

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
MAY 19, 2020 MINUTES
8:00 PM PUBLIC MEETING
ZOOM REMOTE MEETING**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85267842739?pwd=eFJyTjFLY1V4eTBkOVJSk1NdENLQT09>

By phone: 1 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 852 6784 2739

Password: 722623

1. Opening of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Arroyo at 8:00 pm. Mayor Arroyo 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, as well as posted electronically in conformance with P.L. 2020, Chapter 11.”

2. Roll Call:

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

Committee Assignments:

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

3. Flag Salute

Councilmember Dell gave the invocation. Mayor Arroyo led those present in the salute to the flag.

4. Proclamation Honoring Hospital Workers

5. Proclamation for National Public Works Week

6. Motion to Suspend the Regular Order of Business

Mayor Arroyo suggested once again suspending the regular order of business in order to conduct essential business first.

Motion to Suspend the Regular Order of Business: Councilmember Murphy Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

7. Engineer’s Report

1) Biweekly Report

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

2) PSEG Paving

Dr. Boswell advised there will be a meeting with PSEG on Thursday to discuss paving. Council President Montana asked about them paving curb to curb if the road has been paved within the past 5 years. Dr. Boswell said they would fight for the Borough.

3) Landfill Monitoring

Mayor Arroyo asked whether methane ground readings on the cap and on the field could be compared and if similar, can an argument be made to the DEP about capping. Dr. Boswell explained how methane rises and is difficult to find. He thinks if methane was found on the field the DEP would require capping. He explained that the goal is to vent the methane in a controlled manner in a controlled location.

8. Resolution #20- 106: Authorizing Expansion of Outdoor Dining Café Eligible Premises

Council President Montana explained that the proposed resolution is a result of the Mayor's Economic Recovery board. After Mrs. Hughes read the resolution, Council President Montana expounded that the purpose is to allow external capacity expansion of outdoor dining. Mr. Huntington noted that it accounts for social distancing requirements. Mayor Arroyo commented on pending legislation that would authorize local closures of County roads.

Motion to Approve Resolution #20-106: Council President Montana Second: Councilmember Murphy
Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes
 Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Murphy - Yes
 Councilmember Dell – Yes Council President Montana – Yes

9. Resolution #20- 107: Authorizing Pickup Zones in the CBD/SPE

Councilmember Hodges explained that there are 28 parking spaces designated in the downtown as food and merchandise pickup zones. The spaces are labeled and there is a five minute time limit. Mayor Arroyo pointed out that the plan is flexible and needs to be due to the daily changes.

Motion to Approve Resolution #20-107: Councilmember Hodges Second: Councilmember Collins
Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes
 Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Murphy - Yes
 Councilmember Dell – Yes Council President Montana – Yes

10. Chamber of Commerce Commercial

Mayor Arroyo asked Councilmember Murphy to report on the Chamber of Commerce commercial. Councilmember Murphy advised that the goal is for all businesses to have the opportunity to participate in a commercial promoting the downtown regardless of whether they are members in the Chamber. The message is that Westwood is open and following the health protocols, and is a one stop shopping destination.

11. Agenda/Public Forum:

Motion to Open the Floor to the Public: Councilmember Murphy Second: Councilmember Dell
Voice Vote: Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

Lisa Bontemps, 136 Lafayette Ave – gave an update on the activity of the pop up food pantry at Parkside Church. Councilmember Murphy noted that there are other food pantries in operation and asked Ms. Bontemps for an update on those as well. Ms. Bontemps also gave an update on Westwood For All Ages Zoom activities.

Yash Risbud, 59 Lake Street – thanked the Governing Body for their hard work and dedication, and for the time and effort to help Westwood get through this time.

Motion to Close the Floor to the Public: Councilmember 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

20-9 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 375 Vehicles and Traffic To Codify Traffic and Parking Changes In The Area Of Westwood Regional Middle School

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #20-9 entitled “An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 375 Vehicles and Traffic To Codify Traffic and Parking Changes In The Area Of Westwood Regional Middle School” is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a June 23, 2020 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

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

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes

Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Murphy - Yes

Councilmember Dell – Yes Council President Montana – Yes

20-10 Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Making Of Various Public Improvements And The Acquisition Of A New Automotive Vehicle, Including Original Apparatus And Equipment, In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$790,000 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 #20-10 entitled “Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Making Of Various Public Improvements And The Acquisition Of A New Automotive Vehicle, Including Original Apparatus And Equipment, In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$790,000 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 June 23, 2020 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

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

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes

Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Murphy - Yes

Councilmember Dell – Yes Council President Montana – Yes

Ordinances for Adoption

20-6 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 375 Vehicles and Traffic, Article XIV Through Streets, Stop Intersections and Yield Intersections

Mrs. Hughes explained that several stop intersections had been included in error and needed to be removed. One additional stop intersection was being added. This constituted a substantive change and required a vote to amend, readvertise and continue the hearing to June 23, 2020.

Motion to Amend: Council President Montana Second: Councilmember Collins
Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes
Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Murphy - Yes
Councilmember Dell – Yes Council President Montana – Yes

Motion to Readvertise and Continue Hearing to June 23, 2020: Council President Montana
Second: Councilmember Dell
Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes
Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Murphy - Yes
Councilmember Dell – Yes Council President Montana – Yes

20-7 An Ordinance to Reinstate and Amend Chapter 249 Peddling and Soliciting

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #20-7 entitled “An Ordinance to Reinstate and Amend Chapter 249 Peddling and Soliciting” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.
Motion to open the public hearing: Council President Montana Second: Councilmember 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: Council President Montana Second: Councilmember Dell
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #20-7 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 Montana Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes

Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Murphy - Yes

Councilmember Dell – Yes Council President Montana – Yes

13. 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 i and j were added at this time, with Council President Montana requesting a separate vote for j.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

a) Resolution #20 - 108: Bill List & Statement of Cash

**b) Resolution #20 - 109: Authorizing Refund of Taxes Due To Tax Court Judgement, Block 2102
Lot 4**

c) Resolution #20 – 110: Authorization to Hire Electrical Inspector

- d) Resolution #20 – 111: Authorization to Hire DPW Laborer**
- e) Resolution #20 – 112: Authorization To Issue Estimated Tax Bills**
- f) Resolution #20 - 113: Revising Change Order #1 For Sand Road Improvement Project**
- g) Resolution #20 - 114: Award of Bid for Old Hook Sidewalk Improvement Project**
- h) Resolution #20 - 115: Approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Borough of Westwood and the New Jersey Policemen’s Benevolent Association, Local 206 for the Period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020**
- i) Resolution #20-116: Summer Employees – DPW**

Motion to Approve Resolutions #20-108 through #20-116: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Collins

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

j) Resolution #20-117: Authorizing Farmer’s Market at Borough Hall
Council President Montana suggested the resolution include a plan to follow the COVID protocols. Mr. Huntington would like proof of 501c3 status, which was not received last year. After discussion it was decided to approve the resolution with contingencies.

Motion to Approve Resolution #20-117: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Collins

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

14. Reports of Committees and Officials, As Needed:

A) Mayor’s Report

Mayor Arroyo thanked the members of his Economic Recovery Advisory panel.

B) Council President’s Report

Council President Montana suggested that since Memorial Day services would be modified and private, the Governing Body should read the names of Westwood’s fallen military personnel, which they took turns doing.

C Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects: BD

a) Finance Department

Councilmember Dell reviewed the budget status and noted it is a spending plan, not a commitment or obligation.

b) Historic Preservation Commission

Councilmember Dell reported that the Historic Preservation Commission has received its expert’s report on the Washington and Lafayette Avenues properties.

c) Recreation

Councilmember Dell thanked the Recreation Department and Celebrate Westwood for keeping it positive during these trying times.

Councilmember Dell wished Mr. Kezmarsky a speedy recovery from surgery.

2) Fire and Ambulance: JM

a) Ambulance Corps

Councilmember Murphy announced a blood drive sponsored by the Ambulance Corps to be held at the firehouse on June 14th.

b) Fire Department

Councilmember Murphy advised that there would be no Fire Department Memorial Day service in Fireman's Park. A small private service will be recorded for viewing later. The Fire Department will be bringing the Memorial Day parade to the community. She thanked them for their participation in all the drive-by celebrations.

3) Health and Recreation: CH

a) Recreation

Councilmember Hodges advised that summer recreation programs are on hold. There will be a final decision on summer camp after June 1st. Concerts in the park are likely cancelled, and movies are currently on hold. Work on the parking lot is proceeding at the Community Center. Bathrooms in the parks are reopening. Everything is being done consistently with the State guidelines.

b) Health Department

Councilmember Hodges commended the Health Department for an outstanding job in keeping up with the workload.

4) Land Use: RB

a) Land Use Boards

Councilmember Biccocchi reported that the Zoning and Planning Boards are holding meetings via Zoom. There is a special Zoning Board meeting scheduled for June 15th.

b) Library

Councilmember Biccocchi said the library Director has a detailed plan for reopening that she reviewed with the Library Board. Mayor Arroyo said she presented it at a recent OEM meeting and did a great job. Councilmember Biccocchi reminded everyone that the summer reading program will run from June through August.

5) Police and OEM; Shared Services: CM

a) Environmental Committee

Council President Montana reported that the Environmental Committee met via Zoom to brainstorm initiatives.

b) Police Department

Council President Montana thanked Officer Neuberger for coordinating the birthday drive by celebrations. He said the Police Department leadership have established Covid-19 guidelines that have kept the department relatively healthy, with no diagnosis to his knowledge.

6) Public Properties: EC

a) DPW

Councilmember Collins reminded everyone that the DPW picks up metal on Fridays. Residents should leave a message with their address by Thursday morning. Yard waste should be put in barrels at the curb.

b) Local Assistance

Councilmember Collins urged anyone who is dealing with food insecurity to contact Kathy Elgert of Social Services for help.

E) Attorney's Report

No report.

F) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

a) Plastic Bag Recycling

Mrs. Hughes asked Council President Montana if the Environmental Committee had discussed the plastic bag recycling program, since the drop off locations aren't accepting bags. Council President Montana said Trex is still running the program. He will speak with Councilmember Collins about a larger collection receptacle at the DPW for storage until bags are accepted again.

15. Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn: Councilmember Murphy Second: Councilmember Dell

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

The time was 9:25 pm.

Attest:

(signed) Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk