

**TOWNSHIP OF BERLIN MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2026**

Councilman Epifanio 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.

Councilman Epifanio stated that we will start with administer oaths of Office

OATH OF OFFICE

Kimberley Stuart esq, Republican Committee Chairwoman administered Oath of Office to Councilwoman Kimberly Reed.

Pamela Lampitt, County Clerk administered Oath of Office to Councilman Francis McHenry.

Michele Gentek-Mayer, Surrogate administered Oath of Office to Mayor Phyllis Magazzu.

ROLL CALL: Council President Epifanio, Councilman McHenry, Councilman Reid, Councilwoman Reed, Mayor Magazzu.

Also Present: Alex Davidson, Chief Financial Officer, Christopher Orlando, Township Solicitor, Michael FitzGibbon, Acting Chief of Police Josh Shellenberger, Zoning/ Animal Control

Guests: Donna Platt, Prosecutor, Stuart Platt, Redevelopment Solicitor, Danial DiGangi, Municipal Accountant, Maria Reed, Court Administrator, Greg Fusco, Township Engineer, Louis Greenwald, Assemblyman, Michele Gentek-Mayer, Surrogate, Pamela Lampitt, Kimberley Stuart, Republican Committee Chairwoman, Camden County Commissioner, Jennifer Fleisher. Pamela Lampitt, County Clerk.

Mayor Magazzu welcomed and thanked everyone in attendance for today's reorganization meeting and acknowledged the newly elected Councilmembers.

Motion made by Councilman McHenry to nominate Frank Epifanio as Council President, Seconded by Councilman Reid.

RESOLUTION 2026-1 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 **Frank Epifanio**, having been selected by the Council, shall serve as President of the Council of the Township of Berlin from January 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Councilman McHenry to nominate Frank Epifanio as Council President, Seconded by Councilman Reid. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**Mayor's appointments with advice and consent of Council
Unless noted, all appointments are until December 31, 2026**

RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT AGENDA

Professional Appointments:

RESOLUTION 2026- 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026 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 made by Councilman McHenry, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-2. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026- 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026 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 made by Councilman McHenry, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-3. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026- 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 5, 2026, until December 31, 2026 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 made by Councilman McHenry, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-4. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026- 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026 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 made by Councilman McHenry, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-5. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026- 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026, to perform professional services ordinarily provided by and required of a Engineer. These professional services are necessary and are required by this municipality.

Motion made by Councilman McHenry, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-6. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026- 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 5, 2026 to December 31, 2026, 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 made by Councilman McHenry, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-7. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026- 8 APPOINTMENT FOR SPECIAL REDEVELOPMENT COUNSEL

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, that **Stuart Platt, Platt Law Group located at 40 Berlin Avenue, Stratford NJ 08084, Inc.**be appointed Special Redevelopment Counsel for the Township of Berlin for a period of one year (1) commencing January 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026 to perform professional services ordinarily provided by and required of a Special Redevelopment Counsel, and to receive such compensation as may be reasonable for such services.

Said **Stuart Platt esq**, 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 Special Redevelopment Counsel. These professional services are necessary and are required by this municipality.

Motion made by Councilman McHenry, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-8. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

Administration and Finance, Township Events, Grants and School Board

RESOLUTION 2026-9 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 **ALEXANDER DAVIDSON** to serve on said Finance Committee.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-9. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-10 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-10. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-11 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-11. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative, Mayor Magazzu abstained.

RESOLUTION 2026-12 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026, to provide Risk Management Services. These professional services are necessary and are required by this municipality.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-12. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-13 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, 2026

CATHERINE UNDERWOOD - FUND COMMISSIONER

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

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-13. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative, Mayor Magazzu abstained.

RESOLUTION 2026-14 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, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-14. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026- 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-15. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative, Mayor Magazzu abstained.

RESOLUTION 2026-16 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.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry, to adopt resolution 2026-16. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

Law and Public Safety, Municipal Court, Emergency Management.

RESOLUTION 2026- 17 RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Michael Fitzgibbon has been designated as the Officer in Charge to manage day-to-day operations of the Police Department since the retirement of Chief Bordi; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118 provides that the governing body of a municipality may establish and organize a police department and appoint officers as necessary for its proper operation and oversight; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Berlin recognizes the importance of ensuring the seamless operation of the Berlin Township Police Department during this transition of leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council is committed to fulfilling its statutory responsibility to maintain public safety and effective oversight of the Police Department during this interim period.

WHEREAS, the Township finds it necessary to appoint an Acting Chief of Police while it takes the necessary time to efficiently and effectively fill the position; and

WHEREAS, the Township does not have a legal requirement to restrict the timeline of the temporary position of an Acting Chief of Police.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, does hereby take the following actions:

1. Appoint Michael Fitzgibbon to the position of Acting Chief of Police of the Berlin Township Police Department, effective January 5, 2026.

2. Michael Fitzgibbon shall assume all authority and responsibilities vested in the Chief of Police as provided under N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118 and applicable Berlin Township ordinances, including but not limited to the supervision, management, and control of all members and employees of the Police Department.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-17. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-18 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

PUBLIC DEFENDER - ROBERT E. DEPERSIA, II

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-18. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-19 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026

PROSECUTOR - DONNA SIGEL PLATT

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-19. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-20 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, 2026

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-20. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-21 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
- JOSEPH PANTANO**- Class IV Member 12-31-2026
- RACHEL SPICER**- Class IV Member 12-31-2029
- LOU DENNY**- Class IV Member 12-31-2028
- DOMINIC DANDREA**- Class IV Member 12-31-29
- SAL CANTINA**– Class II Construction Code Official to 12-31-26
- FRANK MCHENRY** – Class III Councilperson to 12-31-2026
- PHYLLIS MAGAZZU** – Class I Mayor to 12-31-26
- DAVID CARLAMERE**- Solicitor to 12-31-26
- DAVID ROWAN**- Solicitor to 12-31-26
- GREGORY FUSCO**- Engineer to 12-31-2026

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 made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-21. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-22 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 commencing January 5, 2026 until January 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-22. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-23 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 III, 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 5, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-23. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-24 APPOINTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 1st DEPUTY COORDINATOR

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 1st Deputy';

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin that **George Bundick** is hereby appointed Emergency Management 1st Deputy Coordinator for the Township of Berlin for a term commencing January 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-24. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

Property Maintenance, Board of Health and Senior Citizens and the Disabled.

RESOLUTION 2026- 25 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-25. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026- 26 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-26. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-27 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-27. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative, Mayor Magazzu abstained.

RESOLUTION 2026-28 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
Frank Epifanio
Kimberly Reed

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 5, 2026 and terminating December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-28. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-29 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-29. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative, Mayor Magazzu abstained.

RESOLUTION 2026-30 APPOINTMENT OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LIAISON

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Berlin, that **KIMBERLY REED** be and is hereby appointed as Property Maintenance Liaison for a term commencing January 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-30. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-31 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, FRANK MCHENRY** and **FRANK EPIFANIO** be and is here by appointed liaison for neighbors helping neighbors effective January 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-31. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-32 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman McHenry.to adopt resolution 2026-32. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative, Mayor Magazzu abstained.

Public Works and Sewer Department, Land Use, Planning Board

RESOLUTION 2026-33 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Councilman McHenry, Seconded by Council President Epifanio.to adopt resolution 2026-33. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-34 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
JOSEPH PANTANO- Class IV Member 12-31-2026
RACHEL SPICER- Class IV Member 12-31-2029
LOU DENNY- Class IV Member 12-31-2028
DOMINIC DANDREA- Class IV Member 12-31-29
SAL CANTINA– Class II Construction Code Official to 12-31-26
FRANK MCHENRY – Class III Councilperson to 12-31-2026
PHYLLIS MAGAZZU – Class I Mayor to 12-31-26
DAVID CARLAMERE- Solicitor to 12-31-26
DAVID ROWAN- Solicitor to 12-31-26
GREGORY FUSCO- Engineer to 12-31-2026

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 made by Councilman McHenry, Seconded by Council President Epifanio to adopt resolution 2026-34. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-35 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 5, 2026.

