

# BOROUGH OF SOMERVILLE REORGANIZATION MEETING



JANUARY 1, 2024  
12:00PM

SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ~ 222 DAVENPORT STREET  
USE ORCHARD STREET ENTRANCE

The Borough of Somerville wishes you and  
your family a very ***“Happy and Healthy New Year”!***

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Visit [www.somervillenj.org](http://www.somervillenj.org) and subscribe to the [e-Connect email newsletter](#).

# AGENDA

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1. **INTRODUCTORY MUSIC** Evan Kunick  
Isabella Keller  
Henry Szugimala  
  
Directed by: Stephen Loreti
2. **TOWN CRIER:** David Lang
3. **NATIONAL ANTHEM:** David Lang  
(Please stand)
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Christopher Petrosini, US Army Veteran  
(Remain standing)
5. **INVOCATION:** Reverend Donna Stewart  
St. Thomas A.M.E. Zion Church  
(Remain standing)
6. **CALL OF ROLL 2023** Kevin Sluka, RMC
7. **2023 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD:**  
Presented by Dennis Sullivan
8. **2023 CLOSING REMARKS:** Dennis Sullivan
9. **PRESENTATION BY:** Granville Brady
10. **PRESENTATION BY:** RanD Pitts
11. **OATH OF OFFICE FOR COUNCIL:** THERESA BONNER  
Holding Constitution: Kofi Bonner (husband)  
Oath administered by County Clerk Steve Peter
12. **OATH OF OFFICE FOR COUNCIL:** GLEN DENYS  
Holding Bible: Ruth Denys (wife)  
Oath administered by County Clerk Steve Peter
13. **OATH OF OFFICE FOR MAYOR:** BRIAN G. GALLAGHER  
Holding Bible: Lisa Gallagher (wife)  
On stage: Brian, Annie, Ian & Maura (children), Danni Lynn (Granddaughter)  
Oath administered by Congressman Tom Kean, Jr.
14. **OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW:** KEVIN SLUKA, RMC
15. **CALL OF ROLL FOR 2024 MAYOR & COUNCIL:** KEVIN SLUKA

**16. ELECTION OF 2024 COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**

(Motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> and roll call vote required)

**17. STATE OF THE BOROUGH ADDRESS:** MAYOR BRIAN G. GALLAGHER

**18. RECOGNITION OF SOMERVILLE ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL:**

**19. FIRE DEPARTMENT EX-CHIEF PRESENTATION:** ROGER VROOM

**20. OATH OF OFFICE FOR FIRE CHIEF:** DAVE VALLONE, SR.

Holding Bible: Dave (son)

Oath administered by County Clerk Steve Peter

**21. PRESENTATION OF BADGE:** ROGER VROOM

**22. OATH OF OFFICES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

Joseph P. Stitley, Deputy Chief

Jose Rodriguez, 1<sup>st</sup> Ass't Chief

Brian Ceponis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ass't Chief

Oath administered by County Clerk Steve Peter

**23. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES: (chair listed first)**

PUBLIC WORKS	GINA STRAVIC / GLEN DENYS
POLICE	RAND PITTS / TOM MITCHELL
FIRE	GLEN DENYS / ROGER VROOM
PUBLIC PROPERTY	THERESA BONNER / RAND PITTS
FINANCE	ROGER VROOM / GINA STRAVIC
ADMIN/PERSONNEL	TOM MITCHELL / THERESA BONNER

**24. COUNCIL LIAISONS FOR 2024:**

**THERESA BONNER**

Somerville Library  
Youth Services Commission  
Code Enforcement

Municipal Alliance Committee  
Caring for Our Own

**GINA STRAVIC**

First Aid & Rescue Squad  
CDBG

Board of Health  
Accident Review Committee

**THOMPSON MITCHELL**

Ridewise  
NJ Transit Railroad Coalition

Historic Advisory Committee  
By- Laws Committee

**RAND PITTS**

Regional Center  
Municipal Court  
RWJ Somerset Hospital

Downtown Somerville Alliance, Inc.  
Veterans Affairs

**ROGER A. VROOM III**

Recreation  
Board of Education  
Complete Streets

Fire Museum  
Fire Police

**GLEN DENYS**

Recycling  
Sewerage Authority  
Raritan River Greenway

Emergency Management  
Environmental Commission  
Redevelopment

**25. APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS BY MAYOR:**

(Mayor’s appointment. Items #25 - #28)

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Art Akins	2 year	12/31/25 (Alternate 2)
Lisa Werner	4 year	12/31/27 (Class IV)

**26. AD-HOC COMMITTEES – APPOINTED BY MAYOR**

**SOMERVILLE CARING FOR OUR OWN COMMITTEE:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Brian Gallagher	1 year	12/31/24
Theresa Bonner	1 year	12/31/24
Art Adair	1 year	12/31/24
Dennis Manning	1 year	12/31/24
Les Floyd	1 year	12/31/24
Jerome Hood	1 year	12/31/24
Wallace Gantt	1 year	12/31/24
Charles Jones IV	1 year	12/31/24
Mason Robinson	1 year	12/31/24
Reggie Hall	1 year	12/31/24
Rob Johnson	1 year	12/31/24

**27. GREEN TEAM:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Gina Stravic	1 year	12/31/24
Tania Althoff	1 year	12/31/24
Sarah Arif	1 year	12/31/24
Ava Coppola	1 year	12/31/24
Pamela Dorn	1 year	12/31/24
Paige Greenfield	1 year	12/31/24
Laura Laskowski	1 year	12/31/24
Caitlin Martin	1 year	12/31/24
Melissa Smith-Shell	1 year	12/31/24
Logan Stahl	1 year	12/31/24
Neal Udsen	1 year	12/31/24
John Guarino	1 year	12/31/24
Thomas Auffenorde	1 year	12/31/24

**28. CANNABIS CLASS 5:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Brian Gallagher	1 year	12/31/24
Kevin Sluka	1 year	12/31/24
RanD Pitts	1 year	12/31/24
Roger Vroom	1 year	12/31/24

**29. APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS BY COUNCIL:**

(Motion and vote required by Council for items #29 through #31)

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Roger Vroom	1 year	12/31/24

**30. APPOINTMENT OF ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT BY COUNCIL:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Art Adair	4 year	12/31/27
Eric Alvarez	2 year	12/31/25 (Alternate #1)

**31. BOARD OF HEALTH: APPOINTMENT BY COUNCIL:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Mary Hodges	3 year	12/31/26
Karen D'Alonzo	3 year	12/31/26

**32. APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR (ROLL CALL VOTE OF COUNCIL)  
REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

(Requires motion and vote for item #32)

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Brian Gallagher	1 year	12/31/24
Glen Denys	1 year	12/31/24
RanD Pitts	1 year	12/31/24
Bernie Navatto	1 year	12/31/24
Mike Kerwin	1 year	12/31/24

**33. APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR: (CONSENT OF COUNCIL)**

(Requires motion and vote for item #33)

**LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Mateo Garcia	1 year	12/31/24 (Sup't appointment)
Brian Gallagher	1 year	12/31/24 (Ordinance #2334)
Lauren Watson	5 year	12/31/28

**APPOINTMENT OF FIRE APPARATUS DRIVERS:**

CENTRAL HOOK & LADDER:	ROBERT LYNN
LINCOLN HOSE:	KARL PARKER ZENOWICH
ENGINE COMPANY No.1	JOE CONDO
WEST END HOSE COMPANY No.3	GLEN THORNE

**APPOINTMENT OF RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Tom Scherr	3 year	12/31/26
AJ Smith	3 year	12/31/26
Helen Delpopolo	3 year	12/31/26

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Helene Venizelos	3 year	12/31/26
Sandra Benscoter	3 year	12/31/26
Geoff Keiser	3 year	12/31/26
Geraldine DeSapio	2 year	12/31/25 (Alternate #2)

**SOMERSET COUNTY RECYCLING COMMITTEE:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Mark Ibrahim	1 year	12/31/24
Rodney Hadley	1 year	12/31/24

**MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE & YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Jill Gleeson	1 year	12/31/24
Vito Spadea	1 year	12/31/24
Rose Jean-Baptiste	1 year	12/31/24
Nicole DeBiase	1 year	12/31/24
Gregg Puluka	1 year	12/31/24
Jason Kraska	1 year	12/31/24
Theresa Bonner	1 year	12/31/24 (voting member)
Kevin Sluka	1 year	12/31/24

**FIRE POLICE:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
James Kirchner	1 year	12/31/24
Kent Buchanan	1 year	12/31/24
Greg Jobin	1 year	12/31/24
Joe Byer	1 year	12/31/24
Peter Fusco	1 year	12/31/24

**SOMERSET COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC):**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Rodney Hadley	1 year	12/31/24 (Mayor's Recommendation)
Kevin Sluka	1 year	12/31/24 (Council Recommendation)

**SOMERSET COUNTY BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Kevin Sluka	1 year	12/31/24
Paige Elster	1 year	12/31/24
Rebekah Harms	1 year	12/31/24 (Alternate #1)

**RARITAN RIVER GREENWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Kathy Gerndt	1 year	12/31/24
Rodney Hadley	1 year	12/31/24
Kevin Sluka	1 year	12/31/24

**COMMUNITY ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Kevin Sluka	1 year	12/31/24
Alicia Danis	1 year	12/31/24
Arianna Macey	1 year	12/31/24

**NJT RR RARITAN VALLEY RAILROAD COALITION:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Kevin Sluka	1 year	12/31/24

**ACCIDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Dennis Manning	1 year	12/31/24
Rodney Hadley	1 year	12/31/24
Kevin Sluka	1 year	12/31/24
Jeremy Susser	1 year	12/31/24
Joseph Stitley	1 year	12/31/24
Jim Barry	1 year	12/31/24

**REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Brian Gallagher	1 year	12/31/24 (Executive Committee)
Rick St. Pierre	1 year	12/31/24
Rich Reitman	1 year	12/31/24 (Council Representative)
Deidre Rosinski	1 year	12/31/24

**HISTORIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Kelley Allen	1 year	12/31/24
Phil Decker	1 year	12/31/24
James Sommerville	1 year	12/31/24
Marge Sullivan	1 year	12/31/24
Jennifer Young	1 year	12/31/24
Harold Willard	1 year	12/31/24
Brenna Hassinger-Das	1 year	12/31/24
Kristen Anne Gray	1 year	12/31/24
David Edwards	1 year	12/31/24
Ron Czajkowski	1 year	12/31/24
Scott Sweitzer	1 year	12/31/24

**UPPER RARITAN WASTEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Kevin Sluka	1 year	12/31/24
Rodney Hadley	1 year	12/31/24

**FIRE MUSEUM COMMITTEE:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Pat Weston	1 year	12/31/24
Rich O'Neill	1 year	12/31/24
Brendan Nally	1 year	12/31/24
Marge Sullivan	1 year	12/31/24
Bryan O'Neill	1 year	12/31/24
Ron Czajkowski	1 year	12/31/24
Kristen Anne Grey	1 year	12/31/24
Rich Reitman	1 year	12/31/24

**EMERGENCY SERVICES FACILITIES COMMITTEE:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Dennis Manning	1 year	12/31/24
Brian Iselin	1 year	12/31/24
Robert Wortman	1 year	12/31/24
David Vallone	1 year	12/31/24
Richard O'Neill	1 year	12/31/24
Steve Weinman	1 year	12/31/24
Jim Barry	1 year	12/31/24
Pat Weston	1 year	12/31/24

**SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION:**

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Les Floyd	1 year	12/31/24

**34. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**35. CONSENT RESOLUTIONS (24-0101-001 THRU 24-0101-036)**

24-0101-001      **Establishing 2024 Meeting Procedure**  
Description: the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays are regular meetings except that we will have meetings on Tuesdays if the preceding Monday is a Holiday. January Meetings will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>. Executive Session starts at 6:00 p.m. and public meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Check website for adjustments to schedule and for special meetings.

24-0101-002      **Designating Official Newspapers**  
Description: Identifying the Courier News as the official newspaper and in cases where two newspapers are needed the Star Ledger shall be the 2<sup>nd</sup> official newspaper.

24-0101-003      **Filing Signature with Secretary of State**  
Description: Pursuant to state statute the Municipal Clerk is authorized to distribute the Mayor's signature and municipal seal upon request of the Secretary of State.

24-0101-004      **Adopting 2024 Holiday Schedule**  
Description: establishing the holiday schedule that Borough operations are closed.



