
Council President:	Philip Romero
Council Members:	Ezio Altamura
	Dominick Azzolini
	Michele Mabel
	Michael Donato
	Richard Wall

Motion: Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ to adopt the Roll Call.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Romero, Altamura, Azzolini, Mabel, Donato, Wall

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**10. NOMINATIONS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS: All Effective as of January 1, 2026**

Mayor Sarlo nominates **CHRISTOPHER W. EILERT** to the position of Borough Administrator.

Motion: Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ appointing CHRISTOPHER W. EILERT to the position of Borough Administrator.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Romero, Altamura, Azzolini, Mabel, Donato, Wall

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Mayor Sarlo nominates **PAUL S. BARBIRE** to the position of Borough Attorney.

Motion: Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ appointing PAUL S. BARBIRE to the position of Borough Attorney.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Romero, Altamura, Azzolini, Mabel, Donato, Wall

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Mayor Sarlo nominates **MICHAEL J. NEGLIA** to the position of Borough Engineer.

Motion: Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ appointing MICHAEL J. NEGLIA to the position of Borough Engineer.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Romero, Altamura, Azzolini, Mabel, Donato, Wall

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## REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2026

### 11. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Standing Committee Name	Chair	Vice Chair	Member
Buildings & Grounds	Wall	Donato	Mabel
Finance, Insurance & Administration	Donato	Wall	Azzolini
Fire & Emergency Management	Romero	Azzolini	Donato
Law, Land Use & Code Enforcement	Donato	Wall	Romero
Police & Public Safety	Altamura	Azzolini	Mabel
Public Information & Events	Mabel	Altamura	Romero
Public Works, Sanitation, Recycling & Utilities	Azzolini	Romero	Altamura
Recreation & Community Services	Mabel	Altamura	Wall

Special Committee Name	Chair	Vice Chair	Member
Special Committee on School Facilities	Mabel	Azzolini	Wall
Special Committee on Recreation Facilities	Romero	Donato	Altamura

	President	Vice President	Members
<b>Board of Health</b>	Donato	Mabel	Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Wall

Board, Committee or Constituency	Liaison
Board of Education & PTA	Mabel
Board of Recreation	Altamura - Mabel - Wall
Community Development	Wall - Donato
Emergency Management	Romero
Historical Society	Azzolini
Joint Insurance Fund	Azzolini
Library Board of Trustees	Romero
Planning Board	Donato
Public Events Committee	Mabel - Altamura - Romero
Senior Citizens	Mabel - Altamura
Veterans	Donato - Altamura

Motion: Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ to approve the appointment of Council Committees and Liaisons.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Romero, Altamura, Azzolini, Mabel, Donato, Wall

## REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2026

### 12. MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS: All Effective as of January 1, 2026

Not requiring advice and consent of the Borough Council

#### a. Library Board of Trustees:

Dolores McAlinden - Member 5-year term to 12/31/30

Designated Alternate of the Mayor:  
Catherine Cassidy - Member 1-year term to 12/31/26

Designated Alternate of the Superintendent of Schools:  
Ryan Ann Guglielmotti - Member 1-year term to 12/31/26

#### b. Planning Board:

Richard Pronti - Class II Member 1-year term to 12/31/26

Anthony Iacovino – Class IV Member 4-year term to 12/31/29

Frank Finke – Class IV Member 4-year term to 12/31/29

Donald Conger – Alternate #2 Class IV Member 2-year term to 12/31/27

Christopher Musante – Alternate #4 Class IV Member 2-year term to 12/31/27

Designated Alternate of the Mayor:  
Christopher W. Eilert – Class I Member 1-year term to 12/31/26

#### c. Board of Recreation:

TBD at Council Meeting on January 21, 2026

## REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2026

### 13. CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters listed below are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by Council, that particular item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

#### A. RESOLUTIONS: Adoption of the following, **All Effective as of January 1, 2026**

- 001-2026 Appointment of the Borough Administrator and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract. (Christopher W. Eilert).
- 002-2026 Appointment of Borough Attorney and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made part hereof. (Paul S. Barbire, Esq.).
- 003-2026 Appointment of Borough Engineer and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Michael Neglia/ Neglia Group).
- 004-2026 Appointment of Borough Auditor and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP).
- 005-2026 Appointment of Appraiser and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made part hereof. (Associated Appraisal Group).
- 006-2026 Appointment of Insurance Consultant. (Professional Insurance Associates, Inc.).
- 007-2026 Appointment of Commissioner for South Bergen Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, Bergen Municipal Excess Liability Fund, Municipal Excess Liability Fund and Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund.
- 008-2026 Appointment of Risk Management Consultant and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Professional Insurance Associates, Inc.).
- 009-2026 Appointment of Insurance Producer/Consultant for Bergen Municipal Employee Benefit Fund. (PIA Security Programs, Inc.).
- 010-2026 Designating various banks as depositories for Borough funds.
- 011-2026 Ratifying bond for Tax Collector and Library Treasurer.
- 012-2026 Approving various named persons as drivers of the fire engines of the Borough of Wood-Ridge.
- 013-2026 Approving rate of interest on delinquent taxes.
- 014-2026 Approving Publication Method of Legal Notices.
- 015-2026 Adoption of Schedule of Council Meetings.
- 016-2026 Authorizing Chief Financial Officer to prepare and issue recreation checks in advance of the monthly meetings.
- 017-2026 Authorizing Petty Cash Fund & Change Fund for the year.
- 018-2026 Establishing Temporary Budget Appropriations for the year.
- 019-2026 Approving blanket bond coverage for all employees not required to post individual bond.
- 020-2026 Adoption of Employee Manual dated October 1, 2025.
- 021-2026 Authorizing Chief Financial Officer to prepare employee payrolls.
- 022-2026 Authorizing Chief Financial Officer to release semi-monthly payroll checks.

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- 023-2026 Authorizing additional penalties on delinquent property taxes.
- 024-2026 Approving Cash Management Plan.
- 025-2026 Approving Interlocal Mutual Aid and Rapid Deployment Force.
- 026-2026 Approving Rules and Regulations for the Wood-Ridge Police Department.
- 027-2026 Authorizing Participation in Department of Defense 1033 Equipment Program.
- 028-2026 Appointment of Special Counsel for Bond Issuance and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Rogut, McCarthy, LLC.; Parker McCay PA; McManimon, Scotland & Bauman LLC).
- 029-2026 Appointment of Special Counsel for Redevelopment and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Aronsohn, Weiner, Salerno & Kaufman, PC; McManimon, Scotland & Bauman LLC; Parker McCay PA).
- 030-2026 Appointment of Special Counsel for Land Use and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Aronsohn, Weiner, Salerno & Kaufman, PC).
- 031-2026 Appointment of Special Counsel for Tax Appeals and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution. (Paul S. Barbire, Esq.; Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC)
- 032-2026 Appointment of Special Counsel for Litigation and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Waters, McPherson & McNeill, PC; Aronsohn, Weiner, Salerno & Kaufman, PC; Vazquez Heldman, LLC).
- 033-2026 Appointment of Planning Consultants and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Neglia Group; Phillips Preiss).
- 034-2026 Appointment of Financial Advisor for Bond Issuance and Continuing Disclosure and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Phoenix Advisors).
- 035-2026 Appointment of Environmental Engineer and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Mott MacDonald Engineering)
- 036-2026 Designating list of qualified Architectural Firms and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Acari & Iovino; DiCara Rubino; DMR Architects).
- 037-2026 Authorizing Use of Home Depot Store Credit Card.

