

128th
**REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY
WESTWOOD BOROUGH HALL
101 WASHINGTON AVENUE WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07675
JANUARY 4th, 2022 MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Arroyo at 7:00 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. FLAG SALUTE AND INVOCATION:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Ray Arroyo. The Invocation was delivered by Pastor Thomas Pranschke.

3. COUNCILMEMBERS - ELECT:

Councilmember Cheryl Hodges was sworn in by Mayor Arroyo with her grandchildren and husband all present beside her. After Councilmember Hodges was sworn in she thanked the residents of Westwood for re-electing her and hopes to keep working towards making Westwood a better place for all. Councilmember Anthony Greco was then sworn in by Mayor Ray Arroyo. After being sworn in Councilmember Greco vowed to continue the good efforts of the Mayor and Council for Westwood to prosper. He was sworn in with his wife, children and his mother by his side.

Mayor Arroyo asked the audience if anyone would like to speak at this time in regards to the candidates that were elected. Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi gave her congratulations to Councilmember Hodges and Councilmember Greco. The Assemblywoman also stated how thankful she is to all first responders and volunteers of the Borough of Westwood for all they have done during the past two years of the pandemic and wishes 2022 is a far better year for all.

4. ROLL CALL

Deputy Borough Clerk Vadovic calls the Roll:

Mayor Arroyo

Councilmember Bicocchi

Councilmember Collins

Councilmember Dell

Councilmember Greco

Councilmember Hodges

Councilmember Montana

Borough Administrator Ayer

Borough Clerk Hughes
Deputy Borough Clerk Vadovic

5. APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH PROFESSIONALS

Councilmember Montana made a motion to appoint Russell Huntington as Borough Attorney. Seconded by Councilmember Hodges and passed with all in favor as Resolution #22-1.

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

Councilmember Bicocchi made a motion to appoint Stephen Boswell as Borough Engineer for the year 2022. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Dell and all voted in favor as Resolution #22-2.

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

Resolution #22-3 Appointments of Various Borough Professionals was brought up by Councilmember Collins and Seconded by Councilmember Greco. All were in favor of passing.

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

Position	Firm	Designee
Borough Auditor	Lerch, Vinci & Higgins	Gary Vinci, RMA
Risk Manager	Burton Agency	Debra Ginetto
Public Defender		Charles Rabolli, Esq.
Prosecutor		Edward G. Johnson, Esq.
Commercial Appraiser	McNerney & Associates	Robert McNerney
Residential Appraiser	Associated Appraisal Group	Rick DelGuercio
In-Rem Attorney	Pellegrino & Feldstein	Mike Pellegrino, Esq.
Labor Attorney	Wiss & Bouregy, PC	Raymond Wiss, Esq.
Borough Planner	Burgis Associates	Ed Sneickus, PP
Historic Consultant	T. Adriance Hist. Restoration	Tim Adriance
Bond Counsel	Rogut McCarthy, LLC	Steven Rogut, Esq
Municipal Administrative Agent		Steven J. Weinberg
Financial Advisor	Phoenix Advisors, LLC	David Thompson, CEO

7. DESIGNATION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2022

Mayor Arroyo designated the below Council Committee Appointments for the 2022 year:

COMMITTEE	LIAISON	DEPUTY LIAISON
Finance, Admin. & Cap. Projects	Beth Dell	Erin Collins

Fire & Ambulance	Anthony Greco	Christopher Montana
Police & Emergency Mgt.	Erin Collins	Robert Bicocchi
Land Use	Christopher Montana	Anthony Greco
Public Properties & Recreation	Robert Bicocchi	Cheryl Hodges
Health & Hospital	Cheryl Hodges	Beth Dell

8. SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2022

Councilmember Collins made a motion to nominate Councilmember Beth Dell as President of the Borough Council for the year 2022 under Resolution #22-4. Councilmember Greco seconded the motion.

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

9. PUBLIC FORUM:

Mayor Arroyo asked for a motion to open the floor to the public, Councilmember Hodges made the motion and Councilmember Bicocchi seconded the motion.

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

10. BUDGET MEETINGS:

Mayor Arroyo announces that a schedule of Budget Meetings will soon be posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and Borough website.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Dell announces that the Resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda will be enacted with one motion. Copies of all Resolutions are available to any person upon request.

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

Resolution Titles

- 22-5 OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC MEDIA
- 22-6 DEPOSITORIES OF FUNDS
- 22-7 AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT SIGNATORIES FOR 2022
- 22-8 FACSIMILE SIGNATURES ON CHECKS
- 22-9 ESTABLISHMENT OF INT. RATES ON DELINQUENT TAXES & ASSESS.
- 22-10 ADOPTION OF PETTY CASH & CREDIT CARD POLICIES
- 22-11 ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND
- 22-12 ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND FOR RECREATION
- 22-13 ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

- 22-14 DEPOSITORY OF ATTENDANCE RECORDS
- 22-15 APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER
- 22-16 APPOINTMENT OF TAX SEARCH OFFICER
- 22-17 MAGISTRATE'S ORDER DESIGNATING VIOLATIONS CLERK
- 22-18 APPOINTMENT TAX ASSESSOR / ATTORNEY – TAX APPEALS
- 22-19 2022 MUNICIPAL HOLIDAYS
- 22-20 OFFICIAL BOROUGH NEWSPAPERS
- 22-21 \$25.00 CHARGE FOR PAYMENTS MADE WITH INSUFFICIENT FUNDS
- 22-22 \$5.00 CHARGE FOR TAX ACCOUNT REPORTS TO SEARCH COMPANIES
- 22-23 TAX SALE COSTS
- 22-24 CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022
- 22-25 MUTUAL AID – PASCACK VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENTS
- 22-26 AUTHORIZATION OF A FEE FOR ISSUANCE OF DUPLICATE TAX SALE CERTIFICATES
- 22-27 BERGEN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID
- 22-28 MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022
- 22-29 TEMPORARY BUDGET
- 22-30 AUTHORIZING DIRECT WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM
- 22-31 AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF MONEYS WITHOUT REQUIRING VENDOR CERTIFICATION
- 22-32 AUTHORIZING ELECTRONIC TAX SALE
- 22-33 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD THROUGH THE WESTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE, 1033 PROGRAM TO ENABLE THE WESTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST AND ACQUIRE EXCESS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT
- 22-34 APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS

12. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS AND DESIGNATIONS TO VARIOUS MUNICIPAL OFFICES:

Mayor Arroyo announced the following appointments to the various municipal offices:

Administrator Durene Ayer – Affirmative Action Compliance Official, Fund

Commissioner B-MED, B-MEL & JIF

Councilmember Erin Collins – Alternate Fund Commissioner B-MED, B-MEL & JIF

Karen Hughes – Assessment Search Officer, Local Ethics Official, Municipal Housing

Liaison

Jean-Marie Vadovic – Deputy Borough Clerk

Letitia Candeloro – Court Administrator

Elizabeth Kraus – Deputy Court Administrator

Rick Woods – Recycling Coordinator, Clean Community Coordinator

Mary-Beth Netzer – Right-To-Know Coordinator, Bloodborne Pathogens Coordinator

Stefanie Stokes – Tax Search Officer

Robert Hibler – Borough Historian
Cathy Harrington – Master Gardener

13. APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS

Mayor Arroyo asks the Liaisons to announce the following appointments.

Council President Dell read the Historic Preservation Commission and the Safety Committee.

Historic Preservation Commission

Cindy Affinito, Class C, Term Expires 12/31/25
Alena Bohacova, Class C, Term Expires 12/31/25
Noeline Grefrath, Alt. #1, (unexp. Johnston) Term Expires 12/31/22
Councilmember Beth Dell (Council Liaison)

Safety Committee – (Annual Appointments)

Darren Blankenbush, Safety Delegate
Gary Buchheister, Member
Chris Compesi, Member
Denise Burns, Ambul. Member
Ryan Weaver, Member
Linda Aiello, Member
Richard Antonacci, PD Member
Martha Urbiel, Member
Jean-Marie Vadovic, Member
Richard Woods, Alternate Safety Delegate
Durene Ayer, Borough Administrator

Councilmember Greco read the Heritage Society and the Senior Advisory Committee.

Heritage Society

Councilmember Anthony Greco (Council Liaison)

Senior Advisory Committee

Judith Mirabel, Resident Member, Term Expires 12/31/24
Marie Kaplow, Alt. #1 Resident, Term Expires 12/31/24
Councilmember Anthony Greco (Council Liaison)

Councilmember Collins read the Shade Tree Committee, and the Local Assistance Board.

Shade Tree Committee

Councilmember Erin Collins (Council Liaison)

Local Assistance Board

Councilmember Erin Collins (Council Liaison)

Councilmember Montana read the Library Board of Trustees, the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Library Board of Trustees

Frank Zimmerman, Term Expires 12/31/26
Nickeisha Williams, Term Expires 12/31/26
Linda Phayre, Mayor's Alternate, Term Expires 12/31/22
Claudia Gonzales-Doell, Supt. Alternate, Term Expires 12/31/22
Councilmember Christopher Montana (Council Liaison)

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Alyssa Dawson, Term Expires 12/31/25
Gary Conkling, Term Expires 12/31/25
Michael O'Rourke, Term Expires 12/31/25
Tom Smith, Alternate #1, Term Expires 12/31/23
Councilmember Christopher Montana (Council Liaison)

Environmental Advisory Committee

David Brizzolara, Term Expires 12/31/24
Boniface Kiamue, Term Expires 12/31/24
Jodi Murphy (unexp. Guiderian) Term Expires 12/31/22
Morgan Fedorchak, Student Member, Term Expires 12/31/22
Councilmember Christopher Montana (Council Liaison)

Councilmember Bicocchi read the Technology Committee and the Westwood Municipal Alliance.

Technology Committee & Website Committee

Councilmember Rob Bicocchi (Council Liaison)

Westwood Municipal Alliance (Annual Terms Expiring 12/31/22)

Gary Buchheister, Recreation Dept. Representative
Margaret Montenare, School Representative
Officer Tristan Gantner, Police Representative
MaryBeth Netzer, Health Dept. Representative
Councilmember Bicocchi (Council Liaison)

Councilmember Hodges read the Board of Health and the Westwood Parking Authority.

Board of Health

Maria Costello, Term Expires 12/31/24
Susan Blake, Term Expires 12/31/24
Nataly Hook, Alt. #1, Term Expires 12/31/23
Councilmember Cheryl Hodges (Council Liaison)

Westwood Parking Authority

Tim Hampton, Term Expires 12/31/26
Councilmember Cheryl Hodges (Council Liaison)

Councilmember Hodges tenders the motion to accept all appointees noted above.
Councilmember Collins seconds the motion.

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

b) Mayor’s Appointments, not subject to Council approval:

Mayor Arroyo makes the below Appointments that were not subject to Council approval:

Recreation Advisory Board

Jennifer Scardino, Term Expires 12/31/24
Eric Dougherty, Term Expires 12/31/24
Councilmember Rob Biccocchi (Council Liaison)

Planning Board

William Martin, Class II, Term Expires 12/31/22
Councilmember Christopher Montana, Class III, Term Exp. 12/31/22
Keith Doell, Class IV, Term Expires 12/31/25
Jaymee Hodges, Class IV, Term Expires 12/31/25
Lauren Letizia, Alternate #1, Term Expires 12/31/23

14. OATHS OF OFFICE, AMBULANCE CORPS OFFICIALS

Councilmember Greco read the names of the Ambulance Corps Officials for 2022.

Captain Matt Foley	Secretary Kali Spoelstra
1 st Lt. Nicole De Joie	Treasurer Denise Burns
2 nd Lt. Nolan Foley	Trustee Jeri Bowman
President Janet Dunn	Trustee Bonnie Costello
Vice President Rush Sherman	Trustee Kris Rasmussen
	Trustee Dan Olivier

15. OATHS OF OFFICE, FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

Councilmember Greco read the names of the Fire Department Officers for 2022.

Deputy Chief Brian Kronewitter	2 nd Lieutenant Ryan Weaver
Senior Captain Brian Wiczenski	3 rd Lieutenant Matt Voorhis
Captain Scott Stewart	4 th Lieutenant Justin Mason
1 st Lieutenant Michael Griffin	

16. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

a) Volunteer Emergency Services Hall of Fame:

Mayor Arroyo states “Each year the Westwood Volunteer Fire Department and Westwood Volunteer Ambulance Corps select a Volunteer of the Year that are picked

by their peers for outstanding service to their department and community. This year the Volunteer of the Year for the Westwood Fire Department is Ex-Chief Mark Fedorchak for his dedicated service. Due to the pandemic, the Westwood Volunteer Ambulance Corps has been extremely busy answering emergency calls, that they all deserve the Volunteer of the Year Award. Congratulations to these committed members of our community.”

b) Volunteer of the Year

Councilmember Hodges read a Proclamation naming Lisa McKoy and Dee Kalman for going above and beyond to help the community of Westwood register and receive vaccines during the middle of the COVID 19 pandemic.

17. MAYOR’S REMARKS

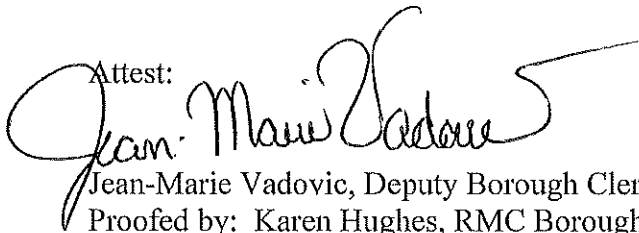
18. BENEDICTION

The Benediction was given by Mayor Arroyo.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion for adjournment made by Councilmember Biccocchi and seconded by Councilmember Collins, all Councilmembers were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Marie Vadovic". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title of the signatory.

Jean-Marie Vadovic, Deputy Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Karen Hughes, RMC Borough Clerk