

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
OCTOBER 13, 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 – Present
Councilmember Owens – Present
Councilmember Montana – Present
Councilmember Dell - Present
Councilmember Grefrath – Present
Councilmember Bicocchi - Present
Council President Arroyo – Present
Borough Attorney Huntington – Present
Interim Administrator Kezmarsky - Present
Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

Committee Assignments:

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

3. Resolution #15 - 225: Executive Closed Session

Motion to adopt Resolution #15-225: 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 Owens Second: Councilmember Montana
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 8:03 pm.

5. Roll Call II:

Mayor Birkner invited former Mayor Skip Kelley to join the Governing Body on the dais to open the meeting.

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 Senkevich – Present / Borough Clerk
Hughes - Present

6. Flag Salute

Council President Arroyo gave the invocation. Mayor Birkner led those present in the salute to the flag.

7. Approval of Minutes: June 9, 2015

Motion to Adopt Minutes of June 9: Councilmember Grefrath Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

8. Proclamation - Breast Cancer Awareness Month

9. Resolution #15 - 226: Appointment of CERT Members

Motion to Adopt Resolution #15-226: Council President Arroyo Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

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

Mayor Birkner and Mayor Kelley administered the Oath of Office to Alice Taylor, Sherman Taylor, Danika Wertalik, and Bonnie Bonkowski.

10. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor's Report

1) Special Recognition of Councilmember Grefrath for 20 Year of Service

Mayor Birkner commented that public service is a noble enterprise. Elected officials put themselves in a position that opens them up to criticism and controversies. It is a tough job. He announced that the Borough is recognizing Councilmember Grefrath for 20 years of service as a member of the Council, and noted he will be inducted into the Elected Official Hall of Fame. Mayor Birkner, Mayor Kelley, and Council President Arroyo presented Councilmember Grefrath with several proclamations and a plaque. Mr. Huntington presented Councilmember Grefrath with a three minute timer.

B) Engineer's Report

1) Biweekly Report

Mr. Senkevich reviewed the biweekly report, a copy of which is attached.

C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects, Fire and Ambulance:

a) Finance Update

Councilmember Grefrath advised that the next Finance Committee meeting will be October 22. Fee ordinances will be reviewed, as well as the proposed debt structure for general obligation notes. There will be a 15 minute training on electronic requisition approval at the November work meeting. The 2016 budget request forms will be issued to Department Heads on October 15th and due back by November 13th.

b) Best Practices Checklist

Councilmember Grefrath reviewed the completed Best Practices Checklist. He noted that the Borough achieved an 86% result, which means we will receive the full amount of aid.

c) Fire Department Pancake Breakfast

Councilmember Grefrath announced that the Fire Department will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, October 18th from 8 am to 1 pm.

2) Health and Recreation: CM

a) Taub Foundation/GROTTO Grant for Senior Services

Councilmember Montana reported on a seminar that he and the Mayor attended, along with Jeanne Martin of Pascack Valley Meals on Wheels, concerning age-friendly communities in New Jersey. He explained that while there are many things Westwood is doing right for the mature community, there are ways to improve, which takes dollars. He reviewed the grant opportunities available and recommended partnering with Pascack Valley Meals on Wheels to apply for a grant. Mayor Birkner said he had discussed this with Ms. Martin some time ago and feels it is important. The grant programs focus on the senior population, which is growing, and on helping to keep seniors in their homes as they age. Jeanne Martin addressed the Governing Body to describe the type and scope of the Taub Foundation grant she is looking to apply for. The consensus was to move forward to partner with Pascack Valley Meals on Wheels for the grant.

Resolution #15 - 227: Authorizing Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant and Mayors Pledge

Motion to Adopt Resolution #15-227: Councilmember Grefrath Second: Council President Arroyo

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

3) Land Use:

Councilmember Bilocchi congratulated Councilmember Grefrath for 20 years of service as a Councilmember.

4) Police and OEM:

a) CERT

Council President Arroyo commended Nick Ariemma and former Councilmember Bob Miller for being instrumental in bringing CERT into fruition.

b) OEM Update

Mayor Birkner discussed the plans laid in preparation for a potential ‘perfect storm’ that fortunately went out to sea. He commended everyone involved with OEM for ensuring the Borough was ready.

5) Public Properties:

a) Heritage Society

Councilmember Owens relayed a request from the Heritage Society to post signs in the Train Station with a phone number to call in case of maintenance issues or vandalism. On Saturdays when the museum is open the restrooms are always messy. Mr. Kezmarsky will ensure the bathrooms are cleaned regularly.

Mayor Birkner asked if the Train Station could be decorated with corn stalks as well as the message board. Mr. Kezmarsky will speak with NJ Transit about relocating the planter. Councilmember Montana observed that the new trees on Westwood Avenue could be used as corn stalks. Mayor Birkner said those deficiencies are being addressed.

6) Library:

Councilmember Dell reported that One Book Westwood will be concluding on October 22. Over 300 readers have participated to date. There will be a book talk by former Councilmember Robert Miller on November 5th. The 2016 Green Screen will be held in March.

Mayor Birkner interrupted the regular order of business for Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi to present a resolution to Councilmember Grefrath from the State Legislature.

D) Attorney's Report

No report.

E) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

1) Commuter Parking Decals

Mrs. Hughes initiated discussion on raising the commuter parking decal fee. The matter was scheduled for further discussion at the October 27th meeting.

11. Agenda/Public Forum:

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

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

Mayor Skip Kelley - commented that Peter's hair was brown when he first got on the council.

Motion to close Agenda/Public Forum: Councilmember Biccocchi Second: Councilmember Montana

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

12. Ordinances of First & Final Reading:

Ordinances for Introduction

15-24 An Ordinance To Establish A Schedule Of Salaries, Wages And Compensation Of The Public Officials, Officers And Employees Of The Borough Of Westwood In The County Of Bergen, And To Establish A Method Of Payment Of Such Compensation During Calendar Year 2015

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #15-24 entitled "An Ordinance To Establish A Schedule Of Salaries, Wages And Compensation Of The Public Officials, Officers And Employees Of The Borough Of Westwood In The County Of Bergen, And To Establish A Method Of Payment Of Such Compensation During Calendar Year 2015" is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a November 10, 2015 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion to pass the ordinance on First Reading: Councilmember Grefrath Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Owens - Yes

Councilmember Dell - Yes

Councilmember Biccocchi - Yes

Councilmember Montana - Yes

Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Council President Arroyo - Yes

15-25 An Ordinance To Amend Article XIV, Chapter 195, Zoning Of The Borough Of Westwood

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #15-25 entitled “An Ordinance To Amend Article XIV, Chapter 195, Zoning Of The Borough Of Westwood” is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a November 10, 2015 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

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

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

Ordinances for Adoption

15-22 An Ordinance Authorizing Sale Of Land Without Public Auction

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #15-22 entitled “An Ordinance Authorizing Sale Of Land Without Public Auction” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Grefrath Second: Councilmember Bicocchi
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 Grefrath Second: Councilmember Bicocchi
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #15-22 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: 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

15-23 An Ordinance Regulating the Statutory Authority of Verizon New Jersey, Inc., Its Successors and Assigns To Use The Various Public Streets, Roads, Avenues, Highways and Other Public Ways In The Borough of Westwood, Bergen County, New Jersey, For Its Local and Through Lines and Other Communications Facilities and Prescribing The Conditions Thereof

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #15-23 entitled “An Ordinance Regulating the Statutory Authority of Verizon New Jersey, Inc., Its Successors and Assigns To Use The Various Public Streets, Roads, Avenues, Highways and Other Public Ways In The Borough of Westwood, Bergen County, New Jersey, For Its Local and Through Lines and Other Communications Facilities and Prescribing The Conditions Thereof” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Grefrath

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 Grefrath

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

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #15-23 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: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Grefrath

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

13. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:

Councilmember Grefrath 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. Council President Arroyo asked for resolution d to be voted on separately.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

- a) **Resolution #15 - 228: Bill List & Statement of Cash**
- b) **Resolution #15 - 229: Authorizing Refund of Taxes B1903 L7**
- c) **Resolution #15 - 230: Chapter 159 - 2015-2016 Senior Citizens Activities**
- e) **Resolution #15 - 231: Approval of Emerson Project Graduation Application to Consume Alcoholic Beverages on Public Property**
- f) **Resolution #15 - 232: Authorizing Increase to HRA**
- g) **Resolution #15 - 233: Chapter 159 - JIF Safety Grant**

Motion to adopt resolutions #15-228 through #15-233: 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

- d) **Resolution #15 - 234: Authorizing 2016 NJDOT Grant Application - Bogert Avenue Improvements**

Motion to adopt resolutions #15-228 through #15-233: 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 – Recuse

14. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilmember Grefrath Second: Councilmember Montana

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

The time was 9:21 pm.

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Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council
October 13, 2015

Attest:

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk
Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk