

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
MARCH 19, 2019 AGENDA
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
101 Washington Avenue
7:30 PM Executive Closed Session/8:00 pm Public Session**

1. Opening of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Birkner at 8:00 pm. Mayor Birkner 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 Birkner – Present
Councilmember Collins – Present
Councilmember Montana – Present
Councilmember Bicocchi – Present
Councilmember Dell – Present
Councilmember Murphy – Present
Council President Arroyo - Present
Borough Attorney Huntington – Present
Borough Administrator Kezmarsky - Present
Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

Committee Assignments:

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

3. Resolution #19 - 91: Executive Closed Session

Motion to Approve Resolution #19-91: Council President Arroyo Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

4. Reopen the Meeting:

Motion to reopen the meeting: Council President Arroyo Second: Councilmember Dell

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 8:03 pm.

5. Roll Call II:

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

6. Flag Salute

Mayor Birkner gave the invocation and led those present in the salute to the flag.

7. Resolution #19-A: Mayor for a Day

Mayor Birkner introduced "Mayor for a Day" Eve Ricciardella, who had been helping Mayor Birkner with the meeting proceedings and the duties of the Mayor's office earlier in the day. While Mayor for a Day Eve had been sworn in to office earlier in the day, Mayor Birkner asked the Council to ceremonially approve the appointment, after which she would repeat the Oath of Office before her

family and the residents.

Motion to Approve Resolution #19-A: Councilmember Collins Second: Council President Arroyo
Roll Call: Councilmember Collins - Yes Councilmember Montana – Yes
Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes Councilmember Dell - Yes
Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Arroyo – Yes

Mayor Eve introduced herself and suggested the following ideas: 1. Try to donate one item to the food pantry each month. 2. Try something new like a food you have not tried yet. 3. Be nice to each other, which can be done by sharing pencils at school and pens at your office. If someone is upset cheer them up by being funny and making them laugh. 4. Help each other once in a while, which can be done by making lunch or dinner for your neighbor or helping to clean up each other's yards.

8. Certificates – Westwood Track and Field

Mayor Birkner and Mayor Eve presented the certificates to the team members.

Michelle Meisten, the Zion Luther Choir Director, presented Mayor Eve with a bag of food for the food pantry of her choice.

9. Resolution #19 - B: Authorizing Mayor for a Day Directives

Mayor Birkner presented a resolution that directed Mayor Eve's Mom, Councilmember Collins, to provide breakfast in bed and Conrad's ice cream for dinner to the Mayor for a Day.

Motion to Approve Resolution #19-B: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Dell
Roll Call: Councilmember Collins - Abstain Councilmember Montana – Yes
Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes Councilmember Dell - Yes
Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Arroyo – Yes

There was a brief recess to allow the room to clear.

10. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor's Report

1) Berkeley School Traffic Pattern

Mayor Birkner announced a public form to review the Berkeley Avenue traffic pattern changes on Friday at 6:00 pm in the Borough Hall Council Chambers. He strongly urged public participation.

2) Flooding Update

Mayor Birkner reviewed the reservoir and stream levels, which are normal for March.

3) AARP Age-Friendly Community Award

Mayor Birkner reported on the AARP ceremony to recognized Westwood as an Age-Friendly Community. He thanked the Senior Advisory Committee, Westwood For All Ages, Lisa Bontemps and Jodi Murphy.

4) Healthy Town Designation

Mayor Birkner announced that the Healthcare Quality Institute has chosen Westwood as one of only 8 communities statewide designated as Healthy Town. It is a testament to the dedicated volunteers that bring programs and a healthy lifestyle to the community. He thanked the many

volunteers and Recreation Director Gary Buchheister. This demonstrates that the efforts have become sustainable and appreciated by residents.

Mayor Birkner asked Mayor Eve about her day. Mayor Eve reported on her tour of the Police Station, where she saw the records system and the jail. She said the conditions were humane.

B) Council President's Report

1) Pedestrian Safety

Council President Arroyo reported that Oradell Councilmember McGuire reached out to Councilmember Montana about the Westwood pedestrian safety initiatives. Councilmember Montana met with her to review Westwood's methods. Mayor Birkner observed that Oradell participates so adding Emerson will make a continuous corridor.

A) Mayor's Report, Continued:

Mayor Birkner said he had two additional items and asked Mayor Eve to report on them:

5) Sand Road Preconstruction Meeting

Mayor Eve reported on the Sand Road project preconstruction meeting.

6) Westwood Avenue Sidewalk

Mayor Eve advised that the Westwood Avenue sidewalk project is underway and moving along. Dr. Boswell will provide an update.

C) Engineer's Report

1) Biweekly Report

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

2) Vivian Ave/James St. Update

Dr. Boswell explained that the Vivian Avenue/James Street bid opening is March 28th, and an award must be made on April 2nd. Mr. Huntington has the easements in hand. Councilmember Montana asked if there is anything precluding a decision. Dr. Boswell believes the only potential issue could be funding the alternate depending on the bid prices. Councilmember Montana asked if there are any issues with the grant. Dr. Boswell said as long as the contract is awarded on April 2nd the grant is secure.

2) ADA Ramps

Council President Arroyo asked Dr. Boswell to notify affected residents about the ADA curb work and also identify potential drainage problems. Mr. Senkevich said they are all on County roads so residents are not affected.

3) Westwood Avenue Sidewalk Project

Dr. Boswell advised that the Westwood Avenue sidewalk project is halfway done and should be finished in two weeks as long as the weather cooperates.

D) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects; Shared Services: CM

a) Environmental Committee

Councilmember Montana announced that the annual Bistate Watershed Cleanup will be held April 27th in Westvale Park. The Environmental Committee is in the process of outlining its 2019/2020 initiatives. They would like to investigate a pollinator or rain garden in Nugent Park and asked what can and cannot be done at that location before they speak with Rutgers. Mayor Birkner said there can be no buildings, and suggested they speak with the Bergen County Soil Conservation District both to notify them of the work and to get help. The DPW will be removing the old fencing. Councilmember Montana said the Environmental Committee would like to review the list of orphan lots to determine which have potential for environmental uses. They would work with the adjacent property owners on natural or rain gardens.

b) Shared Services

Councilmember Montana said no other municipality showed up for the February 21st shared services meeting, so he is hoping for attendance at the March 21st meeting. Since he will be traveling another Councilmember will need to take his place.

2) Fire and Ambulance: RB

a) Senior Advisory Committee

Councilmember Bicocchi reviewed the Senior Advisory Committee's goals for 2019, which includes participation in Westwood Pride Day and Celebrate Westwood; expanding communication with Westwood's seniors; and their ongoing transportation projects. Councilmember Bicocchi expounded on the various senior initiatives that helped Westwood achieve the recent AARP designation.

b) Fire Department

Councilmember Bicocchi reviewed the zone drill hosted by the Westwood Fire Department at the DPW on March 15th. He thanked the Governing Body members who participated as victims.

3) Health and Recreation: BD

a) Stigma Free Committee

Councilmember Dell announced that the Stigma Free Committee will meet the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.

b) Library

Councilmember Dell reviewed the various Library events, including book discussions, reallocating space for best utilization; and a raffle for all those who sign up for a library card during their 100th anniversary celebration.

c) Health Department

Councilmember Dell thanked Bergen Regional for facilitating the babysitting clinic and noted there will be a third one on May 30th. Due to an increasing workload the Board of Health office has fallen behind and so beginning April 2nd, the Health Department will be closing its window from 8:30 to 12:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Notice will be posted. Councilmember Montana believes that will be onerous to the public. He asked for analysis and a minimum of two business weeks for notifying the public. Mayor Birkner agreed that there should be further data that substantiates the need to close. Mr. Huntington was directed to draft a resolution for adoption on the Consent Agenda.

d) Recreation

Councilmember Dell reported that the Recreation Committee congratulated the 6th grade boys basketball travel team for winning the championship. The Recreation Spring Program flyer is out, and includes a new egg decorating event. The Boys High School Lacrosse team will hold their annual fundraiser on April 10th at 10:00 am to benefit Dave Saunders, who has a chronic liver disease.

e) Celebrate Westwood

Councilmember Dell reported that the Celebrate Westwood committee is working on sponsorships and participation.

f) Approval of Minutes: February 5 and February 19, 2019

Motion to Approve Minutes of February 5, 2019: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Collins

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

Motion to Approve Minutes of February 19, 2019: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

4) Land Use: EC

a) Heritage Society

Councilmember Collins advised that the Heritage Society will meet on April 3rd at 7:30. The museum will be open on April 13th.

b) Historic Preservation Commission

Councilmember Collins said there is one alternate seat available on the Historic Preservation Commission. Their next meeting is March 21st.

c) Land Use Boards

Councilmember Collins reported that the Zoning board discussed and approved signage for the veterinarian hospital at their last meeting. The next Zoning Board meeting is April 1st. The Planning Board met on March 14th and hear the preliminary presentation for the Rolling Pin extension. They continued the CBD discussion, including parking plan ideas such as residential spaces for apartments above the stores. Mayor Birkner said it was a lively discussion.

5) Police and OEM: RA

No report.

6) Public Properties: JM

a) DPW

Councilmember Murphy advised that the DPW has obtained soil for the Community Garden plots for free. The water tanks should be clean by April 14th.

b) Sustainable Westwood

Councilmember Murphy advised that Sustainable Westwood has 150 points for the Sustainable Jersey recertification and is aiming for 180 points. They are meeting with the Glen Rock Green Team tomorrow to learn about how they obtained the silver certification.

c) Shade Tree Committee

Councilmember Murphy reported that the Shade Tree Committee asked if fines were collected for the property on Broadway. They would like the operation plan posted on the new website. Councilmember Montana pointed out that the plan had been distributed but not discussed by the Governing Body. Councilmember Murphy said since they feel limited as to what they can do, and they have two openings right now, the Committee wants to meet four times a year. One member suggested merging with the Environmental Committee. Mayor Birkner suggested they go back to working on the Community Forestry plan, which gets points for Sustainable Jersey.

E) Attorney's Report

1) Board of Health Resolution

Mr. Huntington read a proposed resolution expressing disappointment with the Board of Health for its plan to close the window two days per week without further analysis of alternatives. Consensus was to add it to the Consent Agenda.

F) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

1) Veterans Park Improvements Phase IV

Mr. Kezmarsky advised that weather permitting, Phase IV of the Veterans Park Improvements would begin the following week.

11. Agenda/Public Forum:

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

12. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:

Councilmember 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 n through s were added at this time. Councilmember Dell requested Resolution 'r' be voted on separately.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

a) Resolution #19 - 92: Bill List & Statement of Cash

b) Resolution #19 - 93: Authorizing Foreclosure of Block 409 Lot 11, Clairmont Avenue,

Tax Sale Certificate #449

- c) **Resolution #19 - 94: Authorizing Cancellation of Taxes – Rear Lot 3 Block 1801 Lot 18**
- d) **Resolution #19 - 95: Authorizing Refund of Taxes Due to Tax Court Judgement, Block 707 Lot 5**
- e) **Resolution #19 - 96: Authorizing Refund of Taxes Due to Tax Court Judgement, Block 707 Lot 4**
- f) **Resolution #19 - 97: Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #17-00008**
- g) **Resolution #19 - 98: Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #18-00005**
- h) **Resolution #19 - 99: Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #18-00004**
- i) **Resolution #19 - 100: Westwood Volunteer Fire Department – Matters of Personnel**
- j) **Resolution #19 - 101: Confirming Endorsement of Community Development Project**
- k) **Resolution #19 - 102: Authorizing Execution of Contract for Payroll Services**
- l) **Resolution #19 - 103: Oppose the Vegetative Management Response Act (S2505/A2558)**
- m) **Resolution #19 - 104: Approval of Request to Consume Alcoholic Beverages on Public Property for a Surprise Birthday Party**
- n) **Resolution #19 - 105: Revising Per Diem Dispatcher Salary**
- o) **Resolution #19 - 106: Authorizing Execution of Vivian Ave/James Street Agreement with Emerson**
- p) **Resolution #19 - 107: Authorizing Sustainable Westwood to Pursue Electric Vehicle Charging Grant**
- q) **Resolution #19 - 108: Authorizing Offer of Employment For Police Officer**
- s) **Resolution #19 - 109: Supporting the Gateway Project**

Motion to adopt resolutions #19-92 through #19-109: Councilmember Dell

Second: Council President Arroyo

Roll Call: Councilmember Collins - Yes Councilmember Montana – Yes

Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes Councilmember Dell - Yes

Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Arroyo – Yes

r) Resolution #19 - 110: Board of Health Schedule Revision

Councilmember Dell noted her discomfort with the language. Councilmember Montana pointed out that its purpose is to promote discussion and it also expresses the Council's concern.

Motion to adopt resolution #19-110: Councilmember Murphy Second: Councilmember Collins

Roll Call: Councilmember Collins - Yes

Councilmember Montana – Yes

Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes

Councilmember Dell - Abstain

Councilmember Murphy – Yes

Council President Arroyo – Yes. He said the assumption is it is a liability to the public but there is no data on usage during those hours. Councilmember Murphy agreed there should have been data and support on why they went with two days instead of one.

13. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Council President Arroyo Second: Councilmember Dell

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

The time was 9:25 pm

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Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council
March 19, 2019

Attest:

(signed) Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk