

BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
APRIL 20, 2021 MINUTES
7:30 PM CLOSED SESSION/8:00 PM PUBLIC MEETING
ZOOM REMOTE MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81763904555?pwd=RDRLZlZ0KzZKR2xsTVR3aTQ1a1kzQT09>

Meeting ID: 817 6390 4555

Passcode: 480390

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 - 116: Executive Closed Session

Motion to Approve Resolution #21-116: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Murphy

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 Collins

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 7:55 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. Approval of Minutes: October 6, 2020

Motion to Approve October 6, 2020 Minute: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Murphy

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Hodges – Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes

Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

8. Proclamation for National Volunteer Month

Mayor Arroyo noted that the Council are also volunteers and thanked them for their service.

9. Proclamation for Arbor Day

10. Resolution #21-117: Westwood Volunteer Fire Department – Matters of Personnel

Motion to Approve Resolution #21-117: 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

11. Engineer's Report

a) Biweekly Report

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

b) Sand Road Crosswalk

Councilmember Montana asked for an update on the remediation of the Sand Road crosswalk ponding issue. Dr. Boswell said it was inspected but he will have to report at the next meeting what the proposed solution is.

12. Reports of Committees and Officials, As Needed:

A) Mayor's Report

1) Micropaving

Mayor Arroyo advised that he, Councilmember Montana and DPW Superintendent Woods have been working on expanding the road paving program to include micropaving, which will extend the life of the roads.

B) Council President's Report

1) Volunteers

Council President Dell commended the Borough's many volunteers, noting the Borough would not have gotten through the past year without them.

C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects: BD

a) Finance

Council President Dell advised that the budget will be adopted at the next meeting. There is no news about how the Federal Covid Aid can be utilized.

b) Historic Preservation Commission

Council President Dell pointed out the resolution on the Consent Agenda for a grant for the Historic Preservation Commission's self-guided walking tour project. They are hoping to hold the train station dedication on June 6th, although the concurrent Westwood Pride Day will not occur due to the current gathering limit of 200 people outdoors.

2) Fire and Ambulance: JM

a) Ambulance Corps

Councilmember Murphy said the Ambulance Corps has been doing a fantastic job sharing information on their social media pages. They have inquired about using more parking spaces in the lot.

b) Fire Department

Councilmember Murphy reported that the Fire Department is keeping busy with calls and drills. She asked for them to be notified if any houses are being demolished, which is a valuable opportunity for them to train.

c) Shade Tree Committee

Councilmember Murphy advised that the Shade Tree Committee will be planting a purchased tree for Arbor Day on May 1st at the Bird Sactuary at 10:00 am. They are distributing door hangars about the availability of trees to be planted in the right of way. They are also looking into grants for trees.

3) Health and Hospital: CH

a) Covid-19 Update

Councilmember Hodges discussed the vaccination program, which vaccinated about 650 senior residents, merchants and teachers. She thanked the volunteers and hospital for their efforts.

b) Board of Health

Councilmember Hodges updated everyone on the Health Department Director hiring process. An Alternate to the Board of Health will be appointed by Consent Agenda tonight.

c) Parking Authority

Councilmember Hodges reported that the Parking Authority is seeing an increase in parking numbers.

4) Land Use: RB

a) Library

Councilmember Biccocchi reported on the recent Library fundraiser.

5) Police and OEM: EC

a) Police Department

Councilmember Collins reported on a recent Narcan save by the Police Department. The WP is looking into traffic safety measures at Voorhis Park, and working on the pickup and dropoff program at the Middle School. Councilmember Collins advised that the newest officer will begin field training this week. She noted the PBA contract is settled and thanked the Police Committee and the PBA for their diligence and professionalism.

6) Public Works and Recreation: CM

a) Recreation

Councilmember Montana noted that the soccer fields at Westvale are being regraded and will be closed for a few weeks.

b) Senior Advisory Committee

Councilmember Montana reported that the Senior Advisory Committee is working on a Borough-

wide list of seniors looking to sign up for alert notifications. This will help improve the outreach from the Borough.

c) Environmental Committee

Councilmember Montana advised that Earth Day is April 23rd. He reviewed the details of the Environmental Committee's clean up day on April 24th.

D) Attorney's Report

Mr. Kool congratulated Councilmember Hodges and the Council for the incredibly successful vaccination program.

E) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

No report.

13. Agenda/Public Forum:

Motion to open Agenda/Public Forum: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Collins

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.

14. Ordinances for Introduction/Adoption

Ordinances for Introduction

21-7 An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 59 Police Department

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #21-7 entitled "An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 59 Police Department" is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a May 18, 2021 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

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

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

Ordinances for Adoption

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" having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

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

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 Murphy

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

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #21-5 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: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Hodges – Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes

Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

15. 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. Resolutions g-j were added at this time.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

a) Resolution #21 - 118: Bill List & Statement of Cash

b) Resolution #21 - 119: Authorizing Refund of Taxes – 625 Taco Avenue, B1205 L17

c) Resolution #21 - 120: Authorizing Contract for Steven Weinberg as Municipal Administrative Agent for the Borough of Westwood Housing Rehabilitation Program

d) Resolution #21 - 121: Summer Employees - DPW

e) Resolution #21 - 122: Authorizing Bid Process for Community Center Kitchen

f) Resolution #21 - 123: Resolution Regarding the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Borough of Westwood and the Policemen's Benevolent Association Local #206

g) Resolution #21 - 124: Authorizing NJ Historic Trust Grant For Interactive Digital Downtown District History Tour

h) Resolution #21 - 125: Board of Health Appointment

i) Resolution #21 - 126: Appointment of Custodian

j) Resolution #21 - 127: Appointment of Head Custodian

Motion to Approve Resolutions #21-118 through #21-127: Council President Dell Second: Councilmember Collins

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Hodges – Yes, with recusal on 21-00407

Councilmember Montana – Yes Councilmember Murphy – Yes

Council President Dell – Yes

16. Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

The time was 8:49 pm.

Attest:

Minutes Page 6
Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council
April 20, 2021

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