

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
APRIL 16, 2019 MINUTES
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 7:30 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 Bicchocchi – 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 - 128: Executive Closed Session

Motion to Approve Resolution #19-128: Council President Arroyo Second: Councilmember Bicchocchi

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

4. Reopen the Meeting:

Motion to reopen the meeting: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Murphy

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 7:56 pm.

5. Roll Call II:

Mayor Birkner – Present / Councilmember Collins – Present / Councilmember Montana – Present / Councilmember Bicchocchi - 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

Council President Arroyo gave the invocation. Mayor Birkner led those present in the salute to the flag.

7. Approval of Minutes: March 5, 2019

Motion to Approve March 5, 2019 Minutes: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Bicchocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Collins - Yes Councilmember Montana – Yes

Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes
Councilmember Murphy – Yes

Councilmember Dell - Yes
Council President Arroyo – Yes

8. Proclamation – Arbor Day

9. Proclamation – Autism Awareness Month

10. Proclamation – Julianne Downes

Mayor Birkner and Council President Arroyo presented Ms. Downes with a proclamation honoring her for performing the Heimlich maneuver and saving the life of a student.

11. Oath of Office – Police Officer Stephanie Hallihan

Mayor Birkner administered the Oath of Office. Chief Pontillo addressed the audience.

12. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor’s Report

1) Flooding Update

Mayor Birkner reviewed the reservoir and stream levels, which are slightly higher than normal after all the heavy rains. Winter operation mode will end at the end of this month. Mayor Birkner has spoken to the new DEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe, who wasn’t aware of the flooding issues in Westwood. She is looking for ways that are economically responsible for mitigating inland flooding issues. Mayor Birkner will be meeting with Commissioner McCabe again to review issues further.

2) Bergen County Home Ownership Fair

Mayor Birkner reviewed the details of the 23rd annual Bergen County Home Ownership Fair on June 8th.

3) Letter Carriers Food Drive

Mayor Birkner encouraged residents to put a bag of food out on their front porch for the annual National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive on May 11th.

4) Open Space Grant Public Hearing – Westvale Park Wellness/Exercise Playground & Medication/Yoga Platforms

Mrs. Hughes read the resolution into the record. Councilmember Dell elaborated on the proposed location, which is near the existing children’s playground because studies have shown that adult playgrounds are well utilized if they can see their children nearby.

Motion to Open Public Hearing: Council President Arroyo 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 Public Hearing: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Dell
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the Affirmative.

5) Resolution #19 – 129: Authorize BC Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund Application Municipal Endorsing Resolution Motion to Approve Resolution #19-129: Councilmember Murphy Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

B) Council President’s Report

1) Boots and Badges Softball Fundraiser

Council President Arroyo reported on the charity softball game played by the Police and Fire Departments to raise funds for the Tyrell Franklin Computer Center. He thanked Councilmember Bicocchi for obtaining matching funds. The total raised was \$4,300, which will go towards ten new computers.

C) Engineer’s Report

1) Biweekly Report

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

2) Walkability

Dr. Boswell reviewed a meeting held on March 27th with the Police Department to discuss walkability. He is recommending updating the eastbound turn onto Irvington from Broadway, which does not comply with the standard. They will replace the circuit board to get the pedestrian crossing sign working, and add additional lighting. The Police will push harder on no left turn. Council President Arroyo asked if the other two signals that were part of the resignalization are also not meeting the standard. Dr. Boswell said there is a new standard that he will be asking the County to comply with. It provides 2-3 seconds of red lights in all directions to make it safer for pedestrians.

D) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects: CM

a) Finance Update

Councilmember Montana advised that now that the budget is adopted the Governing Body will start seeing ordinances for capital improvements, such as the fiber optic and camera ordinances on tonight’s agenda. Councilmember Montana will start focusing on financial strategy with the new CFO such as shared service opportunities and budget planning. He asked Mr. Kezmarsky to schedule personnel and finance committee meetings the week of April 29th in advance of the May 7th work session.

b) Environmental Committee

Councilmember Montana said the Environmental Committee is again hosting the Bistate Watershed Cleanup on April 27th at Westvale Park. Registration will be located at the Community Garden. He noted that participation qualifies for community service. The Environmental Committee is providing the DPW with information about organic fertilization for Veterans Park. Environmental Committee Chairperson Jeanne Guderian is submitting for the sixth Trex bench, which she expects to be delivered in June or July. The Environmental

Committee will be bringing in an Environmental Landscaper to survey Nugent Park in the hopes of creating a rain or pollinator garden in conjunction with a Girl Scout troop.

2) Fire and Ambulance: RB

a) Fire Department

Councilmember Biccocchi thanked the Boots and Badges participants, and the Paterson Police Chief for attending. He reviewed the March fire report.

b) Senior Advisory Committee

Councilmember Biccocchi said the Senior Advisory Committee welcomed their newest member, Jaybee Hodges, at their March 4th meeting. They discussed the various summer events that they will participate in.

3) Health and Recreation: BD

a) Recreation

Councilmember Dell reviewed the various spring recreation events. The Recreation Director would like to start charging the Township of Washington for its residents' participation in the Forever Young program, among other programs. Township officials seem to be amenable to it. Councilmember Dell reminded everyone that there are sunscreen dispensers at Westvale Park thanks to the hospital and former councilmember Alyssa Dawson.

b) Eagle Scout Volleyball Court Project

Councilmember Dell said the Scout would like to relocate his project for a sand volleyball court to Hegeman Park. He will abide by all JIF requirements, and will position the court to ease the sun glare. Everyone was in agreement for the project to move forward.

c) Celebrate Westwood

Councilmember Dell advised on where the Celebrate Westwood Committee would be placing signs and banners.

d) Health Department

Councilmember Dell reviewed the various Health Department programs. April 16th is National Healthcare Decision Day and she urged residents to plan for life choices.

Councilmember Dell wished everyone a Happy Passover and Happy Easter.

4) Land Use: EC

a) Memorial Tree Dedication

Councilmember Collins reported on the cherry tree dedication at the Library in memory of Noriko Gines.

b) Heritage Society

Councilmember Collins relayed a request from the Heritage Society to establish a wounded veteran parking space in the Borough.

c) Historic Preservation Commission

Councilmember Collins said the Historic Preservation Commission is moving forward on

contacting historic property owners and provided lawn signs for the 125th anniversary.

d) Land Use Boards

Councilmember Collins reported on the Planning Board discussion of the CBD zone. Topics included more service businesses and attracting a younger crowd.

e) Tillman Street

Councilmember Collins said the residents on Tillman Street are having an issue with the Spectrum for Living employees parking on the street and blocking driveways.

5) Police and OEM; Shared Services: RA

a) Van Buren Dead End

Council President Arroyo noted that the Police have completed the trial period for the Van Buren dead end and recommend it becomes permanent. There will be a resolution on the next meeting.

b) Shared Dispatch

Council President Arroyo advised the shared services proposal for dispatch was sent to three municipalities. Mr. Kezmarsky said he will follow up at the Administrator's meeting next week.

c) Parking Authority

Council President Arroyo reported that the Parking Authority has selected Park Mobile for their mobile app vendor. There is going to be a survey targeting commuters regarding a commuter bus loop. The Parking Authority agreed to surrender two spots for electric charging, although there is some concern about safety and it will require the Taxpayer Alliance, Police and County to buy in. The Parking Authority also discussed the placement of a parklet downtown. They have concerns about using avenue spots but they are good with the concept. Mayor Birkner suggested the cut through at Washington and Third. There was discussion about trying different locations; pedestrian safety; and traffic calming. Councilmember Murphy said the grant that was submitted is for parklets on casters so they can be easily moved. Councilmember Montana asked if the grant writer submitted the grant and whether the Council was informed. He said the Council should have approved the grant before submitting. Mayor Birkner said the point is taken, but the Council will have the opportunity to accept the grant or not accept it. It doesn't cost anything to apply. Council President Arroyo invited the grant writer, Fred Rella, to explain the parameters of the grant. Mr. Rella reviewed the grant application and said it is a national grant that sees 1600 applicants with only 4 or 5 grants awarded.

6) Public Properties: JM

a) DPW

Councilmember Murphy said the DPW has 23 trees to be planted, which will be done in the next week or so. The baseball fields are ready to go, and the parks are being readied.

b) Arbor Day Tree Planting

Councilmember Murphy reminded everyone that the tree planting for Arbor Day will be on April 27th at 11:00 am in Girl Scout Park. The Watershed Cleanup is the same day, but it is possible to do both.

c) Green Team

Councilmember Murphy noted that the Green Team has a new slogan, Reduce-Reuse-Repurpose.

She reiterated the Parking Authority conversation about the charging stations. Councilmember Montana asked if the chargers at Borough Hall could be relocated someplace else. Mayor Birkner said are not the appropriate type; the stations being discussed are a physical structure. Plus he would like to see electric vehicles used by the Borough staff.

E) Attorney's Report

No report.

F) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

No report.

13. Agenda/Public Forum:

Motion to open Agenda/Public Forum: Council President Arroyo Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

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 Biccocchi Second: Council President Arroyo Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

14. Ordinance for Introduction and Adoption

Ordinances for Introduction:

19-5 Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Design And Installation Of A Fiber Optic Cable System In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$215,000 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 #19-5 entitled "Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Design And Installation Of A Fiber Optic Cable System In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$215,000 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" is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a May 7, 2019 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

Mayor Birkner pointed out that this as a shared service priority. Washington Township likes the idea and has added it to their budget, and the School Board will meet on the matter in two weeks.

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

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

19-6 Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Installation Of Security Cameras At The DPW Facility, Westvale Park And The Recreation Center In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$50,000 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 #19-6 entitled “Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Installation Of Security Cameras At The DPW Facility, Westvale Park And The Recreation Center In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$50,000 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” is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a May 7, 2019 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

Councilmember Montana noted this was a capital request long before the recent break-in at Westvale Park.

Motion to pass the ordinance on First Reading: 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 – Yes

Ordinances for Adoption:

19-4 Bond Ordinance To Authorize The 2019 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 \$391,414 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 #19-4 entitled “Bond Ordinance To Authorize The 2019 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 \$391,414 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 Murphy 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: Council President Arroyo Second: Councilmember Bicocchi
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #19-4 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: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

15. 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 e through j were added at this time. Councilmember Montana asked about the hiring of an architect. Councilmember Dell said it's for the recreation center.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

- a) **Resolution #19 - 130: Bill List & Statement of Cash**
- b) **Resolution #19 - 131: Hire of Full Time Dispatcher**
- c) **Resolution #19 - 132: Hire of Crossing Guards**
- d) **Resolution #19 - 133: Award of Bid for Disposal of Vegetative Waste**
- e) **Resolution #19 - 134: Authorizing HART Program**
- f) **Resolution #19 - 135: Authorizing the Preparation of Specifications and Authorization to Bid for the 2019 Municipal Road Paving Program for the Pascack Valley Cooperative Pricing System #107-PVCPS**
- g) **Resolution #19 - 136: Authorizing Coordination and Inspection for 2019 Road Resurfacing Program**
- h) **Resolution #19 - 137: Authorizing 2019 Landfill Monitoring**
- i) **Resolution #19 - 138: Authorizing Filing for Renewal of Title V Permit**
- j) **Resolution #19 - 139: Appointment of Architect for Conceptual Design**

Motion to adopt resolutions #19-130 through #19-139: Councilmember Dell

Second: Councilmember Collins

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

16. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilmember Biccocchi Second: Councilmember Murphy

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

The time was 9:28 pm

Attest:

(signed) Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk