



COUNTY OF MERCER
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JERLENE H. WORTHY, CLERK
BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

LISA M. VENA
DEPUTY CLERK

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 3 , 2020

THE WAR MEMORIAL

ONE WEST LAFAYETTE STREET

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

The Clerk to the Board called the meeting to order on the above date at the War Memorial Building, One Lafayette Street, Trenton, New Jersey, at 6:08 P.M.

The Invocation was given by Reverend Simeon Spencer, Pastor of Union Baptist Church, Trenton, New Jersey.

Following the Invocation, the Clerk to the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag.

The National Anthem was performed by Mr. Bill O'Neal.

Freeholder Cimino called for a moment of silence in honor of the recent passing of JoAnn Palmucci, Chairwoman of the Mercer County Board of Elections.

The Clerk to the Board announced in accordance with the provision of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, {Chapter 231, 1975}, Notice of this meeting had been mailed to the Trentonian, Trenton Times and Princeton Packet Newspapers, as well as having been posted in the Administration Building and Courthouse at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

SWEARING IN OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE BRIAN M. HUGHES

The Clerk to the Board read the Certificate of Election for the newly Re-elected **COUNTY EXECUTIVE BRIAN M. HUGHES**.

The Oath of Office was administered by the Honorable John J. Hughes, Retired United States Magistrate Judge.

County Executive Hughes wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. He congratulated newly re-elected Freeholders Andrew Koontz and Nina D. Melker. He mentioned the passionate service they both bring to Mercer County. He thanked his family and friends for their continued support. Also, he thanked his Chief of Staff, Kelvin Ganges and newly appointed County Administrator, Lillian L. Nazarro for their hard work and dedication to Mercer County. He spoke of challenges facing Mercer County in 2020, but felt confident that his Administration, together with the Freeholder Board, would continue to do what was best for the residents of Mercer County.

At this time, County Executive Hughes introduced First Lady Murphy.

First Lady Tammy Snyder Murphy of New Jersey said it was an honor to be present at tonight's Reorganization Meeting. She spoke of the hard work involved in public service and felt grateful for all of the public officials who were committed to serving the residents of the State of New Jersey. She congratulated County Executive Hughes, Freeholder Koonz and Freeholder Melker on being re-elected to continue to serve the needs of the public.

Freeholder Cimino recognized the many elected officials and former elected officials present at tonight's meeting.

SWEARING-IN OF FREEHOLDERS ELECT

The Clerk to the Board read the Certificate of Election for newly re-elected **Freeholder ANDREW KOONTZ**.

The Oath of Office was then administered by the Honorable Kristin McLaughlin, Mayor of Hopewell Township.

The Clerk to the Board read the Certificate of Election for newly elected **Freeholder NINA D. MELKER**.

The Oath of Office was then administered by the Honorable Jeffrey S. Martin, Mayor of Hamilton Township.

At this time, the Clerk to the Board called the Roll Call of the 2020 Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders:

Ann M. Cannon

John A. Cimino

Pasquale "Pat" Colavita

Samuel T. Frisby, Sr

Andrew Koontz

Nina D. Melker

Lucylle R.S. Walter

As the next order of business, the Clerk announced that nominations were in order for Chair of the Board for 2020.

Freeholder Colavita placed in nomination, the name of **FREEHOLDER ANDREW KOONTZ** to serve as Chair of the Board. Freeholder Cannon seconded the nomination.

The Clerk inquired as to any further nominations. Hearing none, she proceeded to call for the vote.

VOTE ON NOMINATION OF ANDREW KOONTZ TO SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE BOARD FOR 2020

Ayes - 7. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent - 0.

Ayes - Freeholders Cannon, Cimino, Colavita, Koontz, Melker, Walter, and Koontz

The Clerk announced the results of the vote.

The Oath of Office was then administered to Freeholder Koontz by the Honorable Kristin McLaughlin, Mayor of Hopewell Township.

Chair Koontz then called for nominations for the Office of Vice-Chair of the Board for the year 2020.

Freeholder Melker placed in nomination, the name of **FREEHOLDER SAMUEL T. FRISBY, SR.** to serve as Vice-Chair of the Board. Freeholder Walter seconded the nomination.

