

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
MARCH 17, 2015 AGENDA
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 Miller – Present
Councilmember Grefrath – Present
Councilmember Bicocchi - Present
Council President Arroyo – Present
Borough Attorney Huntington – Present
Interim Administrator/Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

Committee Assignments:

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

3. Resolution #15 - 65: Executive Closed Session

Motion to adopt Resolution #15-65: Councilmember Miller Second: Councilmember Bicocchi
Roll Call: Councilmember Owens - Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes
Councilmember Miller – Yes Councilmember Grefrath - Yes
Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes Council President Arroyo – Yes

4. Reopen the Meeting:

Motion to reopen the meeting: Councilmember Miller Second: Councilmember Bicocchi
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 Owens – Present / Councilmember Montana – Present /
Councilmember Miller – Present / Councilmember Grefrath – Present / Councilmember Bicocchi -
Present / Council President Arroyo – Present / Borough Attorney Huntington – Present / Borough
Engineer Boswell – Present / Interim Administrator/Borough Clerk Hughes - Present

6. Flag Salute

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

7. Resolution #15 - 66: Westwood Volunteer Fire Dept - Matters of Personnel

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

8. Eagle Scout Presentation - Rich Maul

Eagle Scout candidate Rich Maul presented his project to create an accessible walkway between the

memorials at Veterans Park. The project will include landscaping. Councilmember Grefrath first advised that the Borough Planner has helped Mr. Maul choose the plants for the landscaping, and then asked if funding from the shade tree account could be used for the purchase. Mr. Huntington said yes. Mr. Maul has spoken to the Veterans groups, and will be speaking with the DPW Superintendent to enlist his aid. The consensus was to endorse and support this project.

9. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor's Report

1) Traffic Alert Due to Fire

Mayor Birkner advised that due to a transformer fire across the street on Fourth Avenue, three poles will need to be replaced, Fourth Avenue between Washington and Park will be closed at least overnight. The Borough Hall parking lot can be accessed from Park and Nicholas Avenues.

2) PSEG Energy Strong Update

Mayor Birkner reviewed the upcoming schedule for the Energy Strong installations. Work will be suspended after March 31 for the Easter holiday.

3) Hospital Sustainability Initiatives

Mayor Birkner met with the Pascack Valley Hospital sustainability coordinator regarding sustainability cooperative programs. Suggestions included a local farmers market and various public education forums. Mayor Birkner told them he would put them in touch with the Environmental Committee.

4) Stigma Free Training

Mayor Birkner announced that the Stigma Free initiative will hold a free mental health first aid certification course at the Park Ridge Community Center on March 30-31 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

5) MEL Training

Mayor Birkner distributed the MEL insurance training schedule, and advised that courses can be taken in person or online.

Mayor Birkner wished everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day.

B) Engineer's Report

1) Biweekly Report

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

C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects:

a) Environmental Committee Update

Councilmember Grefrath reported that the Environmental Committee updated the Community Garden guidelines to specify all plots must be cleaned out by November 1st; reviewed a green purchasing policy; and discussed the feasibility of such projects as a farmers market, rain garden and residential composting bins.

b) Finance Update

Councilmember Grefrath said the budget is still under revision and will now be introduced on April 7th. A budget meeting will be held on March 24th. The CFO met with Department Heads to review the Borough's financial position and ask them to review and streamline their department processes, and identify cost savings and revenue gathering options.

c) Bylaws Review

Councilmember Grefrath has distributed the latest bylaws adjustments. The bylaws will be reviewed at work sessions until all changes are finalized.

2) Fire and Ambulance:

a) Internal Equity

Councilmember Miller reported that training has been conducted for the internal equity evaluation committee. The first round of evaluations will be held tomorrow. He reiterated that the internal equity study does not deal with volume or quality of work, just decisions and responsibilities of the job.

b) Emergency Responders

Councilmember Miller thanked the Borough's volunteers for their time and commitment. The Ambulance Corps and Fire Department directly impact lives, responding to emergencies even when it's not convenient. The return on investment for the Borough is enormous. He also noted that the families deserve recognition and thanks for their sacrifices. He asked residents to think about serving, since it is an opportunity to make a powerful difference.

3) Health and Recreation:

a) Shade Tree Update

Councilmember Montana reported that the 2014 Annual Accomplishment Report was submitted to the Community Forestry Program last week.

b) Health Department Update

Councilmember Montana said the Health Department has been moving forward on the File of Life program, which is documentation to aid first responders with health concerns of a victim.

c) Recreation Update

Councilmember Montana noted that the winter recreation program wraps up this weekend. The 8th grade boys basketball travel team won their championship. Spring program registration has started. The annual Egg Hunt is April 4th.

4) Land Use:

a) Land Use Update

Councilmember Bicocchi said the Zoning Board is holding special meetings regarding Med Express. The Planning Board did not meet due to lack of agenda.

Councilmember Bicocchi announced that resident Connor Mathis placed second in the national track and field competition for shot put.

5) Police and OEM:

a) Police Update

Council President Arroyo read a letter from a resident complimenting the courtesy and helpfulness of the Westwood Police Department when responding to help her and her family.

6) Public Properties:

a) Bandstand Roof

Councilmember Owens reported that the Bandstand roof is undergoing repairs, which should be completed in 7 to 10 days.

D) Attorney's Report

No report.

E) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

No report.

10. Agenda/Public Forum:

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

No one wished to be heard.

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

11. Ordinances of First & Final Reading:

Ordinances for Adoption

15-4 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 249 Peddling And Soliciting To Include Roadway Charitable Solicitation

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #15-4 entitled "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 249 Peddling And Soliciting To Include Roadway Charitable Solicitation" having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Miller 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 Miller 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 #15-4 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 Montana Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Owens - Yes Councilmember Montana - Yes

Councilmember Miller – Yes Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes Council President Arroyo – Yes

12. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:

Council President Arroyo 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 #15 - 67: Bill List & Statement of Cash**
- b) Resolution #15 - 68: Resolution Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #12-00006**
- c) Resolution #15 - 69: Resolution Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #13-00001**
- d) Resolution #15 - 70: Abatement of Taxes**
- e) Resolution #15 - 71: Temporary Budget Amendment #1**
- f) Resolution #15 - 72: Authorization to Prepare Plans and Specifications and Bid the 2014 Road Resurfacing Project on Elm Street and Second Avenue**
- g) Resolution #15 - 73: Authorizing Shared Service/Interlocal Agreement for Fuel**

Motion to adopt resolutions #15-67 through #15-73: Council President Arroyo

Second: Councilmember Miller

Roll Call: Councilmember Owens - Yes

Councilmember Montana - Yes

Councilmember Miller – Yes

Councilmember Grefrath - Yes

Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes

Council President Arroyo – Yes

13. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilmember Miller Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

The time was 9:13 pm.

Attest:

(signed) Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk