

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
JANUARY 15, 2019 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 Collins – Present
Council President Montana – Present
Councilmember Bicocchi – Present
Councilmember Dell – Present
Councilmember Murphy – Present
*
Borough Attorney Huntington – Present
Borough Administrator Kezmarsky - Present
Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

Committee Assignments:

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

** Seat remains empty pursuant to court order staying the Oath of Office of Councilmember-Elect James Whelan pending an election challenge hearing on January 28, 2019. A copy of the order is attached hereto and made a part hereof.*

3. Resolution #19 - 26: Executive Closed Session

Motion to Approve Resolution #19-26: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Dell

Roll Call: Councilmember Collins - Yes Council President Montana – Yes

Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes Councilmember Dell - Yes

Councilmember Murphy – Yes

4. Reopen the Meeting:

Motion to reopen the meeting: Council President Montana Second: Councilmember Dell

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 8:01 pm.

5. Roll Call II:

Mayor Birkner – Present / Councilmember Collins – Present / Council President Montana – Present / Councilmember Bicocchi - Present / Councilmember Dell – Present / Councilmember Murphy - Present / * / Borough Administrator Kezmarsky - Present / Borough Attorney Huntington – Present / Borough Engineer Boswell – Present / Borough Clerk Hughes - Present

6. Flag Salute

Mayor Birkner led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

7. Approval of Minutes: December 4 and 18, 2018

Motion to Approve Minutes: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Collins - Yes Council President Montana – Yes

Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes Councilmember Dell - Yes

Councilmember Murphy – Abstain

8. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor's Report

Mayor Birkner welcomed Councilmember Murphy to her first meeting at the dais. He is looking forward to her great contributions.

1) Flooding Update

Mayor Birkner gave the reservoir and stream level report. Water levels are slightly above normal.

2) Westwood Cemetery Pond

Mayor Birkner discussed the collapse of an old 30 inch BCUA sewer main on the Westwood Cemetery property that caused the pond to drain into the line. He asked Dr. Boswell to meet with the BCUA engineers who are shoring up the land to protect against further collapse. Councilmember Dell asked if it was related to the pond filling with sediment. Mayor Birkner said no, the fill was an issue from Crest Street. Council President Montana asked about contamination. Mayor Birkner said no grave plots were affected or jeopardized.

3) Mental Health Awareness Symposium

Mayor Birkner announced there will be a Mental Health Awareness Symposium sponsored by the Mayors Wellness Campaign and Stigma Free Committee on May 19th from 2-4 pm at the Community Center. The program will address such topics as self care, coping, stress management, seeking and finding professional help, and insurance. He said such programs strengthen the social infrastructure.

B) Council President's Report

1) HART

Council President Montana reported on a meeting with Chief Pontillo and Elaine Hernandez of Family Services to review proposals for the HART program. There will be a presentation at the February 5th meeting regarding HART that the Chief will be attending. Council President Montana said he would get Councilmember Murphy a copy of the HART information, and he welcomed her to the dais.

2) Walkable Westwood Speed Signs

Council President Montana advised that the Police Department has learned how to program the new electronic speed signs and obtain the data collected. They hope to deploy the signs the week of the 28th. The Police will be providing a deployment plan, since the signs will be rotated between locations.

C) Engineer's Report

1) Biweekly Report

Dr. Boswell congratulated and welcomed Councilmember Murphy. He reviewed the biweekly report, a copy of which is attached.

2) Mill Street Project

Mayor Birkner asked if there was any word on the Mill Street project. Mr. Senkevich said it was submitted to the DOT. He thinks the announcement is in February.

3) Westwood Avenue Sidewalk Project

Council President Montana asked whether the Borough has notified the County that an extension to the grant for the Westwood Avenue Sidewalk Project might be necessary. Mr. Kezmarsky said they are fully aware of the situation and all paperwork is completed. That said he is hoping for good weather to make the deadline.

D) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects: CM

a) Finance

Council President Montana said the Finance Committee met to review the 2019 preliminary budget, which is in very good shape. The Acting CFO will be making recommendations for capital projects. Council President Montana thanked Mr. Kezmarsky for all the work he's done as Acting CFO. He noted that there is a resolution on the Consent Agenda to make an offer to a CFO candidate. The Borough is also extending an offer to fill a Floater position.

b) Shade Tree Policy

Council President Montana asked to be sent any questions and concerns regarding the draft shade tree policy in advance of a discussion at the February 5th meeting.

