



# Borough of River Edge

Mayor and Council  
Agenda January 6, 2026

## Reorganization Meeting

Borough Hall  
705 Kinderkamack Road

## Immediately Following Sine Die Meeting

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1. Call to Order –
  2. Silent Prayer – Flag Salute
  3. Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Act: This meeting complies with the Open Public Meeting Act by notification on December 12, 2025 via Resolution #25-301 containing the location, date, time, and access information which was sent to the Town News and the Record and by posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough website and filing a notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk.
  4. Roll Call –
  5. Borough Clerk Announces the 2026 Election Results for a term to expire on December 31, 2028 –
    - a. Bruce Feffer, 3 years as Councilman
    - b. Lissa Montisano-Koen, 3 years as Councilwoman
  6. Oath of Office –

Mayor Papaleo will administer the Oath of Office to Bruce Feffer

Assemblyman Chris Tully will administer the Oath of Office to Lissa Montisano-Koen
  7. Roll Call of New Mayor and Council –
  8. Election of Council President for 2026 – Councilwoman Indira Kinsella
  9. Public Comments (*limited to 3 minutes per speaker*) –
  10. Liaison Appointments to various committee/commissions/boards –
    - a. Councilman Feffer - Health Department  
Beautification Committee
    - b. Councilman Glass - Police  
Land Use Board
    - c. Councilwoman Dhariwal - Fire/Fire Prevention/REVAS  
Historic Preservation Commission  
250 Committee
    - d. Councilwoman Kinsella - Recreation/SCORE
    - e. Councilwoman Malellari - Delegate to Library  
Board of Education  
Environmental Protection

Commission/Green Team

- f. Councilwoman Montisano-Koen - Department of Public Works  
Building Department / Property Maintenance  
Shade Tree Advisory Committee

12. Committee Appointments –

- a. Personnel Subcommittee - Mayor Papaleo-Chair  
Councilwoman Montisano-Koen  
Councilwoman Kinsella
- b. Legal Review & Ordinance Subcommittee - Councilwoman Malellari  
Councilwoman Montisano-Koen  
Councilman Feffer
- c. Sewer Subcommittee - Robert Costa – Chair  
Mayor Papaleo  
Lissette Aportela  
Jason Milito  
Councilwoman Montisano-Koen  
John Pampaloni
- d. River Edge Alliance Against Alcohol & Drug Abuse - Mayor Papaleo  
Councilman Feffer
- e. Technology Committee - Councilwoman Dhariwal  
Councilman Feffer
- f. Finance Committee - Councilman Glass  
Councilwoman Kinsella, Chair  
Councilwoman Malellari
- g. Traffic & Safety Committee Mayor Papaleo  
Councilman Glass
- h. Citizen Budget Committee - Mayor & Council  
Lissette Aportela  
Albert Ruhlmann  
Kenneth Krautheim  
Donna Sanders  
Gregg Cariddi  
Joseph Gautier

13. Mayor’s Appointments –

- a. The Mayor reappoints Brian Mitchell; Gary Barth; Patty Almberg(Co-Chair); David Kraft(Co-Chair) for three-year terms through 12/31/28 to the **Environmental Protection Commission**, effective January 1, 2026.
- b. The Mayor reappoints Jim Hoogstrate and Andrew Golden through 12/31/29 to the **Historic Preservation Commission** effective January 1, 2026.
- c. The Mayor appoints Dario Chinigo as Class IV-1; Michael Krey as Class IV-2; Jorge Salva as Class IV-3 for a four-year term through 12/31/29; Tracy Levine as Alternate 1 for a one-year term to the **Land Use Board** effective January 1, 2026.
- d. The Mayor appoints Lt. Joseph Zemaite and Claudia O’Neill as Co-Chairs; Sgt. Renata Sanches, Christiana Evers, Elizabeth Oudens, Arlene Faustini, Leidy

Suriel, Officer Brenton Prisendorf, Terri O'Shea, Everlin Kim, Stephanie Hartman, for one-year terms through 12/31/26 to the **Municipal Alliance Against Alcohol and Drugs** effective January 1, 2026.

- e. The Mayor appoints Colin Busteed and Marie Papaleo for five-year terms through 12/31/29 to the **Shade Tree Advisory Committee** effective January 1, 2026.
- g. The Mayor reappoints Michele Cariddi (Chair) for three-year terms through 12/31/28 to the **Beautification Committee** effective January 1, 2026.

14. Appointments & Personnel Changes –

- a. Approve the appointment of Michelle Kaufman as the Farmer's Market Manager for a one – year term effective January 1, 2026, and reappoints Theresa Esposito (Citizen) and Jane Daly (Health Department) for one-year terms through 12/31/26 to the **Farmer's Market Committee** effective January 1, 2026.
- b. Approve the appointments of the following officers for the **River Edge Fire Department** for the years 2026: Chief of Department, William Sanders; Assistant Chief Eric Schultz; Deputy Chief Ben Silver; Captain Co. #1, James Carroll, Captain Co. #2, Seth Hanauer; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Co. #1, Michael Schlossberg, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Co. #2, Matt Panchi; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Co. #1, Chris Iannantuano; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Co. #2, Ron Silvestri, effective January 1, 2026.
- c. Approve the re-appointments of Alan Silverman, William Drew, Peter DeVries, and Ralph Leonardi to the **Fire Prevention Bureau** for one-year terms, effective January 1, 2026.
- d. Approve the appointment of Elizabeth Brown as School Board representative for a one-year term through 12/31/26 and Marie Papaleo (Chair); Mary Ann Komar (Recreation); Karen Glass; Alison Stephen and Liz Schlossberg as Resident Members for a two-year term through 12/31/27; the re-appointment of Laura Hoogstrate (Environmental Representative) and Chris Leishman (DPW) for two-year terms; Jeongwon Kim as a Student Member to the **Green Team** effective January 1, 2026.
- e. Approve the appointment Marie Papaleo and Colin Busteed as Resident members for five-year terms through 12/31/30 to the **Shade Tree Advisory Committee** effective January 1, 2026.
- f. Approve the re-appointment of Patricia Cordts (President) and Tina Mereos for a three-year term through 12/31/28 to the **Board of Health** effective January 1, 2026.
- g. Approve the re-appointment of Shawn Kucharski for a 5-year term through 12/31/30; the appointments of Councilwoman Malellari as the Mayor's Representative for a one-year term and Christine Moran as the Superintendent of Schools Representative for a one-year term through 12/31/26 to the **Library Board of Trustees** effective January 1, 2026.
- h. Approve the appointment of Kelly Zemaite, Kata Imken, Ryan Gibbons and Liz Schlossberg as members for three-year terms through 12/31/28; Alison Stephens as Alternate #1 for an unexpired two-year term through 12/31/26 to the **Recreation Committee** effective January 1, 2026.
- i. Approve the reappointment of Albert Ruhlman; Catherine O'Donnell; Neal Carroll; Kate Daibes; Shannon Lynch for a three-year term through 12/31/28 to the **Traffic and Safety Committee** effective January 1, 2026.
- i. Approve the re-appointment of Jason Milito as **Safety Delegate** and James Fedorko as the Alternate for the year 2026, effective January 1, 2026.

15. Administer Oath of Office to All Appointees –

16. First Reading - Ordinances

Motion that the following ordinance be introduced and passed on first reading and setting January 22, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard as the date and time and both Council Chambers as the place and Zoom as the virtual platform for the hearing on said ordinance.

- a. Ordinance #26-1 - An Ordinance to Fix the Salary, Wage and Compensation of the Officers and Employees of the Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey for the Year 2026

By:

2<sup>nd</sup>:

RC:

17. RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

- a. **#26-01** Adopting the By-Laws of the River Edge Mayor and Council
- b. **#26-02** Appoint Borough Engineer – Costa Engineering Corporation
- c. **#26-03** Resolution Authorizing Emergency Temporary Appropriations Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 in the Amount of \$150,000 to Fund a 2026 Ford E- 450 to be Used as a Senior Transportation Bus
- d. **#26-04** Appoint Labor Counsel – Clear Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs, LLC
- e. **#26-05** Appoint Municipal Public Defender –Navarro W. Gray, Esq.
- f. **#26-06** Appoint Borough Attorney Trenk, Isabel, Siddiqi & Shahdanian PC
- g. **#26-07** Appoint Municipal Prosecutor – Elsbeth J. Crusius, Esq.
- h. **#26-08** Appoint Bond Counsel – Rogut McCarthy, LLC
- i. **#26-09** Appoint Tax Appeal Attorney – Alan Spiniello, Esq.
- j. **#26-10** Appoint Risk Manager – GJEM-Otterstedt Insurance Agency, Inc.
- k. **#26-11** Appoint Borough Auditor – Wielkott & Company, LLC
- l. **#26-12** Appoint Expert Property Appraiser for Tax Appeals – McNerney & Associates, Inc.
- m. **#26-13** Appoint Borough Planner -Burgis Associates
- n. **#26-14** Appoint Land Use and Redevelopment Attorney – Cleary Giacobbe Alfieri Jacobs, LLC
- o. **#26-15** Appoint Affordable Housing Attorney – Surenian, Edwards, Buzak & Nolan LLC
- p. **#26-16** Appoint Zoning Officer Stephen Depken
- q. **#26-17** Award Professional Services Contract – Information Technology Services
- r. **#26-18** Appoint Payroll Processing Services Professional – Battaglia Associates, LLC
- s. **#26-19** Authorize Execution of Agreement – Public Health and Environmental Health Services
- t. **#26-20** Authorizing the Appointment of Gomattie Birnbaum as a Certifying Officer
- u. **#26-21** Designate Representatives for Statement on Auditing Standards No. 114
- v. **#26-22** Resolution to Establish a Change Fund for the Recreation Department
- w. **#26-23** Authorize Chief Financial Officer and Accounts Supervisor to Invest Surplus Funds
- x. **#26-24** Approve River Edge Fire Department Alcohol Policy
- y. **#26-25** Annual Approval of Petty Cash Fund for the Emergency Management Department
- z. **#26-26** Annual Approval of Petty Cash Fund for the Financial Administration Department
- aa. **#26-27** Annual Approval of Petty Cash Fund for the Police Department
- bb. **#26-28** Temporary Budget
- cc. **#26-29** Resolution Adopting Cash Management Plan
- dd. **#26-30** Designate Authorized Officials to Sign Checks, Bonds and Legal Papers
- ee. **#26-31** Authorize Signature to PNC Bank – Borough Accounts
- ff. **#26-32** Designate Official Depositories
- gg. **#26-33** Approve Appointment of Councilman David Glass to the Land Use Board
- hh. **#26-34** Authorize Signatures to PNC Bank New Jersey-Municipal Court Accounts
- ii. **#26-35** Naming Tax Search and Assessment Search Officers
- jj. **#26-36** Authorize Chief Financial Officer or Accounts Supervisor to Transfer and Pay Funds
- kk. **#26-37** Designate Official Newspapers
- ll. **#26-38** Designate Due Dates for Taxes and Interest Rate for Delinquent

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|------|---------------|--|
|      |               | Taxes  |
| mm.  | <b>#26-39</b> | Resolution Constituting an Agreement with Certain State Contract Vendors   |
| nn.  | <b>#26-40</b> | Designate Work Hours and Holidays for 2026 for Borough Employees   |
| oo.  | <b>#26-41</b> | Designating Public Agency Compliance Officer   |
| pp.  | <b>#26-42</b> | Resolution Authorizing Purchases from Cooperative Pricing and Purchasing Systems   |
| qq.  | <b>#26-43</b> | Resolution Authorizing the Borough of River Edge to Enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement   |
| rr.  | <b>#26-44</b> | Confirm Insufficient Funds Service Charge  |
| ss.  | <b>#26-45</b> | Resolution Authorizing the Borough of River Edge through the River Edge Police Department to Participate in the Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office, 1033 Program to Enable the River Edge Police Department to Request and Acquire Excess Department of Defense Equipment    |
| tt.  | <b>#26-46</b> | Engage Services for an Independent Registered Municipal Advisor and Continuing Disclosure Agent  |
| uu.  | <b>#26-47</b> | Authorize Appeal to Bergen County Board of Taxation and/or Tax Court   |
| vv.  | <b>#26-48</b> | Resolution to Annually Affirm the Borough of River Edge’s Civil Rights Policy with Respect to All Officials, Appointees, Employees, Prospective Employees, Volunteers, Independent Contractors and Members of the Public that Come into Contact with Municipal Employees, Officials and Volunteers |
| ww.  | <b>#26-49</b> | Approve Quasi Municipal Organization Coverage by JIF   |
| xx.  | <b>#26-50</b> | Confirm Claimant Certification Requirement Policy for 2026   |
| yy.  | <b>#26-51</b> | Authorize Execution of Indemnity Agreement with Veolia Water New Jersey, Inc.  |
| zz.  | <b>#26-52</b> | Set Time and Place for Mayor and Council Meeting   |
| aaa. | <b>#26-53</b> | Resolution Approving the Bergen County Mutual Aid Plan & Rapid Deployment Force Agreement  |
| bbb. | <b>#26-54</b> | Authorize Placement of Signs & Banners – 2026 Borough-Sponsored Events   |
| ccc. | <b>#26-55</b> | Resolution Appointing Fund Commissioner  |
| ddd. | <b>#26-56</b> | Resolution Adopting a Form Required to Be Used for the Filing of Notices of Tort Claims Against the Borough of River Edge in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:8-6   |
| eee. | <b>#26-57</b> | Authorize Purchase of Senior Transportation Bus  |

18. Council Comments

19. Adjournment