

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
JANUARY 18, 2022 AGENDA
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
101 Washington Avenue
8:00 pm Public Session**

1. Opening of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Arroyo at 8:00 pm. Mayor Arroyo 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 Arroyo – Present
Councilmember Bicocchi – Present
Councilmember Collins – Present
Councilmember– Greco - Present
Councilmember Hodges – Present
Councilmember Montana – Present
Council President Dell - Present
Borough Attorney Huntington – Present
Borough Attorney Kool - Present
Borough Administrator Ayer – Present
Borough Engineer Boswell - Present
Borough Engineer Senkevich - Present
Deputy Borough Clerk Vadovic – Present

Committee Assignments:

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

3. Flag Salute

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

4. Approval of Minutes: October 26, 2021 Public Meeting; November 1, 2021 Special Meeting; November 9, 2021 Work Meeting

Motion to Approve Minutes: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Collins

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes
 Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Montana – Yes
 Councilmember Greco – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

5. Oath of Office for Police Officers

Mayor Arroyo formally swore in two new Westwood Police Department Police Officers, Officer Jose Nieves and Officer Scott Standish. Both Officers were sworn in surrounded by their family. After swearing in Chief Pontillo thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of the department, and the new Officers. Mayor Arroyo gave a speech welcoming the new Officers to the Westwood community and wished them well.

6. Certificate of Appreciation for Retiring Police Officer

Mayor Arroyo asked Councilmember Collins to read the Certificate as Sgt. McNiff was not present in the audience.

7. Engineer's Report

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

8. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor's Report

Mayor Arroyo recapped his sentiments from the Reorganization Meeting. The Mayor praised each Councilmember individually on their successes and efforts to make Westwood the great place that it is today. He wished success to Councilmember Greco as the newest member to Council.

B) Council President's Report

Council President Beth Dell spoke about the ribbon cutting at Bourbon Street Beignet in Westwood and how the owners were very impressed with how pleasant it has been to work with Westwood and expressed his pleasure with the support of the Westwood Community and Council members.

C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects: BD

Council President Dell reports that Westwood is very fortunate to have a CFO, Deputy CFO and a plan for the upcoming year. She also welcomed Councilmember Collins to the committee.

Council President Dell also stated that the Borough is currently looking for a new Payroll Clerk.

Council President Dell reported on her meeting in Emerson last week with the Emerson Senior Club, which are eager to welcome Westwood Seniors to their programs. Council President Dell did stress that the Emerson Senior Club is not a Borough entity, but run as a separate group.

2) Fire and Ambulance: AG

Councilman Greco reports that at the fire department monthly meeting they went over needs and wants for the new year. He also reported that the fire department heads and himself are working with the Borough Administrator and Borough Clerk to head into the right direction for 2022. He also reported that they are working on their by-laws with the help of Borough Attorney Kool. Councilman Greco also reports that he has been added to the fire department paging system so he is aware of what is going on and gets awoken at all hours of the night.

Councilman Greco stated that he received a tour of the ambulance building from Janet Dunn, but unfortunately the Mayor and Council Meetings coincide with the ambulance corps meetings, but they will connect the day after to discuss both meetings. Councilmember Greco stated that the ambulance corps would like funding from the Borough because of their lack of abilities to fundraise. He also asked the Mayor to advocate for them on the New Jersey State Bill as Essential Services. Councilmember Greco stated that there were 40 members on the ambulance corps but only 15-20 were active. The ambulance corps has started an initiative at the high school level to get more people to join. There are also talks about making an agreement with other towns to make a cooperative within the next 3-5 years as they cannot get volunteers. Councilmember Greco said a new ambulance will be here at the end of 2022 for the department.

The Heritage Society has an Open House once a month which Councilmember Greco said was "amazing," and even brought his children to enjoy the event and see the bomb shelter in the basement.

Councilmember Greco stated that the heritage Society is funded on donations from local residents and that they are currently looking for a bigger place to have their meetings with parking.

3) Health and Hospital: CH

Councilmember Hodges reports that new members were sworn in at last weeks Reorganization Meeting and that there may be a candidate for the last alternate position on the Board of Health. The rabies clinic has been cancelled due to the uptick of COVID but will be rescheduled at a later date possibly with the expiration of the vaccine in October or November. Councilmember Hodges reports

that HUMC in Westwood is scheduling EMS and Fire Department members with rapid tests once they have been exposed so that they may get results quickly and continue to volunteer.

Seniors are reaching out to the Senior Coordinator in regards to receiving vaccinations including boosters. They are currently working with two vendors for a vaccination clinic for any residents that may need them.

The Parking Authority will have their Reorganization Meeting next week and Borough Administrator Ayer will be attending with Councilmember Hodges.

In regards to the electric car chargers Councilmember Hodges reports that she is waiting for the analysis on the avenue and will get back to the Council.

4) Land Use: CM

Councilmember Montana stated that both the Zoning and Planning Boards met last week for their Reorganization meetings and all roles within the Boards will remain the same. He stated that exciting things are coming and the boards are looking at how Westwood will look tomorrow and 5, 10, or 20 years from now.

The Environmental Advisory Committee did not meet because of the holiday but next meeting is scheduled the same night as the Library Board so he is trying to change the dates so they are both not on the same night.

Councilmember Montana stated he met with Martha Urbiel in regards to the Library Board to hear her vision for 2022 and what she would like to see over the next couple of years such as infrastructure projects and how the library interacts with people and groups inside and outside of the Borough. Councilmember Montana thanked Councilmember Bicocchi for a fantastic job with the Board and leaving them with visions that they would like to see completed.

5) Police and OEM: EC

Councilmember Collins congratulated the two new Westwood Police Officers, Officer Nieves and Officer Standish to the Borough and wished them well with their new positions. She also thanked Sgt. McNiff on his service to the Westwood Community and wished him well with his retirement.

Councilmember Collins reports that the Borough funds that were used during Hurricane Ida will be replenished soon.

Councilmember Collins thanked Kathie Elgert and the Westwood Cares as they helped over 80 families during this past Holiday Season. The Local Assistance Board remained the same and their next meeting is in February.

Shade Tree is a lively group and Councilmember Collins looks forward to working with them this year.

6) Public Works and Recreation: RB

Recreation Committee had their Reorganization meeting last week and Councilmember Bicocchi reported happily that the kitchen permits are in hand for the Community Center.

The Department of Public Works were out salting and plowing from 10pm-4am with the last snow storm and they did a good job. Councilmember Bicocchi reported that as with any storm there will be issues that pop up but we will be ready for any upcoming storms. Councilmember Bicocchi also stated that with this last storm there seemed to be an overnight parking issue where cars were left out on the street making it difficult to plow around them and clean streets entirely.

Councilmember Bicocchi will be looking at all of the energy bills of the Borough to see if there is a more economical way to receive energy.

D) Attorney's Report

No report.

E) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

Borough Administrator Ayer reports that the draft of budget will hopefully be out by next week and then we can close out 2021.

Deputy Borough Clerk Vadovic has no report for the Clerk's office.

9. Agenda/Public Forum:

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

Raymond Lazzaro, 48 Bryant Place – complained about the diesel smoke from the portable light towers at Berkeley Field. He stated that the town should get permanent lights without generators because the diesel fumes are killing the children that are breathing it in.

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

10. Ordinances for Introduction/Adoption

No Ordinance for Introduction or Adoption.

11. Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

Council President Dell asked if there were any resolutions to add to the Consent Agenda. Resolutions "q" and "r" were added to the Consent Agenda with the consent of the whole Council. Council President Dell 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.

- a) Resolution #22 - 36: Authorizing the Issuance of Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate #21-00002, Block 1008 Lot 15
- b) Resolution #22 - 37: Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #21-00003
- c) Resolution #22 - 38: Authorizing Refund of Overpayment for Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #21-00003
- d) Resolution #22 - 39: Westwood Volunteer Fire Dept. Matters of Personnel – Casey M. Stewart
- e) Resolution #22 - 40: Authorizing Agreement with Bergen County for Animal Control Services
- f) Resolution #22 - 41: Appointment of Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officer
- g) Resolution #22 - 42: Authorizing Re-bid Process for Yard Waste
- h) Resolution #22 - 43: Authorizing Online Auction
- i) Resolution #22 - 44: Hire of Full Time Dispatcher
- j) Resolution #22 - 45: Reappointment of Special Law Enforcement Officer's Class II – Beskaly and Snyder
- k) Resolution #22 - 46: Appointment to Environmental Committee
- l) Resolution #22 - 47: Governing Body's Emergency Declaration to Extend Waiver
- ~~m) Resolution #22 - 48: Appointment of Alternate Prosecutor~~
- n) Resolution #22 - 48: 2021 Budget Transfers
- o) Resolution #22 - 49: Temporary Capital Budget Amendment
- p) Resolution #22 - 50: Appointment to Safety Committee – Ed Casey

- q) Resolution #22 - 51: Approval of 27 Ash Street Encroachment
- r) Resolution #22 - 52: Resolution Authorizing Settlement of the 2021 Table of Equalized Valuation Challenge

Motion to Approve Resolutions #22-36 through #22-52: Council President Dell **Second:** Councilmember Collins

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes
 Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Montana – Yes
 Councilmember Greco – Yes Council President Dell – Yes

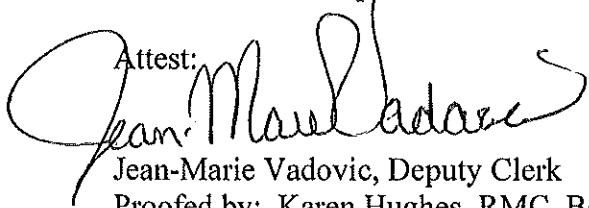
12. Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn: Councilmember Greco **Second:** Councilmember Bicocchi

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

The time was 9:07 pm.

Attest:



Jean-Marie Vadovic, Deputy Clerk

Proofed by: Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk