

**MINUTES OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE  
BOROUGH OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER  
January 8, 2026 8:00 p.m.**

*Meeting held In- Person and on Zoom*

**PRESIDING:** Borough Administrator Theodore Preusch called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Pursuant to the Open Sunshine Act P.L. 1975, c. 231, proper notice of this meeting has been provided by submitting appropriate notice to The Ridgewood News and The Record on December 12, 2025 by email in which the time, place and purpose of the meeting was set forth.

- Mayor Fardanesh administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Mark Abaid.
- Mayor Fardanesh administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Council Member Sarah Drennan.

**Resolution # 01-26      Appointment of Police Officer Patrick Gray**

Resolution offered by Council Member Drennan  
Seconded by Council Member Friedlander

**Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous**

- ***Mayor Fardanesh administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Patrick Gray.***

The following Fire Department Officials were sworn in for the year 2026 by Mayor Fardanesh:

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ➤ <b><i>Chief</i></b>             | <b><i>Nicholas Brusco</i></b> |
| ➤ <b><i>Assistant Chief</i></b>   | <b><i>Scott Roberts</i></b>   |
| ➤ <b><i>Captain</i></b>           | <b><i>Anatoly Burman</i></b>  |
| ➤ <b><i>Senior Lieutenant</i></b> | <b><i>Peter Shapiro</i></b>   |
| ➤ <b><i>Lieutenant</i></b>        | <b><i>Thomas Cusumano</i></b> |

The following USR Ambulance Corps Officials were recognized for the year 2026 by Mayor Fardanesh.

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| ➤ <b><i>Captain</i></b>                   | <b><i>Amy Lauren</i></b>     |
| ➤ <b><i>1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant</i></b> | <b><i>Scott Buhl</i></b>     |
| ➤ <b><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant</i></b> | <b><i>Scott Gurian</i></b>   |
| ➤ <b><i>3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant</i></b> | <b><i>Mark Bernhardt</i></b> |

**Welcome Address by Mayor Fardanesh:** At this time, Mayor Fardanesh thanked the public for attending the 2026 Reorganization Meeting and congratulated all of the officers sworn in. He stated that Upper Saddle River is the strong/resilient community it is because of its' residents and volunteers that give back in various capacities.

Open to the Public: (For Consent Agenda Items Only) No one wished to be heard.

