

Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield was held on January 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ridgefield Community Center, 725 Slocum Avenue, Ridgefield.

Mayor Jimenez stated that this meeting of the Mayor and Council is being conducted pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act; adequate notice of the meeting has been given by publishing notice in The Record. Furthermore, notice was posted in the Borough of Ridgefield Municipal Building.

Swearing in of:

Councilman Yongki Colin Ryu
Councilman Mohamed Jaafar

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Mayor Jimenez, Councilman Kontolios, Councilman Ryu, Councilwoman Congalton-Hali, Councilwoman Kim, Councilman Ramundo, Councilman Jaafar are present.

1-2025 Mayor Jimenez Appointment Borough Attorney

Roll Call:

Councilman Kontolios	Yes
Councilman Ryu	Yes
Councilwoman Congalton-Hali	Yes
Councilwoman Kim	Yes
Councilman Ramundo	Yes
Councilman Jaafar	Yes

2-2025 Mayor Jimenez Appointment Council President

Motion made and seconded to nominate Councilwoman Congalton-Hali. Mayor Jimenez stated that motion was out of order. After much discussion Mayor Jimenez asked the Borough Attorney if he could do a 30 day holder. Borough Attorney responded yes.

Roll Call:

Councilman Kontolios	
Councilman Ryu	
Councilwoman Congalton-Hali	No Council Vote -
Councilwoman Kim	30 Day Holdover
Councilman Ramundo	
Councilman Jaafar	

3-2025 Mayor Jimenez Appointment of Fire Department Line Officers

Roll Call:

Councilman Kontolios	Yes
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Councilman Ryu	Yes
Councilwoman Congalton-Hali	Yes
Councilwoman Kim	Yes
Councilman Ramundo	Yes
Councilman Jaafar	Yes

Swearing in of Line Officers

CONSENT AGENDA:

All items listed are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Borough Council and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Council member(s) so request it, in which case the item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. The one motion signifies the adoption of all resolutions and approval of applications and minutes.

5-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Borough Engineer
6-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Borough Planner
7-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Risk Manager/Insurance Agent
8-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Bond Counsel
9-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Representative, American Disabilities Act
10-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Tax Appeal Counsel
11-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Parks and Recreation Commission
12-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Youth Commission
13-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Claimant Certification
14-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Cash Management Plan
15-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Official Newspapers
16-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Tax Searcher & Assistant to Tax Assessor
17-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Special Projects Engineer
19-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Board of Health
20-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Fire/Property Maintenance Inspectors
21-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Fire Official/Property Maintenance Official
22-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Landlord Security Commission
23-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Cable Television Commission
24-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Director of Parks and Recreation/Pool Director
25-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Affordable Housing Planner
26-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Special Police for Police Department
27-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Police Matrons for Police Department
28-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Interpreters for Police Department
29-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Trustees of the Public Library
30-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Environmental Commission
31-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Mayor's Alternates for Hackensack Meadowlands Municipal Committee
32-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Designating Holiday Schedule for 2025
33-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Designating Mayor and Council Meetings for 2025
34-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Affirmative Action Officer
35-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Environmental Consultant

36-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Chaplains-Volunteer Fire Department and Police Department 2025
37-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Establishing Interest Rates for Non-Payment of Taxes
38-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Insurance Fund Commission
39-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Independent Professional Real Estate Appraiser
40-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Collection System Operator
41-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Assistant Borough Clerk
42-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Court Administrator
43-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986
45-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Payment of Claims
46-2025	Mayor Jimenez	State Contract Vendors
47-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Anti-Bullying Committee Members
48-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Elevator Inspector
49-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Police and Fire Physicians and Surgeons
50-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Rent Leveling Committee
51-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Public Defender
52-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Labor Counsel
54-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Borough Auditor
55-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Recycling Coordinator
56-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Deputy Court Administrator
57-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Public Agency Compliance Officer
59-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Borough Historians
60-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Borough Prosecutor
62-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Financial Advisory Services
63-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Tenant Advocate
64-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Rent Leveling Attorney
65-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Full Time Fire Inspector
66-2025	Mayor Jimenez	Appointment Clean Communities Coordinator

Roll Call:

Councilman Kontolios	Yes
Councilman Ryu	Yes
Councilwoman Congalton-Hali	Yes
Councilwoman Kim	Yes
Councilman Ramundo	Yes
Councilman Jaafar	Yes

RESOLUTIONS:

4-2025	Councilman Kontolios	Appointing Standing Committees of Mayor and Council for 2025
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Councilman Jaafar stated that he wanted this removed from the consent agenda because it listed Council President as well as Class III Planning Board member. Councilpersons Ramundo and Kim stated that they wanted to give input to what committees they were put on. Mayor Jimenez asked if this could also be a 30 day holdover to which the Borough Attorney responded yes. Mayor

Jimenez stated that since this was a holdover there would be some committees that only had two members.

Roll Call:

Councilman Kontolios	
Councilman Ryu	No Council Vote
Councilwoman Congalton-Hali	30 Day Holdover
Councilwoman Kim	
Councilman Ramundo	
Councilman Jaafar	

18-2025 Mayor Jimenez Appointment Planning Board Commission

Councilman Jaafar stated that the resolution states that no council vote is needed but that the Class III Member is a council appointment.

Roll Call:

Councilman Kontolios	
Councilman Ryu	No Council Vote
Councilwoman Congalton-Hali	30 Day Holdover on Class III Member
Councilwoman Kim	
Councilman Ramundo	
Councilman Jaafar	

44-2025 Mayor Jimenez Appointment of Web Masters

Councilman Jaafar stated that a councilperson should not be the web master. Councilwoman Kim questioned why Ken Bruno was not the web master. Mayor Jimenez and Councilman Kontolios commented on the work required to keep the website updated. Councilman Jaafar requested that he be put on the resolution as an additional web master to help Councilman Kontolios. Mayor Jimenez questioned what his qualifications were and what platforms he uses for websites.

Roll Call as Amended:

Councilman Kontolios	No
Councilman Ryu	Yes
Councilwoman Congalton-Hali	Yes
Councilwoman Kim	Yes
Councilman Ramundo	Yes
Councilman Jaafar	Yes

53-2025 Mayor Jimenez Appointment Grant Writer

Questioned who the Grant Writer reported to.

Roll Call:

Councilman Kontolios	Yes
Councilman Ryu	Yes
Councilwoman Congalton-Hali	Yes
Councilwoman Kim	Yes
Councilman Ramundo	Yes
Councilman Jaafar	Yes

58-2025 Mayor Jimenez Appointment DPW Superintendent

Questioned why this annual appointment was on the agenda when the DPW Superintendent was just given a 3 year contract.

Roll Call:

Councilman Kontolios	Yes
Councilman Ryu	Yes
Councilwoman Congalton-Hali	Yes
Councilwoman Kim	Yes
Councilman Ramundo	Yes
Councilman Jaafar	Yes

61-2025 Mayor Jimenez Appointment Special Council

Roll Call:

Councilman Kontolios	Yes
Councilman Ryu	Yes
Councilwoman Congalton-Hali	Yes
Councilwoman Kim	Yes
Councilman Ramundo	Yes
Councilman Jaafar	Yes

67-2025 Councilman Ryu CY2025 Temporary Budget

Roll Call:

Councilman Kontolios	Yes
Councilman Ryu	Yes
Councilwoman Congalton-Hali	Yes
Councilwoman Kim	Yes
Councilman Ramundo	Yes
Councilman Jaafar	Yes

COMMENTS BY MAYOR: Mayor Jimenez commented on the accomplishments from last year and the upcoming projects for 2025.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL:

Councilman Kontolios: Congratulated Councilman Ryu. Commented on the accomplishments from 2024 and thanked the various departments.

Councilman Ryu: Thanked everyone for their support and looks forward to 2025.

Councilwoman Congalton-Hali: Commented on the importance of working together in the best interest of the residents of Ridgefield. Congratulated Councilmen Ryu and Jaafar.

Councilwoman Kim: Commented on 2024 and her wishes to be more involved in 2025.

Councilman Ramundo: Commented on wanting to revisit the Council President appointment. Mayor Jimenez stated that there is a 30 day holdover. Congratulated Councilmen Ryu and Jaafar.

Councilman Jaafar: Thanked everyone for their support and looks forward to working with everyone.

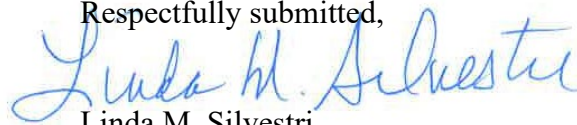
COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATOR: Absent

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS: (All speakers are limited to five minutes maximum per meeting)

No Comments

Meeting adjourned 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda M. Silvestri,
Borough Clerk