

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 15, 2022 MINUTES
7:30 PM CLOSED SESSION/8:00 PM PUBLIC MEETING
101 WASHINGTON AVENUE
WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07675**

1. Opening of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Arroyo at 7:33 pm. Mayor Arroyo then read the Open Public Meetings Law Statement: "This meeting which conforms with the Open Public Meetings law, Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975, is a regular Borough Council meeting. Notices have been filed with our local official newspapers and posted on the municipal bulletin board."

2. Roll Call:

Mayor Arroyo – Present
Councilmember Bicocchi – Present
Councilmember Collins – Present
Councilmember– Greco - Present
Councilmember Hodges – Present
Councilmember Montana – Present
Council President Dell - Present
Services
Borough Attorney Huntington – Present
Borough Attorney Kool - Present
Borough Administrator Ayer – Present
Borough Planner – Sneickus
Borough Clerk Hughes - Present
Deputy Borough Clerk Vadovic – Present

Committee Assignments:

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

3. Resolution #22 - 60: Executive Closed Session – Hazard Vulnerability Assessment - #7 Attorney Client

Motion to Approve Resolution #21-331: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

4. Reopen the Meeting:

Motion to reopen the meeting: Councilmember Greco Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 8:10 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 / Borough Administrator Ayer - Present / Borough Attorney Huntington – Present / Borough Engineer Morris - Present / Borough Engineer Senkevich – Present / Borough Clerk Hughes – Present / Deputy Borough Clerk Vadovic - Present

6. Flag Salute

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

7. Approval of Minutes: November 23, 2021 Public Meeting; December 7, 2021 Executive Closed Session, December 7, 2021 Work Meeting; December 21, 2021 Executive Closed Session, December 21, 2021 Public Meeting; January 4, 2022 Sine Die Meeting

Motion to Approve Minutes:

Councilmember Greco was not permitted to vote on the above minutes.

Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

January 4, 2022 Reorganization Meeting; January 18, 2022 Work Meeting, January 18, 2022 Executive Closed Session, January 18, 2022 Public Meeting; February 1, 2022 Executive Closed Session, February 1, 2022 Work Meeting

Motion to Approve Minutes: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Biccocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes
 Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Montana – Yes
 Councilmember Greco – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

8. Oath of Office for Fire Department Officers

Oath of Office was given to the Fire Department Officers Chief James Voorhis, Deputy Chief Brian Kronewitter, Captain Scott Stewart, 2nd Lieutenant Ryan Weaver, 3rd Lieutenant Matthew Voorhis, and 4th Lieutenant Justin Mason by Mayor Ray Arroyo.

Chief Voorhis stated that he was very happy to be back serving the Westwood Fire Department and the Community for his third time as Chief.

9. Resolution #22 - 61: Westwood Volunteer Fire Department – Matters of Personnel – James Bryan Covey

Motion to Approve Resolution #22-61: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Biccocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes
 Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Montana – Yes
 Councilmember Greco – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

Mayor Ray Arroyo swore in James Bryan Covey as a new member of the Westwood Fire Department.

10. Certificate of Appreciation: Westwood Fire Department Volunteer Hall of Fame – Marc Fedorchak

Marc Fedorchak was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Mayor Arroyo on his service to the Community through the Westwood Fire Department.

11. Resolution #22 -62 : Appointment of Police Sergeant – Michael Fortunat

Motion to Approve Resolution #22-62: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Biccocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes
 Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Montana – Yes
 Councilmember Greco – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

Mayor Arroyo and Chief Pontillo expressed their congratulations to Sgt. Fortunat for his dedication with the department and for achieving his promotion. Mayor Arroyo stated that it was a very competitive process, that there were excellent candidates but Sgt. Fortunat stood at the top and has the utmost respect from all of the Officers of the Westwood Police Department.