The Clerk inquired as to any further nominations. Hearing none, she called for the vote.

VOTE ON NOMINATION OF SAMUEL T. FRISBY, SR. TO SERVE AS VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD FOR 2020

Ayes - 7. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent - 0.

Ayes - Freeholders Cannon, Cimino, Colavita, Frisby, Melker, Walter, and Koontz

The Clerk announced the results of the vote.

The Oath of Office was then administered to Freeholder Frisby by the Honorable Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, New Jersey State Assemblywoman – 15th Legislative District.

Freeholder Chair Koontz asked the Clerk to the Board if there was any further business to come before the Board. The Clerk advised that there were ten {10} Resolutions required to be adopted at this meeting.

Freeholder Cannon moved, seconded by Freeholder Walter, that:

“RESOLUTIONS NO.’S 1 THROUGH 10
ON THE AGENDA, **BE VOTED ON IN BLOCK**”

VOTE ON MOTION TO VOTE IN BLOCK

Ayes - 7. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent - 0.

Ayes - Freeholders Cannon, Cimino, Colavita, Frisby, Melker, Walter, and Koontz

Freeholder Cannon offered the following Resolutions, seconded by Freeholder Walter:

- NO. 2020-1 BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS ESTABLISHES MEETING DATES FOR CONFERENCE AND FORMAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD FOR THE YEAR 2020
- NO. 2020-2 APPOINTMENT OF JOHN A CIMINO AS DIRECTOR , REPRESENTING THE BOARD OF THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES FOR THE YEAR 2020
- NO. 2020-3 APPOINTMENT OF ANN M. CANNON AS ALTERNATE DIRECTOR, REPRESENTING THE BOARD, OF THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES FOR THE YEAR 2020
- NO. 2020-4 ADOPTION OF RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF MERCER COUNTY FOR 2020
- NO. 2020-5 COUNTY OF MERCER - TEMPORARY BUDGET 2020
- NO. 2020-6 RESOLUTION DESIGNATING LEGAL DEPOSITORIES FOR ALL FUNDS OF THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NJ
- NO. 2020-7 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE FROM TIME TO TIME OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES AUTHORIZED BY VARIOUS BOND ORDINANCES OF THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY

- NO. 2020- 8 RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE INTENTION TO REIMBURSE CERTAIN EXPENDITURES FROM THE PROCEEDS OF BONDS OR NOTES TO BE ISSUED UNDER VARIOUS ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS HERETOFORE ADOPTED UNDER THE LOCAL BOND LAW AND THE LOCAL BUDGET LAW
- NO. 2020-9 APPOINTMENT OF ROB DAVIS AS DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
- NO. 2020-10 APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL W. HERBERT, ESQ, AS COUNSEL TO THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

ADOPTED - Ayes - 7. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent - 0.
Ayes - Freeholders Cannon, Cimino, Colavita, Frisby, Melker, Walter, and Koontz

Chair Koontz then proceeded to announce the Freeholder Board’s Standing Committees for 2020, as follows:

Budget and Fiscal Affairs	Chair- Member-	Nina D. Melker Andrew Koontz
Economic Growth	Chair- Member-	Lucylle R.S. Walter Samuel T. Frisby, Sr.
Inter-Governmental Relations	Chair- Member-	Pasquale “Pat” Colavita Ann M. Cannon
Health and Human Services	Chair- Member-	Ann M. Cannon Lucylle R.S. Walter

Planning	Chair- Member-	Samuel T. Frisby, Sr. Pasquale "Pat" Colavita
Organization, Rules and Procedures	Chair- Member-	Andrew Koontz Nina D. Melker

At this time, the members of the Freeholder Board wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed everyone to tonight's Reorganization Meeting. Each Freeholder spoke briefly about the past year and issues facing the County in 2020. (See remarks made by Chair Andrew Koontz, attached hereto and made a part hereof.) The Board thanked Freeholder Cimino for his outstanding leadership as Board Chair in 2019. They each expressed thanks to their families, and friends for their continued support. The Board looked forward to working with County Executive Hughes and his Administration for a continued commitment to service to the residents of Mercer County. Each Board member expressed a special thank you to the Clerk to the Board, Jerlene H. Worthy, and her staff, as well as their Research Director, and to their confidential aides for their hard work.

