

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
WORK MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
APRIL 6, 2021 MINUTES**

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81903832565?pwd=N09uQ3FrSzVdKzNKdWVSQVVGRDJ5dz09>

Meeting ID: 819 0383 2565

Passcode: 148049

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 - 100: Executive Closed Session

Motion to Approve Resolution #21-100: Councilmember Murphy 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

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

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 8:04 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. Reports by Borough Professionals:

A. Engineer's Biweekly Report

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

i. Hegeman Park

Dr. Boswell advised that an engineer will inspect the wall adjacent to Hegeman Park. He suspects it is the same situation, that the wall is failing but it is the resident's property, not the Borough's. While the Borough has the right to resolve it, this is something that Governing Bodies have been hesitant to do.

ii. Mill Street Striping

Mayor Arroyo asked about using the performance bond to correct the misplaced stripe on Mill Street. Dr. Boswell said while there is still retainage of 5%, there will be some push back by the contractor who will say it is PSE&G's fault. Dr. Boswell believes he can get it resolved amicably.

8. Introduction of 2021 Municipal Budget

Council President Dell reviewed highlights of the 2021 budget being introduced. A full presentation will be done by the CFO at the May 4th work session.

Resolution #21-101: Introduction of 2021 Municipal Budget

Motion to Approve Resolution #21-101: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Montana

Roll Call: Councilmember Biccocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Hodges – Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes

Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

9. Items for Discussion:

1. Veterans Park Picnic Furniture – RA

Mayor Arroyo asked for input on the proposals from Celebrate Westwood for improving the picnic area in Veterans Park. It was determined to move forward with a combination of picnic tables and bistro tables, with the funding coming from the Celebrate Westwood budget. Council President Dell thanked Celebrate Westwood for working on this.

2. Shade Tree – JM

Councilmember Murphy relayed a suggestion from the Shade Tree Committee about turning vacant lots into tree nurseries. This led to a discussion about a vacant lot on David Hooper Place where a tree is dropping limbs onto a neighboring property. The matter was referred to Mr. Huntington for further research.

3. Vaccine – CH

Councilmember Hodges updated everyone on the most recent vaccination efforts, with seniors receiving their second doses and another 200 first doses being administered in the next few weeks. She commended the hospital and the volunteers. Councilmember Hodges advised that the County has received a limited supply of the J&J vaccine and will be attempting to vaccinate the homebound in the next few weeks. They need an EMT to accompany them, so Councilmember Hodges has reached out to the Ambulance Corps.

4. Non Resident Rec Fees – CM

Councilmember Montana spoke about non-resident recreation fees for Washington Township residents, who have been treated the same as Westwood residents but don't pay taxes to Westwood. He has approached the Township Recreation Director and Mayor, who are willing to make things

right.

10. Agenda/Public Forum:

Motion to open Agenda/Public Forum: Councilmember Biccocchi Second: Councilmember Murphy

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 Murphy Second: Council President Dell

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

11. Ordinances for Introduction/Adoption

Ordinance For Introduction

21-6 An Ordinance By The Borough Of Westwood In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey Prohibiting The Operation Of Any Class Of Cannabis Businesses Within Its Geographical Boundaries And Amending Section 195-111 Of The Westwood Municipal Code

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #21-6 entitled “An Ordinance By The Borough Of Westwood In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey Prohibiting The Operation Of Any Class Of Cannabis Businesses Within Its Geographical Boundaries And Amending Section 195-111 Of The Westwood Municipal Code” is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with an May 4, 2021 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

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

Roll Call: Councilmember Biccocchi - 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:

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 l-n were added at this time. Mr. Huntington asked if the raises were within the salary ordinance. Council President Dell confirmed that they are.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

- a) Resolution #21 - 102: Bill List & Statement of Cash
- b) Resolution #21 - 103: Authorizing Refund of Taxes – 6 McDaniels Street, B2203 L3
- c) Resolution #21 - 104: Authorizing Refund of Taxes – 31 Fourth Ave, B1206 L2
- d) Resolution #21 - 105: Authorizing Refund of Taxes – 96 Sand Road, B1801 L4
- e) Resolution #21 - 106: Authorizing Refund of Taxes Due To Tax Court Judgement B805 L4
- f) Resolution #21 - 107: Authorizing Refund of Taxes Due To Tax Court Judgement B909 L15.01

- g) Resolution #21 - 108: Tonnage Grant Application
- h) Resolution #21 - 109: Authorization to Purchase Stainless Steel Dump Truck
- i) Resolution #21 - 110: Voiding Resolution #21-93 and Appointing Associated Appraisal Group for Re-Assessment Program
- j) Resolution #21 - 111: Authorization To Enter Into A Bergen County Trust Fund Project Grant For Park Improvements For Brookside Park
- k) Resolution #21 - 112: Endorsing Community Development Grant for Care Plus NJ
- l) Resolution #21 - 113: Authorizing Salary Increases
- m) Resolution #21 - 114: Authorizing Offer of Employment For Borough Administrator
- n) Resolution #21 - 115: Authorizing Purchase of Picnic and Bistro Tables

Motion to Approve Resolutions #21-102 through #21-115: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Muphy

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Hodges – Yes, with recusal on 21-00391
Councilmember Montana – Yes Councilmember Murphy – Yes
Council President Dell – Yes

13. Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn: Councilmember Montana Second: Councilmember Murphy
Voice Vote: Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.
The time was 8:51 pm.

Attest:

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