

SUMMARY:

REMARKS FROM MAYOR GINAMARIE ELLIS AT 9-2-2025 COUNCIL MEETING

Firefighter Award Resolution: On the September 2, 2025 Borough Council Meeting agenda was a resolution for the annual firefighter award, which should have been a Mayoral Proclamation in accordance with the Borough Code.

Pattern of Governance Concerns: Council President Driscoll has repeatedly bypassed Borough and Municipal Codes, spent taxpayer money on solicitors to get her way, and governed in a top-down, political manner.

Staff and Committee Disruptions:

- Four resignations caused or requested by Driscoll.
- Attempts to replace the Zoning Hearing Board solicitor.
- Reorganization of committees to favor her party and reduce bipartisan leadership.
- Changes to the agenda order, moving the Mayor's report to the end for purely political motives.

Mayor's Role Undermined:

- Stripped of legally-required liaison duties to Police and Fire Company.
- Excluded from communications and public representation roles.
- Removed from co-chairing the Comp Plan subcommittee.

Comprehensive Plan Issues:

- Driscoll bypassed the proper process and formed a "task force" she fully controlled.
- As a result, three planning commissioners resigned, causing a loss of 80 years of combined experience.

Ethical and Legal Concerns:

- Improper promises to a business regarding zoning exceptions.
- Additional legal costs incurred for siding with the Fire Marshall over a BCO determination.
- Borough Code referenced was unenforceable and improperly filed.

Firefighter Award Recognition:

- Mayor Ellis refuses to contest the process; the firefighter will be recognized.
- Emphasis remains on honoring the firefighter rather than political disputes.

Message to the Community:

- Politics is taking a larger role than it should.
- The community deserves transparency and proper adherence to codes and processes.