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman made brief remarks and congratulated all the newly re-elected officials. She wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

The Benediction was delivered by Reverend Simeon Spencer, Pastor of the Union Baptist Church, Trenton, New Jersey.

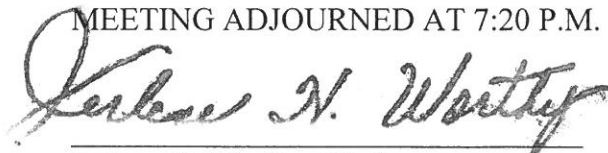
A motion to adjourn the meeting was offered by Freeholder Frisby, seconded by Freeholder Cannon, which motion was adopted by the unanimous vote of the members of the Board.

VOTE ON MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ayes - 7. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent - 0.

Ayes - Freeholders Cannon, Cimino, Colavita, Frisby, Melker, Walter and Koontz

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:20 P.M.



Jerlene H. Worthy, Clerk
Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders

GOOD EVENING, I'M ANDREW KOONTZ, AND THIS IS 2020!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT.

TO BEGIN, I DO WANT EXPRESS MY DEEP CONCERN FOR ALL PEOPLE IN OUR MILITARY, OUR DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, OR SERVING U.S. INTERESTS OVERSEAS IN ANY CAPACITY. THEY HAVE THIS MORNING FOUND THEMSELVES IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION, AND I HOPE YOU'LL JOIN ME IN PRAYING FOR THEIR SAFETY AND WISHING FOR A PEACEFUL OUTCOME.

WITH THAT SAID, I WANT TO THANK MAYOR MCLAUGHLIN FOR SWEARING ME IN, AND MY FREEHOLDER COLLEAGUES FOR ELECTING ME CHAIR. I PLEDGE TO YOU TO THE SAME FAIR, EVEN-HANDED SERVICE THAT WE'VE COME TO EXPECT OF OUR CHAIR, WHOEVER IT MAY BE. AND I WANT TO THANK THE 2019 CHAIR, JOHN CIMINO, FOR A JOB WELL DONE. IT WAS NOT AN EASY YEAR, WITH A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT ISSUES FACING THE BOARD AND A LOT OF DIVERGENT VIEWS TO MANAGE, BUT JOHN HANDLED IT ALL WITH PATIENCE, GRACE AND CIVILITY AND I WANT TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO HIM.

I MUST ALSO THANK MS. COOKIE WORTHY AND THE FREEHOLDER CLERK'S STAFF FOR THEIR DILIGENT WORK. THEY MAKE US ELECTEDS LOOK GOOD. AND OF COURSE I WANT TO THANK MARIO LAURENTI, MY AIDE -- WELCOME BACK FROM CHINA, MARIO!

I AM SOMETIMES ENVIOUS OF SOME OF MY FREEHOLDER COLLEAGUES, THE ONES WITH EXTENDED FAMILIES WHO ALL SEEM TO RESIDE NEARBY. ALTHOUGH I RECOGNIZE THAT HAVING FAMILY TOO CLOSE CAN HAVE ITS DOWNSIDES, YOU DO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING ABLE TO THANK YOUR FAMILIES IN PERSON AT EVENTS LIKE THESE. MY PARENTS, WHO SOMETIMES MAKE IT UP FOR THIS EVENT, WEREN'T ABLE TO BE HERE

TONIGHT. TO THEM I OWE SO MUCH, AND I THANK THEM FOR EVERYTHING THEY'VE DONE FOR ME -- NOT THE LEAST FOR PAYING FOR ALL OF THOSE VIOLIN LESSONS.

MY PARENTS PASSED ALONG TO ME THEIR LOVE OF MUSIC AND THEIR DEMOCRATIC POLITICS, BUT ONE THING I DIDN'T INHERIT WAS THEIR "WANDERLUST" -- THAT'S A GERMAN TERM THAT MEANS A DESIRE TO MOVE AROUND A LOT. THEY'VE LIVED IN MANY DIFFERENT STATES FROM ALABAMA TO ILLINOIS TO MASSACHUSETTS, THE NETHERLANDS, AND GERMANY. ME? I'VE LIVED MOST OF MY LIFE HERE IN JERSEY, AND THE ENTIRETY OF MY ADULT LIFE IN PRINCETON. I LOVE PRINCETON -- AND I'M VERY GLAD THAT OVER 28 YEARS AGO LAURIE HARMON AGREED TO JOIN ME THERE AND MAKE THE PLACE OUR HOME. I COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT HER AND I THANK HER VERY MUCH FOR HER LOVE AND SUPPORT.

FINALLY, I WANT TO THANK THE VOTERS OF THIS WONDERFUL COUNTY FOR GIVING ME ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THEM. AND I OWE IT TO THEM TONIGHT TO AT LEAST MENTION SOME PRIORITIES THAT I THINK WE AS FREEHOLDERS SHOULD ADDRESS ON THEIR BEHALF.

SIX YEARS AGO I STOOD AT THIS PODIUM AND SAID I BELIEVED THE AIRPORT NEEDED, AND I QUOTE "A BRAND NEW TERMINAL, BUILT FOR THE DEMANDS OF 21ST CENTURY SECURITY AND TRANSPORTATION REALITIES." IN THE YEARS THAT HAVE FOLLOWED THE OLD TERMINAL HAS BEEN IMPROVED, BUT IT WILL NEVER MEET THE NEEDS OF THE TRAVELLERS THAT USE IT EVERY DAY. THE FREEHOLDER BOARD HAS HELD MANY MEETINGS AND HAVE DEVOTED COUNTLESS HOURS TO DISCUSSING THIS PROJECT. THIS YEAR I STAND HERE TO SAY THAT IT IS PAST TIME TO MOVE BEYOND THE DISCUSSION PHASE. THIS IS THE YEAR, I BELIEVE, WE NEED TO APPROVE A

CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION DESIGN AND BID DOCUMENTATION. WE NEED TO BREAK GROUND ON THIS PROJECT. LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!

SIX YEARS AGO I ALSO SPOKE ABOUT BAIL REFORM, CALLING UPON OUR COUNTY TO SUPPORT REPLACING THE OLD BAIL SYSTEM. SINCE THAT TIME WE HAVE AS A STATE AND AS A COUNTY MOVED ON FROM THE ANTIQUATED BAIL SYSTEM TO A PRETRIAL RELEASE SYSTEM. THAT CHANGE, COUPLED WITH SPEEDY TRIAL AND OTHER REFORMS HAS RESULTED IN THE INMATE POPULATION AT OUR JAIL AND AT COUNTY JAILS AROUND THE STATE DROPPING PRECIPITOUSLY -- ENOUGH SO THAT IT IS NO LONGER ECONOMICALLY VIABLE FOR EACH COUNTY TO HAVE ITS OWN JAIL FOR ITS OWN EXCLUSIVE USE. WHILE OUR COUNTY'S AGREEMENT WITH HUDSON COUNTY IS, I BELIEVE, A NECESSARY STOP GAP, I HAVE STATED THAT I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS A LONG TERM SOLUTION. INSTEAD, I BELIEVE MERCER COUNTY NEEDS TO COOPERATE WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTIES TO CREATE A MODERN, REGIONAL FACILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS CREATED BY PRETRIAL RELEASE, RATHER THAN CONTINUE TO RELY ON BUILDINGS BUILT UNDER THE OLD BAIL SYSTEM.

CLEARLY, 2020 WILL BRING NEW CHALLENGES TO OUR COUNTY AND COMMUNITIES THAT WE CANNOT FORESEE TONIGHT. TO MEET THOSE ISSUES, I CAN ONLY PROMISE AS BOARD CHAIR TO BE RESPONSIVE AND FAIR, AND AS A FREEHOLDER TO DO MY BEST EVERY DAY.

TO ALL OF YOU, A HAPPY, SAFE, AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.