Motion made by Councilman McHenry, Seconded by Council President Epifanio to adopt resolution 2026-35. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, four members present voting in the affirmative, Mayor Magazzu abstained.

RESOLUTION 2026-36 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 **FRANK EPIFANIO** 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 MCHENRY 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 made by Councilman McHenry, Seconded by Council President Epifanio.to adopt resolution 2026-36. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-37 RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE APPOINTMENTS OF PLANNING BOARD SOLICITORS

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" 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 5, 2026 until December 31, 2026** 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 made by Councilman McHenry, Seconded by Council President Epifanio.to adopt resolution 2026-37. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-38 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 2026;

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 2026, 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 made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-38. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-39 DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY FOR THE YEAR 2026

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 5th day of January, 2026, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Berlin, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that **FULTON BANK, THE BANK OF PRINCETOWNFIRST, 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 2026.

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

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-39. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-40 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
BANK OF PRINCETON
REPUBLIC BANK
STATE OF NEW JERSEY CASH MANAGEMENT FUND
Any other banks with GUDPA certification**

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-40. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-41 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERLIN, CAMDEN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DESIGNATING THE LOCATIONS FOR PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, it is necessary to designate the locations in which publication of public notices, legal advertisements, notices of hearings, and such other official communications and/or information from, about, or pertaining to the Township Council of the Township of Berlin ("Council"), County of Camden, State of New Jersey may be forthcoming, or as required to be published in accordance with law; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(d), requires that certain notice of meetings be submitted to two newspapers, one of which shall be an official newspaper; and

WHEREAS, the newspapers designated by this body must be those which have the greatest likelihood of informing the public, within the jurisdictional boundaries of this body, of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2025, P.L. 2025, c. 72 was signed into law, requiring that after March 1, 2026, all public entities must publish all required legal notices on their official website; and

WHEREAS, public entities' websites must be accessible and available to the public free of charge, and have a direct hyperlink to the webpage with the legal notices, located conspicuously on the homepage; and

WHEREAS, to comply with P.L. 2025, c. 72, the Council will continue to publish all required legal notices in the Courier Post and/or Record Breeze, the official Township newspapers, until March 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, after March 1, 2026, the Council will publish all required legal notices on its official website using a direct hyperlink, located conspicuously on the homepage, to the webpage with legal notices pursuant to P.L. 2025, c. 72.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Courier Post and the Record Breeze are hereby designated as the official newspapers of the Council until March 1, 2026.
2. After March 1, 2026, the Council will publish all public notices, legal advertisements, notices of hearings, and such other official communications and/or information from, about, or pertaining to the Council, as required to be published in accordance with law, on the Township of Berlin's official website using a direct hyperlink, located conspicuously on the homepage, to the webpage with legal notices.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid, to adopt resolution 2026-41. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-42 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 5, 2026 through December 31, 2026. A copy of said plan is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-42. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-43 AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR EXTRAORDINARY, UNSPECIFIED SERVICES

WHEREAS, there exists a need for insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, the estimated amount of the contract is \$2,500,000.00 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 HIF, Delta Dental Plan of NJ**
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 made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-43. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-44 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 made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid, to adopt resolution 2026-44. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-45 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 made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-45. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-46 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 made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-46. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-47 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 made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-47. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-48 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 made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-48. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-49 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 made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-49. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-50 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 2026 will be held as follows:

Berlin Township
Mayor and Council 2026 Meetings Dates
The meetings will begin at 5:30 pm

January	5	Reorganization Meeting 12 noon
February	9	
March	16	
April	20	
May	18	
June	15	
July	20	
August	17	
September	21	
October	19	
November	16	
December	21	

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-50. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-51 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 made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-51. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-52 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 made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid. to adopt resolution 2026-52. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-53 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, 2025, 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 5, 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid, to adopt resolution 2026-53. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION 2026-54 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, 2026 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 2026 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 5 2026.

Motion made by Council President Epifanio, Seconded by Councilman Reid.to adopt resolution 2026-54. Resolution adopted by call of the roll, five members present voting in the affirmative.

**TOWNSHIP OF BERLIN
RESOLUTION 2026-55**

**CY 2026 TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR CURRENT FUND, SEWER OPERATING FUND,
OPEN SPACE AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION TRUST FUND AND CALCULATION OF
MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE APPROPRIATIONS**

**CURRENT FUND TEMPORARY
BUDGET**

CY 2025 Budget Appropriations		\$ 13,008,900. 00
Less: 2025 Appropriations for Debt Service	\$ 1,028,00 0.00	

Salaries & Wages	\$
	12,000.00
Other Expenses	\$
	3,500.00
Legal Services & Costs	
Other Expenses	\$
	50,000.00
Engineering Services	
Salaries & Wages	\$
	19,740.00
Other Expenses	\$
	45,622.50
LAND USE	
ADMINISTRATION	
Planning/Zoning Board	
Salaries & Wages	\$
	6,426.00
Other Expenses	\$
	3,500.00
Construction	
Salaries & Wages	\$
	45,350.00
Other Expenses	\$
	1,750.00
CODE ENFORCEMENT	
Salaries & Wages	\$
	10,276.00
Other Expenses	\$
	7,420.00
INSURANCE	
Liability Insurance	
Other Expenses	\$
	200,000.00
Worker's Compensation	
Other Expenses	\$
	100,000.00
Employee's Group	
Insurance	
Other Expenses	\$
	965,491.55
Health Benefit Waiver	
Other Expenses	\$
	35,000.00
Unemployment Insurance	
Other Expenses	\$
	3,500.00

PUBLIC SAFETY
FUNCTIONS

Municipal Court

Salaries & Wages

\$
60,990.00

Other Expenses

\$
11,277.00

Public Defender

Other Expenses

\$
350.00

Police Department

Salaries & Wages

\$
869,000.00

Other Expenses

\$
163,429.75

Emergency Management

Salaries & Wages

\$
1,053.50

Other Expenses

\$
2,135.00

Aid to Volunteer Ambulance Company

Other Expenses

\$
21,000.00

Municipal Prosecutor

Salaries & Wages

\$
5,733.00

Other Expenses

\$
175.00

PUBLIC WORKS

Streets & Roads

Salaries & Wages

\$
60,000.00

Other Expenses

\$
28,577.50

Solid Waste Collection

Salaries & Wages

\$
170,250.00

Other Expenses

\$
5,302.50

Buildings &
Grounds

Salaries & Wages

\$
32,500.00

Other Expenses

\$
31,003.70

Vehicle Maintenance		
Salaries & Wages	\$	37,100.00
Other Expenses	\$	78,837.75
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES		
Public Health		
Salaries & Wages	\$	5,000.00
Other Expenses	\$	175.00
PARKS & RECREATION		
Recreation Services		
Salaries & Wages	\$	3,500.00
Other Expenses	\$	1,750.00
Maintenance of Parks		
Salaries & Wages	\$	5,000.00
Other Expenses	\$	12,556.25
Maintenance of Free Public Library		
Salaries & Wages	\$	7,000.00
Other Expenses	\$	4,410.00
Celebration of Public Events		
Other Expenses	\$	8,750.00
UNCLASSIFIED		
Traffic Signal Maintenance	\$	14,000.00
Electricity & Natural Gas	\$	100,000.00
Street Lighting	\$	100,000.00
Telephone	\$	25,000.00
Telecommunication Charges	\$	1,750.00
Water	\$	2,625.00

Petroleum Products (Fuel Oil & Gas)	\$
	52,500.00
Sewer	\$
	2,450.00
Photocopying	\$
	3,500.00
Postage	\$
	25,000.00
Solid Waste Disposal	\$
	150,000.00
STATUTORY EXPENDITURES	
Social Security	\$
	150,000.00
DCRP	\$
	4,550.00
OPERATIONS EXCLUDED FROM CAPS	
Solid Waste Recycle Tax	\$
	5,250.00
NJPDES - Stormwater Management	
Salaries & Wages	\$
	30,525.00
Other Expenses	\$
	8,050.00
Interlocal Agreements - Voorhees CFO	\$
	33,500.00
TOTAL TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS	\$
	4,084,815.00
	0
<hr/>	
MUNICIPAL DEBT SERVICE	
Principal	\$
	555,000.00
Interest	\$
	115,000.00
TOTAL TEMPORARY CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATIONS	\$
	4,754,815.00
	0
<hr/> <hr/>	