2) Fire and Ambulance:

3) Health and Recreation: BD

a) Health Department

Councilmember Dell advised that the Board of Health has hired a part time temporary employee to cover an extended medical leave. She announced details of the annual anti-rabies clinic to be held on January 26th, and the babysitting class to be held on February 21st.

b) Library

Councilmember Dell reported that the Stigma Free committee is working with the Library on an event that will be announced soon. The Library Senior Birthday Party is on April 7th at 2 pm. There is a New Jersey Wine Tasting event on January 19th.

c) Recreation

Councilmember Dell said Recreation programs are going well. The big recreation initiative for 2019 will be to renovate the Brookside Park basketball courts, hopefully in time for the summer playground.

Councilmember Dell welcomed Councilmember Murphy.

4) Land Use: EC

a) Land Use Boards

Councilmember Collins reported that the Zoning Board had a light agenda at its January meeting and the Planning Board cancelled their meeting.

b) Historic Preservation Commission

Councilmember Collins said the Historic Preservation Commission will meet on Wednesday.

c) Celebrate Westwood

Councilmember Collins announced that the Celebrate Westwood website and Facebook page are up and running. She reviewed some of the plans for the June events. Councilmember Collins said the Police Chief may do a Reverse 911 to get the word out. Council President Montana pointed out that it can only be used for public safety, but the Senior Advisory Committee has an option that he will ask their Chair to send to her. Mayor Birkner suggested getting a banner.

5) Police and OEM; Shared Services: RB

Councilmember Bicocchi welcomed Councilmember Murphy.

a) Police Department

Councilmember Bicocchi reported on an incident at the Westwood Diner where Officers Dorfman and Laurent saved a life. The Police Department has obtained a Chevrolet Equinox through the 1033 program.

6) Public Properties: JM

Councilmember Murphy said she is looking forward to working with everyone.

a) DPW

Councilmember Murphy announced that the last day for Christmas tree pickup is January 27th. The DPW is prepping for the weekend's back-to-back storms. The Recycling schedule is at the printer and will be hand delivered.

b) Environmental Committee

Councilmember Murphy noted that the Environmental Committee will meet on January 28th. She announced that they have collected their first ton of plastic bags.

c) Sustainable Westwood

Councilmember Murphy advised that the Sustainable Westwood/Green Team has five new members, and all are happy to move forward as is rather than as a committee. They are eager to maintain the Bronze level in this recertification and look forward to moving towards Silver.

d) Senior Shuttle Bus

Councilmember Murphy attended a Together NJ Institute program on creating a shuttle bus program. Westwood For All Ages will be putting together a more comprehensive survey to reach homebound seniors.

e) Clergy Council

Councilmember Murphy attended the Clergy Council meeting. There is a Freedom Shabbat on Friday at 7:30, and the annual Martin Luther King remembrance is on January 20th at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Pastor Pranschke is seeking donations for a resident who is in dire need of housing.

f) Senior of the Month

Councilmember Murphy discussed the Senior of the Month program and said she has nomination forms available.

E) Attorney's Report

Mr. Huntington welcomed Councilmember Murphy.

F) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

Mr. Kezmarsky welcomed Councilmember Murphy.

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.

No one wished to be heard.

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

10. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:

Councilmember Dell asked if there were any resolutions to add to the Consent Agenda. She 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 r was removed as it had been voted on earlier. Resolutions i, j and k were added.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

- a) Resolution #19 - 27: Abatement of Taxes – 132 Center Ave
- b) Resolution #19 - 28: Authorizing Refund of Taxes Due To Court Judgment B2105 L5
- c) Resolution #19 - 29: Authorizing Issuance of Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate #449, B409 L11
- d) Resolution #19 - 30: Authorization For Community Development Grant Agreement For Senior Citizen Program 2018-2019
- e) Resolution #19 - 31: Certificate of Redemption – Tax Sale Certificate #1510
- f) Resolution #19 - 32: Authorizing Installation of Monitoring Well at DPW
- g) Resolution #19 - 33: Authorizing Hire of Part Time Temporary Employee
- h) Resolution #19 - 34: A Resolution Authorizing The Borough Of Westwood To Enter Into A Cooperative Pricing Agreement
- i) Resolution #19 - 35: Authorizing Offer of Employment for CFO
- j) Resolution #19 - 36: Authorizing Offer of Employment for Floater
- k) Resolution #19 - 37: Authorizing Police Hiring Process

Motion to adopt resolutions #19-27 through #19-37: Councilmember Dell

Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Collins - Yes Council President Montana – Yes

 Councilmember Bicocchi – Yes Councilmember Dell - Yes

 Councilmember Murphy – Yes

11. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilmember Murphy Second: Councilmember Dell

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

The time was 8:45 pm

Attest:

(signed) Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk