

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2026

The Annual Reorganization Meeting of the Township Committee of Fairfield Township was held on the above date at 6:00 p.m. in the Committee Chambers, 70 Fairton-Gouldtown Road, Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302 with Township Clerk Linda M. Gonzales presiding.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Township Clerk Linda M. Gonzales called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

Township Clerk Linda M. Gonzales read the following announcement: On December 24, 2025, notice of this meeting was published in The South Jersey Times and The Daily Journal and duly posted on the Township website. All requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met in compliance with Sunshine Law.

FLAG SALUTE

Township Clerk Linda M. Gonzales led the Flag Salute.

INVOCATION

Committeeman Mike Peterson gave the invocation.

OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY RE-ELECTED OFFICIALS

John Carlton, Marmero Law, LLC administered the Oath of Office to Committeeman-elect Benjamin Byrd, Sr. for a three (3) year term.

John Carlton, Marmero Law, LLC administered the Oath of Office to Committeeman-elect Marvin Pierce, Jr. for a three (3) year term.

ROLL CALL

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman, present; Committeewoman Julia Burrus, present; Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr., present; Committeeman Mike Peterson, present and Committeeman Marvin Pierce, Jr., present.

ALSO PRESENT

Township Administrator Michael Burden, Solicitor John Carlton (in place of Albert K. Marmero, Township Solicitor and Township Clerk Linda M. Gonzales.

APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

On a motion by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. seconded by Committeeman Mike Peterson, Committeeman Marvin Pierce, Jr was nominated and approved for Mayor/Chairperson.

Roll Call: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Committeeman Pierce, yes.

OATH OF OFFICE / MAYOR / CHAIRPERSON

John Carlton, Marmero Law, LLC administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr.

Township Clerk Linda M. Gonzales turned the meeting over to Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., to preside.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

On a motion by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. seconded by Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman, Committeeman Mike Peterson was nominated and approved for Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairperson.

Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Committeeman Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

OATH OF OFFICE / DEPUTY MAYOR / VICE CHAIRPERSON

John Carlton, Marmero Law, LLC administered the Oath of Office to Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson.

RESOLUTIONS / PROFESSIONALS ONE YEAR TERM (12/31/2026)

No. 1 - 2026 - Appointment of Albert K. Marmero, of Marmero Law, LLC as Township Solicitor, Foreclosure Attorney, Tax Appeal Attorney & Labor Counsel Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to appoint Albert K. Marmero, Marmero Law, LLC as Township Solicitor, Foreclosure Attorney, Tax Appeal Attorney and Labor Counsel seconded by Stephen M. Bateman. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

No. 2 - 2026 - Appointment of John DeSimone, of DeSimone Law Offices, LLC as Township Conflict Solicitor Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved to appoint John DeSimone, DeSimone Law Offices, LLC as Township Conflict Solicitor seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

No. 3 - 2026 - Appointment of Fralinger Engineering, PA as Township Engineer, Township Surveyor and Township Stormwater Management Engineer Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved to appoint Fralinger Engineering, PA as Township Engineer, Township Surveyor and Township Stormwater Management Engineer seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

No. 4 - 2026 - Appointment of Consulting & Municipal Engineers as Conflict Township Engineer, Environmental Engineer/LSRP & Township Planner Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved to appoint Consulting & Municipal Engineers as Conflict Township Engineer, Environment Engineer/LSRP & Township Planner seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

No. 5 - 2026 - Appointment Joel Fleishman, of Fleishman Daniels Law Offices, LLC as Bond Counsel Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved to appoint Joel Fleishman, Fleishman Daniels Law Offices, LLC as Bond Counsel seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd. Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

No. 6 - 2026 - Appointment of Ford Scott & Associates, LLC as Municipal Auditor Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved to appoint Ford Scott & Associates, LLC as Municipal Auditor seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd. Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

No. 7 - 2026 - Appointment of Hardenbergh Insurance Group as Risk Management Consultant/Record Broker Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved to appoint Hardenbergh Insurance Group as Risk Management Consultant seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd. Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

No. 8 - 2026 - Appointment of Corporate Employee Benefits, LLC as Health Insurance Agent/Broker Services Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved to appoint Corporate Employee Benefits, LLC as Health Insurance Agent/Broker Services seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd. Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

No. 9 - 2026 - Appointment of Tri-County Animal Control Services, LLC as Animal Control Services

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved to appoint Tri-County Animal Control Services, LLC as Animal Control Services seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd. Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

Mayor Pierce read the Consent Agenda into the record as follows:

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda includes items of business which are not controversial and do not require individual discussion. A Motion approving the Consent Agenda is moved, seconded, and voted upon as one item by the Township Committee. If any discussion is requested on a Consent Agenda item, it is removed from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda. Resolution No. 10 - 2026 through Resolution No. 39 - 2026

No. 10 - 2026 - A Resolution Designating Meeting Dates of the Fairfield Township Committee for the 2026 Calendar Year Including 2027 Reorganization Meeting

No. 11 - 2026 - Setting Forth Guidelines for Open Public Comment At Fairfield Township Committee Meetings

No. 12 - 2026 - Establish Dates and Times of the Fairfield Township Hazard Work Group & Local Emergency Planning Committee

No. 13 - 2026 - Designation of Official Newspaper(s)

No. 14 - 2026 - Adopting A Cash Management Plan

No. 15 - 2026 - Adopting Temporary Municipal Operating Budget for 2026

No. 16 - 2026 - Authorizing Signatures on Township Checks

No. 17 - 2026 - Setting The Interest Rates For Delinquent Taxes For The Year 2025

No. 18 - 2026 - Designating TD Bank As The Official Bank Depository

No. 19 - 2026 - Authorize Tax Collector to Conduct Tax Lien Sale

No. 20 - 2026 - Cancelation of Tax Overpayments or Delinquent Amount Less than \$10.00

No. 21 - 2026 - Setting Fees For Duplicate Tax Bills and Return Checks For the Year 2026

No. 22 - 2026 - Transfer 2025 Tax Overpayments to 2026 Open Balances

No. 23 - 2026 - Appointment of a Tax Search Officer

No. 24 - 2026 - Authorize Tax Assessor to File Petitions of Appeal & Roll Back Tax Appeals

No. 25 - 2026 - Appointment of Fund Commissioner & Alternate

No. 26 - 2026 - Appointment of Safety Coordinator & Deputy

No. 27 - 2026 - Appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer

No. 28 - 2026 - Appointment of Deputy Municipal Registrar or Vital Statistics

No. 29 - 2026 - Appointment of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator

No. 30 - 2026 - Appointments to Joint Planning/Zoning Board

Class I, Mayor's Designee, Class II, Class III, Class IV Members, Alternate I Member, Alternate II Member, Alternate III Member & Alternate IV Member

No. 31 - 2026 - Appointments to Environmental Commission

No. 32 - 2026 - Appointments to Recreation Board

No. 33 - 2026 - Appointment of NIMS Coordinator

No. 34 - 2026 - Appointment of Pogue, Inc. as CDL Alcohol & Drug Testing Lab

No. 35 - 2026 - Appointment of Standing Sub Committees, Liaisons Committee & Additional Sub-Committees

No. 36 - 2026 - Appointment of Recycling Coordinator & Clean Communities Coordinator

No. 37 - 2026 - A Resolution of the Annual Designation of Municipal Holidays for Fairfield Township and Establishing the Date of Halloween Recognition along with Trick-or-Treat Hours
Mayor Pierce announced that Halloween will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2026.

No. 38 - 2026 - A Resolution Authorizing Agreement with Humane Societies, Incorporated Animal Shelter

No. 39 - 2026 - A Resolution Authorizing Agreement Risk Management Consultant TRICO Joint Insurance Fund

On a motion of Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. to adopt the above Resolutions by Consent Agenda Resolution No. 10 - 2026 through Resolution No. 39 - 2026 seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

COMMITTEE REMARKS

None

MAYOR'S REMARKS

None

Mayor Pierce read the Public Comment on Current Agenda Items & Non-Agenda Items into the record as follows:

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS & NON-AGENDA ITEMS

In order for the Committee to conduct the business of the Township in the most productive manner possible, meeting attendees will be given five (5) minutes, all-inclusive to comment on any agenda item(s) without comment or question from the Committee and any non-agenda items including all dialogue, questions, and responses from both the speaker and the Committee for the designated public portion of the meeting. There may be no transference of a speaker's time to other attendees. At the appropriate time, please state your name and address for the record.

Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to open Public Comment on Current Agenda Items & Non-Agenda Items.

Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson moved seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

Cumberland County Sheriff Michael Donato congratulated re-elected Township Committee members, Benjamin Byrd, Sr. and Marvin Pierce, Jr. and the appointment of Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., and Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Sheriff Donato spoke on a trailer unit added to their fleet that tracks speeding and that it has been beneficial and successful to the Sheriff's Office and if the Township was experiencing speeding problems to please feel free to reach out to him for their assistance. He also offered his services for participation in township events and such.

Cumberland County Commissioner James Sauro congratulated the newly elected and returning officials. Commissioner Sauro talked about several projects and said that in the past year they worked on several negotiations with Inspira whereby a consultant was invited and that sometime

in February or March a report will be out. He commended the Sheriff's Office for doing a tremendous job. Commissioner Sauro advised the Township if there was anything that he could assist to please give him a call.

Brittany Snyder, Fire Marshall with the City of Bridgeton congratulated the elected officials and their appointments and offered her assistance for fire inspections or investigations.

There being no further comments, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to close the Public Comment on Current Agenda Items & Non-Agenda Items.

Committeeman Stephen M. Bateman moved seconded by Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. congratulated Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., and Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson and for all their work done over the years.

Mayor Marvin Pierce, Jr., thanked everyone for coming out tonight and thanked everyone for their support in his re-election as Committeeman and thanked the Township Committee for their support to serve again as Mayor of this Township.

BENEDICTION

Mayor Mike Peterson gave the Benediction.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Township Committee, Mayor Pierce entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Committeeman Benjamin Byrd, Sr. moved seconded by Deputy Mayor Mike Peterson. Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Bateman, yes; Committeewoman Burrus, yes; Committeeman Byrd, yes; Deputy Mayor Peterson, yes and Mayor Pierce, yes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Linda M. Gonzales, RMC
Township Clerk