

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD  
WORK MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 MINUTES  
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
101 Washington Avenue  
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 Engineer Senkevich - 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. Flag Salute**

Mayor Birkner led those present in the salute to the flag.

**4. Reports of Committees and Officials:**

**A) Mayor’s Report**

**1) Flooding Report**

Mayor Birkner reviewed the reservoir and stream levels, which are low for the season. The reservoir will soon go back to the 91 foot operation level.

**2) Alumni in Recovery**

There is a September 9<sup>th</sup> Alumni in Recovery meeting at the Community Center.

**3) Senior Citizen Picnic**

The Bergen County Senior Citizen picnic will be held on September 5<sup>th</sup> at Van Saun Park.

**4) 911 Remembrance**

Mayor Birkner advised that the candlelight vigil for 9/11 will be held at Veterans Park at 8:00 pm.

**5) Cultural Arts Committee**

Mayor Birkner pointed out the cultural arts advisory board draft ordinance in the agenda book for the Council’s review. He noted that the goal of the Master Plan review is to encourage more experiential businesses to keep the downtown a vibrant destination. There are several store owners that are interested in promoting the arts in the Borough. Mayor Birkner asked everyone to review the document, which is based on other communities’ ordinances. He hopes for feedback prior to the next meeting.

**B) Council President's Report**

**1) Veto Discussion**

Council President Arroyo asked for discussion on the veto of ordinance 19-11. Mayor Birkner explained the reason he vetoed one specific section of the ordinance only, pertaining to the parking on Harrington. Discussion ensued on the process that was used to generate the Harrington parking portion of the ordinance, and whether the plan is effective.

**2) Resolution #19-233: Overriding Mayor's Veto**

**Motion to Approve Resolution #19-233:** Council President Arroyo Second: Councilmember Montana

Roll Call: Councilmember Collins - Yes Councilmember Montana – Yes

Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes Councilmember Dell - Yes

Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Arroyo – Yes

**C) Engineer's Report**

**1) Biweekly Report**

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

**2) Landfill**

Dr. Boswell discussed options for the DEP's directive regarding the A and B fields at Westvale. He pointed out that the DEP never included these fields when approving the closure plan. Discussion was held on the current situation and a plan for further investigation and potential capping.

**3) Mill Street**

Dr. Boswell advised that the Borough should use its DOT grant money for Mill Street to do drainage in the winter and concrete work in the spring. PSEG will do the milling and paving next year. Mayor Birkner asked if PSEG will repave Lafayette curb to curb since it was only just paved within the last 2 years. Councilmember Montana asked if these paving requests need to be communicated in writing. Dr. Boswell said that PSEG is not as reticent to do this as most think, since under BPU rules they get paid back as a cost recovery.

**4) Sand Road**

Councilmember Montana said the Endurablast crosswalk on Sand Road looks visually stunning. He suggested the Borough do as many as can be afforded. Dr. Boswell pointed out that those crosswalks are only as strong as the underlying asphalt.

**D) Council Liaison & Committee Reports**

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

**a) Cultural Arts Committee**

Councilmember Montana likes the idea of a cultural arts committee but would like to see it incorporated into the existing committees and groups.

**b) Farmer's Market – Change of Venue**

Councilmember Montana relayed a request from the Farmer's Market to use Veteran's Park for the remainder of the year, since the hospital location doesn't generate enough foot traffic. It was determined that the Borough Hall lot, which has been used in the past by the Market, would be a

better location, with the caveat that there be no music to disturb the neighbors. The consensus was to add a resolution comprised of the original resolution authorizing a market at the Borough Hall lot plus a prohibition on music.

**2) Fire and Ambulance: RB**

No report, since all meetings under his liaisonship will be later in the week.

**3) Health and Recreation: BD**

**a) Stigma Free Committee**

Councilmember Dell said the Stigma Free Committee has changed their meeting time to 6:00 pm on September 9<sup>th</sup> so they can attend the Alumni in Recovery meeting.

**b) Recreation**

Councilmember Dell reported that the shade covers have been installed at the Westvale playground. The Recreation Advisory Board meeting is changed to September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**c) Board of Health**

The Board of Health will meet on September 10<sup>th</sup>. There is a flyer concerning measles available at the Board of Health office.

**d) Library**

The Library is hiring a new children's librarian, since the current one is moving on. The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Taste of Westwood will be held on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Montana pointed out that the Celebrate Westwood team is promoting the Taste of Westwood and thanked them for it.

**e) 911 Memorial**

Councilmember Dell reiterated that the 911 memorial service will be held at Veteran's Park starting at 8:00 pm. Attendees should bring their own candles if possible.

**4) Land Use: EC**

**a) Land Use Boards**

Councilmember Collins advised that the Zoning Board will meet on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The Planning Board will meet on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to continue discussions on the Master Plan.

**b) Historic Preservation Commission.**

The Historic Preservation Commission meeting is September 4<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for members. Councilmember Collins has been in contact with the owners of 84 Washington Avenue, who will be repainting the building and are interested in discussing the future of the building with the Borough.

**5) Police and OEM: RA**

**a) Police Department**

Council President Arroyo reviewed the Police Department's back to school safety plans. There will be another pedestrian safety campaign in the downtown in October. There is new Street Smart signage strategically placed around the Borough.

**b) Van Buren Dead End**

Council President Arroyo led a discussion on constructing the Van Buren dead end, including curbing, drainage, and engineering. Mayor Birkner suggested Mr. Kezmarsky reach out to Dr. Boswell to be prepared to discuss it on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Council President Arroyo will review the plan with Mr. Kezmarsky. Councilmember Montana pointed out that funding is not included in the budget to the Finance Committee can look into that at their next meeting.

**6) Public Properties: JM**

**a) Green Team**

Councilmember Murphy advised that the Green Team has resubmitted the Sustainable Jersey application with more than enough points to obtain recertification.

**b) Shade Tree Committee**

The Shade Tree Committee meeting has been rescheduled to September 4<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Murphy noted that they are in need of members. Councilmember Montana asked Mrs. Hughes to get the volunteer spreadsheet to Councilmember Murphy and Councilmember Collins.

**c) Public Art in Parks**

Councilmember Murphy proposed the Borough institute an art in the parks program, which would correlate with the cultural arts committee idea.

**d) Parklet**

Councilmember Murphy led a discussion on potential locations for the AARP grant funded parklet. The consensus was for a location on a sidewalk rather than in parking spaces. Councilmember Montana suggested the cut through at Washington and Third. Councilmember Murphy said it could be used eventually but the first parklet needs to be in the CBD. She will provide a design within a few days for the Clerk to distribute.

**e) Short Term Rentals**

Councilmember Murphy broached the need to discuss short term rentals. Mayor Birkner agreed that they need to be regulated and cited an incident in Paramus. Council President Arroyo said they are presumptively prohibited, but Councilmember Collins noted they are not illegal. It was determined to hold in depth discussion at another meeting.

**f) Cleaning of Streets**

Councilmember Montana requested Councilmember Murphy ask for the street sweeper to clean up residual debris on streets where the PSEG project is being done. The consensus was for Mr. Kezmarsky to contact the contractor to do the cleanup.

**E) Attorney's Report**

No report.

**F) Administrator's / Clerk's Report**

No report.

**5. Agenda/Public Forum:**

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

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

Lauren Letizia, 36 First Avenue – gave an update on the remainder of the Celebrate Westwood activities for 2019. Ms. Letizia noted that only \$250 of the budget provided by the Borough has been used. Funding was primarily provided by donations.

**Motion to close Agenda/Public Forum:** Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Dell  
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

**6. 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. Resolution f was added at this time.

**Resolutions as Consent Agenda:**

- a) Resolution #19 - 234: Bill List & Statement of Cash
- b) Resolution #19 – 235: Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #17-00001
- c) Resolution #19 – 236: Chapter 159 – AARP Grant
- d) Resolution #19 – 237: Award of Bid for Brookside Park Basketball Court
- e) Resolution #19 – 238: Approval of Mr. Harrison’s Request to Consume Alcoholic Beverages  
on Public Property for a Family Birthday Party
- f) Resolution #19 – 239: Authorizing Farmer’s Market at Borough Hall

**Motion to adopt resolutions #19-234 through #19-239:** 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

**7. Adjournment:**

**Motion to adjourn:** Councilmember Montana Second: Councilmember Murphy

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

The time was 9:40 pm.

Attest:

*(signed) Karen Hughes*

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk