

**TOWNSHIP OF BERLIN MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
REORGANIZATION MEETING  
JANUARY 6, 2025**

Mayor Magazzu opened up the reorganization meeting and stated that pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law, notice of this meeting were advertised in the Courier Post newspapers and posted on the bulletin board. Mayor welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Note Weather: Snow storm and Governor declared it a State of Emergency.**

All in attendance joined in the Salute to the Flag

ROLL CALL: Mayor Magazzu, Councilman Epifanio, Councilwoman Marion Bodanza, Councilman Reid by Phone, Councilman McHenry by Phone

Also Present: Chief of Police, Louis Bordi, Josh Shellenberger, Zoning/ Animal Control

Guests: Danial DiGangi, Municipal Accountant. Attorney Christopher Orlando

Absent:

**Mayor Magazzu administered the oaths of Office to Councilman Frank Epifanio and Councilman Mark Reid.**

Mayor Magazzu, open the floor for nomination for Council President. Councilman Epifanio nominated **Marion Bodanza** for **Council President**, Mayor Magazzu seconded the nomination.

**RESOLUTION 2025-1 PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-120 provides that the Council shall select from among its members a President of the Council who shall serve in place of the Mayor in the event of his absence disability or refusal to act;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Township of Berlin that **MARION BODANZA**, having been selected by the Council, shall serve as President of the Council of the Township of Berlin from January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-1. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:1-11-1 et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contract for "Professional Services" under the fair and open process must be publicly advertised;

### **RESOLUTION 2025- 2 APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, that **CHRISTOPHER ORLANDO, PARKER McCAY, 9000 Midlantic Drive Mount Laurel NJ 08054** be appointed the Municipal Attorney of the Township of Berlin for a period of one year (1) commencing January 6, 2024 until December 31, 2025 to perform professional services ordinarily provided by and required of a Municipal Attorney, and to receive such compensation as may be reasonable for such services.

Said **CHRISTOPHER ORLANDO, ESQUIRE**, is a person authorized by law to practice a recognized profession in the State of New Jersey, which practice is regulated by the laws of this State, to wit , the profession of Municipal Attorney. These professional services are necessary and are required by this municipality.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-2. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

### **RESOLUTION 2025- 3 APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:1-11-1 et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contract for "Professional Services" under the fair and open process must be publicly advertised;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, that **WILLIAM M. TAMBUSI**, of, **BROWN & CONNERY LLP, WESTMONT NJ** be appointed the Labor Counsel of the Township of Berlin for a period of one year (1) commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025 to perform professional services ordinarily provided by and required of a Labor Counsel, and to receive such compensation as may be reasonable for such services.

Said **WILLIAM M. TAMBUSI**, is a person authorized by law to practice a recognized profession in the State of New Jersey, which practice is regulated by the laws of this State; to wit, the profession of Labor Counsel. These professional services are necessary and are required by this municipality.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-3. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 4 APPOINTMENT OF REGISTERED MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTANT**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contract for "Professional Services" under the fair and open contract provisions of N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.4 et seq; and must be publicly advertised;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, that **DANIEL DiGANGI, C.P.A. of BOWMAN AND COMPANY, 601 White Horse Road, Voorhees, New Jersey 08043** be appointed the Registered Municipal Auditor of the Township of Berlin commencing January 6, 2025, until December 31, 2025 to perform the professional services ordinarily provided by a Registered Municipal Auditor of the State of New Jersey, and to receive such compensation as may be reasonable for such services. Said **DANIEL DiGANGI, C.P.A.** is a person authorized by law to practice a recognized profession in the State of New Jersey, said practice is regulated by the laws of this State; to wit, the profession of Registered Municipal Auditor. These professional services are necessary and are required by this Municipality.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-4. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 5 APPOINTMENT OF BOND COUNSEL**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contract for "Professional Services" under the fair and open contract provisions of N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.4 et seq; and must be publicly advertised;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, that **PHILIP A. NORCROSS of Parker McCay , 9000 Midlantic Drive Mount Laurel NJ 08054** be appointed Financial Consultant for the Sale of Bonds of the Township of Berlin for a period of one year (1) commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025 to perform the professional services ordinarily provided by a Financial Consultant of the State of New Jersey, and to receive such compensation as may be reasonable for such services.

Said **PHILIP A. NORCROSS** is the person authorized by law to practice a recognized profession in the State of New Jersey, said practice is regulated by the laws of this State; to wit, the profession of registered Attorneys. These professional services are necessary and are required by this municipality.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-5. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 6 APPOINTMENT OF ENGINEER**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contract for "Professional Services" " under the fair and open contract provisions of N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.4 et seq; and must be publicly advertised;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, that **GREG FUSCO, KEY ENGINEERS, 80 South White Horse Pike, Berlin NJ 08009** to be appointed Engineers for the Township of Berlin for a term of one year commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025, to perform professional services ordinarily provided by and required of a Project Engineer. These professional services are necessary and are required by this municipality.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-6. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 7 APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL PLANNER**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contract for "Professional Services" " under the fair and open contract provisions of N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.4 et seq; and must be publicly advertised;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, that **LEAH FUREY BRUDER from LFB Land Planning LLC. located at 22 Coates Street Medford, NJ 08055** is hereby appointed the Professional Planner of the Township of Berlin for a term of one year commencing January 6, 2025 to December 31, 2025, to perform professional services ordinarily provided by and required of a Professional Planner. These professional services are necessary and are required by this municipality.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-7. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 8 AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL REDEVELOPMENT COUNSEL**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Berlin has a need to acquire services for Special Redevelopment Counsel as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer/Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will not exceed \$17,500; and

**WHEREAS**, the anticipated term of this contract is for one year commencing on January 6, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the value of the contract will not exceed \$17,500; and

**WHEREAS, Stuart Platt from the Platt Law Group.** has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that they have not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Berlin in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit them from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

**WHEREAS**, funding for this purpose shall not exceed the amount budgeted for said purpose and set aside in 2025 Budget and shall be encumbered in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:4-5.3(b)(2); and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin hereby authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract **with Stuart Platt, Platt Law Group located at 40 Berlin Avenue, Stratford NJ 08084, Inc.** as described herein; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that notice of said award shall be published in the official newspaper of the Township of Berlin as required by law.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-8. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

### **RESOLUTION 2025-9 COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL (FINANCE)**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-123 et seq., provides for the appointment and designation of Committees of Council;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I PHYLLIS A. MAGAZZU**, Mayor of the Township of Berlin, hereby appoint **ALEX DAVIDSON** to serve on said Finance Committee.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-9. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-10 APPOINTMENT OF IMPROVEMENT SEARCH CLERK**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Berlin, that **CATHERINE UNDERWOOD** be and is hereby appointed Improvement Search Clerk effective January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-10. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-11 APPOINTMENT OF C-2 OPERATOR**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, Camden County, New Jersey that **GIANNI MAGAZZU**. be and is hereby appointed the C-2 Operator of the Sewer Department of the Township of Berlin, effective January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-10. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative. Mayor Magazzu abstained.

**RESOLUTION 2025-12 APPOINTMENT OF AN INSURANCE BROKER**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contract for "Professional Services" " under the fair and open contract provisions of N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.4 et seq; and must be publicly advertised;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, that **CONNER STRONG BUCKELEW** to be appointed the Insurance Broker of the Township of Berlin for a term of one year commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025, to provide Risk Management Services. These professional services are necessary and are required by this municipality.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-10. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-13 APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER AND ALTERNATE FOR JOINT INSURANCE FUND**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that the following appointments to the Joint Insurance Fund Committee be and they are hereby made as follows, commencing January 1, 2025

- CATHERINE UNDERWOOD - FUND COMMISSIONER**
- PHYLLIS MAGAZZU - ALTERNATE FUND COMMISSIONER**
- GIANNI MAGAZZU - SAFETY DELEGATE**
- MARK REID - ALTERNATE SAFETY DELEGATE**

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-13. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative. Mayor Magazzu abstained.

**RESOLUTION 2025-14 APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that it hereby appoints **CATHERINE UNDERWOOD** as the Public Agency Compliance Officer until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-14. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 15 APPOINTMENT OF ZONING OFFICER**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-122 provides that the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint such other officers as may be provided for the Office of Zoning Officer;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, that **JOSHUA SHELLENBERGER** be appointed the Zoning Officer, commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-15. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative. Mayor Magazzu abstained.

**RESOLUTION 2025-16 APPOINTMENT OF A QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for qualifying as a Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, **Alexander Davidson** possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, **Alexander Davidson** desires to take advantage of the increased bid threshold:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governing body hereby appoints **Alexander Davidson** as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-2(30), with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility, and accountability of the purchasing activity of the contracting unit; and

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-16. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-17 APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:69a-122 provides that the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council shall appoint such other officers as may be provided by ordinance; and **WHEREAS**, Section 3-2E of the Code of the Township of Berlin provides for the office of the Municipal Court;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that the following appointment be made for the year commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER - ROBERT E. DEPERSIA, II**

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-17. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-18 APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-122 provides that the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint such other officers as may be provided by Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 3-2E of the Code of the Township of Berlin provides for the office of the Municipal Court;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that the following appointment be made for the year commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025



**PROSECUTOR - DONNA SIGEL PLATT**

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-18. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-19 APPOINTMENT OF VIOLATION COURT CLERK**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40-69a-122 provides that the Mayor with advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint such other officers as may be provided by Ordinance;

**WHEREAS**, Section 3-2E of the Code of the Township of Berlin provides for the Office of the Municipal Court;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, in the County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the following appointments be made as follows:

**VIOLATION COURT CLERK -Taylor Sirolli** until December 31, 2025

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-19. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 20 APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-122 provides that the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint such other officers as may be provided by ordinance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, that the following persons be and they are hereby appointed Emergency Management Advisory Council members until December 31, 2025.

**PHYLLIS MAGAZZU  
CATHERINE UNDERWOOD  
DANIEL GATTI  
CHIEF OF POLICE, LOUIS BORDI  
MELLISSA RAMAGE  
LOUIS DE MARCO JR.  
ANDREW SIMONE  
ANTONETTE PEARSON  
ADAM LEE  
SAHARA SAM REPRESENTATIVE  
WALMART REPRESENTATIVE**

**HOME DEPOT REPRESENTATIVE  
SHOPRITE REPRESENTATIVE  
SINCLAIR MOVING COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE**

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-20. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-21 APPOINTMENT OF MSI PLANNING COORDINATOR**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that

**PHYLLIS MAGAZZU** is hereby appointed MSI Planning Coordinator; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that **LOUIS BORDI** is hereby appointed Deputy MSI Planning Coordinator commencing January 6, 2025 until January 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-21. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-22 THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM FRAMPTON, WILLIAM PUMPHREY, RICARD MIRAGLIA AND JOSEPH KELLY AS SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (SLEO) TO PROVIDE SCHOOL SECURITY FOR BERLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TO BERLIN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

**WHEREAS** the Township of Berlin and Berlin Township Board of Education have agreed to enter into a shared service agreement to provide School Security Officers to the Berlin Township public school; and

**WHEREAS**, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin authorizes the Appointment of **William Pumphrey as a SLEO III School Security Officer, William Frampton as a SLEO II, School Security Officer and Ricard Miraglia as a SLEO II, School Security Officer and Joseph Kelly SLEO II**; and

**WHEREAS**, the Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO) will be appointed for the months of **January, February and March** in increments of 90 days throughout the school year as suggested by school security best practice.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the School Security Officers stated above shall commence on January 6, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-22. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-23 APPOINTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 1<sup>ST</sup> DEPUTY COORDINATORS**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-122 provides that the Mayor with the advice and consent of Council, shall appoint such officers as may be provided by ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, 3-2 of the Code of the Township of Berlin provides for the appointment of Emergency Management 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy's;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that **George Bundick** is hereby appointed Emergency Management 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Coordinators for the Township of Berlin for a term commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-23. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 24 APPOINTMENT OF A MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR FOR DISABLED**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that **ANTONETTE PEARSON** be and is hereby appointed the Municipal Coordinator for the Disabled commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-24. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 25 APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR ON AGING**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-122 provides that the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint such other officers as may be provided by ordinance; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that **ANTONETTE PEARSON** be and is hereby appointed Coordinator on Aging for the Township of Berlin commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-25. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-26 APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-122 provides that the Mayor with the advice and consent of Council, shall appoint such other officers as may be provided by ordinance; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that **JOSHUA SHELLENBERGER** be and is hereby appointed for the Township of Berlin as Secretary of the Board of Health Commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-26. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative. Mayor Magazzu abstained.

**RESOLUTION 2025-27 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERLIN TO CREATE AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the Township of has created a Board of Health Advisory Committee.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, that the appointments be made as follows:

Phyllis Magazzu  
Frank McHenry  
Mark Reid  
Marion Bodanza  
Frank Epifanio

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that the above are hereby appointed as members of the Board of Health Advisory Committee effective January 6, 2025 and terminating December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-27. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-28 APPOINTMENT OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE INSPECTORS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Berlin, that **JOSHUA SHELLENBERGER, ROBERT BRAY** be and is hereby appointed as Property Maintenance Inspector for a term commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-28. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative. Mayor Magazzu abstained.

**RESOLUTION 2025-29 RESOLUTION APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL LIAISON FOR NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Berlin, that **MARK REID, MARION BODANZA** and **FRANK EPIFANIO** be and is here by appointed liaison for neighbors helping neighbors effective January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-29. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-30 APPOINTMENT OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that **JOSHUA SHELLENBERGER** be and is hereby appointed the Animal Control Officer for the Township of Berlin commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-30. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative. Mayor Magazzu abstained.

**RESOLUTION 2025-31 APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY LAND USE OFFICE**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Berlin, that **KELLEY SHENDOCK** be and is hereby appointed Administrative Secretary Land Use Office effective January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-31. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-32 APPOINTMENT OF ELECTRICAL SUB-CODE OFFICIAL/ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Berlin requires the services of an on-site inspector to perform electrical inspection services; and

**WHEREAS, SAL CATANIA** is a duly approved and licensed State Inspector for electrical services;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Berlin that it hereby appoints **SAL CATANIA** Electrical Sub Code Official for a four-year term commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2028.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution shall be filed in the Office of the Township Clerk and filed with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code Office and Department of Community Affairs for the State of New Jersey.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-32. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-33 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE PLANNING BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 30:44-1.4 provides for the creation, membership and terms of a PLANNING BOARD; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 20-2 et seq., of the Code of the Township of Berlin provides for the creation of a PLANNING BOARD shall consist of the following;

**CRAIG DEGEORGE** – Class IV Member to 12-31-27  
**BETSY SIMPSON** – Class IV Member 12-31-26  
**ED POTTS**- Class IV Member 12-31-28  
**MIKE LYDIC**- Class IV Member 12-31-27  
**DOMINIC DANDREA**- Class IV Member 12-31-25  
**MICHAEL DEPALMA**– Class II Construction Code Official to 12-31-25  
**FRANK MCHENRY** – Class III Councilperson to 12-31-2025  
**PHYLLIS MAGAZZU** – Class I Mayor to 12-31-25  
**DAVID CARLAMERE**- Solicitor to 12-31-25  
**DAVID ROWAN**- Solicitor to 12-31-25

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the above named individual shall serve his respective term pursuant to the provisions set forth in the New Jersey Statutes Annotated 40:55-1 et seq., and pursuant to the Code of the Township of Berlin, Section 20-1 et seq.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-33. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-34 APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR FOR CLEAN COMMUNITIES MODEL PROGRAM**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that **GIANNI MAGAZZU** is hereby appointed as Coordinator for the Clean Communities Model Program I and that the Public Works Department of the Township of Berlin, be designated the Agency responsible for grant implementation effective January 6, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-34. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative. Mayor Magazzu abstained.

**RESOLUTION 2025-35 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE TO THE CAMDEN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, there is hereby established an annual requirement of a Municipality to appoint a voting representative, and alternate to the Camden County Community Development Advisory Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Berlin wishes to continue to be a voting member of said board in conjunction with the existing Cooperation Agreement;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that **MARION BODANZA** is hereby appointed to serve as the representative from the Township of Berlin to the Camden County Community Development Advisory Board and

**FURTHER, MARK REID and FRANK EPIFANIO** is hereby appointed to serve as the alternate members,

**FURTHER**, a certified copy of this Resolution is to be submitted to the County Community Development Office.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-35. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-36 RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE APPOINTMENTS OF PLANNING BOARD SOLICITORS**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:-11-1 et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the award of contract for "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, recommends that **DAVID CARLAMERE & DAVID ROWAN ESQUIRE**, be appointed the Planning Board Attorney of the Township of Berlin for a period of one year (1) commencing **January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025** to perform professional services ordinarily provided by and required of a Planning Board Attorney, and to receive such compensation as may be reasonable for such services. Said **DAVID CARLAMERE & DAVID ROWAN ESQUIRE**, is a person authorized by law to practice a recognized profession in the State of New Jersey, which practice is regulated by the laws of this State; to wit, the profession of Planning Board Attorney. These professional services are necessary and are required by this municipality.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-36. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-37 AUTHORIZING PURCHASES THROUGH STATE CONTRACTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Berlin may, pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:11-12, purchase materials, supplies and equipment under contracts entered into on behalf of the State of New Jersey by the Division of Purchases and Property in the Department of the Treasury; and

**WHEREAS**, purchases under the aforesaid State Contracts may be made by the Township without the necessity of advertising for bids or may be made in cases where advertisements for bids have produced either no bids or have produced rejected bids; and

**WHEREAS**, it is contemplated that it will be necessary or desirable to obtain materials, supplies, and equipment under said State Contracts, during the year 2025;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that Department Heads are hereby authorized to purchase, without the necessity of a separate resolution, such materials, supplies, and equipment as shall be available under State Contract, to the Township pursuant to N.J.S.A.40A:11-12, in those cases 1) where it is desirable and in the best interests of the Township of Berlin to make such purchases and 2) where the amount of the purchase, with regard to the aggregation of like purchases made at separate times in the year 2025, is less than the threshold set in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all purchases by the Township of Berlin pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12 which are, with regard to aggregation, in excess of the bid limit established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3, shall be the subject of a separate authorizing resolution by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-37. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-38 DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY FOR THE YEAR 2025**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14 mandates that the governing body of a municipal corporation shall, by resolution passed by a majority vote of the full membership thereof, designate as a depository for its monies a bank or trust company having its place of business in the state and organized under the laws of the United States or this state;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** on the 6th day of January, 2025, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that **FULTON BANK and FIRST HARVEST CREDIT UNION and NEW JERSEY ASSET & REBATE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM** be and is hereby designated as depositories for the Township of Berlin for the year 2025.



Prior to the deposit of any municipal funds in the above-mentioned depositories, said bank shall file with the Chief Financial Officer a statement indicating that the bank is covered under the Government Units Deposit Protection Act (RS. 17:9-41).

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-38. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

### **RESOLUTION 2025-39 DESIGNATION OF BANKS FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, there will be excess Berlin Township funds from time to time; and  
**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the Township of Berlin to invest these funds at the highest rate of interest available;  
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that the Treasurer be and hereby authorized to invest these funds in the following banks:

**FIRST HARVEST CREDIT UNION**

**REPUBLIC BANK**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY CASH MANAGEMENT FUND**

**Any other banks with GUDPA certification**

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-39. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

### **RESOLUTION 2025-40 DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS**

**WHEREAS**, Section 3 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L., 1975, requires that certain notice of meetings be submitted to two (2) newspapers, one of which shall be the official newspaper; and  
**WHEREAS**, the second newspaper designated by this body must be the one which has the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the jurisdictional boundaries of this body of such meeting;  
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. **COURIER POST**, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and **RECORD BREEZE**, Blackwood, New Jersey are hereby designated as the official newspaper of the township. The designation of the newspapers shall be for a period of one (1) year commencing January 6, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

2. It is the opinion of this body that the above named newspapers have the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the jurisdictional area of this body of such meetings.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-40. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 41 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERLIN**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A.40A:5-14 requires every municipality to adopt a Cash Management Plan;

**WHEREAS**, the attached plan, which has been prepared pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A.40A:5-14, sets forth the basis for the deposits and investments of certain public funds of the Township of Berlin;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cash Management Plan be adopted and in effect for the period January 6, 2025 through December 31, 2025. A copy of said plan is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-41. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-42 AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR EXTRAORDINARY, UNSPECIFIED SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need for dental insurance coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated amount of the contract is \$ 55,000.00 and said funds are available in an appropriation entitled **Employee Group Insurance** and have been certified by the local finance officer, said certification being attached; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S. 40A:11-1 et seq. requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for “Extraordinary, Unspecifiable Services” without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that this meets the statute and regulations governing the award of said contract;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin as follows:

1. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement with **Southern NJ Employee Benefits Fund Group**.
2. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as an “Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service” in accordance with 40A:11-5(l)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because it cannot be reasonably described in written specifications and insurance qualifies as a EUS under the provisions of the statute.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-42. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 43 RESOLUTION TO SET THE INTEREST RATE CHARGES ON DELINQUENT TAXES**

**WHEREAS**, R.S. 54:4-67 permits the governing body of each municipality to fix the rate of interest to be charged for nonpayment of taxes or assessments subject to any abatement or nonpayment of taxes or assessments subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of taxes as provided by law; and

**WHEREAS**, R.S. 54:4-67 has been amended to permit the fixing of said rate of 8% on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to charge 8% on the first \$1,500 of taxes becoming delinquent after due date and 18% on any amount of taxes in excess of \$1,500.00 becoming delinquent after due date, subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of taxes as provided by law.
2. There will be a ten (10) day grace period for quarterly tax payments made by cash, check or money order.
3. This resolution shall be published in its entirety once in the designated newspaper.
4. A certified copy of this resolution shall be provided by the Office of the Township Clerk to each of the following:
  - a) Tax Collector
  - b) Township Attorney
  - c) Township Auditor
  - d) Department of Financial Services

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-43. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 44 RESOLUTION TO SET THE INTEREST RATE CHARGED ON DELINQUENT SEWER BILLS**

**WHEREAS**, R.S. 54:4-67 permits the governing body of each municipality to fix the rate of interest to be charged for nonpayment of sewer bills subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of sewer bills as provided by law; and

**WHEREAS**, R.S. 54:4-67 has been amended to permit the fixing of said rate of 18% per annum.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to charge 18% per annum of sewer bills becoming delinquent after due date, subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of sewer bills as provided by law.
2. There will be a ten (10) day grace period for quarterly sewer payments made by cash, check or money order.
3. This resolution shall be published in its entirety once in the designated newspaper.
4. A certified copy of this resolution shall be provided by the Office of the Township Clerk to each of the following:
  - a) Tax Collector
  - b) Township Attorney
  - c) Township Auditor
  - d) Department of Financial Services

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-44. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 45 RESOLUTION TO ADD SURCHARGE ON DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES OVER \$10,000.00**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-67, the Governing Body of a Municipality may establish a penalty to be assessed to a taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 and who fails to pay that delinquency prior to the end of the fiscal year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Berlin that it hereby authorizes a 6% penalty to be assessed on any tax delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 where said delinquency has not been paid prior to the end of the fiscal year.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall become effective on the date of its adoption.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-45. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 46 RESOLUTION SETTING FEE FOR EXECUTION OF DUPLICATE TAX SALE CERTIFICATE NJSA 54:5-52-1**

**WHEREAS**, in case of the destruction or loss of a tax title certificate which was issued by the Township of Berlin in the State of New Jersey held in the municipality, the collector of taxes in said municipality shall issue and execute a new certificate of tax sale in place of the one which has been destroyed or lost, and;

**WHEREAS**, the tax collector shall be duly authorized to do so by resolution of the governing body of said municipality, and;

**WHEREAS**, the municipality may charge a fee not to exceed \$100 for such a duplicate certificate, so;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that the costs for such duplicate certificate is set at \$100.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-46. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025- 47 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO SET UP PARTIAL PAYMENT AGREEMENTS FOR CURRENT TAXES N.J.S.A. 54:5-68**

**WHEREAS**, the owners of property located in the Township of Berlin, would like the opportunity to pay taxes on a timely basis in monthly installments, and;

**WHEREAS**, no delinquencies are recorded and current year real estate taxes are being paid in these monthly payments, and;

**WHEREAS**, payments will be due the first day of each month with a ten day grace period, so;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that pursuant to New Jersey Statutes Annotated, authorization is granted to allow the Tax Collector to enter into an agreement for monthly installments upon request of the owner on any property within the Township of Berlin for the payment of current taxes through monthly installments, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if these monthly installments fall delinquent more than ten days after the due date, then such agreement shall be void and the delinquency will revert back to the original date and the Township shall enforce the delinquency allowed by statute.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-47. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-48 RESOLUTION TO SET A SERVICE CHARGE FOR RETURNED CHECKS**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40:5-18 states that a governing body may provide for the imposition of a service charge to be added for a check returned for insufficient funds not to exceed \$20.00.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that in accordance with the above stated statute the fee of \$20.00 will be assessed for each check returned for insufficient funds.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-48. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-49 RESOLUTION TO SET THE TIMES AND DATES FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BERLIN ANNUAL MEETINGS**

The following is the schedule of the regular meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin. All meeting shall be held at the Berlin Township Municipal Hall at 135 Route 73 South, Berlin Township, New Jersey. Meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. Meetings for the year 2025 will be held as follows:

**Berlin Township  
Mayor and Council 2025 Meetings Dates  
The meetings will begin at 5:30 pm**

|                  |           |                               |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| <b>January</b>   | <b>6</b>  | <b>Reorganization Meeting</b> |
| <b>February</b>  | <b>10</b> |                               |
| <b>March</b>     | <b>17</b> |                               |
| <b>April</b>     | <b>14</b> |                               |
| <b>May</b>       | <b>19</b> |                               |
| <b>June</b>      | <b>16</b> |                               |
| <b>July</b>      | <b>21</b> |                               |
| <b>August</b>    | <b>18</b> |                               |
| <b>September</b> | <b>15</b> |                               |
| <b>October</b>   | <b>20</b> |                               |
| <b>November</b>  | <b>17</b> |                               |
| <b>December</b>  | <b>15</b> |                               |

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-49. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-50 ADOPTING ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER TO GOVERN THE CONDUCT OF ALL MEETINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERLIN**

**WHEREAS** the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin shall conduct meetings and;

**WHEREAS** Robert's Rules of Order are rules and regulations needed to conduct the business of a meeting.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, in the County of Camden, that all meetings of the Township Council shall be governed by, and conducted in accordance with, Robert's Rules of Order.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-50. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-51 AUTHORIZING THE TAX ASSESSOR TO FILE APPEALS, ADDED AND OMITTED ASSESSMENT APPEALS, FILE COUNTER APPEALS AND ROLLBACK COMPLAINTS WITH THE CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION AND TAX COURT OF NEW JERSEY**

**WHEREAS**, statutory tax appeals and other matters and applications affecting the taxation of real property within the Township of Berlin are routinely filed with the Camden County Board of Taxation and the Tax Court of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council finds it to be in the best interest of the citizens of the Township to authorize and direct the Tax Assessor to take any and all action that he/she deems advisable in such tax matters in order to protect, promote and advance the Township's interest in assuring that each property within the Township is fairly and equitably assessed in accordance with the law; and

**WHEREAS**, a statutory provision is made for review and correction of errors prior to certification of an assessment; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for a defense and/or prosecution of tax appeals before the Camden County Board of Taxation and the Tax Court of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council finds it to be in the best interest of the citizens of the Township to authorize and direct the Township Attorney and/or Special Counsel to assist the Tax Assessor in such tax matters referred to herein;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, State of New Jersey that the Tax Assessor of the Township of Berlin be and is hereby authorized and directed to prepare, file, pursue and litigate, if necessary, any Assessor's Tax Appeals, Answers to Tax Appeals, Prepare Defenses and Defend Assessments, Negotiate Resolutions and Stipulations of Settlement, Rollbacks, Counterclaims, Appeals and Cross-Appeals in statutory tax appeals and other matters and applications affecting the taxation of real property within the Township of Berlin as may be filed with the Camden County Board of Taxation and/or Tax Court of New Jersey, that the Tax Assessor deems advisable in such tax matters in order to protect, promote and advance the Township's interest in assuring that each property within the Township is fairly and equitably assessed in accordance with the law.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this Resolution accompany any appeal filed by the Tax Assessor with the Camden County Board of Taxation.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-51. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-52 CONTINUING RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin to review and examine all previously adopted Resolutions;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, that all appointments, ordinances, amendments and supplements thereto, including all resolutions of the Township of Berlin heretofore in existence as of December 31, 2024, may continue for a period of sixty (60) days or at the pleasure of the Mayor and Council except in so far as they may be inconsistent with any and all appointments, ordinances, amendments and supplements adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin on this date, January 6, 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-52. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-53 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH PHOENIX ADVISORS, LLC TO SERVE AS CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGENT AND INDEPENDENT REGISTERED MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Berlin has agreed through the execution of Continuing Disclosure Agreements ("CDAs") in connection with one or more past bond issuances to provide certain financial and other information and notices, within specified timeframes, in a manner prescribed by the regulators of the underwriter that purchased said bond issues; and



**WHEREAS**, it is beneficial to retain the assistance of Phoenix Advisor who are experts and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, with knowledge and experience in these matters, to assist in assuring compliance with CDAs and to stand ready to provide advice as needed with the issuance of municipal debt; and

**WHEREAS**, Phoenix Advisors, LLC has submitted a proposal for 2024 for a one-year period beginning January 1, 2025 to provide the following:

- a) Continuing Disclosure Agent – Ongoing for a fee of \$1,600.00 for up to three outstanding issues plus \$100 for each outstanding obligation, if filings are required. There is a set-up charge for each new bond issuance. The set-up fee is \$450 but is discounted to \$200 if Phoenix Advisors serves as Municipal Advisor. \$250.00 for each Event filing made under the SEC’s Event Disclosure Rule.
- b) Independent Registered Municipal Advisor (IRMA) – There is no separate fee charged. As IRMA, Phoenix would be available to answer general questions concerning outstanding debt issues or prepare preliminary project analyses. A separate fee addendum would be added should the Township choose to have Phoenix involved in a debt issuance.

**WHEREAS**, funds are available as set forth for section in the 2025 Municipal Budget and for section b shall be charged as per Resolution approving the addendum should it be required;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign a contract with Phoenix Advisors, LLC to serve as Continuing Disclosure Agent and Independent Registered Municipal Advisor for a period of one year commencing on January 6 2025.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-53. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

CY 2025 TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR CURRENT FUND, SEWER OPERATING FUND, OPEN SPACE AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION TRUST FUND AND CALCULATION OF MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, revised statutes 40A:2-12 provides that where there are any contracts, commitments or payments that are to be made prior to the adoption of the Calendar Year 2025 Budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purposes and accounts required in the manner and time provided; and WHEREAS, the date of this resolution is within the first thirty (30) days of the Calendar Year 2025 Budget and is twenty-six and one quarter percent (26.25%) of the total appropriations made for all purposes in the Calendar Year 2024 Budget, excluding appropriations; and NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that the foregoing is the Temporary Budget for the Calendar Year 2025; and twenty-six and one quarter percent (26.25%) of the total appropriations made for all purposes in the budget for the year 2024 Calendar Year excluding appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges, capital improvement fund and public assistance.

CURRENT FUND TEMPORARY BUDGET

|                               |                                      |                  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
|                               |                                      | \$               |
| CY 2024 Budget Appropriations |                                      | 12,137,599.00    |
| Less:                         | 2024 Appropriations for Debt Service | \$ 1,051,000.00  |
|                               | Capital Improvement Fund             | \$ 510,000.00    |
|                               | Subtotal                             | \$ 10,576,599.00 |
|                               |                                      | X 26.25%         |
|                               |                                      | \$ 2,776,357.24  |
|                               |                                      | <hr/>            |
| Add:                          | 2025 Appripriation for Debt Service  | \$ 693,000.00    |
|                               |                                      | <hr/>            |

|                               |                  |                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|                               | Total            | \$<br>3,469,357.24 |
| <br>                          |                  |                    |
| GENERAL GOVERNMENT            |                  |                    |
| Mayor & Council               |                  |                    |
|                               | Salaries & Wages | \$<br>35,664.00    |
|                               | Other Expenses   | \$<br>11,488.00    |
| Township Clerk                |                  |                    |
|                               | Salaries & Wages | \$<br>39,366.40    |
|                               | Other Expenses   | \$<br>14,208.00    |
| Finance Administration        |                  |                    |
|                               | Salaries & Wages | \$<br>13,120.00    |
|                               | Other Expenses   | \$<br>18,496.00    |
| Revenue Administration        |                  |                    |
|                               | Salaries & Wages | \$<br>28,579.20    |
|                               | Other Expenses   | \$<br>4,480.00     |
| Tax Assessment Administration |                  |                    |
|                               | Salaries & Wages | \$<br>7,654.40     |
|                               | Other Expenses   | \$<br>3,040.00     |
| Legal Services & Costs        |                  |                    |
|                               | Other Expenses   | \$<br>24,000.00    |
| Engineering Services          |                  |                    |
|                               | Salaries & Wages | \$<br>15,081.60    |
|                               | Other Expenses   | \$<br>41,712.00    |
| LAND USE ADMINISTRATION       |                  |                    |
| Planning/Zoning Board         |                  |                    |
|                               | Salaries & Wages | \$<br>5,379.20     |

|                            |                  |            |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------|
|                            |                  | \$         |
| Construction               | Other Expenses   | 3,200.00   |
|                            |                  | \$         |
|                            | Salaries & Wages | 34,294.40  |
|                            |                  | \$         |
| CODE ENFORCEMENT           | Other Expenses   | 2,480.00   |
|                            |                  | \$         |
|                            | Salaries & Wages | 8,281.60   |
|                            |                  | \$         |
| INSURANCE                  | Other Expenses   | 6,784.00   |
| Liability Insurance        |                  |            |
|                            |                  | \$         |
|                            | Other Expenses   | 99,200.00  |
| Worker's Compensation      |                  |            |
|                            |                  | \$         |
|                            | Other Expenses   | 57,600.00  |
| Employee's Group Insurance |                  |            |
|                            |                  | \$         |
|                            | Other Expenses   | 576,000.00 |
| Health Benefit Waiver      |                  |            |
|                            |                  | \$         |
|                            | Other Expenses   | 16,000.00  |
| Unemployment Insurance     |                  |            |
|                            |                  | \$         |
|                            | Other Expenses   | 3,200.00   |
| PUBLIC SAFETY FUNCTIONS    |                  |            |
| Municipal Court            |                  |            |
|                            |                  | \$         |
|                            | Salaries & Wages | 44,726.40  |
|                            |                  | \$         |
|                            | Other Expenses   | 10,310.40  |
| Public Defender            |                  |            |
|                            |                  | \$         |
|                            | Other Expenses   | 320.00     |
| Police Department          |                  |            |
|                            |                  | \$         |
|                            | Salaries & Wages | 675,376.32 |
|                            |                  | \$         |
|                            | Other Expenses   | 105,610.78 |

Emergency Management

Salaries & Wages \$ 944.00

Other Expenses \$ 1,952.00

Aid to Volunteer Ambulance Company

Other Expenses \$ 19,200.00

Municipal Prosecutor

Salaries & Wages \$ 5,113.60

Other Expenses \$ 160.00

PUBLIC WORKS

Streets & Roads

Salaries & Wages \$ 34,742.40

Other Expenses \$ 19,728.00

Solid Waste Collection

Salaries & Wages \$ 145,868.80

Other Expenses \$ 4,848.00

Buildings & Grounds

Salaries & Wages \$ 25,884.80

Other Expenses \$ 23,546.24

Vehicle Maintenance

Salaries & Wages \$ 23,868.80

Other Expenses \$ 51,508.80

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health

Salaries & Wages \$ 1,795.20

Other Expenses \$ 160.00

PARKS & RECREATION

Recreation Services

|                                     |                  |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
|                                     |                  | \$         |
|                                     | Salaries & Wages | 3,200.00   |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
|                                     | Other Expenses   | 1,600.00   |
| Maintenance of Parks                |                  |            |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
|                                     | Salaries & Wages | 3,200.00   |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
|                                     | Other Expenses   | 11,480.00  |
| Maintenance of Free Public Library  |                  |            |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
|                                     | Salaries & Wages | 6,400.00   |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
|                                     | Other Expenses   | 4,032.00   |
| Celebration of Public Events        |                  |            |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
|                                     | Other Expenses   | 8,000.00   |
| UNCLASSIFIED                        |                  |            |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
| Traffic Signal Maintenance          |                  | 9,600.00   |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
| Electricity & Natural Gas           |                  | 48,000.00  |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
| Street Lighting                     |                  | 48,000.00  |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
| Telephone                           |                  | 12,800.00  |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
| Telecommunication Charges           |                  | 1,600.00   |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
| Water                               |                  | 2,400.00   |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
| Petroleum Products (Fuel Oil & Gas) |                  | 48,000.00  |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
| Sewer                               |                  | 2,240.00   |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
| Photocopying                        |                  | 3,200.00   |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
| Postage                             |                  | 8,000.00   |
|                                     |                  | \$         |
| Solid Waste Disposal                |                  | 104,000.00 |
| STATUTORY EXPENDITURES              |                  |            |

|                 |    |           |
|-----------------|----|-----------|
| Social Security | \$ | 92,800.00 |
| DCRP            | \$ | 4,160.00  |

**OPERATIONS EXCLUDED FROM CAPS**

|   |    |           |
|---|----|-----------|
| Solid Waste Recycle Tax                       | \$ | 4,800.00  |
| NJPDES - Stormwater Management                |    |           |
| Salaries & Wages                              | \$ | 18,854.40 |
| Other Expenses                                | \$ | 7,360.00  |
| Interlocal Agreements - Voorhees CFO          | \$ | 21,657.50 |
| Interlocal Agreements - Voorhees Police Chief | \$ | 36,000.00 |

|                                       |    |                     |
|---------------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| <b>TOTAL TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS</b> | \$ | <b>2,776,357.24</b> |
|---------------------------------------|----|---------------------|

**MUNICIPAL DEBT SERVICE**

|           |    |            |
|-----------|----|------------|
| Principal | \$ | 550,000.00 |
| Interest  | \$ | 143,000.00 |

|  |    |                     |
|--|----|---------------------|
| <b>TOTAL TEMPORARY CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATIONS</b> | \$ | <b>3,469,357.24</b> |
|--|----|---------------------|

**SEWER OPERATING FUND TEMPORARY BUDGET**

|                               |                                      |    |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|--------------|
| CY 2024 Budget Appropriations |                                      | \$ | 1,130,815.00 |
| Less:                         | 2024 Appropriations for Debt Service | \$ | 600,000.00   |
|                               | Capital Improvement Fund             | -  |              |
|                               | Subtotal                             | \$ | 530,815.00   |
|                               |                                      | X  | 26.25%       |

|                    |   |                  |
|--------------------|---|------------------|
|                    |   | \$<br>139,338.94 |
|                    |   | <hr/>            |
| Add:               | 2025 Appropriations for Debt Service                | \$<br>527,000.00 |
|                    |   | <hr/>            |
|                    | Total   | \$<br>666,338.94 |
|                    |   | <hr/> <hr/>      |
| Sewer Operating    |   |                  |
|                    | Salaries & Wages                                    | \$<br>55,158.40  |
|                    | Other Expenses                                      | \$<br>78,420.54  |
|                    |   | <hr/>            |
|                    |   | \$<br>133,578.94 |
|                    |   | <hr/>            |
| Debt Service       |   |                  |
|                    | Principal   | \$<br>495,000.00 |
|                    | Interest  | \$<br>32,000.00  |
| STATUTORY EXPENSES |   |                  |
|                    | Social Security                                     | \$<br>5,600.00   |
|                    | Unemployment Compensation                           | \$<br>160.00     |
|                    |   | <hr/>            |
|                    | TOTAL TEMPORARY SEWER OPERATING FUND APPROPRIATIONS | \$<br>666,338.94 |
|                    |   | <hr/> <hr/>      |

**OPEN SPACE, RECREATION FARMLAND & HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND  
TEMPORARY BUDGET**

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| CY 2024 Budget Appropriations (Open Space Trust) | \$<br>258,132.00 |
|--|------------------|



|       |                                      |               |        |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Less: | 2024 Appropriations for Debt Service | \$ 15,650.00  |        |
|       | Capital Improvement Fund Subtotal    | -             |        |
|       |                                      | \$ 242,482.00 |        |
|       |                                      | X             | 26.25% |
|       |                                      | \$ 63,651.53  |        |
|       |                                      | <hr/>         |        |
|       | Total                                | \$ 63,651.53  |        |
|       |                                      | <hr/> <hr/>   |        |

OPEN SPACE TRUST

|  |                  |              |
|--|------------------|--------------|
|  | Salaries & Wages | \$ 40,000.00 |
|  | Other Expenses   | \$ 23,651.53 |
|  |                  | <hr/>        |
|  |                  | \$ 63,651.53 |
|  |                  | <hr/>        |
|  |                  | \$ 63,651.53 |
|  |                  | <hr/> <hr/>  |

TOTAL OPEN SPACE, RECREATION, FARMLAND & HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND APPROPRIATIONS

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-54. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-55 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT FOR TRIAD ASSOCIATES TO PROCEED WITH NJDCA NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PROGRAM (NPP) GRANT, FOR GRANT WRITING AND CONSULTING SERVICES.**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign agreement with TRIAD Associates to proceed with NJDCA Neighborhood Preservation Program for Grant Writing and Consulting Services.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-55. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**RESOLUTION 2025-56 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BERLIN TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO OBTAIN A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, BY AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR AN ELECTRIC TRASH TRUCK AND CHARGER.**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that the Township of Berlin enter into an agreement to obtain a grant from the State of New Jersey, by and for the Department of Environmental Protection for a Electric Trash Truck and Charger.

Motion by Council President Bodanza second by Councilman Epifanio to adopt resolution 2025-56. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**ORDINANCE 2025-1 AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING SALARY RANGES FOR THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY**

| POSITION   | ANNUAL SALARY RANGE (Except as Noted) |                    |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
|  | FROM                                  | TO                 |
| Mayor  | \$0.00                                | \$79,000.00        |
| President of Council   | \$0.00                                | \$12,000.00        |
| Councilperson  | \$0.00                                | \$9,000.00         |
| Township Clerk   | \$0.00                                | \$83,000.00        |
| Coordinator on Aging/Disabled  | \$0.00                                | \$1,000.00         |
| Chief Financial Officer (Shared Service)   | \$0.00                                | \$35,000.00        |
| Finance Clerk (Part-time)  | \$0.00 per hour                       | \$20.00 per hour   |
| Finance Clerk (Full-time)  | \$0.00                                | \$45,000.00        |
| Tax Collector  | \$0.00                                | \$74,000.00        |
| Tax/Sewer Clerk  | \$0.00                                | \$44,000.00        |
| Tax Assessor   | \$0.00                                | \$28,000.00        |
| Director of Public Works/Township Engineer w/C-2 Wastewater License              | \$0.00                                | \$194,000.00       |
| Building Custodian/Property Maintenance/Zoning Officer/Board of Health Inspector | \$0.00                                | \$60,000.00        |
| Construction Code Official/Building Inspector                                    | \$0.00                                | \$37,000.00        |
| Electrical Sub Code Official/Electrical Inspector                                | \$0.00                                | \$15,000.00        |
| Emergency Management Coordinator   | \$0.00                                | \$4,000.00         |
| 1st Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator                                      | \$0.00                                | \$1,000.00         |
| Prosecutor   | \$0.00                                | \$17,000.00        |
| Deputy Public Works Director   | \$0.00                                | \$89,000.00        |
| Recreation Coordinator (Not to exceed 10 hours per week)                         | \$0.00 per hour                       | \$17.00 per hour   |
| Recreation Coordinator/Special Events  | \$0.00                                | Minimum wage       |
| Librarian  | \$0.00                                | \$17.00 per hour   |
| Municipal Judge  | \$0.00                                | \$28,000.00        |
| Municipal Court Administrator  | \$0.00                                | \$82,000.00        |
| Animal Control Officer   | \$0.00 per month                      | \$650.00 per month |
| Assistant Township Clerk (w/Registrar Certification)                             | \$0.00                                | \$45,000.00        |
| Engineering Technician   | \$0.00                                | \$67,000.00        |
| Public Works/Engineering Clerk   | \$0.00                                | \$45,000.00        |
| Administrative Secretary to Land Use (With Registrar Certification)              | \$0.00                                | \$63,000.00        |
| Fire Sub-Code Official   | \$0.00                                | \$9,000.00         |

|  |  |                  |                    |
|--|--|------------------|--------------------|
| Plumbing Inspector   |  | \$0.00           | \$7,000.00         |
| Property Maintenance Inspector - PT (not to exceed 8 hours per week) |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$20.00 per hour   |
| Police Department - Clerk Typist                                     |  | \$0.00           | \$50,000.00        |
| Crossing Guards  |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$17.00 per hour   |
| Temporary Clerk Typist   |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$17.00 per hour   |
| Emergency Event Temporary Public Works Laborer                       |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$25.50 per hour   |
| Emergency Event Temporary Mechanic                                   |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$30.00 per hour   |
| Bus Driver   |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$25.00 per hour   |
| Clerk Typist - PT to Include Library Clerk                           |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$17.00 per hour   |
| Deputy Court Administrator   |  | \$0.00           | \$45,000.00        |
| Court Recorder Operator  |  | \$0.00 per Court | \$87.00 per Court  |
| Temporary Court Assistant  |  | \$0.00 per court | \$125.00 per Court |
| Sewer Clerk  |  | \$0.00           | \$6,000.00         |
| Student Clerk Typist   |  | Minimum wage     | Minimum wage       |
| Chief of Police  |  | \$0.00           | \$148,000.00       |
| Captain of Police  |  | \$0.00           | \$133,000.00       |
| Lieutenants of Police  |  | \$0.00           | \$118,000.00       |
| Sergeants of Police  |  | \$0.00           | \$112,000.00       |
| Date of Hire without Certification                                   |  | \$0.00           | \$39,000.00        |
| Date of Hire with Certification or Police Academy Graduation         |  | \$0.00           | \$53,000.00        |
| Beginning of Second Year   |  | \$0.00           | \$57,000.00        |
| Beginning of Third Year  |  | \$0.00           | \$62,000.00        |
| Beginning of Fourth Year   |  | \$0.00           | \$69,000.00        |
| Beginning of Fifth Year  |  | \$0.00           | \$77,000.00        |
| Beginning of Sixth Year  |  | \$0.00           | \$85,000.00        |
| Beginning of Seventh Year  |  | \$0.00           | \$92,000.00        |
| Beginning of Eighth Year   |  | \$0.00           | \$105,000.00       |
| PT Class II SLEO Officer   |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$40.00 per hour   |
| PT Class II SLEO Officer (School Security)                           |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$40.00 per hour   |
| Traffic & Other Services   |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$85.00 per hour   |
| Traffic & Other Services (Township Projects)                         |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$50.00 per hour   |
| Traffic & Other Services (County Projects)                           |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$65.00 per hour   |
| Employees of Public Works Department                                 |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$40.00 per hour   |
| Employees of Public Works Department (Temporary)                     |  | \$0.00 per hour  | \$25.00 per hour   |
| Sewer Department Standby   |  | \$0.00 per month | \$225.00 per month |
| Special Assignments Stipend  |  | \$0.00           | \$12,000.00        |

Motion by Councilman Epifanio, second by Council President Bodanza to adopt Ordinance 2025-1 on first reading by title. Ordinance adopted by call of the roll, All members present voting in the affirmative.

## **Public Portion**

Motion by Councilman Epifanio second by Council President Bodanza to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried by voice vote, all present voting in favor. Mayor Magazzu opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments.

## **Mayor and Council Comments**

### **Mayor Magazzu**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Berlin Township Council, and Township staff. I will begin by wishing you and yours a happy and healthy New Year! We are privileged to serve our great community and the amazing people who call it home. They put their trust in all of us up here today, may we never lose focus on that.

I look forward to working with the members of the Governing Body to accomplish even greater tasks ahead. And thank you, for being a part of this annual re-organization. Additionally, congratulations to Marion Bodanza for being re-appointed Council President. We know you will continue to serve this community with loyalty and integrity.

I would like to spend some time now recognizing the fantastic jobs our departments, Boards and committees, have been doing to enhance the lives of our residents:

The Berlin Township Police Department! An exciting year for them in 2024. We had the promotions of five (5) front line supervisors (Sergeants) and one (1) Lieutenant, with a plan to expand their leadership capabilities that will lead our department into the future. Continuing with the process of becoming an accredited police agency in NJ where the department will meet or exceed industry best practices. This will be the first attempt at accreditation in Berlin Township. I am pleased to share that Berlin Township is the first recipient in New Jersey to receive a grant issued by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. This grant will be instrumental in supporting our efforts towards achieving and maintaining law enforcement accreditation. We are grateful for the recognition and support from the State Chiefs association, and we are determined to make the most of this opportunity.

Unfortunately, our first National Night out was cancelled several times for bad weather, but looking forward to this year.

Chief Bordi, I would like to extend my appreciation for the exceptional work you have done in leading the police department. Your expertise has been instrumental in the successful implementation of these various programs and initiatives that have greatly benefited our department and our residents.

I would also like to express my gratitude for the exceptional service provided by the Fire Department in our community.

The men and women of the West Berlin Fire Department have consistently demonstrated honor, bravery, and dedication in their roles. Their unwavering commitment to their jobs is truly commendable.

I would like to extend my warm congratulations to George Bundick Jr., our Chief of the Fire Department. It has been a pleasure working with him throughout the year, and his leadership has been exemplary.

The Fire Department plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of our community, and their efforts are sincerely appreciated. We are fortunate to have such dedicated individuals who consistently go above and beyond in their duties.

In times of great and urgent need, the Berlin Ambulance has consistently been there for our residents, ensuring their safety and well-being. We understand the challenges faced by emergency squads during these difficult times, and we are immensely grateful for the dedication and resilience demonstrated by the Berlin Ambulance team.

I would also like to extend a special appreciation to Captain Lou DeMarco for his outstanding leadership and tireless efforts. His commitment to the community and his unwavering professionalism has been instrumental in the success and strength of the squad.

We recognize the importance of reliable emergency services, and we value the vital role played by the Berlin Ambulance. Your prompt response, compassionate care, and unwavering commitment to excellence have not gone unnoticed.

I would like to thank the entire Berlin Township public works department for another year of great services to our residents!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy Simone our superintendent of the Berlin Township public works department. With his extensive knowledge and unwavering dedication, he will continue to excel in his role and contribute significantly to the betterment of our town.

The Berlin Township Planning Board held many important and successful meetings this year as it continues to be the municipal agency that oversees site plans and our redevelopment projects, as well as hiring Leah as the Municipal Planner for the township. The revitalization of our downtown Haddon Avenue continues with new investments and businesses opening up. Over the course of the last two years, we have been able to attract additional investments in residential, mixed-use and façade improvements in downtown Berlin Township. Several new businesses, including a sandwich deli, Mexican restaurant, an Italian restaurant, and more, have opened in 2024. Plenty more residential and mixed-use development projects and

façade improvements are still to come. I am grateful to the Township Council for unanimously supporting this downtown redevelopment program, as I believe it will continue to spur additional investments downtown. So long as we continue to promote and adopt a commerce-friendly mentality that attracts and retains new business, investors, and builders, Berlin Township's downtown will continue to thrive and increase revenue that will help the Township offset the tax burden on our residents.

I'd like to end today by thanking the Township's professionals, administration and staff.

- Cathy Underwood, our Municipal Clerk; for all your hard work and dedication to the governing body and all the Berlin Township residents!
- Vickey Taylor, our Administrative Assistant and long-time friend.
- Alex Davidson, our Chief Financial Officer; With his deep financial, accounting and operational experience, Alex has provided invaluable expertise to our town. and Lindsey is doing an excellent job in your department.
- Tax Collector Dana Ohara, Tax Office Clerk Debbie and Tax Assessor Dan Gatti
- Municipal Court Administrator Maria Reed, and Violations Clerk Taylor
- Josh Shellenberger, Code Enforcement and Animal Control
- Kelly Shendock our planning board secretary, Michael DePalma in our Construction Office;
- along with Police Chief Lou Bordi, I would like to recognize Captain Ed Gramley and Lieutenants Mike FitzGibbons and David Childs, Administrative Assistant Mellisa, and all of our Police Officers;
- OEM Coordinator Andy Simone, Deputy OEM Coordinators Gorge Bundick, Joe Cornforth and their entire OEM Staff;

To our professionals, Chris Orlando, our new township attorney, welcome! I am looking forward to working with you! Stuart Platt, thank you for the many years of good legal advice you have given us and will continue to do so as our Redevelopment attorney, our excellent auditors, Bowman and Company, particularly Danny DiGangi, our municipal judge, Ryan Trabosh, and our caring municipal Prosecutor, Donna Platt.

Through working together, professionalism, and volunteerism, our employees and our community made great progress for the Township in 2024 while remaining true to our small-town values

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank my family for their unwavering support. I extend my love and gratitude to all of them! I am continually honored and humbled to serve the community that helped raise me and my family. As Mayor of Berlin Township, I promise to work with all members of Council to ensure responsible government is given to our community and that all residents feel they are fairly represented.

Thank you for your time today. I look forward to working with you all. Happy New Year! May god bless you and God bless America!

Thank you,  
Mayor Phyllis

### **Councilman Epifanio**

“I am deeply honored and grateful for the trust that the residents of Berlin Township have placed in me by reelecting me to serve another term on council. This continued opportunity to work alongside my fellow council members and Mayor Magazzu is a privilege, and I am committed to working together to ensure that our community thrives. Our shared goal is to continue to make Berlin Township a better place for all of its residents, and I am excited to continue collaborating on the projects and initiatives that will improve our township’s infrastructure, services, and quality of life. Together, we will continue to listen to the needs of the community and make decisions that reflect the values and vision of our residents. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish in the years ahead.”

Motion by Councilman Epifanio second by Councilman Reid to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried by voice vote, all present voting in favor. Mayor Magazzu closed the meeting to the public for questions or comments.

### **Adjourn**

Motion by Councilman Epifanio, second by Councilman Reid to adjourn the meeting at 12:16 pm. Motion carried by voice vote, all members voting in the affirmative, meeting adjourned.



