

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD  
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL  
MARCH 16, 2021 MINUTES  
7:30 PM CLOSED SESSION/8:00 PM PUBLIC MEETING  
ZOOM REMOTE MEETING**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83695642117?pwd=eitkdENpRWZCaDE5UEIXQUhBSG82dz09>

Meeting ID: 836 9564 2117

Passcode: 011791

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

**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 Kool – 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 - 86: Executive Closed Session**

**Motion to Approve Resolution #21-86:** Councilmember Murphy Second: Councilmember Collins

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:** Council President Dell    Second: Councilmember Murphy

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 / Interim Administrator Elenio - Present / Borough Attorney Kool – Present / Borough Engineer Boswell – Present / Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

**6. Flag Salute**

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

**7. Proclamation for Volunteer First Responder Appreciation Day**

**8. Resolution #21- 87: Westwood Volunteer Fire Department – Matters of Personnel**

**Motion to Approve Resolution #21-87:** Councilmember Murphy Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes    Councilmember Collins – Yes

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

Mayor Arroyo administered the oath of office to Nicholas Scherer. Fire Chief Griffin welcomed the new member and then thanked the Governing Body for the proclamation recognizing the sacrifices made by the Fire Department members. Mayor Arroyo noted that the hospital is also grateful for the emergency responders and donated four AED machines for the apparatus. Chief Griffin thanked the hospital. Deputy Chief Kronewitter noted how vital the young members are towards keeping the department active.

## **9. Engineer's Report**

### **1) Biweekly Report**

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

### **2) Federal Covid Funding**

Dr. Boswell said he understands that the latest round of Federal Covid funding can be used for infrastructure and suggested applying it to the road program. Mr. Elenio said the Borough is being allocated over \$1,000,000 but there isn't much guidance yet on how it can be used. Councilmember Collins said she read a letter from Congressman Gottheimer stating the funds are for Covid expenses and infrastructure. Councilmember Murphy said she spoke to his office and was told it wasn't finalized yet.

### **3) PSEG Pole Replacement**

Mayor Arroyo said he has received correspondence from residents about health risks related to the new taller PSEG poles with presumably more voltage. He asked Dr. Boswell for insight. Dr. Boswell explained that the purpose of the taller poles is resiliency of the system to handle more calamities without losing power. In the Westwood area the upgrades will allow for the transmission of higher voltages from increased substations. These are extra low frequency magnetic fields that have been studied for years by the National Cancer Institute, which determined there are no health effects. Councilmember Bicocchi asked about the solar panels on existing poles. Dr. Boswell said they would come down, since the project was inefficient from the beginning.

### **4) Road Paving**

Councilmember Murphy asked about the road paving list and whether Kingsberry was on it. Dr. Boswell confirmed that Kingsberry is its own grant-funded project.

## **10. Reports of Committees and Officials, As Needed:**

### **A) Mayor's Report**

#### **1) Pandemic Update**

Mayor Arroyo reported that the transition to reopening the building will progress slowly due to the vacancies in some key positions. The Interim Administrator will analyze what new business methods, such as the drop box, work well and should be permanently incorporated. The biggest hurdle is a full time custodian, which is a position Mayor Arroyo hopes to be filled in April.

#### **2) Safe Routes To Schools Grant**

Mayor Arroyo gave the background of the Safe Routes to Schools grant project, a large component of which was performed under the Sand Road DOT grant. He suggested a revision to the Safe

Routes project to construct a sidewalk with lighting from the intersection of Sand Road at Harrington Avenue north along the Berkeley School field property to the first house. He asked for consent to meet with Boswell to discuss the feasibility and revise the proposal for the grant application. All were in agreement.

**B) Council President's Report**

**1) Berkeley School Parking**

Council President Dell said the Board of Education had requested a meeting to discuss teacher parking in the Berkeley School area. She thanked the Mayor and Councilmember Collins for attending with her. Council President Dell will discuss potential options at the work session.

