

Minutes

REORGANIZATION MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026 AT 6:10 P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AT THE NORTH ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Borough Clerk: this meeting is being held in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey. Adequate notice of this meeting was provided by forwarding a Sunshine notice which included the time, date and location of this public meeting of the Mayor and Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

“STAR-SPANGLED BANNER” SUNG BY LEAH MARIE GARRETSON
“GOD BLESS AMERICA” SUNG BY DAVID PIETRI

INVOCATION – CHAPLAIN FRANK FUCHS, NORTH ARLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION OF POLICE ESCORT- OFFICER BRIAN VANKOPPEN, NORTH ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR COUNCILWOMAN AMANDA DECICCO BY MAYOR DANIEL H. PRONTI

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR COUNCILMAN KIRK DEL RUSSO BY MAYOR DANIEL H. PRONTI

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Borough Clerk announces to the Mayor that the Borough Council is now duly constituted for the year 2026.

ROLL CALL OF NEWLY CONSTITUTED COUNCIL

Councilman Fitzhenry, Councilwoman DeCicco, Councilman Karcic, Councilwoman Sheedy, Councilman Del Russo, Councilwoman Bocchino

Also present: Mayor Daniel H. Pronti, Borough Administrator, Stephen Lo Iacono, Borough Clerk, Kathleen Moore, Borough Attorney, Randy Pearce

RESOLUTION OFF CONSENT SUBJECT TO COUNCIL APPROVAL

R-1-26 RESO RE: ADOPTION OF BY-LAWS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

R-2-26 RESO RE: ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL (Mario Karcic)

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman DeCicco

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

R-3-26 RESO RE: ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF BOROUGH COUNCIL (Donna Bocchino)

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

OATH OF OFFICE FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT ADMINISTERED BY MAYOR DANIEL H. PRONTI

OATH OF OFFICE FOR COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT ADMINISTERED BY MAYOR DANIEL H. PRONTI

OATHS OF OFFICE FOR FIRE CHIEF, 1ST DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF AND 2ND DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF ADMINISTERED BY MAYOR DANIEL H. PRONTI

FIRE CHIEF – ROBERT FELLRATH

1ST DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF – MATTHEW PISCAL

2ND DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF – BRIAN MARSHALL

CONSENT AGENDA SUBJECT TO COUNCIL APPROVAL

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4-26 THROUGH AND INCLUDING RESOLUTION 39-26 DETAILED BY TITLE BELOW, ARE LISTED ON A CONSENT AGENDA, ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS. IF A COUNCIL MEMBER DESIRES DISCUSSION ON A SPECIFIC RESOLUTION, THAT ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.

R-4-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR BOROUGH ATTORNEY

R-5-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR BOROUGH AUDITOR

R-6-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC DEFENDER

R-7-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR BOND COUNSEL

R-8-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR RISK MANAGEMENT-
INSURANCE CONSULTANT

R-9-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR I.T. CONSULTANT

R-10-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR GRANT CONSULTANT

R-11-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR APPRAISER FOR TAX APPEALS

R-12-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR LABOR COUNSEL

R-13-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR REDEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

R-14-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR BOROUGH ELECTRICIAN

R-15-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR BOROUGH PLUMBER

R-16-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR TAX APPEAL COUNSEL

R-17-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR BOROUGH ARCHITECT

R-18-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL

R-19-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR CONSULTING ENGINEER

R-20-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES

R-21-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR BOROUGH PLANNER

R-22-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR

R-23-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR WEBSITE COORDINATOR

R-24-26 RESO RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT

R-25-26 RESO RE: DESIGNATING OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES

R-26-26 RESO RE: DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

R-27-26 RESO RE: CHAPTER 231, LAWS OF 1975 KNOWN AS THE 'OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT' GIVING NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF PUBLIC BODIES WHEREIN FORMAL ACTION, DECISIONS OR DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC BUSINESS WILL TAKE PLACE

