

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
WORK MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
MARCH 3, 2020 MINUTES
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
101 Washington Avenue
7:30 pm Closed Session/8:00 pm Public Session**

1. Opening of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Arroyo at 7:30 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 Dell – Present
Councilmember Hodges – Present
Councilmember Murphy – Present
Council President Montana - Present
Borough Attorney Huntington – Present
Borough Administrator Kezmarsky - Present
Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

Committee Assignments:

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

3. Resolution #20 - 66: Executive Closed Session

Motion to Approve Resolution #20-66: Councilmember Hodges Second: Councilmember Murphy

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Hodges – Yes

Councilmember Collins – Yes Councilmember Murphy - Yes

Councilmember Dell – Yes Council President Montana – Yes

4. Reopen the Meeting:

Motion to reopen the meeting: Councilmember Murphy Second: Councilmember Dell

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 8:00 pm.

5. Roll Call II:

Mayor Arroyo – Present / Councilmember Bicocchi – Present / Councilmember Collins – Present /
Councilmember Dell - Present / Councilmember Hodges – Present / Councilmember Murphy -
Present / Council President Montana - Present / Borough Administrator Kezmarsky - Present /
Borough Attorney Kool – Present / Borough Engineer Boswell – Present / Borough Clerk Hughes -
Present

6. Flag Salute

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

7. Reports by Borough Professionals:

A. Engineer's Report

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

1) Road Program

Mayor Arroyo asked if PSEG will honor the Borough's ordinance required curb-to-curb paving on road

openings. Dr. Boswell said so far they haven't been uncooperative.

2) ADA Ramps

Council President Montana asked if the flooding at the corner of Mill Street and Eighth are being addressed. Dr. Boswell said inlets are being installed to alleviate the flooding caused by the ADA ramps. He pointed out that this was the only location where ramps caused flooding in all his years in Westwood. He explained the process for placing ADA ramps.

B. Administrator's Report

1) Hegeman Park

Mr. Kezmarsky reviewed the upgrades performed so far at Hegeman Park. The remainder will be done when weather permits. Councilmember Dell asked about the junior basketball court redesign. Mr. Kezmarsky said they will only install a hoop on one side, akin to a half court.

2) Van Buren/Carver Dead End

Mr. Kezmarsky said PSEG has marked out gas line work on Van Buren and Carver. Once the work is done it needs 8 weeks to settle, so the dead end will be constructed in late spring or early summer. Plantings will be done in the fall.

3) Camera Installation

Mr. Kezmarsky advised that the camera system at the DPW. Westvale Park and Recreation is almost done being installed. All video will be accessible via big screen, computer, and cell phone.

8. Items for Discussion:

A. Train Station Marker – BD

Councilmember Dell advised that the Heritage Society wants to apply for a blue historic marker from Bergen County for the train station. It would be placed near the Eagle Scout project, off of NJ Transit property. They will need a letter of support from the Governing Body. The Historic Preservation commission will also provide a letter. The Heritage Society is hoping to unveil the marker at Westwood Pride Day. All are in favor.

B. Nugent Park/Environmental Committee Presentation – CM

Council Present Montana explained that the purpose of the Environmental Committee's plan for a rain garden at Nugent Park is to enhance the property and help with flooding. He introduced Jeanne Guderian and Dave Brizzolara, who gave a Powerpoint presentation on how a rain garden works, the advantages to the ecosystem and flooding mitigation, and the design plans for the Nugent Park garden, which will be a multi-year project. Councilmember Collins asked them to contact and inform the residents in the area. Council President Montana said this is the first stop in the Environmental Committee's promotional plan. He believes this is a very needed and massive project. It will be a footprint for other projects that can be done at orphan lots. Mr. Huntington commended them on a professional presentation and urged them to be sure they do not violate any Blue Acres conditions. Councilmember Murphy asked about utilities on the property. Mr. Brizzolara said it is part of year one to identify where the utilities are. Mayor Arroyo stressed getting buy-in from the immediate neighbors. Council President Montana noted that this does not remove the flood hazard but there could be a 15-20% improvement. It's a step towards achieving a more livable area. Mr. Brizzolara suggested improving overall drainage in the area, and asked what will

happen at the Broadway Shopping Plaza when Kmart goes out of business. Mayor Arroyo said the only permitted use in the zone is a shopping center, so anything else requires a variance or rezoning, meaning the Council has leverage. Council President Montana asked Eagle Scout candidate Zachary Kemp if he had any questions on the Environmental Committee presentation, which he did not. Councilmember Montana asked if the Governing Body supports the concept for the Environmental Committee to pursue. All agreed. Mayor Arroyo asked if they can raise funds through the sale of benches for the park.

C. Eagle Scout Nugent Park Project - CM

Council President Montana introduced Eagle Scout candidate Zachary Kemp, who has a proposed project to beautify Nugent Park. Mr. Kemp explained that his project would enhance the plaque area, install benches for contemplation, plant flowers around the flagpole and sign, and install a garbage can. He is fully prepared and excited to work with the Environmental committee. He discussed his budget and fundraising plans. The consensus was to approve the project. Councilmember Dell reiterated the need to notify the neighbors. Councilmember Collins thought the neighbors might like to help or donate.

There was a brief recess to allow the Scouts to leave.

D. Stop Signs – CM

Council President Montana advised that there are at least 42 stop signs that need to be codified, and 15 that need to be installed. Councilmember Dell pointed out that the residents of Fern Street at Lexington Ave had requested a stop sign. Mr. Kezmarsky will have the Lieutenant look into it. Councilmember Murphy suggested dead end signs for the tree streets. The ordinance will be introduced at the next meeting.

Mayor Arroyo advised that the discussion item regarding naming the walkway was removed for further research and discussion at a later date.

9. Agenda/Public Forum:

Motion to open Agenda/Public Forum: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Murphy
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: Councilmember Murphy
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. Councilmember Dell asked to add a resolution for the blue marker. Councilmember Collins commented that under resolution c, there was a fabulous meeting with the proposed new members for Local Assistance. Resolutions e-g were added at this time.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

- a) **Resolution #20 - 67: Bill List & Statement of Cash**
- b) **Resolution #20 - 68: Appointing Master Gardener**
- c) **Resolution #20 - 69: Appointments to Local Assistance Board**
- d) **Resolution #20 - 70: Reassignment of Liaisons for Parking Authority and Senior Advisory Committee**
- e) **Resolution #20 - 71: Appointment to Recreation Advisory Board**
- f) **Resolution #20 - 72: Authorizing Agreement For Reconstructing Retaining Wall**
- g) **Resolution #20 - 73: Authorizing Placement of Historic Marker**

Motion to Approve Resolutions #20-67 through #20-73: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

11. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Murphy

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

The time was 9:05 pm.

Attest:

(signed) Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Stefanie Stokes, Tax Collector