**2) Celebrate Westwood**

Council President Dell said all are looking forward to the upcoming Shop the Hub event organized by Celebrate Westwood, which will include ribbon cuttings and special promotions.

**3) Women's History Month**

Council President Dell pointed out that March is Women's History month. There are now four Councilwoman as well as a female Borough Clerk, and she thanked her male colleagues for fostering an accepting environment. Mayor Arroyo commented that the Borough has exceptional women on the dais and he is proud to serve with every one.

**C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports**

**1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects: BD**

**a) Finance Department**

Council President Dell advised that the CFO has had numerous conversations regarding the Federal Covid stimulus package. With guidelines for using the money still pending, the Auditor has recommended moving the budget introduction to April 6<sup>th</sup>. The CFO is hoping to get clarity on the funding later this week.

**b) Historic Preservation Committee**

Council President Dell thanked Councilmember Collins for arranging a tour of the potentially historic house at 84 Washington Avenue. She advised that the HPC is awaiting notification on their grant application for creating a self-guided history walking tour.

**2) Fire and Ambulance: JM**

**a) Shade Tree Committee**

Councilmember Murphy reported that the Shade Tree Committee was approved by Shade Tree USA for 2020. Spring tree plantings are on track, with one additional request just received.

**b) Fire Department**

Councilmember Murphy pointed out that the Fire Department is in need of SCBAs, and believes it should be a priority if the Covid funds can be used for such purchases. She is excited that the hospital donated the AEDs. Councilmember Murphy congratulated all the Borough's first responders on the proclamation, thanking them and assuring that the Borough and its residents appreciate everything they do.

**3) Health and Hospital: CH**

**a) Covid Pandemic Update**

Mayor Arroyo commended Councilmember Hodges and her small army of volunteers, led by Lisa McCoy, for the work they've done to schedule the Borough's seniors for Covid vaccines. Councilmember Hodges reviewed the process to locate seniors, schedule them, and arrange for transportation in some cases. To date 272 vaccinations have occurred, which has created joy amongst the seniors who can finally see their families. Councilmember Hodges thanked HUMC and Emily Holliman for their willingness to host the vaccination events. There is an event this Friday for teachers, with 25 spots still available if anyone knows a teacher who needs the vaccine, and a County event on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Another date at the hospital will be scheduled in a week or two. Mayor Arroyo pointed out that as additional categories become eligible for the vaccine the Borough will work with the hospital to schedule Westwood vaccination days.

**b) Board of Health**

Councilmember Hodges advised that the candidate for the Health Director vacancy declined the position, so the process will restart. She thanked Betsy Beckman, who resigned from the Board of Health after 20 years, for her service to the Borough.

**4) Land Use: RB**

Councilmember Biccocchi pointed out that the busy Ms. McCoy was also at Mt. Zion on Saturday giving out Covid tests. As a trustee at the hospital, he thanked the drive-bys, which meant so much to the hospital staff.

**a) Library**

Councilmember Biccocchi reported that the library has stepped up during this pandemic through online programs, and thanked them. He reviewed the upcoming virtual programs. He thanked the Governing Body members for recording videos for Read Across America day.

**b) Signage**

Councilmember Biccocchi said he will be discussing signage as it related to outdoor dining at the work session. Mayor Arroyo asked him to circulate the draft ordinance prior to the work session.

**5) Police and OEM: EC**

**a) Local Assistance**

Councilmember Collins announced that any flowers purchased at the Emerson Stop and Shop will support the Westwood Cares program. The next quarterly meeting of Local Assistance will be at the end of March.

**b) JIF Safety Award**

Councilmember Collins advised that the JIF will award all their municipalities with a \$1000 safety award this year.

**c) Draft Reso Urging Amendment to S3454/A5342**

Councilmember Collins reviewed the draft resolution urging changes to the recently adopted cannabis law that would allow law enforcement officers to do their jobs without substantial risk of civil and criminal liability.

**6) Public Works and Recreation: CM**

**a) Recreation**

Councilmember Montana reviewed the spring Recreation programs. He noted that with Brookside Park attracting teens from across the county to use the basketball courts, there will be a review of traffic and parking patterns in the area. A recent recreation survey revealed that most of the community's wish list is already in Recreation's five year plan.

**b) DPW**

Councilmember Montana announced that with spring officially here, yard waste is being picked up. Residents should use barrels rather than putting the yard waste in the streets. The annual shred day will be at the end of June.

**c) Environmental Committee**

Councilmember Montana said the Environmental Committee is creating a Facebook page. With the Bistate Watershed Cleanup uncertain, the Environmental Committee will hold its own cleanup day on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**d) Senior Advisory Board.**

Councilmember Montana thanked Kathy O'Melia, who has stepped down from the Senior Advisory Board, for her service. He said with the senior citizen vaccinations it was a common theme that the seniors couldn't navigate through the registration sites. Discussion was held on identifying shut-ins that need the vaccine and how to get it to them.

**D) Attorney's Report**

No report.

**E) Administrator's / Clerk's Report**

No report.

**11. Agenda/Public Forum:**

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

**12. Ordinances for Introduction/Adoption**

**Ordinances for Introduction**

**21-5 An Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A Cap Bank**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Ordinance #21-5 entitled "An Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A Cap Bank" is hereby introduced by title; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with an April 20, 2021 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

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

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

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### **Ordinances for Adoption**

#### **21-3 An Ordinance To Amend Article XIV, Chapter 195-128 H Hospital District**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Ordinance #21-3 entitled “An Ordinance To Amend Article XIV, Chapter 195-128 H Hospital District” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

**Motion to open the public hearing:** Councilmember Biccocchi Second: Council President Dell

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 Biccocchi Second: Councilmember Murphy

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

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance known as #21-3 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 Biccocchi Second: Councilmember Murphy

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

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#### **21-4 An Ordinance Amending Chapter VI Boards, Committees and Commissions, Article I Shade Tree Advisory Committee**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Ordinance #21-4 entitled “An Ordinance Amending Chapter VI Boards, Committees and Commissions, Article I Shade Tree Advisory Committee” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

**Motion to open the public hearing:** Councilmember Murphy Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

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 Murphy Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

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

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance known as #21-4 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 Murphy Second: Council President Dell

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

Mayor Arroyo commented that he is glad Councilmember Murphy got this initiative done.  
Councilmember Murphy said the Shade Tree Committee is very happy.

### **13. 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. Resolution j was added at this time.

**Resolutions as Consent Agenda:**

- a) Resolution #21 - 88: Bill List & Statement of Cash
- b) Resolution #21 - 89: Resolution to Enter A Grant Agreement for Kingsberry Avenue Rehabilitation
- c) Resolution #21 - 90: Authorizing Execution of ADA Cooperative Curb Ramp Grant Agreement
- d) Resolution #21 - 91: Appointment to Safety Committee
- e) Resolution #21 - 92: Authorizing Amendment to Parking Services Agreement with ParkMobile
- f) Resolution #21 - 93: ReAppointing Appraisal Systems for Reassessment Program
- g) Resolution #21 - 94: Ratifying Appointment of Registrar
- h) Resolution #21 - 95: Appointment to Board of Health
- i) Resolution #21 - 96: Awarding Contracts Exempt from Public Bidding – Historic Preservation Consultant
- j) Resolution #21 - 97: Resolution Urging Legislature to Amend Senate Bill 3454 (Also Known As Assembly Bill 5342) To Permit Law Enforcement Officers To Perform Their Duties Without Substantial Risk of Civil and Criminal Liability

**Motion to Approve Resolutions #21-88 through #21-97:** Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Collins

Roll Call: Councilmember Biccocchi - Yes    Councilmember Collins – Yes  
Councilmember Hodges – Yes, with recusal on 21-00187 and 21-002157  
Councilmember Montana – Yes    Councilmember Murphy – Yes  
Council President Dell – Yes

**14. Adjournment:**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Councilmember Biccocchi Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

The time was 9:42 pm.

Attest:

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