- 24-0101-005      **Authorizing Disbursement of Funds for Pension and State Health Benefits prior to Council Approval**  
Description: Allows the CFO to make payments to the State of NJ Electronic Payment System at which time bills are received.
- 24-0101-006      **Authorizing Signature**  
Description: Allowing the Mayor & Council President to sign checks & other documents.
- 24-0101-007      **Establishing Interest Rate on Delinquent Taxes**  
Description: 8% per annum on first \$1,500 and 18% on excess of \$1,500 of the delinquency. Any taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000 will also be charged a penalty.
- 24-0101-008      **Establishing Interest Rate on Delinquent Sewer Use Taxes**  
Description: 8% per annum on first \$1,500 and 18% on excess of \$1,500 of the delinquency.
- 24-0101-009      **Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Wire Transfer Funds for Investment and Payment of Capital Debt**  
Description: Allows CFO to wire funds for investment of surplus funds throughout the year.
- 24-0101-010      **Affirming 2024 Borough Officials**  
Description: Identifies the position being held by municipal officials.
- 24-0101-011      **Adopting Policy and Procedure Manual**  
Description: the manual has been updated and will continue to be updated. Establishes rules and regulations for municipal employees.
- 24-0101-012      **Approving the Hiring of Rebekah Harms as Full Time Deputy Tax Collector effective January 1, 2024**
- 24-0101-013      **Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to the Law Offices of Robert Smith to Perform Legal Services as Borough Counsel – Jeremy Solomon**
- 24-0101-014      **Authorizing Appropriations to Cover Debt Service Requirements from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024**  
Description: The temporary budget resolution allows for current fund obligations to be paid. This resolution allows for debt service to be paid.
- 24-0101-015      **Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for Accounting Services (Auditor)-PKF O'Connor Davies Accountants and Advisors**
- 24-0101-016      **Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to the Law Offices of Robert Smith to Perform Legal Services as Prosecutor**
- 24-0101-017      **Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair & Open Contract for**

**Bond Counsel – Gibbons, P.C.**

- 24-0101-018      **Establishing 2024 Current Fund Temporary Budget**  
Description: Allows the Borough to initiate operations prior to adoption of budget.
- 24-0101-019      **Authorizing Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services Contract with Driver Associates for Redevelopment Consulting Services to serve as Director of Economic Development**
- 24-0101-020      **Appointing Risk Management Consultant- Brown & Brown**
- 24-0101-021      **Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for Labor Counsel and Legal Counsel for Investigative Matters-Rainone Coughlin Minchello Attorneys at Law**
- 24-0101-022      **Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Services Agreement by and between the Borough of Somerville and the Borough of Raritan for Fire Prevention Inspection Services**
- 24-0101-023      **Authorizing Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services Contract with Brown & Brown Insurance for Risk Management Consulting Services to Serve as Risk Manager**
- 24-0101-024      **Authorizing a Shared Service Contract for Printing Services with the County of Somerset**
- 24-0101-025      **Authorizing Application for a Recycling Tonnage Grant for the Tonnage Recycled during Year 2024**
- 24-0101-026      **Appointing Kevin Sluka as the Qualified Purchasing Agent in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.**
- 24-0101-027      **Authorizing an agreement by and between the Borough of Somerville and Township of Bridgewater for closure of Southside Avenue between Hamilton Street and Dutch Lane during flood events**
- 24-0101-028      **Appointing Fund Commissioner**
- 24-0101-029      **Appointing Kevin Sluka as Public Agency Compliance Officer**
- 24-0101-030      **2023 Parking Utility Temporary Budget**
- 24-0101-031      **Approving a Cash Management Plan to serve as a Guide in Depositing and Investing Funds**
- 24-0101-032      **Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for Accounting Services Financial Advisors-Phoenix Advisors, LLC**

- 24-0101-033      **Approving 2024 salary for Non-Union title of Assistant to Chief Financial Officer**
- 24-0101-034      **Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for Municipal Accounting Services -Suplee, Clooney & Company**
- 24-0101-035      **Authorizing submission of application for funding through Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse**
- 24-0101-036      **Accepting the Retirement Resignation of Kevin Collison effective February 2, 2024 (end of business February 1, 2024)**

Requests for Proposals were received for the following: The following appointments will be made after interviews are conducted Redevelopment Counsel; Borough Planner; Stormwater Engineer; Environmental Engineer

**36. BENEDICTION**

Reverend Donna Stewart  
St. Thomas A.M.E. Zion Church

**37. CLOSING MUSIC:**

Evan Kunick  
Isabella Keller  
Henry Szugimala

**38. ADJOURNMENT**

KEVIN SLUKA, MUNICIPAL CLERK