SEWER OPERATING FUND TEMPORARY BUDGET

CY 2025 Budget Appropriations		\$	1,261,850.00
Less: 2025 Appropriations for Debt Service	\$ 600,000.00		
Capital Improvement Fund Subtotal		\$	661,850.00
		X	35.00%
		\$	<u>231,647.50</u>
Add: 2026 Appropriations for Debt Service		\$	<u>357,000.00</u>
Total		\$	<u><u>588,647.50</u></u>
Sewer Operating Salaries & Wages		\$	82,975.00
Other Expenses		\$	<u>137,997.50</u>
		\$	<u>220,972.50</u>
Debt Service Principal		\$	340,000.00
Interest		\$	17,000.00
STATUTORY EXPENSES Social Security		\$	10,000.00
Unemployment Compensation		\$	675.00
TOTAL TEMPORARY SEWER OPERATING FUND APPROPRIATIONS		\$	<u><u>588,647.50</u></u>

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

CY 2025 Budget Appropriations (Open Space Trust)	\$	259,062.00
Less: 2025 Appropriations for Debt Service Capital Improvement Fund Subtotal		
	\$	259,062.00
	X	35.00%
	\$	90,671.70
		<hr/>
Total	\$	90,671.70
		<hr/> <hr/>
OPEN SPACE TRUST		
Salaries & Wages	\$	39,998.00
Other Expenses	\$	50,673.70
		<hr/>
	\$	90,671.70
		<hr/> <hr/>
TOTAL OPEN SPACE, RECREATION, FARMLAND & HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND APPROPRIATIONS	\$	90,671.70
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Public Portion

Motion by Councilwoman Reed second by Council President Epifanio 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.

No comment to be heard.

Motion by Councilman Reid second by Council President Epifanio 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.

Greeting and Statements from Council Members.

Mayor Magazzu

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Berlin Township Council, and Township staff.

I will begin by wishing you and your families a happy and healthy New Year. We are truly privileged to serve this great community and the amazing people who call it home. Our residents place their trust in all of us seated here today—may we never lose sight of that responsibility.

I look forward to working with the members of the Governing Body to accomplish even greater things in the year ahead. Thank you all for being part of this annual reorganization.

I would also like to congratulate **Frank Epifanio** on his reappointment as **Council President**. We know you will continue to serve this community with loyalty, integrity, and dedication.

Berlin Township Police Department

The year 2025 has been an exciting and historic one for the Berlin Township Police Department.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to **Captain Michael FitzGibbon, Lieutenant Colin Kelbaugh, and Sergeant Mike Landolt** on their well-deserved promotions. Their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to service reflect the continued growth of our department and the emergence of strong young leadership within our community.

I am extremely proud to announce that the **Berlin Township Police Department has officially received accreditation from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police**. This tremendous achievement places our department among the very best in the State of New Jersey. It is a historic first for Berlin Township and a moment of great pride for our community and our outstanding officers.

This level of recognition does not happen overnight. It is the result of dedication, professionalism, and teamwork at every level of the department. I would like to specifically recognize **Chief Bordi** for his steady leadership and guidance throughout this process. His commitment to excellence and to our community has truly set the standard.

As our shared-services Police Chief, Chief Bordi set a clear goal of identifying and developing a highly qualified officer within our department to step into the role of Chief of Police. I am pleased to announce that this goal has been successfully accomplished.

Captain Michael FitzGibbon will now be promoted to the position of Chief of Police.

Thank you, Chief Bordi, for placing your trust in Chief FitzGibbon—not only by providing him with the training, mentorship, and leadership necessary for this role, but also by demonstrating confidence in his ability to lead this department forward. I am confident that Chief FitzGibbon will continue to make us all proud.

Chief Bordi, Chief FitzGibbon, and all members of the Berlin Township Police Department—please accept my sincere appreciation for the exceptional work you have done in leading and strengthening this department. Your expertise and dedication have been instrumental in implementing programs and initiatives that greatly benefit both our officers and the residents we proudly serve.

Fire Department

I would also like to express my gratitude for the exceptional service provided by the **West Berlin Fire Department**.

The men and women of this department consistently demonstrate honor, bravery, and dedication in their roles. Their unwavering commitment to service is truly commendable.

I would like to once again extend my congratulations to **Chief George Bundick Jr.** 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 continually go above and beyond in the line of duty.

Berlin Ambulance Association

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

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

Your prompt response, compassionate care, and dedication to excellence have not gone unnoticed.

Department of Public Works

I would like to thank the entire **Berlin Township Public Works Department** for another year of outstanding service to our residents.

A special thank-you goes to **Andy Simone**, our Superintendent of Public Works. With his extensive knowledge and unwavering dedication, Andy continues to excel in his role and significantly contribute to the betterment of our town.

I would also like to recognize **Gianni**, whose hard work, commitment, and dedication do not go unnoticed by our community.

Planning Board & Downtown Redevelopment

The **Berlin Township Planning Board** held many important and successful meetings this year, continuing its vital role overseeing site plans and redevelopment projects.

The revitalization of our downtown along **Haddon Avenue** continues with new investments and businesses opening their doors. Over the past three years, we have attracted additional residential, mixed-use, and façade improvement projects. Several new businesses—including a sandwich deli, a Mexican restaurant, an Italian restaurant, and others—have opened, with many more projects still to come.

I am grateful to the Township Council for unanimously supporting this downtown redevelopment program. As long as we continue to promote a commerce-friendly mentality that attracts and retains businesses, investors, and builders, Berlin Township's downtown will continue to thrive—generating revenue that helps offset the tax burden on our residents.

Township Staff & Professionals

I would like to conclude by thanking our Township professionals, administration, and staff:

- **Cathy Underwood**, Municipal Clerk
- **Kelly Shendock**, Administrative Assistant and longtime resident
- **Alex Davidson**, Chief Financial Officer, and **Lindsey**, for their excellent work
- **Tax Collector Dana O'Hara**, **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
- **Derrie**, Land Use Secretary, and **Michael DePalma**, Construction Office
- **OEM Coordinator George Bundick**, Deputy Coordinators **Andy Simone** and **Joe Cornforth**, and the entire OEM staff

To our professionals:

- **Chris Orlando**, Township Attorney
- **Stuart Platt**, Redevelopment Attorney
- **Gregory Fusco**, Engineers
- **Bowman & Company**, especially **Danny DiGangi**, our auditors
- **Judge Ryan Trabosh**
- **Municipal Prosecutor Donna Platt**

Through teamwork, professionalism, and volunteerism, our employees and residents made great progress in 2025 while remaining true to our small-town values.

Closing

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 and fair representation for all residents.

Thank you for your time today. I look forward to working with you all.

Happy New Year. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

Thank you,
Mayor Phyllis

Council President Epifanio

Council President Epifanio concurred with Mayor Magazzu remarks. He congratulated Frank, Kim and Phyllis and looks forward in working with them in the new year.

Councilwoman Reed

Good afternoon,

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who voted for me and believed I would be a good fit to serve as Councilperson for Berlin Township. I would especially like to thank my husband, my children, my friends, my running mates, and their families for their continued support throughout this journey.

I know this role will come with challenges, but I fully intend to do a great job for everyone who supported me and for all residents of Berlin Township. Although my running mates are not standing here with me today, we ran our campaign on ethics and transparency, and I will continue to lead in that same manner.

While campaigning and meeting residents throughout the township, several concerns were raised repeatedly. While all of them are important, I would like to highlight a few key areas today.

Transparency

First and foremost is transparency with the residents of Berlin Township. Many residents expressed concerns that the Township Council is not transparent enough. In order for the 2026 Berlin Township Council to begin rebuilding trust and demonstrating transparency, I will be advocating for the following:

1. Council Meeting Times

While on the campaign trail, many residents requested later meeting times so more people could attend. When I looked into this, I discovered that the Berlin Township Code—specifically Code 3-15—states that council meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. This is currently not accurate.

Since this code needs to be updated, I would like to offer a compromise. Rather than meeting at either 5:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m., I propose holding council meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month. I believe this would go a long way toward showing residents that we want them present, informed, and involved.

If this compromise is not supported, then I would like the code to be updated to reflect the current meeting time so it is accurate, and so it is clearly on record how each council member chooses to proceed.

2. Clear and Detailed Agendas

I have attended multiple meetings and consistent with public meeting and open-meeting principles, each item subject to a vote should be clearly identified, described, and reviewed on the agenda prior to any action being taken, even when items are grouped together for a single vote. Clear presentation of each agenda item promotes transparency, ensures the public is adequately informed, and preserves the public's right to meaningful participation in the decision-making process.

3. Public Questions and Communication

We were elected to serve the public, and I would like to see more effort made to answer residents' questions. I understand that certain matters cannot be discussed publicly, but that can and should be explained. By listening to our residents and communicating openly, we can work toward solutions that serve the entire community.

Community Involvement

The next area I would like to highlight is community involvement.

1. Youth Sports Programs

The T-ball and Peewee Soccer programs were a positive step toward bringing youth sports back to Berlin Township, and that truly makes my heart happy. However, I would like to know how these programs will be handled moving forward.

Will the Mayor and Council continue to run these programs as they did in 2025? Will the programs be expanded to include additional age groups? Or will we seek community members willing to volunteer and establish a stand-alone Berlin Township Athletic Organization that the township supports but does not operate?

I do not believe that the Mayor and Council should be running youth sports programs. Our children deserve a dedicated, stand-alone organization—like we had in the past—and our residents deserve to see our beautiful fields used again. The Luke Avenue and Edgewood Avenue complexes should not be sitting empty.

2. Senior Activities

We have a newly remodeled senior center that should be fully utilized. Other towns offer activities such as game days, crafts, book clubs, and bingo. I believe we should support expanding opportunities and programming for our senior residents.

3. Community Events and Volunteers

I would also like to request the creation of a volunteer committee to help enhance township events such as Fall Fest and the Christmas Tree Lighting. This would increase resident involvement and help strengthen our sense of community.

4. Hiring Policies

While reviewing the Township Code, I was unable to locate a formal hiring policy available to the public. However, I did find a description of the hiring process within the employee manual provided to me. Given this, I believe a hiring policy should be formally adopted through the Township Code or by resolution so it is accessible to the public. If such a policy already exists, it should be clearly identified and made easily accessible. As part of creating or updating this policy, I would like to ensure the following:

All job openings are publicly posted within the township, including on social media and other communication platforms, for a clearly defined time period.

A clear nepotism policy is included, as this was a major concern raised by many residents.

Support for Township Employees

Lastly, I want to emphasize the importance of supporting our police officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, and all township employees. These individuals are the backbone of our community, and they deserve our respect, appreciation, and support.

From day one, I promised transparency—and I fully intend to honor that promise. I am here to work for the residents of Berlin Township: to listen, to communicate, and to

advocate for what is right for our community. I look forward to working with everyone on Council to make Berlin Township better.

To everyone here today—whether you came to support me or simply to observe the process—I encourage you to stay informed, stay involved, and attend Mayor and Council meetings whenever possible. Your presence, your voices, and your engagement are what truly make our township stronger.

Councilman Reid

Councilman Reid congratulated Mayor and Council and wished everyone in the days moving forward Prosperity, Peace and Harmony.

Councilman McHenry

Councilman McHenry, thanked everyone for being here and stated he appreciates their support.

Adjournment

Motion by Council President Epifanio, second by Councilwoman Reed to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 pm. Motion carried by voice vote, all members voting in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned 12:40 pm

Catherine Underwood
Berlin Township RMC