\*1. Resolution #02-26

**Order of Business:**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
|      | <b>Place and date of Borough Council meetings</b>                    |
|      | <b>List of committees</b>  |
|      | <b>Bonds of Borough Officials</b>                                    |
|      | <b>Constitution of Borough Police Force</b>                          |
|      | <b>Rate of Interest-Delinquent Taxes</b>                             |
|      | <b>Telephone Charges</b>   |
|      | <b>Official Newspapers</b>   |
|      | <b>Continuation of Salaries</b>                                      |
|      | <b>Issuance of Pet Licenses</b>                                      |
|      | <b>Transmittal of Fees to Treasurer</b>                              |
| *2.  | <b>Resolution #03-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Duties of Administrator &amp; Borough Clerk</b>                   |
| *3.  | <b>Resolution #04-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Furnishing of Materials &amp; Services</b>                        |
| *4.  | <b>Resolution #05-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Professional Services</b>   |
| *5.  | <b>Resolution #06-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Schedule of 2026 Council Meetings</b>                             |
| *6.  | <b>Resolution #07-26</b>   |
|      | <b>2026 Temporary Budget</b>   |
| *7.  | <b>Resolution #08-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Authorize Treasurer to Pay Certain Claim</b>                      |
| *8.  | <b>Resolution #09-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Authorize Treasurer to Refund Monies</b>                          |
| *9.  | <b>Resolution #10-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Authorize Tax Collector to Conduct Tax Sales</b>                  |
| *10. | <b>Resolution #11-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Establish Cash Management Plan</b>                                |
| *11. | <b>Resolution #12-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Assessor/Tax Collector/Treasurer File Claims</b>                  |
| *12. | <b>Resolution #13-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Use of Public Facilities</b>                                      |
| *13. | <b>Resolution #14-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Mutual Aid &amp; Rapid Deployment Force</b>                       |
| *14. | <b>Resolution #15-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Designation of Tax Searcher</b>                                   |
| *15. | <b>Resolution #16-26</b>   |
|      | <b>1033 Program for USRPD</b>  |
| *16. | <b>Resolution #17-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Appoint Deputy OEM Coord, Robert Fleshman</b>                     |
| *17. | <b>Resolution #18-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Appoint Gerald Falotico Full Time Zoning Code Official</b>        |
| *18. | <b>Resolution #19-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Cancellation of Small Balances</b>                                |
| *19. | <b>Resolution #20-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Appoint Darryl DeMott Fire Prevention Official</b>                |
| *20. | <b>Resolution #21-26</b>   |
|      | <b>6% Year-End Penalty on Open Balances</b>                          |
| *21. | <b>Resolution #22-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Petty Cash Fund for Police Department</b>                         |
| *22. | <b>Resolution #23-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Authorize Tow Companies</b>                                       |
| *23. | <b>Resolution #24-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Appoint JIF Commissioner – Theodore F. Preusch, BA</b>            |
| *24. | <b>Resolution #25-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Appoint Recycling Coordinator – Helena Loveless</b>               |
| *25. | <b>Resolution #26-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Auth. User Agreement – North Arlington Pistol Range</b>           |
| *26. | <b>Resolution #27-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Appoint PACO Officer – Robert T. Regan, Esq.</b>                  |
| *27. | <b>Resolution #28-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Prof. Services Agreement: Rogut, McCarthy, Bond Counsel</b>       |
| *28. | <b>Resolution #29-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Prof. Services Agreement: Nelson Patterson Risk Mgr.</b>          |
| *29. | <b>Resolution #30-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Prof. Services Agreement: Burgis &amp; Assoc. Borough Planner</b> |
| *30. | <b>Resolution #31-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Prof. Services Agreement: BBG/Izenberg Appraisal Assoc.</b>       |
| *31. | <b>Resolution #32-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Prof. Services Agreement: Piazza &amp; Assoc. AH Agent</b>        |
| *32. | <b>Resolution #33-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Prof. Services Agreement: Robt. Regan, Esq. Boro Attorney</b>     |
| *33. | <b>Resolution #34-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Prof. Services Agreement: Nisivoccia, Municipal Auditor</b>       |
| *34. | <b>Resolution #35-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Prof. Services Agreement: Colliers Engineering &amp; Design</b>   |
| *35. | <b>Resolution #36-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Prof. Services Agreement: Wiss Law, Labor Attorney</b>            |
| *36. | <b>Resolution #37-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Prof. Services Agreement: Edward Buzak, Esq. AH Counsel</b>       |
| *37. | <b>Resolution #38-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Transfer of Funds - \$11,500.00</b>                               |
| *38. | <b>Resolution #39-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Return of Escrow</b>  |
| *39. | <b>Resolution #40-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Appoint Acting Court Admin. – Pascack Joint Mun. Court</b>        |
| *40. | <b>Resolution #41-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Appoint P/T Police Department Dispatcher Parker Talman</b>        |
| *41. | <b>Resolution #42-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Appoint P/T Police Department Dispatcher Troy Essmann</b>         |
| *42. | <b>Resolution #43-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Redeem Third Party Tax Lien Blk. 211 Lot 8</b>                    |
| *43. | <b>Resolution #44-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Tax Appeal Refund Blk. 1203 Lot 16</b>                            |
| *44. | <b>Resolution #45-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Tax Exemption for Disabled Veteran Blk. 1223 Lot 1</b>            |
| *45. | <b>Resolution #46-26</b>   |
|      | <b>Tax Exemption for Disabled Veteran Blk. 501 Lot 13</b>            |

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda Items Offered by Council Member Lyons  
 Seconded by Council Member Friedlander **Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous**

**\*Introduction of Ordinance #01-26**

**AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
 AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL  
 CHAPTER 59 FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION; TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; TO DESIGNATE  
 A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY  
 AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Motion Offered by Council Member Lyons  
 Seconded by Council Member Friedlander **Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous**

**\*Introduction of Ordinance #02-26**

**ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION  
 PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53(b) FOR A BOROUGH-WIDE TAX REVALUATION**

Motion Offered by Council Member Masi  
 Seconded by Council Member Abaid **Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous**

\*2. Motion to approve the following appointments to December 31, 2026.  
 Offered by Council Member Drennan  
 Seconded by Council Member Friedlander **Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous**

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Fire Prevention Official     | Darryl DeMott   |
| Municipal & Police Physician | Dr. Yair Kissin |

\*3. Motion to approve the following appointments to Borough Government.  
 Offered by Council Member Florio  
 Seconded by Council Member Drennan **Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous**

Youth Guidance Counsel

|                   |       |          |               |
|-------------------|-------|----------|---------------|
| Mayor             | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |               |
| Officer Pulizzano | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |               |
| James McCusker    | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |               |
| David Kaplan      | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |               |
| Marge Fiori       | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 | (Mayor's rep) |
| Joanne Florio     | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 | (Council Rep) |

Library

|              |        |          |               |
|--------------|--------|----------|---------------|
| Erica Fields | 5 yrs. | 12/31/30 |               |
| Roger Masi   | 1 yr.  | 12/31/26 | (Council Rep) |

Shade Tree

|                              |        |          |               |
|------------------------------|--------|----------|---------------|
| Tom Sherlock (Alt. #1)       | 5 yrs. | 12/31/30 |               |
| Benjamin Sherlock (Jr. Mem.) | 1yr.   | 12/31/26 |               |
| Roger Masi                   | 1 yr.  | 12/31/26 | (Council Rep) |

Recreation

|               |       |          |               |
|---------------|-------|----------|---------------|
| Richard Lyons | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 | (Council Rep) |
|---------------|-------|----------|---------------|

|                      |        |          |               |
|----------------------|--------|----------|---------------|
| <u>Bd. of Health</u> |        |          |               |
| Merri Stein Gurian   | 3 yrs. | 12/31/28 |               |
| Joanne Florio        | 1 yr.  | 12/31/26 | (Council Rep) |

|                                     |       |          |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------|--|
| <u>Emergency Management Council</u> |       |          |  |
| Ted Preusch – OEM Coord.            | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |  |
| Police Chief Rotella                | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |  |
| Fire Chief Brusco                   | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |  |
| Cynthia Dilatush (USR Cares)        | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |  |
| Ambulance. Capt. Amy Lauren         | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |  |
| Deputy OEM Coord. Fleshman          | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |  |

|                                |       |          |               |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|
| <u>Environmental Committee</u> |       |          |               |
| Jay Perez                      | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |               |
| Timothy Stoller                | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |               |
| Joanne Florio                  | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 | (Council Rep) |

|                             |       |          |  |
|-----------------------------|-------|----------|--|
| <u>Municipal Prosecutor</u> |       |          |  |
| Christine Lilore            | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |  |

|                           |       |          |  |
|---------------------------|-------|----------|--|
| <u>Affordable Housing</u> |       |          |  |
| Joy Convertini, Secy.     | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |  |

|                              |       |          |               |
|------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|
| <u>Historic Preservation</u> |       |          |               |
| Donna Friedlander            | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 | (Council Rep) |

|                           |       |          |  |
|---------------------------|-------|----------|--|
| <u>Borough Historians</u> |       |          |  |
| Kay Yeomans               | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |  |
| Justin Van Deursen        | 1 yr. | 12/31/26 |  |

**Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous**

\*4. Mayor to appoint the following to serve on **The Safety Committee** to December 31, 2026:

Mayor Fardanesh, Police Chief Rotella, Ted Preusch, Fire Chief Brusco,  
Ambulance Capt. Amy Lauren

\*5. Motion to select a Council Member Drennan to serve as Council President for the Year 2026  
Offered by Council Member Lyons. Seconded by Council Member Friedlander

**Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous**

\*6. Motion to select Council Member Drennan to serve as a Class III Member on the USR  
Planning Board Offered by Council Member Masi. Seconded by Council Member Abaid

**Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous**

\*7. Mayor to appoint the following to serve on the USR Planning Board:

| <u>NAME</u>     |           |        | <u>TERM</u> |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| Mayor Fardanesh | Class I   | 1 yr.  | 12/31/26    |
| Ted Preusch     | Class II  | 1 yr.  | 12/31/26    |
| Sarah Drennan   | Class III | 1 yr.  | 12/31/26    |
| Michael Putrino | Class IV  | 4 yrs. | 12/31/29    |

\*8. Motion to approve the following appointments to Council Committees offered by Council Member Masi. Seconded by Council Member Drennan.

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Board of Health         | Council Member Florio                         |
| Dept. of Public Works   | Council Member Lyons                          |
| Environmental Committee | Council Member Florio                         |
| Recreation              | Council Member Lyons                          |
| Youth Guidance Council  | Council Member Florio                         |
| Shade Tree              | Council Member Masi                           |
| Finance                 | Council Members Masi & Abaid, Mayor Fardanesh |
| Historic Preservation   | Council Member Friedlander                    |

**Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous**

**Rule 7. Public Comment** No one wished to be heard.

**Rule 8. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn by was made, seconded and was unanimously approved by all Council members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE  
BOROUGH OF UPPER SADDLE RIVER  
January 8, 2026 6:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Fardanesh, Council Members Abaid, Drennan, Florio, Friedlander, Lyons, Masi, Borough Administrator Preusch, Borough Attorney Regan

**ABSENT:**

**PRESIDING:** Borough Administrator Preusch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and read the following statement:

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** Pursuant to the Open Sunshine Act P.L. 1975, c. 231, proper notice of this meeting has been provided by submitting appropriate notice to The Ridgewood News and The Record on December 12, 2025 by email in which the time, place and purpose of the meeting was set forth.

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**Resolution for Closed Session**

**WHEREAS,** the members of the Upper Saddle River Mayor and Council deem it necessary to discuss certain actions under Section 7b of the Open Public Meetings Act: and

**WHEREAS,** more specifically will involve:

- **Litigation: Affordable Housing**

**NO, THEREFORE. BE IT RESOLVED,** that at 6:35 p.m. the Mayor and Council deem it necessary to exclude the public from discussion; a motion was made and seconded to go into Closed Session.

The Executive Meeting resumed at 7:55 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and was unanimously approved by all Council members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Convertini, Municipal Clerk