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### B. APPOINTMENTS: All Effective as of January 1, 2026

Nomination by the Mayor requiring advice and consent of the Borough Council, unless otherwise noted

- a. ADA Coordinator:  
Paul S. Barbire, Esq. 1-year term to 12/31/26
- b. Assessment Searcher:  
Gina Affuso 1-year term to 12/31/26
- c. Deputy Borough Clerk:  
Cathleen Calabro 1-year term to 12/31/26
- d. C.E.P.A. Officer (Conscientious Employee Protection Act):  
Paul S. Barbire, Esq. 1-year term to 12/31/26
- e. Chiropractor:  
Leonard V. Deleasa, D.C. 1-year term to 12/31/26
- f. Office of Community Services:  
Catherine Cassidy – Coordinator 1-year term to 12/31/26
- g. Office of Emergency Management:  
William Wolfsohn – Coordinator 3-year term to 12/31/28  
Michael O'Donnell – Deputy Coordinator
- h. Emergency Management Council:  
Jerome A. Cala, Jr. – Public Member 1-year term to 12/31/26
- i. Historian: 1-year terms to 12/31/26  
Catherine Cassidy – Historian  
Patricia Sloan – Deputy Historian  
Dorothy Dobek – Assistant Historian
- j. Municipal Court Judge: Not Applicable until 12/31/27
- k. Municipal Court Prosecutor: 1-year terms to 12/31/26  
Ronald Dario, Esq. - Prosecutor  
Kellie Reyes, Esq. - Alternate #1  
Elsbeth Crusius, Esq. - Alternate #2

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- l. **Municipal Court Public Defender:** 1-year terms to 12/31/26  
John Bruno Jr., Esq. - Public Defender  
Jonathan Bruno, Esq. - Alternate #1
  
- m. **Planning Board:** (Nominated by the Borough Council) 1-year term to 12/31/26  
Michael Donato – Class III Member
  
- n. **Office of Property Maintenance:** 1-year terms to 12/31/26  
William Wolfsohn - Code Enforcement Officer  
Richard Pronti - Deputy Code Enforcement Officer  
Thomas Bischoff, Jr. - Assistant Code Enforcement Officer
  
- o. **Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.):** 1-year term to 12/31/26  
Paul S. Barbire, Esq.
  
- p. **Public Hearing Official:** 1-year term to 12/31/26  
Christopher W. Eilert
  
- q. **Office of Safety and Risk Management:** 1-year term to 12/31/26  
William Wolfsohn – Coordinator
  
- r. **Tax Searcher:** 1-year term to 12/31/26  
Kellie Romero
  
- s. **Teterboro Aircraft Noise Abatement Advisory Committee:**  
Designated Representatives of the Mayor and Council:  
Gina Affuso 1-year term to 12/31/26
  
- t. **Assistant Treasurer:** 1-year term to 12/31/26  
Kyle Wiedemann
  
- u. **Bureau of Vital Statistics:**  
Gina Affuso - Registrar 3-year term to 12/31/28  
Susan Schulz – Deputy Registrar 3-year term to 12/31/28  
Cathleen Calabro – Alternate Registrar 3-year term to 12/31/28
  
- v. **Zoning Officer:** 1-year term to 12/31/26  
Richard Pronti
  
- w. **Fire Prevention Bureau (Licensed Inspectors):** 1-year terms to 12/31/26  
John Kurz – Fire Official  
Christopher Mazzocchi – Deputy Fire Official  
Gilbert Ruiz - Inspector  
Thomas Bischoff, Jr. - Inspector

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x. **Fire Department Officers:**

1-year terms to 12/31/26

Nicholas Meglio - Chief  
Michael Cribben - 1st Assistant Chief  
Liam Maloney - 2nd Assistant Chief  
Thomas H. Burniston - Captain  
Mateusz Czwakiel - Lieutenant  
Vincent Giordano - Lieutenant  
Michael Donato - Lieutenant  
Nicholas Fallon - Corresponding Secretary  
Thomas Bischoff, Jr. - Recording Secretary  
Ronald Phillips, Sr. - Treasurer

**ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion: Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ moved to the adoption of all matters on the above **CONSENT AGENDA**.

Roll Call: Romero, Altamura, Azzolini, Mabel, Donato, Wall

**14. GOVERNING BODY REMARKS & PRESENTATIONS:**

- a. Council Statements
- b. Mayor's Annual Address
- c. Presentations

**15. HEARING OF CITIZENS:**

Mayor Sarlo declares the Hearing of Citizens to be open.

**16. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Sarlo calls for a Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_, moved for adjournment. By unanimous vote of the members of the Council present, the Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wood-Ridge held on January 3, 2026 was duly adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.