

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

March 2, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor John Coiro, presiding, Council President Lou D'Angelo, Councilwoman Debra Andriani, Councilman Anthony Picarelli, Councilman William Bucher, Councilman John Capo, Councilwoman Lisa Palazzo, Municipal Clerk Joseph Wassel and Municipal Attorney Kristin Corrado.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor John Coiro called the meeting to order and asked the Municipal Clerk to call the roll.

Municipal Clerk Wassel recited the Prayer of the Meeting followed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag with the public participating.

Mayor Coiro asked the Clerk to read the statement of the meeting.

Municipal Clerk Wassel read the following statement: In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act Chapter 231, Public Laws 1975 of the State of New Jersey, as amended, Public Notice is hereby given that there will be a special meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa to be held on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers on the second floor of the Municipal Complex, 537 Totowa Road at Cherba Place, Totowa, New Jersey 07512. The purpose of the meeting will be to appoint and swear in a new Chief of Police of the Borough of Totowa Police Department. Official action may be taken. A copy of this special meeting notice is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk; it is posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Complex and the Borough's website; and is transmitted to The Herald News, The Record and The Passaic Valley Today Paper.

At this point Mayor Coiro asked that Senator Kristin Corrado announce and acknowledge all of the dignitaries in attendance.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee, there was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Capo to appoint Captain Carmen Veneziano to Chief of Police of the Borough of Totowa Police Department. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Capo to adopt the following Resolution Appointing Captain Carmen Veneziano To Chief Of Police Of The Borough Of Totowa Police Department. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 44-2020

RESOLUTION APPOINTING CAPTAIN CARMEN VENEZIANO TO CHIEF OF POLICE OF THE BOROUGH OF TOTOWA POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Police Chief Robert W. Coyle retired from the Borough of Totowa Police Department effective March 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Code of the Borough of Totowa, Chapter 75 entitled "Police Department", Article V, "Appointment of Personnel", Sub-Section 7, "Manner of Appointment" & Sub-Section 8, "Promotions", the three (3) Captains were eligible for consideration to fill the vacancy for Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, both Captain Keith Schaffer and Captain Frank DeCeglie submitted letters indicating that they were not interested in becoming Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, Captain Carmen Veneziano submitted a letter indicating his interest in becoming the Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, Captain Carmen Veneziano was in charge of the Detective Bureau for the past three (3) years and has nineteen (19) years of police experience, with over fourteen (14) years with the Borough of Totowa Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee after reviewing the Personnel File of Captain Carmen Veneziano and after conferring with Police Chief Robert W. Coyle, unanimously recommended to the Council that Carmen Veneziano be appointed to the position of Chief of Police.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that Captain Carmen Veneziano be appointed to the position of Chief of Police of the Borough of Totowa Police Department.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT

I, Mayor John Coiro, with the advice and consent of the Council do hereby appoint Captain Carmen Veneziano to Chief of Police of the Borough of Totowa Police Department.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilman Capo to confirm the appointment. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Mayor Coiro went to the front of the dais and asked Council President Lou D'Angelo, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee to join him. Mayor Coiro gave some history on the position of Chief of Police in Totowa, reflected on retired Chief Robert Coyle and spoke about our incoming Chief Carmen Veneziano.

Mayor John Coiro asked Police Chief Carmen Veneziano to approach the dais to take the Oath of Allegiance and Office for Chief of Police.

Mayor John Coiro administered the Oath of Allegiance and Office to Police Chief Carmen Veneziano, with his wife Rose holding the Bible and his children Brandon and Gabriella by his side.

Councilman D'Angelo said that though it is a little bittersweet that we are having this promotion due to Chief Coyle's retirement and you will have some tough shoes to fill, wished him all the luck and congratulated Chief Veneziano.

A badge symbolic to the rank of Chief of Police was presented to Police Chief Carmen Veneziano by retired Police Chief Robert W. Coyle.

Police Chief Carmen Veneziano thanked everyone for coming out tonight, thanked the Mayor and Council, Borough Attorney Kristin Corrado, Borough Clerk Joseph Wassel, all the Chiefs and Police Officers who are here tonight and thanked Republican Chairman Peter Murphy. Chief Veneziano continued by reflecting on his memories with retired Chief Coyle. Finally, he thanked all of his officers and said that “I have your back”.

Congratulations were extended to Police Chief Carmen Veneziano by the rest of the Council, the Borough Clerk and Borough Attorney.

There being no further business to come before the Council, there was a motion by Councilman D’Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani that the meeting be adjourned. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Joseph Wassel, RMC
Municipal Clerk