

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
DECEMBER 16, 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
Councilmember Owens - Present
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
Fire & Ambulance
Health & Recreation
Public Properties

3. Resolution #14 - 294: Executive Closed Session

Motion to adopt Resolution #14-294: Councilmember Miller Second: Councilmember Arroyo

Roll Call: Councilmember Arroyo – Yes Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes
 Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller – Yes
 Councilmember Owens- - Yes 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 8:11 pm

5. Roll Call II:

Mayor Birkner – Present / Councilmember Arroyo – Present / Councilmember Bicocchi – Present /
Councilmember Grefrath – Present / Councilmember Miller – Present / Councilmember Owens -
Present / Council President Waneck – Present / Borough Administrator Hoffmann – Present /
Borough Attorney Huntington – Present / Borough Engineer Senkevich – 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: September 30, 2015

Motion to Adopt: Councilmember Grefrath Second: Council President Waneck

Councilmember Miller asked that page 3 be corrected. It should read "52 programs", not "rats."

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

Approval of Minutes: October 14, 2014

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

8. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor's Report

Mayor Birkner wished everyone a Happy Hannukah and invited all faiths to the Menorah lighting at 4 pm on Sunday.

1) PSEG Update

Mayor Birkner said there is a moratorium on PSEG work from December 21st to January 2nd on residential streets as suggested by the Council, but PSEG has requested to continue. Their concern is they would have to remobilize and move on to another community during those 2 weeks. Westwood would end up at the end of the list, resulting in 250 or so homes with services delayed. Mayor Birkner thinks it may be in best interest of the Borough to continue and explained why. After discussion the consensus was to allow the work to continue in the area of Berkeley School, with the caveat of no metal plates.

2) Board of Education Update

Mayor Birkner reviewed the topics for the next meeting with the Board of Education representatives, which will occur on January 27th at 4 pm. School safety policies, reintroducing a Dare-type program, and the Stigma-Free Zone initiative will be discussed.

Mayor Birkner congratulated the High School football team for their second consecutive State Championship.

Mayor Birkner thanked everyone involved in the Home for the Holidays parade, which was a huge success despite the rain.

Mayor Birkner noted that this is Council President Waneck's final meeting. He thanked her for her nine years of service, stating that the Borough is a better place because of her service. It has been his privilege to work with her and he wished her nothing but the best.

Mayor Birkner wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy and healthy New Year.

B) Engineer's Report

1) Biweekly Report

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

2) Drainage Issue at Mill and 8th

Mayor Birkner asked Dr. Boswell to look into a drainage issue at the corner of Mill and Eight Streets that causes flooding in a resident's back yard.

Dr. Boswell thanked Council President Waneck for her service and noted that he enjoyed working with her.

C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects:

a) Time Capsule

The time capsule will be buried on December 21st at 3:00 pm.

b) Bogerts Pond Bridge

Councilmember Grefrath reviewed the estimate to replace the light fixtures on the Bogerts Pond bridge. The consensus was to authorize it at the Sine Die meeting.

c) Environmental Committee Update

Councilmember Grefrath reported that the Environmental Committee would like to do more with green initiatives, which they will discuss in January.

d) 2015 Budget

Councilmember Grefrath said the departmental budgets are due December 19th.

e) Bond Sale

Councilmember Grefrath explained that the purpose of the note sale on December 17 is to replenish cash in the capital fund. There is a general obligation bond pending for early 2015, which will be discussed in the budget process.

Councilmember Grefrath echoed the Mayor's sentiments regarding Council President Waneck. He said the residents don't yet know how much they will miss her.

2) Fire and Ambulance:

a) E16 Update

Councilmember Miller advised that the CFO is comparing the numbers for a bond versus a lease, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

b) Fire Department Update

Councilmember Miller observed that Santa has been coming to Westwood on a fire engine for 50 years, which underscores the Fire Department's great service and commitment to the community.

Councilmember Miller lauded Council President Waneck and said she has left footprints during her tenure.

3) Health and Recreation:

a) Recreation Fees

Councilmember Owens reported that the recreation fees will be increased next year.

4) Land Use:

Councilmember Bicocchi said it was his honor to join the Fire Department for the Santa runs. It

was wonderful to see delight on the faces of children and adults. He also learned about the skill necessary to run apparatus, which requires coordination, hustle and dedication.

a) Land Use Update

Councilmember Bicocchi reported that the Zoning Board is considering the appeal of the Med Express appeal. The Planning Board hasn't met.

b) Electrical Inspector

Councilmember Bicocchi advised that the Construction Department will be looking to hire an electrical inspector in 2015.

Councilmember Bicocchi echoed the sentiments regarding Council President Waneck.

5) Police and OEM:

a) Do Not Solicit Ordinance

Councilmember Arroyo advised that he will be discussing a 'do not solicit' list ordinance at the January work session.

Councilmember Arroyo said he considers Council President Waneck an honest broker on every issue. She has been a friend to every councilmember and the Mayor.

6) Public Properties:

Council President Waneck thanked everyone for their words. She said she never kept her opinions to herself, so all knew where she stood. She found her tenure as councilperson very rewarding, very mentally stimulating, very respectful. She noted that the Governing Body is respectful of each other, which helps the town overall. This is a town that is not talked about. Mayor Birkner said it is talked about for the right things. He reiterated the compliments about Council President Waneck.

D) Attorney's Report

Mr. Huntington reaffirmed the compliments regarding Council President Waneck.

E) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

1) Solid Waste Bid

Mr. Hoffmann recommended Waste Management as the lowest bidder for the solid waste bid.

2) Grant Update for Purchase of Flood-Prone Property

Mr. Hoffmann said the grant submitted to the County for the potential acquisition of 31 Nugent passed its initial review. Borough representatives will have to make a presentation in January.

Mr. Hoffmann wished everyone happy holidays. He wished much health and happiness to Council President Waneck.

9. 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.

Kevin Funabashi, 30 Westwood Avenue - lives across from the Grange restaurant and voiced concern with music being played outside of the establishment as late as 11:30 pm at varying volumes. Mayor Birkner will set up a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the matter. Mr. Funabashi discussed pedestrian safety and suggested improving the lighting at crosswalks. Mr. Funabashi noted that there is ponding at the driveway he uses. In closing, he said he appreciates all that the Council does.

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.

10. 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.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

- a) **Resolution #14 - 295: Bill List & Statement of Cash**
- b) **Resolution #14 - 296: Designating a Solid Waste Disposal Facility**
- c) **Resolution #14 - 297: Award of Bid for Solid Waste**
- d) **Resolution #14 - 298: Towing License 2015**
- e) **Resolution #14 - 299: Authorizing Conversion of Meters on Broadway to 2-Hour Parking**
- f) **Resolution #14 - 300: Extending HVAC Maintenance Contract**
- g) **Resolution #14 - 301: Authorize Release of Maintenance Bond - Greentree Developers aka Kesh Realty of Westwood, LLC**
- h) **Resolution #14 - 302: Approval of Lightbridge Academy Request to Consume Alcoholic Beverages on Public Property for a Christmas Party**
- i) **Resolution #14 - 303: Westwood Volunteer Fire Dept. Matters of Personnel**
- j) **Resolution #14 - 304: Appointment of Treasurer**
- k) **Resolution #14 - 305: Approval of Amusement Device Licenses - Westwood Cinemas Corp. d/b/a Pascack Theater**

Motion to adopt resolutions #14-295 through #14-305: Councilmember Grefrath

Second: Councilmember Arroyo

Roll Call: Councilmember Arroyo – Yes Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes

Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller – Yes

Councilmember Owens – Yes Council President Waneck – Yes

11. 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 9:07 pm.

Attest:

(signed) Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk