

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
WORK MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
JUNE 5, 2019 AGENDA
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
101 Washington Avenue
8:00 pm Public Session**

1. Opening of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Birkner at 8:00 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
Councilmember Montana – Present
Councilmember Bicocchi – Present
Councilmember Dell – Present
Councilmember Murphy – Present
Council President Arroyo - Present
Borough Attorney Huntington – Present
Borough Administrator Kezmarsky – Absent
Borough Engineer Senkevich - Present
Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

Committee Assignments:

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

3. Flag Salute

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

4. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor’s Report

1) Flooding Report

Mayor Birkner reviewed the reservoir and stream levels, which are at normal heights. The reservoir is in summer mode operation. Kerry Pflugh of the DEP has contacted him to advised that a meeting about flooding would certainly be taking place with the Governor and DEP Commissioner.

2) Trees Along The Tracks

Mayor Birkner reported that NJ Transit is investigating tree ownership and property lines along the railroad tracks.

3) Celebrate Westwood

Mayor Birkner is looking forward to the next few days of Celebrate Westwood events, marking the 125th anniversary of the Borough.

Mayor Birkner noted that Mr. Kezmarsky is attending a birthday celebration for his teenaged daughter.

B) Council President’s Report

No report.

C) Engineer’s Report

1) Biweekly Report

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

2) Sand Road

Mayor Birkner, Mr. Senkevich and Mr. Morris discussed the possibilities for highlighting the speed tables on Sand Road. Mr. Morris will do more research with Mr. Ascolese.

3) Pistol Range Remediation

Councilmember Dell asked the status of the pistol range remediation grant. Mr. Senkevich thinks awards are ongoing so it could be a few weeks or a month. He said the work could be done now and then reimbursed. Mayor Birkner pointed out that it is a 100% reimbursement grant so the work can begin as soon as there's a plan. Councilmember Dell thought there was a plan. Mayor Birkner said there is one for the cleanup but no plan for the construction of the bocce court. Mr. Senkevich confirmed there is a plan for remediation.

4) Brookside Basketball Court

Mr. Senkevich advised that the Brookside basketball court bids came in high. The bids will need to be rejected and the project will need to be rebid, and if those bids also come in high the Borough could reject and negotiate. Councilmember Montana cautioned to be aware of the grant timing for the construction of the basketball court at Brookside Park. Councilmember Dell pointed out that work couldn't start until late August. Council President Arroyo asked the cost for the project and was told \$100,000.

5) CDBG Grant

Mayor Birkner said the boundaries have changed for eligibility for CDBG funding so the preapproved project is no longer eligible. The sidewalk on Old Hook from Roosevelt to Sand is now eligible, but the project cost is \$50,000 and he's not sure the extra money would be awarded. Mr. Rella explained the scope of the proposed project. Councilmember Montana asked who owns the property and if they could be made responsible for the sidewalk. Mayor Birkner said Suez owns the adjacent property and has not responded enthusiastically to reconstructing the sidewalk. Mr. Rella thanked the Boswell team for their help on the application amendment.

D) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects; Shared Services: CM

a) Finance

Councilmember Montana updated on the status of the CFO hiring process. He thanked Mr. Elenio for staying on board and helping out one day a week. Discussion was held on availability of committee members for interviews.

2) Fire and Ambulance: RB

No report.

3) Health and Recreation: BD

a) Babysitting Class

Councilmember Dell reviewed the schedule for the upcoming babysitting classes.

b) Welcome Signs

Councilmember Dell noted that the Welcome to Westwood sign on Kinderkamack Avenue is in bad shape and asked about replacing it. Councilmember Collins said the Heritage Society has two signs on hand, they just need to know where to put them.

c) Encroachment on Right-Of-Way

Councilmember Dell discussed an encroachment on the right-of-way at Princeton Place. After discussion it was determined more information was needed to make a decision.

d) Board of Health

Councilmember Dell said the Board of Health did not meet in May so she will bring up the measles seminar suggestion at the next meeting.

e) County Dispatch

Councilmember Dell said she toured the Public Safety Center in Mahwah last week and encouraged all to take the tour. She understands there will be a presentation to the Governing Body by the dispatch center and would like Police Department input. Mayor Birkner advised that he has invited the County representatives to the June 18th Executive Session, which will begin at 7:00 pm.

f) Celebrate Westwood

Councilmember Dell is looking forward to the Celebrate Westwood events this week, and enjoyed Sea Turtle ice cream at the Conrad's event. She thanked Lauren Letizia and the Celebrate Westwood Committee for their hard work.

4) Land Use: EC

a) Land Use Boards

Councilmember Collins reviewed the zones to be discussed at the next Planning Board meeting as part of the Master Plan reexamination. She noted that the last comprehensive Master Plan was done in 1993. Mayor Birkner said there was an update in 2010 which included open space, but this is more thorough. Councilmember Collins noted that on June 11th Bergen LEADS will do a presentation on master planning. The Zoning Board reviewed two applications this past Monday.

b) Historic Preservation Commission

Councilmember Collins said the Historic Preservation Commission's historic properties recognition project is a great success, with 73 properties taking signs.

c) Heritage Society

Councilmember Collins thanked the Heritage Society for another successful Westwood Pride Day.

d) County Dispatch

Councilmember Collins said she toured the County dispatch center and was very impressed.

5) Police and OEM: RA

a) Property Maintenance

Council President Arroyo brought up property maintenance issues at several different locations where

local residents have reported conditions a number of times. Mayor Birkner recommended cleaning up/mowing the properties and putting a lien on them. Mr. Huntington advised that it has to be a life safety issue to do so. All are in agreement that it is a health issue with the number of deer ticks in Westwood. The consensus was for Council President Arroyo to obtain the addresses.

b) Police Department

Council President Arroyo advised that the Police Committee has met to discuss ideas for the PBA negotiations. He asked Mr. Kezmarsky to meet with the Chief about managing the Police Department effectively should the Federal loan program be approved. The Chief is putting together a memo that the Administrator will circulate, after which there will be further discussion.

6) Public Properties: JM

a) Sustainable Jersey

Councilmember Murphy advised that the Green Team has submitted the Sustainable Jersey recertification application. They will be hosting a screening of the movie “Plastic Ocean” to raise awareness of the effects of plastic on the environment.

b) Shade Tree Committee

Councilmember Murphy noted there will be a Shade Tree Committee meeting next week. One of the members felt that the committee should have been included in the replacement of the trees downtown. Councilmember Murphy said the replacement trees look fantastic. The DPW is watering them. Two trees were not replaced because the abutting property owner never responded. Mr. Huntington said that gentleman provided the original trees. Mayor Birkner said there were questions about how the trees were damaged. Councilmember Murphy said the Borough’s arborist believes the lack of sun and the hard winter is probably what damaged the trees on one side. Discussion was held on the replacement process and whether a courtesy notification should have been given Shade Tree. Councilmember Bicocchi asked if Shade Tree has thought about the trees on Broadway that are pushing up the sidewalks. Mayor Birkner said the Westwood Avenue streetscape was met with enthusiasm by the property owners but he thinks the Broadway owners are less enthusiastic. Council President Arroyo suggested replacing trees out of the Shade Tree trust fund, but Mayor Birkner believes it is a much bigger project with brick and concrete work. Council President Arroyo suggested Shade Tree evaluate the situation. Mayor Birkner would like the Taxpayers Association to meet with property owners on a similar project to the Westwood Avenue streetscape. Councilmember Montana suggested there also be trees and streetscape work on Kinderkamack Ave in the downtown area.

c) DPW

Councilmember Murphy said the DPW is sprucing up the playgrounds.

d) Celebrate Westwood

Councilmember Murphy enjoyed her ice cream during the Conrad’s Celebrate Westwood throwback night. Councilmember Bicocchi thanked Councilmember Murphy for covering the Governing Body table for him at Westwood Pride Day.

e) Alumni in Recovery

Councilmember Murphy said there will be an Alumni in Recovery meeting at the Library on Monday at 7:00 pm.

E) Attorney's Report

No report.

F) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

No report.

5. Agenda/Public Forum:

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

6. Ordinance for Introduction and Adoption

Ordinances for Adoption:

19-7 An Ordinance To Establish A Schedule Of Salaries, Wages And Compensation Of The Public Officials, Officers And Employees Of The Borough Of Westwood In The County Of Bergen, And To Establish A Method Of Payment Of Such Compensation During Calendar Year 2019

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #19-7 entitled "An Ordinance To Establish A Schedule Of Salaries, Wages And Compensation Of The Public Officials, Officers And Employees Of The Borough Of Westwood In The County Of Bergen, And To Establish A Method Of Payment Of Such Compensation During Calendar Year 2019" having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

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

Councilmember Dell asked about the salary range for the van driver, which seemed low. After discussion the consensus was to change the range to \$12-15-18. Mr. Huntington considers this incidental and readvertisement is not required.

Public Comments:

No comments.

Motion to close the public hearing: Councilmember Bicocchi 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 #19-7 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 Montana Second: Councilmember Biccocchi
Roll Call: Councilmember Collins - Yes Councilmember Montana – Yes
Councilmember Biccocchi – Yes Councilmember Dell - Yes
Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Arroyo – Yes

7. 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. Resolutions i and j were added at this time. Councilmember Collins asked for Resolution e to be a separate vote. Regarding Resolution j, Councilmember Montana said he questioned whether the 1033 truck that the Police are looking at could replace the bid truck. Mr. Woods told him the 1033 truck wouldn't accommodate a salter or plow. It would be a utility truck. So Councilmember Montana believes it makes sense to acquire the bid truck. He has asked Mr. Woods to inventory the trucks and their conditions. Council President Arroyo asked whether high water trucks were obtained through the 1033 program. Mayor Birkner said yes but Haworth is going to take them. He asked Mr. Kezmarsky for a vehicle inventory and maintenance records on all Borough vehicles. Councilmember Murphy said Mr. Woods invites everyone to come inspect the DPW vehicles.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

- a) **Resolution #19 - 174: Bill List & Statement of Cash**
- b) **Resolution #19 – 175: Authorization to Issue Estimated Tax Bill**
- c) **Resolution #19 – 176: Authorizing Revision of Tax Maps**
- d) **Resolution #19 – 177: Summer Employees – Recreation Department**
- f) **Resolution #19 – 178: Authorizing Auction**
- g) **Resolution #19 – 179: Rejecting Brookside Park Basketball Court Bids and Authorizing Rebid**
- h) **Resolution #19 – 180: 2018 LOSAP Contributions**
- i) **Resolution #19 – 181: Appointment to Recreation Advisory Board**
- j) **Resolution #19 – 182: Award of Bid for DPW Used Dump Truck With Snow Plow**

Motion to adopt resolutions #19-174 through #19-182: Councilmember Dell

Second: Councilmember Collins

Roll Call: Councilmember Collins - Yes Councilmember Montana – Yes
Councilmember Biccocchi – Yes Councilmember Dell - Yes
Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Arroyo – Yes

- e) **Resolution #19 – 183: Summer Employees - DPW**

Motion to adopt resolution #19-183: Councilmember Dell

Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Collins - Abstain Councilmember Montana – Yes
Councilmember Biccocchi – Yes Councilmember Dell - Abstain
Councilmember Murphy – Yes Council President Arroyo – Yes

(Councilmember Dell intended to abstain on Resolution d but mistakenly did so with Councilmember

Collins on Resolution e.)

8. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilmember Biccocchi Second: Councilmember Murphy

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

The time was 8:50 pm.

Attest:

(signed) Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk