

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
MARCH 18, 2014 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 Arroyo – Present
Councilmember Bicocchi – Present
Councilmember Grefrath – Present
Councilmember Miller – Present
Vacant
Council President Waneck – Present
Borough Administrator Hoffmann – Present
Borough Attorney Huntington – Present
Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

Committee Assignments:

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

3. Resolution #14 - 79: Executive Closed Session

Motion to adopt Resolution #14-79: Councilmember Arroyo Second: Councilmember Miller

Roll Call: Councilmember Arroyo – Yes Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes

Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller – Yes

Vacant Council President Waneck – Yes

4. Reopen the Meeting:

Motion to reopen the meeting: Councilmember Miller Second: Councilmember Arroyo

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

The time was 8:15 pm.

5. Roll Call II:

Mayor Birkner – Present / Councilmember Arroyo – Present / Councilmember Bicocchi – Present / Councilmember Grefrath – Present / Councilmember Miller – Present / Vacancy / Council President Waneck – Present / Borough Administrator Hoffmann – Present / Borough Attorney Huntington – Present / Borough Engineer Boswell – Present / Borough Clerk Hughes - Present

6. Flag Salute

Councilmember Miller gave the invocation. Mayor Birkner led those present in the salute to the flag.

7. Approval of Minutes: January 27, 2014 Special Public Meeting

Motion to Adopt: Councilmember Grefrath Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Arroyo – Yes Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes

Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller – Yes

Vacant Council President Waneck – Yes

Approval of Minutes: February 4, 2014 Work Meeting

Motion to Adopt: Councilmember Grefrath Second: Councilmember Miller
Roll Call: Councilmember Arroyo – Yes Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes
Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller – Yes
Vacant Council President Waneck – Abstain

8) Presentation to Girl Scouts for Green Screen Participation

Mayor Birkner explained that that the Westwood Library Green Screen is the first of its kind in northern New Jersey and an admirable undertaking. He asked Librarian Martha Urbiel to speak and introduce the girls. Ms. Urbiel said people from all over attended this year's Green Screen despite the cold. Locales included the library, hospital and Westwood Cinema. Presentations were hosted by different groups. The Girl Scout troop that hosted the film on Friday afternoon is working on the Bronze award. They did the advertising, studied the film and came up with activities. While the whole troop helped, three girls did the most. Ms. Urbiel said the girls were very eloquent, had pertinent activities, and kept control over the crowd. Sofia Elizondo, Syvlie Adams and Emily Boettjer were given Certificates of Recognition by Mayor Birkner.

9) Eagle Scout Project Presentation

Eagle Scout candidate Matthew Yale presented his proposal to renovate the old well in Veterans Park as his Eagle Scout project. While he won't be making it into a well again for safety reasons, he will rebuild it so it looks like it used to and install a sign explaining the history. Mayor Birkner suggested Matthew contact the Borough Planner Ed Sneickus, who is working on the renovation of the park. Councilmember Grefrath said he has spoken extensively with Matthew and believes it is a great project that ties in nicely with the park renovation. He will get Matthew and Ed Sneickus together. Councilmember Grefrath suggested that Matthew pursue a blue plaque through the County for the well, and ask the Heritage Society and Historic Commission for assistance. Matthew will do so. He hopes to execute his project on a weekend in May or June. The Governing Body consensus is to support the project.

10) Police Chief 40th Anniversary Presentation

Mayor Birkner and Police Liaison Ray Arroyo made a presentation to Police Chief Frank Regino to mark his 40th anniversary with the Borough of Westwood.

11. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor's Report

1) Broadway Resignalization

Mayor Birkner reported that the intersection project has resumed after the winter weather. Irvington and Broadway is complete other than milling and paving, resulting in a smoother flow of traffic. Yesterday drainage was completed at Third and Park. Work is progressing at First and Broadway with signalization poles being installed. Impediments in the street are to be removed in short order. The Washington Avenue intersection will be last. The project is moving along on schedule.

B) Engineer's Report

1) Biweekly Report

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

2) Safe Routes to Schools and Transportation Alternatives Grants

Dr. Boswell suggested a footbridge across the Musquapsink to the Middle School. Mayor Birkner said he has several ideas and asked if they are matching grants. Dr. Boswell said they are 100% grants for construction.

3) Environmental Monitoring

Councilmember Arroyo asked if there is an end date to the obligation for monitoring at Westvale. Dr. Boswell said 20 years but he hopes fixing the vent system will end it sooner.

4) Third and Washington Intersection

Mr. Hoffmann explained that the County's plan for the island intersection at Third and Washington that was approved by the Governing Body needs to be designed by an engineer. He asked Dr. Boswell whether it is worth going back to the first design. Dr. Boswell said it is a matter of preference. There is a new emphasis on making sure handicapped ramps are designed. Mayor Birkner asked which configuration would provide the best level of drainage. Dr. Boswell said objectively without the island the drainage won't be as good. Additional drainage would be installed with the island. Mr. Huntington pointed out that if a road feature is designed by an engineer and there is an accident, the Borough has less liability. Mayor Birkner said the original intersection was designed by an engineer; this is a question of redesign, but he understands what Mr. Huntington is saying. Mayor Birkner asked whether the Governing Body wants to move forward with the new design or maintain what currently exists. Council President Waneck asked the cost. Mr. Hoffmann said \$5800. Mayor Birkner noted that this is strictly a design cost that the Borough would have to bear. Mr. Hoffmann said there would be funds available in the total funding for the project. Mayor Birkner said funds are identified by the CFO in allocated funds. Council President Waneck asked how much money is left. Mr. Hoffmann answered that \$7400 is left in the total budget. The consensus is to add the resolution to the Consent Agenda.

C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects:

a) 2014 Budget

Councilmember Grefrath reviewed the progress made on the budget, which will be introduced on April 1st.

2) Health and Recreation:

a) Recreation Update

Councilmember Miller reported on the new spring Recreation programs. Mayor Birkner added that the Recreation Director and the department are using all the Borough facilities and assets, bringing programs to the different parks around the Borough.

b) Health Department

The Health Department is working with OEM on bettering communication. The Health Department has gathered texting information for restaurants to contact during emergencies.

3) Land Use:

a) Historic Preservation Commission Update

Councilmember Bicocchi reported that the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the budget numbers for historic designation of the bandstand in Veterans Park. He will discuss this further at the April work session.

Councilmember Bicocchi noted that he participated in and enjoyed Read Across America.

Councilmember Bicocchi pointed out that there has been no accumulation of snow since resolution 14-60 was adopted.

4) Police and OEM:

a) OEM Update

Councilmember Arroyo advised that he is in ongoing dialogue with Deputy OEM Coordinator Nick Ariemma on the role of the CART and CERT personnel.

b) Police Update

Councilmember Arroyo reported that the Police hiring exam will be held at the Community Center tomorrow at 7 pm for the 247 applicants.

Councilmember Arroyo noted that the resolution authorizing promotions is on the consent agenda. There is also an amendment ordinance for the promotional process to adopt tonight. Councilmember Arroyo explained that there can be three outcomes from the on-site reaccreditation assessment. Accreditation can be denied, granted with conditions, or granted with noting exemplary performance. The report notes that this is a team effort cutting across to civilian employees. The officers assigned to managing the reaccreditation should be given special recognition. They are Sergeant Pontillo and Detective Saul.

5) Public Properties: CW

a) DPW Update

Council President Waneck announced that the DPW has begun yard waste pickup one week early.

b) Vacancy

Council President Waneck commented that Westwood is fortunate to have citizens that respond when they are called upon for service. She explained the process for choosing a replacement for former councilmember J Sciara. The County Committee met and submitted three names. The Republican Councilmembers met in caucus and interviewed the candidates. They are putting forth Christopher Owens to fill the vacancy.

Resolution #14 - 80: Filling Councilmember Vacancy

Motion to adopt Resolution #14-80: Council President Waneck Second: Councilmember Grefrath

Roll Call: Councilmember Arroyo – Yes Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes

Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller – Yes

Vacant Council President Waneck – Yes

Council President Waneck noted that Mr. Owens will be sworn into office during the week.

D) Attorney's Report

No report.

E) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

No report.

12. Agenda/Public Forum:

Motion to open Agenda/Public Forum: Councilmember Miller Second: Councilmember Arroyo
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the Affirmative.

Carolyn Rice, 530 Fairview – Complained about her treatment by the police and court system. Ms. Rice does not want to pay a ticket she received for trespassing. She complained that the Public Defender was late for a meeting with her on the ticket. Ms. Rice criticized several members of the Police Department.

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

13. Ordinances of First & Final Reading:

Ordinances for Adoption

14-4 Refunding Bond Ordinance Providing For Payment Of Amounts Owing To Others For Taxes Levied In And By The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey, Appropriating \$1,500,000 Therefor And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,500,000 Bonds Or Notes Of The Borough Of Westwood For Financing The Cost Thereof

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #14-4 entitled "Refunding Bond Ordinance Providing For Payment Of Amounts Owing To Others For Taxes Levied In And By The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey, Appropriating \$1,500,000 Therefor And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,500,000 Bonds Or Notes Of The Borough Of Westwood For Financing The Cost Thereof" 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 Arroyo
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #14-4 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: Council President Waneck

Roll Call: Councilmember Arroyo – Yes Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes
 Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller – Yes
 Vacant Council President Waneck – Yes

14-5 An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey, Amending And Supplementing Chapter 59 Of The Borough Code Of The Borough Of Westwood

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #14-5 entitled “An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey, Amending And Supplementing Chapter 59 Of The Borough Code Of The Borough Of Westwood” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Mrs. Hughes and Mr. Huntington explained that the Labor Counsel had recommended a language change to the ordinance that was merely grammatical and not substantive.

Motion to Amend the Ordinance Language: Councilmember Arroyo Second: Councilmember Miller

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

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Arroyo Second: Councilmember Miller

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 Arroyo Second: Councilmember Miller

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

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #14-5 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 Arroyo Second: Councilmember Miller

Roll Call: Councilmember Arroyo – Yes Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes

 Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller – Yes

 Vacant Council President Waneck – Yes

14. 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. Resolution i was removed for separate vote by Councilmember Arroyo. Resolutions m, n and o were added.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

a) Resolution #14 - 81: Bill List & Statement of Cash

b) Resolution #14 - 82: 2014 Temporary Budget Amendment #1

c) Resolution #14 - 83: Reserve Budget Transfers 2013

d) Resolution #14 - 84: Reserve Budget Transfers to Dedicated Trust by Rider for Snow

Removal

- e) **Resolution #14 - 85: Abatement of Taxes**
- f) **Resolution #14 - 86: Authorizing Sewer Main Repair at 112 Prospect Avenue**
- g) **Resolution #14 - 87: Authorizing Filing for Renewal of Title V Permit**
- h) **Resolution #14 - 88: Authorization to Purchase Two Used Vehicles for the DPW**
- j) **Resolution #14 - 89: Authorizing Promotional Process for Sergeant**
- k) **Resolution #14 - 90: Endorsement of Community Development Projects - Westwood Senior Citizen Program 2014-2015**
- l) **Resolution #14 - 91: Authorizing Shared Service/Interlocal Agreement for Fuel**
- m) **Resolution #14 - 92: Creation of Assistant Foreman Position**
- n) **Resolution #14 - 93: Authorizing Design of Third and Washington Avenues Intersection Changes**
- o) **Resolution #14 - 94: Westwood Volunteer Fire Dept. Matters of Personnel**

Motion to adopt resolutions #14-81 through 94: Councilmember Grefrath Second: Councilmember Arroyo

Roll Call: Councilmember Arroyo – Yes Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes
 Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller – Yes
 Vacant Council President Waneck – Yes

i) Resolution #14 - 95: Authorizing Repair of Sprinklers in Veterans Park

Motion to adopt resolution #14-95: Councilmember Grefrath Second: Councilmember Miller
Council President Waneck asked Councilmember Arroyo why he requested a separate vote. Councilmember Arroyo said he must recuse himself. Councilmember Grefrath said the sprinklers were put in by the Borough. Once before they were vandalized and had to be replaced by the Borough. This time the County tore them up during the project. Councilmember Grefrath thinks it is wrong for the Borough to replace them. Mr. Hoffmann explained that this is specifically for the sprinklers near the train station. The work there was not part of the original plan. Council President Waneck said the Council has not yet seen what Councilmember Grefrath is speaking about. Mr. Hoffmann concurred that it is a separate item. He agrees with Councilmember Grefrath that it is the contractor's responsibility.

Roll Call: Councilmember Arroyo – Recuse Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes
 Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller – Yes
 Vacant Council President Waneck – Yes

15. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Council President Waneck Second: Councilmember Miller
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