

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
WORK MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
OCTOBER 3, 2023 MINUTES
7:00 pm Closed Session/ 8:00 pm Public Session
101 WASHINGTON AVENUE
WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07675**

1. Opening of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Arroyo at 7:00 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."

2. Roll Call:

Mayor Arroyo – Present
Councilmember Bicocchi – Present
Councilmember Collins – Present
Councilmember– Dell - Absent
Councilmember Greco – Present
Councilmember Hodges – Present
Council President Montana - Present
Borough Attorney Kool - Present
Borough Administrator Ayer – Present
Borough Clerk Hughes – Present
Police Chief Pontillo - Present

Committee Assignments:

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

3. Resolution #23-272: Executive Closed Session

Motion to Approve Resolution #23-272 at 7:00pm: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

- a) Police Department Matter (#6 Public Safety) – EC, MP
- b) Facility Use (#7 Attorney Client) - DA
- c) Professional Confirmations (#7 Contractual) – DA, KH
- d) Crossing Guard Placement (#6 Public Safety) - DA
- e) Recreation Personnel Matter (#8 Personnel Matter, Rice Notice Issued) – DA
- f) Police Personnel Matter (#8 Personnel Matter, Rice Notice Issued) - DA

4. Reopen the Meeting: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Council President Montana
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 Dell – Absent / Councilmember Greco – Present / Councilmember Hodges – Present / Council President Montana – Present / Borough Administrator Ayer - Present / Borough Attorney Kool – Present / Borough Engineer Boswell – Present / Borough Engineer Senkevich – Present / Borough Clerk Hughes - Present

6. Flag Salute

The Boy Scouts led those present in the salute to the flag.

7. Approval of Minutes: September 19, 2023 Public Meeting and Closed Session

Motion to Approve Minutes of September 19, 2023 Public Meeting and Closed Session: Council President Montana Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes

Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Dell – Absent

Councilmember Greco - Yes

Councilmember Hodges – Yes

Council President Montana – Yes

8. Engineer's Report:

A. Engineer's Biweekly Report

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

9. Items for Discussion:

a) Food Truck Draft Ordinance & Policy – BD/KH

Councilmember Greco stated that food trucks should be allowed if the vendor owns a storefront in Westwood. Council discussed different options to benefit the owners of businesses in town in respects to having food trucks. Attorney Kool will look into several different issues and return to Council with an answer at a later date to draft an ordinance and a policy.

b) Commuter Parking Recommendations – CH

Councilmember Hodges reviewed the Parking Utility recommendation to increase non-resident commuter parking to \$4 per day. Consensus of the Mayor and Council is approved and will move forward.

c) Streetlight for Carl Place – DA

Borough Administrator Ayer discussed that the Carl Place Street light would cost \$750 per year. Council is in agreement to add the light.

d) Annual Meeting Schedule – RA

The 2024 meeting schedule was discussed in regards to a possible change of the Reorganizational Meeting in January. Consensus is to leave the meeting on for January 2nd, 2023.

10. Agenda/Public Forum:

Motion to open Agenda/Public Forum: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Greco

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

Lisa Bontemps: Representing WWFAA, pickle ball is happening in McKinley where they had donated funds for an age friendly park. The WWFAA would also like to contribute to adding a hearing loop system in the Council Chambers. Representing Parkside Community Church Food Pantry, food insecurity continues to be a problem in our region. Ms. Bontemps wants the Council to know that it is not okay when a Church is the target of hatred or being victimized by online bloggers. Ms. Bontemps stated that Ms. Collins was the only one who tried helping with the situation.

Kelly O'Melia: Volunteers at Parkside Food Pantry. She stated that she did not feel safe due to a blog that was shared by two Board of Education Members last week. Board of Education meetings have become very heated and disruptively dangerous. People are receiving anonymous hate mail for speaking out and

asked the Council to do something to cool things down for example a statement calling for peace from the Mayor.

Nicole Heid: Came in front of the Council many years ago when she was fearful that the school business and conflicts of interest would interfere with the town, and has voiced concerns in the past about special interest groups. Ms. Heid is calling for kindness, pleading for someone to do something against the hate that is being spewed and is calling for leaders to establish humanity and peace.

Motion to close Agenda/Public Forum: Council President Montana Second: Councilmember Hodges
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

11. Ordinances for Introduction/Adoption

12. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:

Council President Montana asked if there were any resolutions to add to the Consent Agenda. He 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 as Consent Agenda:

- a) Resolution #23 - 273: Bills List and Statement of Cash
- b) Resolution #23 - 274: Authorizing 2% Salary Increases
- c) Resolution #23 - 275: Employee Evaluations and Associated Salary Adjustments
- d) Resolution #23 - 276: Authorizing Salary Adjustment for Construction Department Employee
- e) Resolution #23 - 277: Authorizing Salary Adjustment for Police Department Employee
- f) Resolution #23 - 278: Authorizing Salary Adjustment for Construction Department Employee
- g) Resolution #23 - 279: Authorizing Salary Adjustment for Court Employee
- h) Resolution #23 - 280: Authorizing Salary Adjustment for Parking Enforcement Officers
- i) Resolution #23 - 281: Approval of Application to Consume Alcoholic Beverages On Public Property for a Wedding Reception at the Community Center
- j) Resolution #23 - 282: Authorizing Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages on Public Property for an Appreciation Event at the Library
- k) Resolution #23 - 283: Appointments to the Board of Health
- l) Resolution #23 - 284: Appointments to the Zoning Board
- m) Resolution #23 - 285: Authorizing Increased Cost for Preliminary Property Assessment

Motion to Approve Resolutions #23-273 through #23-285: Council President Montana Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes
Councilmember Dell – Absent
Councilmember Hodges – Yes

Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Greco – Yes
Council President Montana – Yes

13. Resolution #23-286: Return to Executive Closed Session

Motion to Approve Resolution #23-286 at 8:55pm: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Council President Montana

Roll Call: Councilmember Biccocchi – Yes	Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Dell – Absent	Councilmember Greco - Yes
Councilmember Hodges – Yes	Council President Montana – Yes

14. Reopen the Meeting: Councilmember Biccocchi Second: Council President Montana
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 9:45 pm.

15. Motion to Approve Resolution #23-287 “Authorizing Salary Adjustment for Recreation Employee” Council President Montana Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Biccocchi – Abstain	Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Dell – Absent	Councilmember Greco – Yes
Councilmember Hodges – Yes	Council President Montana - Yes

Motion to Approve Resolution #23-288 “Authorizing Title Change for Police Department Employee” Council President Montana Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

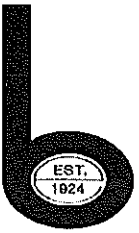
Roll Call: Councilmember Biccocchi – Yes	Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Dell – Absent	Councilmember Greco – Yes
Councilmember Hodges – Yes	Council President Montana - Yes

16. Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn: Councilmember Biccocchi Second: Council President Montana
Voice Vote: Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.
The time was 9:48 pm.

Attest:

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



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Council

FROM: Stephen T. Boswell, Ph.D., P.E., LSRP

DATE: September 29, 2023

RE: Borough of Westwood
Status Report - For Meeting on October 3, 2023
Our File No. WW-814

WW-482 WESTVALE PARK (FORMER WESTWOOD LANDFILL)

Due to weather and barometric conditions, third quarter methane monitoring is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd, provided barometric conditions are acceptable.

WW-513 PISTOL RANGE REMEDIATION

The remediation project is advertised with bids to be received on Wednesday, October 25th, at 11:00 am. To date, eight (8) contractors have picked up bid packages.

WW-834 JEFFERSON AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS AND
2023 ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM

Jefferson Avenue is completed except for striping and any punch list items. The DOT was questioned about funding the pedestrian crossing signals for the crosswalk at Kinderkamack Road. There has been no response. All of the roads for resurfacing in 2023 were milled. Apco assisted DLS with milling. The following is a list of 2023 roads resurfaced and remaining to be addressed on Monday, October 2nd:

Roads Paved

Best Street
Westwood Blvd
Jones Street
Hegeman Ave
Pascack Road
High Street
Myers Place

Roads to be Paved Monday

Harding Ave
Ruckner Road
Scott Street
Sealy Street

WW-840 BERGEN COUNTY ADA CURB RAMP CONSTRUCTION
INSPECTION

The County has not provided a schedule for the
ADA curb ramp improvements for Kinderkamack Road.

WW-847 VEHICLE CIRCULATION AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION
STUDY

A cost was provided to the Administrator to
address the additional information requested by
the Borough and Planner. We are waiting for
direction.

WW-850 PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT FOR 132 CENTER AVENUE

Documents received from the State are being
reviewed.

WW-859 JAKE VOORHIS PARK BASKETBALL COURT REPLACEMENT

Construction plans for the proposed basketball
court improvements are being prepared.

WW-861 2024 PROPOSED ROADWAY QUANTITIES

We started investigating and preparing estimates
for the list of potential road candidates for the
2024 Road Program.