

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD  
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL  
APRIL 18, 2023 MINUTES  
7:30 PM CLOSED / 8:00 PM PUBLIC MEETING  
WESTWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER  
55 JEFFERSON AVENUE  
WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07675**

**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 – Absent  
Councilmember Dell - Present  
  
Councilmember Greco – Present  
Councilmember Hodges – Present  
Council President Montana - Present  
Borough Attorney Kool - Present  
Borough Administrator Ayer – Present  
Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

**Committee Assignments:**

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

**3. Resolution #23 -120: Executive Closed Session**

**Motion to Approve Resolution #23-120 at 7:30 pm:** Councilmember Dell      Second:  
Councilmember Hodges

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

- a) Police Personnel Matter (#8, Rice Notices Issued)
- b) 5G (#7, Attorney Client)

**4. Reopen the Meeting:**

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 8:10 pm.

**5. Roll Call II:**

Mayor Arroyo – Present / Councilmember Bicocchi – Present / Councilmember Collins – Absent /  
Councilmember Dell – Present / Councilmember Greco – Present / Councilmember Hodges – Present  
/ Council President Montana – Present / Borough Administrator Ayer - Present / Borough Attorney  
Kool – Present / Borough Engineer Boswell – Present / Borough Engineer Senkevich – Present /  
Borough Clerk Hughes - Present

**6. Flag Salute**

Mayor Arroyo led the salute to the flag.

Mayor Arroyo asked for a motion to suspend the regular order of business. Motion: Council President

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

Westwood Baseball representatives invited the Governing Body to open day activities on April 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 am.

Motion to return to regular order of business: Councilmember Biccocchi Second: Council President Montana Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

**7. Approval of Minutes:** Closed Session Minutes of April 4, 2023; Work Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2023

Councilmember Dell made a motion to approve the minutes. Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

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

Mayor Arroyo asked for a motion to again suspend the regular order of business in order to appoint a fire fighter. Motion: Councilmember Biccocchi Second: Councilmember Dell Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

**Resolution #23 - 121: Westwood Volunteer Fire Department Matters of Personnel**

**Motion to approve Resolution #23-121:** Councilmember Greco Second: Council President Montana

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

Mayor Arroyo administered the oath of office to Firefighter Donaghy.

Motion to return to regular order of business: Councilmember Biccocchi Second: Council President Montana Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

**8. Proclamation for Arbor Day**

**9. Engineer's Report**

1) Biweekly Report

Mr. Senkevich reviewed the biweekly report, a copy of which is attached.

Councilmember Dell asked for a timeline on the pistol range remediation. Mr. Senkevich said the next step would be the bid process. He hopes the project will be completed by the end of the year.

Mayor Arroyo inquired about the Volz property remediation. Mrs. Ayer clarified that she is looking for the estimate on what would need to be done. Mr. Senkevich will look into it.

**10. Public Hearing On The Submission Of A 2023 Bergen County Trust Fund Grant Application**

Mayor Arroyo asked Grants person Fred Rella to speak about the application. Mr. Rella explained what a pump track is. He reviewed the application process, noting that the request is for half of the

\$200,000 cost for the project, or \$100,000, and it is a reimbursable grant.

**Motion to open the floor to the public:** Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Dell  
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the Affirmative.

No one wished to be heard.

**Motion to close the floor to the public:** Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Hodges  
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the Affirmative.

**a) Resolution #23- 122: Trust Fund Application Municipal Endorsing Resolution for Pump Track at Westvale Park**

**Motion to approve Resolution #23-122:** Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

**11. Budget Presentation, Hearing and Adoption**

**a) Public Hearing on Introduced 2023 Municipal Budget**

Councilmember Dell commented on the 2023 budget process, noting that the Governing Body considered using more surplus but ultimately took the more conservative approach to be in a more defensive position for the future.

Deputy CFO Elizabeth Tallman narrated a PowerPoint presentation on the 2023 municipal budget.

Auditor Liz Schick commended the Borough for maintaining a healthy surplus. Questions from the Governing Body included the rolling reassessment; reserve for tax appeals; increases in insurance and benefits; revenue, and anticipation of new fire department equipment.

**b) Ordinance #23-7: Calendar Year 2023 Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Ordinance #23-7 entitled “Calendar Year 2023 Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

**Motion to open the public hearing:** Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Hodges  
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 Dell Second: Councilmember Hodges  
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance known as #23-7 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 Dell Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

**c) Resolution #23 - 123: Governing Body Certification of Compliance With The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance On The Consideration Of Arrest And Conviction Records In Employment Decisions Under Title VII Of The Civil Rights Act Of 1964"**

**Motion to approve Resolution #23-123:** Councilmember Dell Second: Council President Montana

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

**d) Resolution #23-124: Self Examination of the Municipal Budget**

**Motion to approve Resolution #23-124:** Councilmember Dell Second: Council President Montana

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

**e) Resolution #23- 125: Adoption of 2023 Municipal Budget**

**Motion to approve Resolution #23-125:** Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

**12. Reports of Committees and Officials:**

**A) Mayor's Report**

Mayor Arroyo said he cannot stress enough that the Covid bump in residential value affected the budget, with 1/3 of the tax increase due to that. He believes it is a very responsible budget. He thanked the CFO and Auditor for the projections that showed some land mines coming, making it good to have the healthy surplus.

Mayor Arroyo discussed the drone survey of the brooks and the effort to get more towns to participate. This is intended to identify areas of erosion that need stabilization in order to pursue a grant.

Mayor Arroyo reported that Dr. Boswell connected him with a professor at Stevens Institute of Technology to conduct a study using improvements in weather predictions to determine a prerelease strategy for the dam. This algorithm is being used in California and will be recommended by the Army Corps of Engineers. It's exactly what residents have been asking for and supports Senator Schepisi's bill, so he will get Stevens and the Senator together to discuss it.

**B) Council President's Report**

Council President Montana waived his report in the interest of time.

**C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports**

**1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects: BD**

Councilmember Dell reported on the Film Ready NJ workshop. The Borough is positioned to be film-ready certified, which will hopefully bring more attention.

Celebrate Westwood is forming BizHub for the Borough's businesses. Councilmember Dell noted that the County Director of Economic Development will speak at the upcoming meeting

about interns from the County College that would be able to help businesses in areas where they may need it.

Council Member Dell reminded everyone of the Cookie Walk at Grace Episcopal on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.

With the Shade Tree Arbor Fest next week, Councilmember Dell thanked the Shade Tree Committee for their efforts and the end result.

## **2) Fire and Ambulance: AG**

Councilmember Greco reported that the Ambulance Corps was in service 54% last month, with issues still occurring for day coverage. The Borough is waiting on the ambulance coverage contract with the hospital. Councilmember Biccocchi will inquire at the Board of Trustees meeting tomorrow. Councilmember Greco said WVAC is pushing for members. The Hillsdale ambulance is now paid, and he is not sure how that will affect mutual aid.

Councilmember Greco reviewed the fire department statistics for March. He announced that the Fire Department teamed up with the Westwood Car Club for a car show at Veteran's Park on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Heritage Society received a treasure trove of items from a resident.

The Senior Advisory Committee discussed sidewalks and reviewed literature on a cost sharing for sidewalk replacement program from Livingston. Both Mayor Arroyo and Council President Montana brought up the HIP program through Bergen County, which Councilmember Greco will relay to the SAC.

## **4) Land Use: CM**

Council President Montana reminded everyone of the library fund raiser tomorrow, thanking the library for getting creative in fundraising to offset costs.

Council President Montana noted there is an Arbor Day event every day next week, which is wonderful.

The Environmental Committee's cleanup will be on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Westvale Park from 9:30 – 12:00, with a group also cleaning up along the brook at Brookside School.

The Planning Board has officially adopted the new land use regulations at its last meeting. Council President Montana said it is forward thinking by planning for the future as the hub gets busier and more crowded – a blessing and a challenge, all of which is a byproduct of what the various committees and Governing Body are doing. Mayor Arroyo interjected that the Pascack Valley Mayors Association is supporting legislation to extend the current round of affordable housing for another 3 years to assess its impacts and success.

## **5) Police and OEM: EC**

In the absence of Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Biccocchi reviewed the Police Department activity report for March, which included participation in a school basketball tournament and traffic control for the annual Faith walk. The SLEO III is acclimating well to the

schools. The SLEO II class has been postponed with a new date pending. The WPD successfully diffused a SWAT incident on April 16<sup>th</sup>, and are working with the County to improve the safety of the intersection of Washington Avenue and Mountain after a serious accident involving a cyclist.

**6) Public Works and Recreation: RB**

The DPW and Arborist have been checking trees based on resident complaints. The sewer jet is a valuable tool that allows the DPW to always be working on the sewers to maintain the flow.

**3) Health and Hospital: CH**

Councilmember Hodges noted the Health Department personnel will attend training on April 27<sup>th</sup>. All food establishments received satisfactory inspection results.

The Parking Advisory Board swore in Gary Dragon as Chair. They discussed dedicating 13 spaces in the Fairview lot for employee parking.

The EV chargers have been installed in all three lots, but the cord management system is on order for three units. The units are being commissioned but striping and signage is still needed.

**D) Attorney's Report**

No report.

**E) Administrator / Clerk's Report**

Mrs. Ayer thanked Mrs. Tallman for doing a fantastic job with the budget presentation. The Borough will receive \$120,000 in CBDG funds for the Kingsberry and Brookline projects. Repairs have been made at Gritman Pond, and the DPW Superintendent will look into putting a spotlight underneath the bridge.

**13. Agenda/Public Forum:**

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

Fred Rella – commended Councilmember Hodges for staying on top of the EV charger project. He reviewed the terms of the reimbursement grant.

**Motion to close Agenda/Public Forum:** Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Hodges  
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the Affirmative.

**14. Ordinances for Introduction/Adoption**

**Ordinances for Introduction**

**23-9 An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 288 Sewers Article II Sewer Use and Connections**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Ordinance #23-9 entitled “An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 288 Sewers Article II Sewer Use and Connection” is hereby introduced by title; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

**Motion to pass the ordinance on First Reading:** Councilmember Hodges Second: Councilmember

Dell

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

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**Ordinances for Adoption**

**23-8 An Ordinance Authorizing Sale of Lands Without Public Auction**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Ordinance #23-8 entitled “**An Ordinance Authorizing Sale of Lands Without Public Auction**” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

**Motion to open the public hearing:** Council President Montana Second: Councilmember Biccocchi  
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

Public Comments: No comments.

**Motion to close the public hearing:** Council President Montana Second: Councilmember Dell  
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance known as #23-8 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:** Council President Montana Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

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

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**15. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:**

**Resolutions as Consent Agenda:** Council President 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 individually motioned the addition of Resolutions a-m to the consent agenda at this time. Resolutions i and j were seconded by Councilmember Biccocchi; resolutions k and m were seconded by Council President Montana; resolution l was seconded by Councilmember Hodges. All were in favor of the additions. Resolution f was adopted earlier in the meeting.

- a) Resolution #23 - 126: Bills List and Statement of Cash
- b) Resolution #23 - 127: Reappointment of Deputy OEM Coordinator
- c) Resolution #23 - 128: Authorizing Additional Tables and Consumption of Alcohol on Public Property for Five Dimes Brewery
- d) Resolution #23 - 129: Chapter 159 – National Opioids Settlement
- e) Resolution #23 - 130: Authorizing 2023 Landfill Regulatory Compliance Engineering Services
- f) ~~Resolution #23 – Westwood Volunteer Fire Department Matters of Personnel~~
- g) Resolution #23 - 131: Appointment of DPW Laborer
- h) Resolution #23 - 132: Authorizing Road Work to be Performed
- i) Resolution #23 - 133: Authorizing Refurbishment of Elevator Under State Contract
- j) Resolution #23 - 134: Authorizing Purchase of Playground Equipment Through ESCNJ Cooperative

- k) Resolution #23 - 135: Authorizing Purchase of Garbage Truck Through Sourcewell Cooperative
- l) Resolution #23 - 136: Authorize Vehicle Circulation and Traffic Investigation Study
- m) Resolution #23 - 137: Authorizing Contract Exempt From Public Bidding for Special Counsel

**Motion to Approve Resolutions #23-126 through #23-137:** Councilmember Dell **Second:** Councilmember Hodges

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

**16. Adjournment:**

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

Voice Vote: Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.  
The time was 9:22 pm.

Attest:

Karen Hughes, Borough Clerk  
Proofed by: Jean-Marie Vadovic, Deputy Clerk