12. Engineer's Report

1) Biweekly Report

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

13. Reports of Committees and Officials, As Needed:

A) Mayor's Report

Mayor Arroyo reported that there was a web meeting in regards to Teterboro Airports flight patterns. He stated that there are 170,000 flights in and out of a two lane air strip a year. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the noise mitigation issues. Mayor Arroyo stated that they encourage residents to call the hotline number to voice their complaints.

Mayor Arroyo stated that Congressman Gottheimer was in Westwood for a visit and was diverted to the brook. The Mayor asked for a specific program to help desnag and desilt the brook to help with flooding issues in Westwood. Mayor Arroyo also stated that he is working with the Pascack Valley Mayors Association to see if they would be interested in being the lead agency to get a solution to the problem.

B) Council President's Report

Council President Dell stated that she is very excited about the new electronic sign in Veteran's Park and congratulated Borough Administrator Ayer on the accomplishment.

C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects: BD

Council President Dell had a meeting with Dr. Jill Mortimer, Superintendent of Schools and requested a tour of the new Middle School in Westwood. A couple of dates were proposed for the scheduling of the visit.

Council President Dell reports that the finance department needs to finalize the 2021 budget which will solidify the budget for 2022. She also stated that the Finance Department will be taking a conservative approach with the budget due to inflation costs. Council President Dell also reported that the Finance Department is waiting on the new software to be up and running. The Finance Department is also looking for someone to fill the Payroll Clerk position.

The Historic Preservation Committee has a meeting this Thursday at 7:30pm via Zoom.

Celebrating Westwood will be celebrating a town day and details will be announced as they come available. Celebrating Westwood Town Day will be held on September 10th at 3pm.

2) Fire and Ambulance: AG

a) Fire Prevention Fees were discussed by Councilmember Greco to have more comparable rates for the Westwood Fire Prevention fees compared to other towns in the area.

Councilmember Greco reports that since the new Fire Department Chief took office they have been in close contact and starting off right.

The Westwood Ambulance Corps has a blood drive on February 20th, the Installation Dinner is on March 11th and the chase for their new ambulance is in and looking forward to the delivery of a new ambulance and August or September Wetdown. Councilmember Greco is also happy to report

that the Ambulance Corps has 6 new members and that the carnival is back on this year. Councilmember Greco reports that the Heritage Society is looking for new members. The Senior Advisory is adding committee members and reminds the public that meetings are at the town hall and going forward they will be using the electronic signboard to communicate.

3) Health and Hospital: CH

Councilmember Hodges reports that the Health Department hosted two events last month; a booster clinic and a pop-up test center. Both were received well within the community.

There was a complaint lodged with the Health Department about pet owners not cleaning up after their pets at Westvale Park and other locations. Councilmember Hodges reported that a letter went out to all pet owners and thanked the Health Department for their swiftness in response to the complaint.

Councilmember Hodges reports that Mary-Beth Netzer has decided to step down for personal reasons and that Christine Compisi will be retiring at the end of May/June.

4) Land Use: CM

Councilmember Montana reports that there have been a number of applications making lengthy meetings.

Councilmember Montana reported on two infrastructure projects going on within the Library. The first is the moving of a computer room to a better location and the addition of boxes outside the Library which were installed for after hour pickup of items.

5) Police and OEM: EC

Councilmember Collins congratulated on the newly promoted Sgt. Fortunat. She also reported that there will be a surplus auction through February 25th in regards to equipment.

Social Services will be having their next meeting on February 23rd and there is an upcoming Shade Tree Meeting.

Councilmember Collins reported that the Police Department has been working very closely with the Alumni in Recovery project which will happen on April 24th.

Mayor Arroyo thanked Councilmember Collins for her effort in moving the Police Department promotions forward and with her help with the Department.

6) Public Works and Recreation: RB

Councilmember Bicocchi stated that the Public Works Department has already been out several different times with the different weather situations. Currently all vehicles are on the road but that the department is still waiting on the delivery of two salt trucks.

Councilmember Bicocchi reports that the construction on the Community Center kitchen will begin on April 1st. All winter programs are up and running and the pump track plans are moving forward.

Councilmember Bicocchi reports that the electronic sign is now up and running and is hoping to get the Borough paperless soon.

D) Attorney's Report

No report

E) Administrator / Clerk's Report

No report

14. Agenda/Public Forum:

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

Eric Dougherty, 44 Kingsbury thanked the entire Council for pushing the pump track along. No matter what happens he is happy that the Council is giving the track a chance. He stated that the pump track will bring along comradery of all ages.

Jamie Hodges, 40 Second Avenue commented on the electronic signboard and how it was long awaited for in the Borough of Westwood. He is requesting that the signboard announce the Scholarship Fund from the Fire Department.

He also requested that the Sgt. Hrbeck Father's Day Dad Dash be allowed to continue this year after several years of being online or not at all due to COVID.

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

15. Ordinances for Introduction/Adoption

Ordinances for Introduction

22-5 An Ordinance to Amend Article II Enforcement of State Standards Section 166-8 Schedule "A" Of Chapter 61, Fire Prevention Code, And Section 166-11 Permit Fees; Conflicting Provisions of the Borough of Westwood Code

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #22-5 entitled "An Ordinance to Amend Article II Enforcement of State Standards Section 166-8 Schedule "A" Of Chapter 61, Fire Prevention Code, And Section 166-11 Permit Fees; Conflicting Provisions of the Borough of Westwood Code" is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a March 1, 2021 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

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

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes

Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Greco – Yes

Councilmember Hodges – Yes

Councilmember Montana – Yes

Council President Dell – Yes

22-6 Ordinance To Authorize Execution of Deed Restriction With The New Jersey Economic Development Authority To Obtain Remediation Financing Under The New Jersey Brownfield And Contaminated Site Remediation Act To Ensure Rehabilitation And Reuse Of The Property Located at Block 1701, Lot 1.05 Compromising A Portion Of The

Property Commonly Known As Westvale Park

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #22-6 entitled “**Ordinance To Authorize Execution of Deed Restriction With The New Jersey Economic Development Authority To Obtain Remediation Financing Under The New Jersey Brownfield And Contaminated Site Remediation Act To Ensure Rehabilitation And Reuse Of The Property Located at Block 1701, Lot 1.05 Compromising A Portion Of The Property Commonly Known As Westvale Park**” is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a March 15, 2021 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

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

Montana

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes

Councilmember Hodges – Yes

Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Montana – Yes

Councilmember Greco – Yes

Council President Dell – Yes

Ordinances for Adoption

22-1 Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Construction Of ADA-Accessible Curb Ramps At Various Locations In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$160,000 To Pay The Cost Thereof, To Make A Down Payment, To Authorize The Issuance Of Bonds To Finance Such Appropriation And To Provide For The Issuance Of Bond Anticipation Notes In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds.

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #22-1 entitled “Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Construction Of ADA-Accessible Curb Ramps At Various Locations In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$160,000 To Pay The Cost Thereof, To Make A Down Payment, To Authorize The Issuance Of Bonds To Finance Such Appropriation And To Provide For The Issuance Of Bond Anticipation Notes In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Collins Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

Public Comments: No comments.

Motion to close the public hearing: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Montana

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #22-1 be passed on final reading and that a Notice of Adoption of said Ordinance be published in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion for final adoption: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Council President Dell

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes

Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Greco – Yes

Councilmember Hodges - Yes

Councilmember Montana – Yes

Council President Dell – Yes

22-2 Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Resurfacing Of Lafayette Avenue (From Ridgewood Road To The Musquapsink Brook) And Adams Court (From The Emerson Border To The Cul-De-Sac) In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$180,000 To Pay The Cost Thereof, To Authorize The Issuance Of Bonds To Finance Such Appropriation And To Provide For The Issuance Of Bond Anticipation Notes In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #22-2 entitled “Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Resurfacing Of Lafayette Avenue (From Ridgewood Road To The Musquapsink Brook) And Adams Court (From The Emerson Border To The Cul-De-Sac) In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$180,000 To Pay The Cost Thereof, To Authorize The Issuance Of Bonds To Finance Such Appropriation And To Provide For The Issuance Of Bond Anticipation Notes In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Collins Second: Councilmember Bicocchi
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

Public Comments: No comments.

Motion to close the public hearing: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Montana
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #22-2 be passed on final reading and that a Notice of Adoption of said Ordinance be published in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion for final adoption: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Council President Dell

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

22-3 Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Resurfacing Of Fairview Avenue (Section II) In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$334,000 To Pay The Cost Thereof, To Authorize The Issuance Of Bonds To Finance Such Appropriation And To Provide For The Issuance Of Bond Anticipation Notes In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #22-3 entitled “Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Resurfacing Of Fairview Avenue (Section II) In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$334,000 To Pay The Cost Thereof, To Authorize The Issuance Of Bonds To Finance Such Appropriation And To Provide For The Issuance Of Bond Anticipation Notes In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Hodges Second: Councilmember Bicocchi
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

Public Comments: No comments.

Motion to close the public hearing: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Council President Dell
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #22-3 be passed on final reading and that a Notice of Adoption of said Ordinance be published in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion for final adoption: Councilmember Hodges Second: Councilmember Collins

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Greco – Yes Councilmember Hodges - Yes

Councilmember Montana – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

22-4 Bond Ordinance To Authorize The 2022 Road Resurfacing Program In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$800,000 To Pay The Cost Thereof, To Make A Down Payment, To Authorize The Issuance Of Bonds To Finance Such Appropriation And To Provide For The Issuance Of Bond Anticipation Notes In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #22-4 entitled “Bond Ordinance To Authorize The 2022 Road Resurfacing Program In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$800,000 To Pay The Cost Thereof, To Make A Down Payment, To Authorize The Issuance Of Bonds To Finance Such Appropriation And To Provide For The Issuance Of Bond Anticipation Notes In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Montana Second: Councilmember Bicocchi
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

Public Comments: No comments.

Motion to close the public hearing: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Collins
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #22-4 be passed on final reading and that a Notice of Adoption of said Ordinance be published in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion for final adoption: Councilmember Montana Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Greco – Yes Councilmember Hodges - Yes

Councilmember Montana – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

16. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:

Resolutions as Consent Agenda: The following resolutions may be enacted in one motion as a Consent Agenda. Councilmembers wishing to remove any Resolutions(s) to be voted upon separately may do so at this time, and said Resolution(s) will be considered separately.

Council President Dell 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. Council President Dell stated that Resolution 22-70 will be adjusted to include just Jamie Cerritelli.

- a) Resolution #22 - 63: Abatement of Taxes – Volz
- b) Resolution #22 -64 : 2021 Budget Transfer

- c) Resolution #22 -65 : Authorizing The Auction Of Certain Surplus Property No Longer Needed For The Public Use By Westwood Borough Utilizing the Services Of Govdeals, Inc.
- d) Resolution #22 66 : Authorizing 2021 Landfill Monitoring
- e) Resolution #22 - 67: Authorizing Engineering Design and Construction Inspection of 2021 CDBG ADA Curb Ramps Project
- f) Resolution #22 -68 : Authorizing Preparation of Plans and Specifications, Bidding, and Construction Inspection for the 2022 NJDOT MA Award for Lafayette Avenue and Adams Court Improvements
- g) Resolution #22 - 69: Authorizing Preparation of Plans and Specifications, Bidding, and Construction Inspection for the 2021 NJDOT Fairview Avenue, Section 2, Improvements From Center Avenue to the Hillsdale Border
- h) Resolution #22 - 70: Appointments to Senior Advisory Committee
- i) Resolution #22 - 71: Authorizing Hiring of Per-Diem Police Dispatchers – Nicole E. De Joie and Sara P. Reilly

Motion to Approve Resolutions #22-63 through #22-71: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

17. Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn: Councilmember Collins **Second:** Council President Dell

Voice Vote: Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

The time was 9:17 pm.

Attest:

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

Agenda subject to change