R-28-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF RECREATION DIRECTOR

R-29-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF RECREATION SECRETARY

R-30-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT(S) TO NORTH ARLINGTON/ LYNDHURST JOINT SEWER MEETING

R-31-26 RESO RE: APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENTS BETWEEN MEETINGS OF CERTAIN EXPENSES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO UTILITY EXPENSES AND INSURANCE PREMIUMS

R-32-26 RESO RE: PETTY CASH AND CHANGE FUNDS FOR 2026

R-33-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT(S) TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH

R-34-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT(S) TO THE ZONING BOARD

R-35-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENTS TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

R-36-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT OF CLASS III MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD

R-37-26 RESO RE: APPOINTMENT TO MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

R-38-26 RESO RE: SUPPORT FOR MUTUAL AID PLAN AND RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE FOR 2026

R-39-26 RESO RE: AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE, 1033 PROGRAM

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

SECONDED BY: Councilman Del Russo

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

MAYORS APPOINTMENTS, NOT SUBJECT TO COUNCIL APPROVAL

APPOINTMENT(S) TO THE RECREATION COMMISSION:

- JOHN CRISTIANO – EXP. 12/31/2030
- JOHN GRACI JR. – EXP. 12/31/2030

APPOINTMENT(S) TO THE PLANNING BOARD:

- CLASS II MEMBER: GABRIEL FIORE JR. – EXP. 12/31/2026
- CLASS IV MEMBER: THOMAS MALESKI – EXP. 12/31/2029

Mayor Pronti makes appointments to the following committees and assignments:

2026 STANDING COMMITTEE MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE & EXECUTIVE..... COUNCILWOMAN DECICCO

- Website/Technology COUNCILWOMAN SHEEDY
- CDBG
- County Affairs
- Summer Help

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS..... COUNCILMAN DEL RUSSO

- BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COUNCILMAN KARCIC
- Public Works
 - Shade Tree Commission
 - Passaic River Coalition

PUBLIC SAFETY..... COUNCILMAN KARCIC

- Police, Fire, EMS/NAVES, OEM COUNCILMAN FITZHENRY

FINANCE COUNCILMAN FITZHENRY

- Annual Budget COUNCILWOMAN BOCCHINO
- Grants

HEALTH & WELFARE..... COUNCILWOMAN SHEEDY

- Health Department COUNCILMAN DEL RUSSO
- Board of Health
- Municipal Alliance
- Access 4 All

RECREATION..... COUNCILWOMAN BOCCHINO

- Recreation Commission COUNCILWOMAN DECICCO
- Youth Programs

2026 COUNCIL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

BOARD OF EDUCATION.....BRIAN FITZHENRY / AMANDA DECICCO
REDEVELOPMENT (PLANNING/ZONING).....DONNA BOCCHINO / MARIO KARCIC
LIBRARY.....AMANDA DECICCO / ALLISON SHEEDY
SENIORS & VETERANS AFFAIRS.....KIRK DELRUSSO / DONNA BOCCHINO
NA/LYNDHURST JOINT SEWER.....DANIEL H. PRONTI / MARIO KARCIC
SPECIAL EVENTS (SUMMER REC).....ALLISON SHEEDY
PARKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....BRIAN FITZHENRY / KIRK DEL RUSSO

REMARKS BY MAYOR PRONTI: Good evening, everyone, and welcome to our 2026 Annual Reorganization Meeting. It is truly a pleasure to see so many people here tonight. Each January, we hold this special meeting to reorganize our government, reflecting on our performance, evaluating our efficiency, and defining the strategic roles we will take on in the year ahead. Tonight, we will also lay out our vision for the coming year and beyond. Many of the people in this room have played a major role in the success North Arlington has experienced over the past decade. You should all be proud of that, so please give yourselves a round of applause. Whether you are an elected official, a borough employee, a volunteer, or simply a concerned citizen, each of you contributes something meaningful to our community, even by showing up tonight. While some outside voices may choose to report inaccurate versions of local news, those of you here get to see firsthand how this town truly operates. We are fortunate to have such dedicated people in North Arlington. In addition to the volunteers who keep us safe or serve on our boards, we also have individuals who enhance events like tonight's meeting. I would like to thank Father Damian, Firefighter Fuchs, David Pietri, and Leah Garretson for being here this evening and adding their own special touch. The improvements we see throughout North Arlington are a direct result of the hard work of this Administration and the voters who continue to place their trust in us. I take great pride in knowing that we have assembled an honest, dedicated, and hardworking team—one that not only listens to the daily concerns of our residents, but takes action on them. I am proud to work alongside an exceptional Borough Administrator, Steve LoIacono; our outstanding Clerk, Katie Moore; our diligent Borough Attorney, Randy Pearce; and an incredible Council that is constantly helping others and taking on new challenges. I also want to recognize our Department Heads, who are accessible to the public and in constant communication with both Steve and myself. Throughout this meeting, you will hear the names of professionals, volunteers, and appointed residents who dedicate their time to ensuring that North Arlington operates smoothly, efficiently, and continues to improve. It truly takes a team effort, and we have built a great one. Each year, the election results reflect the work we have done together. Because of the progress made over the past twelve-plus years, our residents have, once again, re-elected the most qualified individuals to move North Arlington forward. I would like to congratulate Kirk Del Russo and Amanda DeCicco on their impressive victories this past November. These results once again show that North Arlington voters do not blindly follow party lines. Our residents know who their elected officials are, what we do, and how our actions affect this community. Our record speaks for itself. Those who run for public office should come prepared, with a proven track record and a clear plan for the future. Local elections should never be about constant negativity without solutions. That is why staying informed is so important. We continue to explore better ways to communicate with our residents, including our smartphone app, North Arlington Connect. I encourage everyone to

download it and sign up for notifications. The app provides access to emergency alerts, recycling schedules, local ordinances, park maps, and more. We also maintain active social media pages, issue press releases, and publish a bi-annual newsletter to ensure everyone stays informed. We live in an ever-changing community, and North Arlington continues to attract new residents who like what they see. Our responsibility as elected officials goes beyond policy. It includes getting to know our residents and our business owners. That personal connection strengthens our community and sets us apart from other municipalities. Over the years, we have made significant improvements to municipal services, supported by highly professional department heads who lead by example. To retain qualified employees, we believe in treating them with dignity, providing proper equipment, and compensating them fairly. Good work deserves recognition, and that philosophy goes a long way.

While property taxes continue to rise across New Jersey, it is important to understand that we control only the municipal portion of your tax bill. Since 2017, the average municipal tax bill has increased only modestly, largely due to rising healthcare costs. We do not control the County or Board of Education budgets, though they appear on the same bill. This Governing Body remains committed to what we proudly call the North Arlington Renaissance. In 2025, we made meaningful progress toward our goals. We continued upgrades to our athletic fields, began redesigning the Allan Park snack stand and Recreation House, and planned a major upgrade that will include a much-needed all-sports practice facility. Along River Road, we completed the transformation of Daniel Morris Park. After adding a bocce court, we included a beautiful, backlit garden and a stunning Barcelona-style fountain illuminated year-round. This landmark will serve our community for generations, and I look forward to seeing our high school students using it as a backdrop for prom photos. We also finalized the purchase of the blighted Comcast property, creating much-needed parking and improving the area's appearance. Our Christmas and holiday celebrations were enhanced, and the positive feedback we received confirmed the impact of those efforts. On the infrastructure side, we maintained regular meetings with PSE&G and Passaic Valley Water to coordinate repairs and upgrades. While detours and disruptions were challenging, the work is nearly complete, and smoother streets are on the way. Programs like NA rocks continued to thrive, bringing art and culture to Rusignola Park. Compliments from visitors about how well North Arlington is maintained speak volumes about our DPW, special litter details, and residents who take pride in our town. Looking ahead, 2026 will be an exciting year. We will finally break ground on a long-awaited milestone: North Arlington's Senior and Veterans Housing Complex. This project will include a Senior Center, a Veterans Hall, and approximately 40 rental units reserved for seniors aged 65 and over and U.S. veterans, with priority given to North Arlington residents. We will also continue marketing the former Melrays property, seeking a developer focused on parking first, with retail, not residential use. Parking, along with the completion of River Road, will be our top priorities in 2026. To address ongoing concerns, I have formed a Parking Advisory Committee made up of residents, business owners, professionals, police, borough employees, and a council member. Our tree-planting program enters its ninth year, with more than 1,200 trees planted borough-wide, along with replacements for those lost over time. Our community events, such as summer concerts, the Senior Prom, Memorial Day Parade, Celebrate North Arlington Festival, summer camps, holiday celebrations, and more, will continue to bring people together. As many of you know, I have a big decision to make very soon. I will complete my second term as Mayor in December of 2026. If I will be seeking a third consecutive term as your Mayor, we must collectively make that decision in the next three months. Over the

past twelve years, serving this town has been an honor and a responsibility I take very seriously. I want to sincerely thank my wife, my family, and my closest friends for their continued support, as it takes quite a bit away from our lives. Before I invite our re-elected council members forward, I want to thank each of you who believes in the betterment of North Arlington. Let us continue with positivity, reject negativity, and keep moving this wonderful town forward. Thank you for listening, and thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor.

REMARKS BY COUNCILWOMAN AMANDA DECICCO: Good Evening everyone, thank you all for joining us this evening for our 2026 reorganization ceremony. To the members of the governing body, honored guests, family, friends and the residents of North Arlington. I would like to thank the Mayor for administering the Oath of Office and for the opportunity to serve alongside this Council. It is an honor to stand before you this evening as a Councilwoman for the Borough of North Arlington. Fourteen years ago, North Arlington became my home, at that time the plan was to live here temporarily and find a better place to live. It was a short time later I began to see improvements continued, I began to fall in love with this town, it's people and the strong sense of community we share. Since that time I have seen our town grow, I like what I saw and always hoped to be able to contribute toward the improvements. It was amazing to watch new parks, new fields, more places for our children and families to enjoy. I have seen a community that supports one another and comes together when it matters most. One moment that meant so much to me was when my son, Zach and his team won the championship and were headed to Pennsylvania for a chance to compete in the little league World Series. North Arlington came together and celebrated our boys with a parade; that time was about more than baseball, it was about community, pride and showing our children that hard work matters. I am proud to have the opportunity to add to the wonderful upgrades in town, as I work with Mayor Pronti and my fellow Council members as we continue to serve this town. After being named to the Council, I had the opportunity to take on some new tasks, each one made me prouder and gave me more enthusiasm to do more. I implemented the first ever, North Arlington Hispanic Heritage celebration, which I plan to improve upon in 2026. We are committed to keep North Arlington thriving, supporting our families and creating a safer, more enjoyable environment. I would like to thank my family for their love and support, especially my children who encourage me to spread my wings and take this step, you are why and I am proud to be your mom. Thank you, to my husband for your continuous support and encouragement, I could not do this without you. I thank the residents of North Arlington for trusting me and giving me the opportunity to serve. I look forward to listening, working harder and doing my part to keep North Arlington a wonderful place to live and raise a family. In closing I wish you all a happy, healthy and blessed new year. God bless each of you, god bless America and god bless the Borough of North Arlington. Thank you.

REMARKS BY COUNCILMAN KIRK DEL RUSSO: Thank you Mayor, I would like to welcome everyone here to our 2026 re organization ceremony, members of the governing body, honored and distinguished guests, family, friends and all citizens of North Arlington. I would like to congratulate my running mate Amanda DeCicco for her well deserve victory, congratulations. Congratulations to all who have been appointed this evening, and all of our volunteers being sworn into their Borough's positions as well. Thank you Mayor, for administering the Oath of Office to me, to serve another term with you and this council. It's an honor and a privilege to have be re

elected to serve as a Councilman for our residents and this Borough of North Arlington, where I was born and raised. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve our Borough and residents for another term and represent our community continuing the work that we started. I look forward to truly great things to happen here in North Arlington. Thank you Mayor, for the opportunity to be a part of this administration, I am proud to be working beside you and my fellow council colleagues serving this Borough. This Mayor and Council is 100% dedicated and devoted to keep our Borough safe, clean, our business district flourishing with new business and providing our residents a better quality of life. The energy, excitement and enthusiasm from our residents and this Mayor and Council have been tremendous and keeps growing every day. People want to move to North Arlington and they will pay a premium to do so. I thank the residents of North Arlington for having the faith in me to serve on another term on this Council and represent our community. I will work diligently to keep our Borough moving forward in a positive direction. I welcome to challenge and I look forward to make North Arlington the absolute best place to raise a family, get an education, live, work and retire in. I would like to thank all of the Borough's employees and volunteers, Steve LoIacono our Borough administrator, Katie Moore our Borough clerk, our police department, our fire department, the DPW department, NAVES, CERT and recreation for all they do on a daily basis for our community, I appreciate what you do for our community, I look forward to work with you for the next three years. I would also like to thank Jimmy Bocchino for all the hard work and dedication, Michael Wengrin and Lenny Alluto thank you. I want to give a special thank you, to my wife Lori, thank you for supporting me and all that you do through out this journey. I would also like to thank the following people for being here tonight as well my daughter Valerie, my daughter Danielle, my sister Susan and brother in law Dan, my nephew Steve and wife Michelle they drove all the way here from Toms River, my cousins Angelo and Emilia thank you, my longtime friend Rick I really appreciate it. Closing I would like to wish every one of you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. God bless each and every one of you, God bless America and God bless the Borough of North Arlington. Thank you.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

U14 Girls Northern Counties Soccer Association Travel Flight Champions
U15 Girls Northern Counties Soccer Association Travel Flight Champions
U9A Boys NCSA Champions
U12 Girls SBUSL Champions
U8 Girls Northern Counties Soccer Association Travel Flight Champions

Councilman Del Russo: I am sorry, I also want to thank my cousins Barbara Ann and Mark, I am sorry, I love you both you followed me this entire journey and I want to thank you and I appreciate you for being here tonight.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Karcic

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Bocchino

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

Don Oneill – 14 William Street: Thank you, Mayor and Council for the improvements, fantastic aura around the town, it's amazing. I was down in Bayville and I was walking and someone asked me where are you from; I said I am from North Arlington, they said oh my god I know that town they heard about the NA rocks. So a lot of improvements in this town. If you walk down by the park on River Road by the fire house, I see people by the bocce court they really love it. Congratulations to the girls' soccer team. One other thing parking wise I know everyone goes on social media and they say 'someone was robbing my car, what should I do', if you see something say something we have the best police chief, Chief Horton. We recently had an incident with two individuals who were captured with fire arms loaded with a 30 magazine, our police department works above and beyond. I was pleased to see at the planning board meeting many residents asking questions. We do the best for this Borough that's our focus. Congratulations to Amanda DeCicco and Kirk Del Russo for the great job and I look forward to this year. Thank you, hopefully we have a fantastic year.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENTS

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Del Russo

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Sheedy

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino

BENEDICTION – PASTOR DAMIEN GAROFALO, RISEN SAVIOR CHURCH

MOTION TO ADJOURN (7:20pm):

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Fitzhenry

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman DeCicco

ROLL CALL: AYES: Fitzhenry, DeCicco, Karcic, Sheedy, Del Russo, Bocchino