

CAUCUS/FINANCE MEETING
January 5, 2024

A REGULAR SCHEDULED CAUCUS/FINANCE MEETING of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Carlstadt was held in the Caucus Room of the Borough Hall, 500 Madison Street, Carlstadt, New Jersey on Friday, January 5, 2024 at 7:35 P.M.

Council President Diane DeBiase asked Claire Foy, Borough Clerk to call the roll: Council members David Stoltz, James Lenoy, Joseph Emerson, William Roseman, Suzanne Fonseca and Diane DeBiase were present. Mayor Robert Zimmermann was absent.

Council President DeBiase led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council President DeBiase – In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Carlstadt is giving notice of the following meetings which was published in The Record on January 2, 2024 as follows:

BOROUGH OF CARLSTADT
MEETING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Carlstadt is giving notice of the following meetings:

Friday, January 5, 2024
7:00 P.M. Borough Hall Council Chambers
Purpose: Carlstadt Fire Department Installation of Officers

8:00 P.M. – Borough Hall Council Chambers
Purpose: Caucus/Finance Meeting

Council President DeBiase said the first thing on the agenda is the 2024 appointment corrections. Special Police Marco Garofalo was added.

Stand-by crossing guard Melissa Tronziger was added.

Stand-by crossing guard Darlene Crifasi – Emergency stand-by only.

Standing Committees under Recreation from Councilman Lenoy to Councilwoman DeBiase.

Municipal Crisis Response Team – Fire Chief’s name changed to Fire Chief Robert Ruff, Jr.

Council President DeBiase entertained a motion to approve these changes.

On motion by Roseman, seconded by Stoltz, unanimous on call of roll.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

Council President DeBiase said the next item is for approval for the Borough Clerk, Claire Foy to obtain quotes for the 2025 Fire Department Testimonial Dinner.

On motion by Roseman, seconded by Stoltz, unanimous on call of roll.

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Council President DeBiase said the next item is to approve a \$250.00 gift card for the Fire Chief. On motion by Emerson, seconded by Stoltz, unanimous on call of roll.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING ACT
RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION**

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Governing Body of the Borough of Carlstadt to conduct an executive session closed to the public in order to discuss one or more of the following subjects: personnel and property.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Carlstadt hereby moves to go into executive session in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. Seq. for the purpose of discussing one or more of the following subjects: personnel and property.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public will be informed either later this evening after reconvening the public meeting or at a future public meeting said date is not predictable at the present time.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in and minutes of the closed session shall be disclosed to the public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

Council President DeBiase entertained a motion to go into closed session at 7:42 P.M. On motion by Fonseca, seconded Emerson, unanimous on call of roll.

Council President DeBiase entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 P.M. On motion by Emerson, seconded by Roseman, unanimous on call of roll.

APPROVED: _____
DIANE DeBIASE, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST: _____
CLAIRE FOY, BOROUGH CLERK

SPECIAL MEETING
January 5, 2024

A **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Carlstadt was held in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall, 500 Madison Street, Carlstadt, New Jersey on Friday, January 5, 2024 at 7:02 P.M.

Council President Diane DeBiase asked Claire Foy, Borough Clerk to call the roll: Council members David Stoltz, James Lenoy, Joseph Emerson, Suzanne Fonseca and Diane DeBiase were present. Councilman William Roseman arrived at 7:10 P.M. Mayor Robert Zimmermann was absent.

Council President DeBiase led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council President DeBiase – In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Meetings Act, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Carlstadt is giving notice of the following meeting which was published in The Record on January 2, 2024 as follows:

BOROUGH OF CARLSTADT
MEETING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Carlstadt is giving notice of the following meeting:

Friday, January 5, 2024
7:00 P.M. – Borough Hall Council Chambers
Purpose: Carlstadt Fire Department Installation of Officers

8:00 P.M. - Borough Hall Council Chambers
Purpose: Caucus/Finance Meeting

Council President DeBiase welcomed everyone and stated unfortunately Mayor Zimmermann is attending a family wedding and cannot be here. She wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulations to everyone there.

On days like today it really shows what kind of a small community we have here. Most of you know I work at Carlstadt Public School and today we had the Fire Department and Police Department as we had smoke in the building. It was an example of the whole town coming together and taking care of us. We had 540 students and about 90 staff members. Everyone was evacuated safely and we went back to school in about an hour and a half thanks to all of the fire fighters in Carlstadt. I would like to thank you all very much.

Council President DeBiase called up the 2023 Past Chief John Harr for the presentation of the Past Chief's badge.

Chief Harr read the report for the month of December 2023. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their commitment and support throughout the year. Responses were handled in a safe and professional manner while working with the Carlstadt Police Department and Ambulance Corps. Our calls were

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down about 45 calls last year. That was due in part with our Fire Safety Bureau. We had 2 big losses in the department last year with Bobby Moore who was the heart of this department and Ed Frey who was retired but he still did so much for this department and they will surely be missed. He wanted to thank all of his officers and past chiefs for their support.

The Installation of Fire Officers of the Borough of Carlstadt for 2024 is as follows:

CHIEF ROBERT RUFF, JR. – His wife Andrea presented him with his badge and his son, Ryan held the Bible.

ASSISTANT CHIEF JAMES SCHMIDT – His mother, Irene presented him with his badge and his father, Frank held the Bible.

DEPUTY CHIEF JAY MURPHY – His wife, Linda presented him with his badge and his son, Jayson held the Bible.

BATTALION CHIEF WALTER STANKIEWICZ III – His wife, Ashley presented him with his badge and his sons, Walter and Kyler held the Bible.

Council President DeBiase stated that unfortunately the President of the Board of Officers, Robert Brown was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Council President DeBiase called up the 2024 Captains for 2024:
Steven Lahullier, Anthony Silletto, Joe Taylor, Bart Pachucki and Joe Biggy.

Council President DeBiase called up the 1st Lieutenants for 2024.
Steven Capuano, John Sanzari III, Brian Cervasio, David Llewellyn and Jarrett Milligan.

Council President DeBiase called up the 2nd Lieutenants for 2024.
Michael Bolwell, Gabe Rodriguez, Jason Roughgarden and Mark Dunn, Jr.

Council President DeBiase called up Chief Ruff to make a presentation. Chief Ruff called up Battalion Chief Walter Stankiewicz III and presented him with his white helmet. Chief Ruff wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated it is an honor and privilege to be standing here today as Chief of the Carlstadt Fire Department. He congratulated all of the new officers. He said to all of the members he is proud to be your Chief of the Carlstadt Fire Department and leading and working with each of you. Whether it is on the fire grounds, training or anything else that comes up this year, knowing I am here to support you and will always be available and always have your back. He thanked Mayor Zimmermann and all of the Council for the support they have always provided to the Fire Department. We would not have the best of equipment and apparatus without your help and support. I know during the year we will be working on budgets and everything but I know we always work together and that support is greatly appreciated by all of us. He thanked the Carlstadt Police and Ambulance Corps and all of our mutual aid departments. I look forward to working together and

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continue our support with each other as we always do especially in our time of need. He thanked all the family and friends that have come here tonight and showing your support. He especially thanked his wife, Andrea and his parents for their support.

Concluding with the service he would like to invite everyone downstairs for refreshments in the firehouse.

Council President DeBiase said on behalf of the Mayor and Council we would like to thank everyone for coming and congratulate every single one of you. We wish you the best of luck and a safe and healthy 2024. We are so proud of you and thank you for all you do

Councilman Stoltz stated this past year he had the pleasure and honor of being the Fire Commissioner and is a long-time fireman also. He thanked Chief Harr for calming him down. He did a great job as well as his men. You have no idea how much time these guys put into the department.

Council President DeBiase thanked everyone for coming. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

APPROVED: _____
DIANE DeBIASE, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST: _____
CLAIRE FOY, BOROUGH CLERK