

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD  
WORK MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2015 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	Committee Assignments:
Councilmember Owens	Public Properties
Councilmember Montana	Health & Recreation
Councilmember Dell	Library
Councilmember Grefrath	Finance, Admin. & Capital Projects
Councilmember Bicocchi	Land Use
Council President Arroyo	Police & Emergency Management
Interim Administrator Kezmarsky	
Borough Attorney Huntington	
Deputy Borough Clerk Holmes	

**3. Resolution #15 - 216 : Executive Closed Session**

**Motion to adopt Resolution #15-216:** Councilmember Owens Second: Council President Arroyo  
Roll Call: Councilmember Owens - Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes  
Councilmember Dell – Yes Councilmember Grefrath - Yes  
Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes Council President Arroyo – Yes

**4. Reopen the Meeting:**

**Motion to reopen the meeting:** Councilmember Arroyo Second: Councilmember Owens  
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 8:10 pm

**5. Roll Call II:**

Mayor Birkner – Present / Councilmember Owens – Present / Councilmember Montana – Present /  
Councilmember Dell – Present / Councilmember Grefrath – Present / Councilmember Bicocchi -  
Present / Council President Arroyo – Present / Interim Administrator Kezmarsky - Present /  
Borough Attorney Huntington – Present / Borough Engineer Boswell – Present / Deputy Borough  
Clerk Holmes - Present

**6. Flag Salute**

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

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

**A) Mayor's Report**

**1) Safe Zone for Internet Purchases**

Mayor Birkner explained the creation of the safe zone for internet purchases. After a brief discussion the Governing Body requested a few minor changes in the resolution.

**2) Chamber Request - Zombie Walk**

Joseph Abou-Daoud explained the logistics of the "Zombie Walk". The consensus of the Governing Body was to have the restaurants organize this privately without the "Zombies" walking throughout the town.

**B) Engineer's Report**

**1) Biweekly Report**

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

**2) Road Resurfacing 15 Year Plan**

Dr. Boswell reviewed the 15 year plan and stated he needs a resolution done for the 2016 NJDOT application.

**3) Methane Monitoring**

Dr. Boswell reviewed the proposal to the DEP for redoing the monitoring system in phases. Phase 1 would be the old ball field. He thinks this phase may end it all. Two of the vents would be active vents in this area. If this doesn't end the need for further work on the monitoring system, then phase 2 would occur. Neither phase impacts the ball fields directly, just the perimeters, but ultimately if they are not sufficient then phase 3 would impact the fields. This is a cost-effective approach. The DEP wants a meeting on this before moving forward. Council President Arroyo asked if Phase 1 is approved, what is the duration before it's known whether it worked. Dr. Boswell said four quarters is the minimum, although if the DEP requests longer he will not object. He believes Phase 1 has a very good chance of taking care of it all. Councilmember Montana asked what the DEP expectations are of venting from a 30-year-old closed landfill. Dr. Boswell explained that the ballfields were never capped. The water in the current system limits the methane escape, so by draining that as part of Phase 1 it should also improve the venting. Councilmember Owens asked how the methane will find the pipes in the ballfields that were never capped. Dr. Boswell said it follows the line of least resistance and will migrate naturally to the pipes. Councilmember Owens asked whether the methane under the capped area is migrating to the uncapped baseball fields. Dr. Boswell explained that it is. Councilmember Owens referred to a 1995 law concerning 30 year monitoring and asked its impact on the Westwood landfill. Dr. Boswell explained the DEP interpretation of the law and its effect. Once there are no longer any methane readings there will be no need to go the full 30 years. Council President Arroyo said there has been discussion about establishing a baseline for completing the monitoring. Dr. Boswell agreed, he would like to monitor for a set time and once it shows no methane end the monitoring. He pointed out that the DEP has agreed to the entire plan, and now Boswell is going back and suggesting it only be done in phases because the entirety might not be necessary.

**C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports**

**1) Police and OEM**

**a) Westwood Taxpayer Alliance Update**

Council President Arroyo asked Ed Snieckus of Burgis Associates to update the Governing Body on the status of the downtown streetscape rehabilitation project.

**2) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects; Fire and Ambulance:**

**a) Environmental Committee Update**

Councilmember Grefrath reported that the Environmental Committee is continuing its discussion of rain garden project for the front of the Borough Hall at a cost of \$1100. They are also planning to set up an information table at the Bergen Swan fall fundraiser at the Community Center.

**b) Finance Update**

Councilmember Grefrath announced that the next Finance Committee meeting is October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**3) Library:**

Councilmember Dell reported that the Library Board is down one member. The Library Board was inquiring on the paving of the parking lot, and perhaps having the library roof repaired as part of the Borough Hall roof project. Council President Arroyo asked that the Administrator send the roofers working on Borough Hall to the library to obtain an estimate. Councilmember Dell reported on the resounding success of the Taste of Westwood. Councilmember Grefrath noted the parking lot is part of the paving program.

**4) Health and Recreation:**

**a) Recreation Update**

Councilmember Montana discussed a recommendation by the Recreation Director concerning shifting the cost for liability insurance onto the various sports associations. Currently the Borough provides insurance for all associations, as well as all but two of the associations providing their own insurance. The double insurance is unnecessary. The matter was referred to the Borough Risk Manager for review.

**5) Land Use:**

**a) LB3 Zone**

Councilmember Bicocchi reported that the Planning Board is reviewing the Master Plan regarding the elimination of the medical use in the LB3 zone.

**6) Public Properties:**

No report.

**D) Attorney's Report**

No report.

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

**a) Commuter Parking Decals**

Interim Administrator Kezmarsky reviewed the Clerk's memo regarding increasing the cost of commuter parking decals for 2016.

**b) Permit Fees**

Council President Arroyo suggested the list of suggested permit fees generated by the Clerk be reviewed by the Finance Committee.

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

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

Helen Guler, 17 St Nicholas Avenue - Ms. Guler voiced her concerns about the trees that were cut down at the apartment building and that she has no privacy. She also voiced concerns about the traffic and noise from the Farmer's Market.

Carolyn Rice, 530 Fairview Avenue - Ms. Rice voiced various concerns including the ducks and also the Police and Building Departments.

Joseph Abou-Doaud, Chamber of Commerce - Mr. Abou-Doaud addressed the concerns of the resident from St. Nicholas Avenue about the music at the Farmers Market.

Carolyn Rice, 530 Fairview Avenue - Ms. Rice voiced her concerns about a disgraceful property on Fairview Avenue. She also stated that our Construction Official has done nothing about this property.

**Motion to close the public hearing:** Council President Arroyo Second: Councilmember Montana  
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

## **9. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:**

Mayor Birkner advised that the following Resolutions would be enacted in one motion.

Councilmembers who wished to remove any Resolutions to be voted upon separately, had the opportunity to do so at this time, and said Resolutions will be considered separately. Resolutions d, e, f, g, & h were added. Council President Arroyo requested resolution b be removed from the consent agenda for a separate vote.

### **Resolutions as Consent Agenda:**

**a) Resolution #15 - 217 : Bill List & Statement of Cash**

**c) Resolution #15 - 219: Approval of Friends of the Westwood Cardinals TD Club  
Application to Consume Alcoholic Beverages on Public  
Property**

**d) Resolution #15 - 220: Hiring of Parking Authority Enforcement Officer**

**e) Resolution #15 - 221: Creating a "Safe Zone" for Internet-Based Transactions**

**f) Resolution #15 - 222: Amendment to Municipal Shared Services Defense  
Agreement**

**g) Resolution #15 - 223: Authorization to Enter into 2015-2016 Grant Agreement-  
ADA Curb Ramps**

**h) Resolution #15 - 224: Authorization for Community Development Grant  
Agreement (Senior Citizen Program) 2015-2016**

**Motion to adopt resolutions #15-217, 15-219 through #15-224:** Councilmember Grefrath

Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Owens - Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes

Councilmember Dell – Yes Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes Council President Arroyo – Yes

**b) Resolution #15 - 218 : Authorizing Preparation of 2016 NJDOT Municipal Aid  
Application**

**Motion to adopt resolution #15-218:** Councilmember Grefrath Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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Work Meeting of the Mayor and Council  
September 29, 2015

Roll Call: Councilmember Owens - Yes    Councilmember Montana - Yes  
Councilmember Dell – Yes                      Councilmember Grefrath - Yes  
Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes    Council President Arroyo – Abstain

**10. Adjournment:**

**Motion to adjourn:** Councilmember Grefrath    Second: Councilmember Bicocchi  
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.  
The time was 9:45pm

Attest:

*(signed) Karen Hughes*  
Denise Holmes, Deputy Borough Clerk  
Proofed by: Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk