

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
WORK MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 2, 2021 MINUTES**

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87149708498?pwd=YIRyU3YwaVYrejFxUXRFaDU3dTJndz09>

Meeting ID: 871 4970 8498

Passcode: 432451

By phone: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

7:00 Closed Session/8:00 pm Public Session

1. Opening of the Meeting:

This meeting which conforms with the Open Public Meetings law, Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975, is a regularly scheduled remote Borough Council meeting. The Annual Schedule of meetings was published in the Record on January 14, 2021, posted on the Borough website and on the door of the Borough Hall in conformance with N.J.A.C. 5:39-1 et seq.

2. Roll Call:

Mayor Arroyo – Present
Councilmember Bicocchi – Present
Councilmember Collins – Present
Councilmember– Montana Present
Councilmember Hodges – Present
Councilmember Murphy – Present
Council President Dell - Present
Services
Borough Attorney Huntington – Present
Interim Administrator Elenio - Present
Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

Committee Assignments:

Land Use
Police & Emergency Management
Recreation & Public Properties
Health & Hospital
Fire & Ambulance
Finance, Administration & Capital Projects; Shared

3. Resolution #21 - 49: Executive Closed Session

Motion to Approve Resolution #21-49: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Murphy

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Hodges – Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes
Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

4. Reopen the Meeting: Councilmember Murphy Second: Councilmember Dell

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 8:02 pm.

5. Roll Call II:

Mayor Arroyo – Present / Councilmember Bicocchi – Present / Councilmember Collins – Present /
Councilmember Hodges - Present / Councilmember Montana – Present / Councilmember Murphy -
Present / Council President Dell - Present / Interim Administrator Elenio - Present / Borough
Attorney Huntington – Present / Borough Engineer Boswell – Present / Borough Clerk Hughes –
Present

6. Flag Salute

Mayor Arroyo led those present in the salute to the flag.

7. Resolution #21- 50: Appointment of Police Officer

Motion to Approve Resolution #21-50: Councilmember Collins Second: Council President Dell

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Hodges – Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes

Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

8. Reports by Borough Professionals:

A. Engineer’s Biweekly Report

1) Biweekly Report

Dr. Boswell reviewed the biweekly engineer’s report, a copy of which is attached.

2) Sand Road Crosswalk

Councilmember Montana said the barrier free ramp on Sand Road has ponding at the base of the west side, across from the church. Dr. Boswell will look at it tomorrow.

3) Pistol Range

Dr. Boswell reported that the DEP is requiring the pistol range be subdivided from the DPW lot. Councilmember Murphy asked if there will be additional requirements. Dr. Boswell said the DEP won’t give us the grant money if we don’t do the subdivision.

4) 2022 NJDOT Project

Mayor Arroyo asked Dr. Boswell to discuss the joint mill and pave project for Lafayette Avenue. Dr. Boswell explained they are putting together a joint proposal to the Township of Washington and Westwood for the project.

B. Administrator’s Report

1) LOSAP

Mayor Arroyo said the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps are looking for an increase in their LOSAP payments. Mr. Elenio reviewed an analysis of the Borough’s LOSAP program. Mayor Arroyo said the emergency services have done so much during the pandemic so the request should be considered during the budget process.

9. Items for Discussion:

a) Extending Certain Pandemic-Related Measures – RA

Mayor Arroyo pointed out that the Clerk combined last year’s pandemic resolutions into one renewal resolution for 2021. By adopting them tonight they’ll be in place for the spring.

b) Shade Tree Draft Ordinance – JM

Councilmember Murphy explained that the Shade Tree Committee wants to use volunteers to plant trees. The draft ordinance would allow them to plant with permission of the DPW superintendent. Questions by the Council included 811 markouts, and liability. Mr. Huntington explained that the appropriate insurance is in place. Councilmember Murphy said they would only be planting trees where requested by a resident. Mayor Arroyo said this addresses the lack of manpower to keep up with tree planting requests. The volunteers will only work in low traffic areas.

c) Senior Transportation and Services – CM

Councilmember Montana reported that the Senior Advisory Committee is speaking with the Riley Center about moving senior van dispatch to the Riley Center to bring the service to a new level. He asked the Council to allow Mayor Arroyo and himself to deepen the discussions and create a formal proposal. The consensus was favorable.

d) Hospital Zone Ordinance – RB

Councilmember Bicocchi reviewed several land use issues pertaining to signs and solar panels for which ordinances are on the agenda. There will be an ordinance pertaining to building height in the hospital zone on the February public meeting agenda.

e) Parking Authority Payment - CH

Councilmember Hodges reviewed the request from the Parking Authority for a waiver of the annual payment for 2020 and 2021 because of the lack of revenue due to Covid-19. The Council requested financial data before making a decision.

10. Agenda/Public Forum:

Motion to open Agenda/Public Forum: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Bicocchi
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the Affirmative.

No one wished to be heard.

Motion to close Agenda/Public Forum: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Murphy
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

11. Ordinances for Introduction/Adoption

Ordinances for Introduction

21-1 An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 195, Zoning, Article XIV, Zone Districts and Permitted Uses

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #21-1 entitled “**An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 195, Zoning, Article XIV, Zone Districts and Permitted Uses**” is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a March 2, 2021 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion to pass the ordinance on First Reading: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Collins

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Hodges – Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes
Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

21-2 An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 195, Zoning, Article XIX, Sign Regulations

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #21-2 entitled “**An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 195, Zoning, Article XIX, Sign Regulations**” is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a March 2, 2021 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion to pass the ordinance on First Reading: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Council President Dell

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Hodges – Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes
Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

12. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:

Council President Dell asked if there were any resolutions to add to the Consent Agenda. She stated that any Councilmembers who wished to remove any Resolution(s) to be voted upon separately could do so at this time, otherwise the Consent Agenda would be enacted in one motion. Resolutions h and i were added at this time.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

- a) Resolution #21 - 53: Bill List & Statement of Cash
- b) Resolution #21 - 54: Authorizing Refund of Taxes Due to Tax Court Judgement B709L2
- c) Resolution #21 - 55: Authorizing Refund of Taxes Due to Tax Court Judgement B909 L15.01
- d) Resolution #21 - 56: Authorizing Refund of Taxes Due to Tax Court Judgement B805L4
- e) Resolution #21 - 57: Change Order #1 and Final For Old Hook Road Sidewalk Improvements Project
- f) Resolution #21 - 58: Person-to-Person Liquor License Transfer – Sai Ganesh LLC to RVKNJ1 LLC
- g) Resolution #21 - 59: Reauthorizing Certain Pandemic-Related Measures
- h) Resolution #21 - 60: Authorizing Offer of Employment for Deputy Clerk
- i) Resolution #21 - 61: Appointment to Parking Authority

Motion to Approve Resolutions #21-53 through #21-61: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Murphy

Roll Call: Councilmember Biccocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Hodges – Yes, with recusal on 20-01405, 20-01406, 21-00128
Councilmember Montana – Yes Councilmember Murphy – Yes
Council President Dell – Yes

Councilmember Hodges reminded everyone that there is important information about Covid-19 posted on the Borough website, including a link for registering for the vaccine.

13. Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn: Councilmember Murphy Second: Councilmember Collins
Voice Vote: Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.
The time was 8:53 pm.

Attest:

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk
Proofed by: Jean-Marie Vadovic, Deputy Clerk