

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
JULY 18, 2023 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:

Committee Assignments:

Mayor Arroyo – Present

Councilmember Bicocchi – Present

Councilmember Collins – Present

Councilmember Dell - Present

Councilmember Greco – Present

Councilmember Hodges – Present

Council President Montana - Present Telephonically

Borough Attorney Kool - Present

Borough Administrator Ayer – Present

Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

Public Properties & Recreation

Police & Emergency Management

Finance, Administration & Capital Projects;

Shared Services

Fire & Ambulance

Health & Hospital

Land Use

3. Resolution #23-212: Executive Closed Session

Motion to Approve Resolution #23-212 at 7:00pm: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Hodges

Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes

Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Dell – Yes

Councilmember Greco - Yes

Councilmember Hodges – Yes

Council President Montana – Yes

a) Sale of Property (#5 Sale of Property; #7 Attorney Client Privilege)

b) Property Management (#7 Attorney Client Privilege)

c) Fee Waiver (#7 Attorney Client Privilege)

d) Alternate Prosecutor (#8 Personnel)

4. Reopen the Meeting: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Collins

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 Arroyo – Present / Councilmember Bicocchi – Present / Councilmember Collins – Present / Councilmember Dell – Present / Councilmember Greco – Present / Councilmember Hodges – Present / Council President Montana – Present Telephonically / 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.

7. Approval of Minutes: Closed Session Minutes June 27, 2023; Public Session Minutes of June 13, 2023

Councilmember Dell made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023 Closed Session.

Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

Councilmember Dell made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023 Public Session.

Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

Councilmember Dell made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2023 Special Meeting Closed and Public Session.

Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

8. Engineer's Report:

A. Engineer's Biweekly Report

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

9. Solar Presentation:

Councilmember Bicocchi introduced Jaime Cox, CEO from NVP who stated that solar energy is heavily incentivized right now. Discussed the discounts that would be applicable after installation and the benefits to having solar power in the Borough. Mayor Arroyo will be setting up a committee including Council members and the Borough Administrator to look into solar power.

10. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor's Report

Mayor Arroyo gave an update on the Stevens Study that it will be funded in State 2024 Budget thanks to Senator Schepisi. The Mayor reviewed the process for receiving the grant and stated that Westwood would be the lead agency. Mayor Arroyo also discussed the rain events that have been happening in Westwood.

B) Council President's Report

Council President Montana had no report.

C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects: BD

Councilmember Dell reported that the tax bills will be late due to the County delay in sending out the new tax bills. No estimated tax bill is being mailed out.

Employee evaluation forms have been distributed and Department Heads are in the process of reviewing employees for potential merit increases.

The Historic Preservation Commission met and will have a table at the Heritage Society Craft Fair in August to promote their self-guided walking tour. They would like to video a group taking the tour and then provide the video to WCTV as per their request.

Residents Claudia and Mike Molloy were honored by the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic. Councilmember Dell attended and presented a Mayoral Proclamation, which they appreciated.

Sidewalk Sale, Shop the Hub Event will be August 11th-12th. No street closures. Celebrate Westwood is planning the second annual Westwood Fest on September 9th.

Congressman Gottheimer has selected Celebrate Westwood, Frances Yates, and Mary Cerrati as Hometown Heroes. Councilmember Dell will attend the ceremony.

2) Fire and Ambulance: AG

Councilmember Greco reports that the Ambulance Corps is 57% still having trouble on day shifts. The Westwood Ambulance Carnival will be held from July 25th-29th. The ambulance corps is looking to get air conditioning in the ambulance bay.

The generator broke on the Fire Department ladder, there is an Ordinance on tonights agenda. The truck will have another five more years or so.

Heritage Society Antique Fair will be on August 27th. Getting cameras replaced at train station.

3) Health and Hospital: CH

Councilmember Hodges reports that Board Member Nathalie Hook resigned but the Board has received a Volunteer Form for someone who is an RPN and will follow up. The Board is also working on the Health and Wellness Fair for next year. The Board of Health loves the new website and it is friendly and easy to use.

There is a resolution on tonight's agenda to hire a part time Parking Enforcement Officer for the Parking Utility.

The electronic vehicle chargers are on the website and thanked Carol for a fantastic job. A press release and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be in the future.

4) Land Use: CM

Council President Montana stated that the Hazard Vulnerability Study is being presented to the community but that he would like it on the website as well.

The Library Summer Reading Program is doing exceptionally well with 230 kids participating.

5) Police and OEM: EC

Councilmember Collins reports that the Police Department held an end of the year crossing guard breakfast and all of them will return in September. All of the SLEO III's will also be returning in September. The Junior Police Academy is at the Westwood High School. Final quotes on body cams will be coming soon. The Police Department using social media has reached over 100,000 views for the snapping turtle post. The Police Department obtained a backhoe from 1033 that was delivered to the DPW last week. They also repurposed some of its fleet to other departments, and listed other items for auction which is on the consent agenda this evening. There is a reduction in complaints at Westvale Park with dogs running loose. Officer Mann was involved in a Fentanyl seizure.

Councilmember Collins reports that it was nice to see enthusiastic involvement by resident over Carver Avenue involving Shade Tree. The Lantern Fly traps have received a lot of interest. Shade Tree has a meeting on August 1st to discuss Shade Tree position on Carver Avenue application.

Westwood Cares is putting a lot of effort into fundraising for the holidays.

6) Public Works and Recreation: RB

Councilmember Bicocchi's reports that the musics in the park are going well. Movies in the park start August 3.

Congratulations to all our travel teams both in baseball and softball with the upcoming playoffs.

D) Attorney's Report

Borough Attorney Kool had no report.

E) Administrator / Clerk's Report

Borough Administrator Ayer reported that the Borough will be receiving double the Municipal Aid over the last year and it will go into reserve.

Borough Administrator Ayer met with Veolia on Street Opening Ordinance and discussed the issue with working on County Roads and then digging up Borough Roads without submitting permits. They have issues with permits for County Roads.

All staff meeting was held to review appropriate conduct in workplace as required by JIF.

Borough Administrator Ayer worked with the Police Department to submit body armor application which will be awarded near the end of the year.

Met with Risk Manager to review medical benefit options. The will make modifications to options, once finalized will bring to Governing Body to approve options for further evaluation by committee of employees including bargaining units. Will rank the new options and give back to the Governing Body for a decision.

11. Agenda/Public Forum:

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

Fred Rella stated that the Governing Body was doing a great job and that they were all working in harmony.

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

12. Ordinances for Introduction/Adoption

Ordinances for Introduction

23-23 An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey Providing For Additional Funding For The Acquisition And Installation Of Electric Charging Stations And Related Expenses And Appropriating \$3,500 Therefor From The Borough's Capital Surplus

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #23-23 entitled "An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey Providing For Additional Funding For The Acquisition And Installation Of Electric Charging Stations And Related Expenses And Appropriating \$3,500 Therefor From The Borough's Capital Surplus" is hereby introduced by title; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a August 15th, 2023 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

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

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

23-24 An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey Providing For Rehabilitation Of Berkeley Field And Related Expenses And Appropriating \$6,000 Therefor From The Borough's General Capital Fund Surplus And \$8,000 From The Recreation Trust Fund

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #23-24 entitled "An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey Providing For Rehabilitation Of Berkeley Field And Related Expenses And Appropriating \$6,000 Therefor From The Borough's General Capital Fund Surplus And \$8,000 From The Recreation Trust Fund" is hereby introduced by title; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a August 15th, 2023 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

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

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

23-25 An Ordinance Supplementing The Code Of The Borough Of Westwood To Add Chapter 306

“Small Wireless Facilities In The Right-Of-Way”

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #23-25 entitled “An Ordinance Supplementing The Code Of The Borough Of Westwood To Add Chapter 306 “Small Wireless Facilities In The Right-Of-Way” is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a August 15th, 2023 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion to pass the ordinance on First Reading: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Collins

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

23-26 An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey Providing For Acquisition Of A Generator For The Fire Department Ladder Truck And Related Expenses And Appropriating \$7,500 Therefor From The Borough’s General Capital Fund Surplus

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #23-26 entitled “An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey Providing For Acquisition Of A Generator For The Fire Department Ladder Truck And Related Expenses And Appropriating \$7,500 Therefor From The Borough’s General Capital Fund Surplus” is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with a August 15th, 2023 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion to pass the ordinance on First Reading: Councilmember Greco Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

Ordinances for Adoption

23-20 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 195 Land Use and Development Attachment 16

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #23-20 entitled “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 195 Land Use and Development Attachment 16” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Greco Second: Councilmember Dell

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 Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Collins

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

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #23-20 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 Greco Second: Councilmember Dell
Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Dell – Yes Councilmember Greco – Yes
Councilmember Hodges – Yes Council President Montana – Yes

23-21 Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Undertaking Of Environmental Remediation And Site Improvements At The Former Police Pistol Range In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$290,000 To Pay The Cost Thereof, To Authorize The Issuance Of Bonds To Finance Such Appropriation And To Provide For The Issuance Of Bond Anticipation Notes In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #23-21 entitled “Bond Ordinance To Authorize The Undertaking Of Environmental Remediation And Site Improvements At The Former Police Pistol Range In, By And For The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, State Of New Jersey, To Appropriate The Sum Of \$290,000 To Pay The Cost Thereof, To Authorize The Issuance Of Bonds To Finance Such Appropriation And To Provide For The Issuance Of Bond Anticipation Notes In Anticipation Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #23-21 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 Collins Second: Councilmember Dell
Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Dell – Yes Councilmember Greco – Yes
Councilmember Hodges – Yes Council President Montana – Yes

23-22 An Ordinance Amending Article V Street Openings

Councilmember Bicocchi motioned to table and Councilmember Collins seconded the motion.
Roll Call: Councilmember Bicocchi - Yes Councilmember Collins – Yes
Councilmember Dell – Yes Councilmember Greco – Yes
Councilmember Hodges – Yes Council President Montana – Yes

13. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:

Resolutions as Consent Agenda: The following resolutions may be enacted in one motion as a Consent

Agenda. Councilmembers wishing to remove any Resolutions(s) to be voted upon separately may do so at this time, and said Resolution(s) will be considered separately.

- a) Resolution #23 - 213: Bills List and Statement of Cash
- b) Resolution #23 - 214: Approval to Consume Alcoholic Beverages on Public Property for a First Birthday Celebration
- c) Resolution #23 - 215: Authorizing Preparation of Plans and Specifications, Bidding, Sediment Control Application and Construction Management for the Jake Voorhis Basketball Court Project
- d) Resolution #23 - 216: Revising Resolution #22-176 Authorizing Installation of EV Chargers
- e) Resolution #23 - 217: Authorizing The Auction of Certain Surplus Property No Longer Needed For The Public Use By Westwood Borough Utilizing The Services Of Govdeals, Inc.
- f) Resolution #23 -218: Authorizing Purchase of Vinyl Tile Flooring for the Borough Hall
- g) Resolution #23 - 219: Award of Bid for 2023 Road Resurfacing Program and Jefferson Avenue Improvements Program
- h) Resolution #23 - 220: Authorization of Alcoholic Beverage Person-to-Person and Place-to-Place Transfer of License #0267-33-008-003 The Iron Horse

Motion to Add Resolution “i” “23-221” to the Consent Agenda: Resolution “Appointment of Parking Enforcement Officer” Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

Motion to Add Resolution “j” “23-222” to the Consent Agenda: Resolution “Authorizing Fee Waiver” Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

Motion to Add Resolution “k” “23-223” to the Consent Agenda: Resolution “Awarding Contract Exempt from Public Bidding for Alternate Prosecutor” Councilmember Dell Second:

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

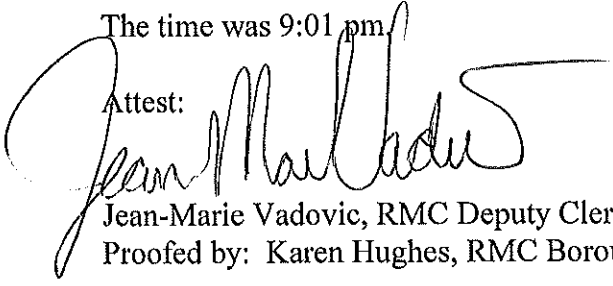
Motion to Approve Resolutions #23-213 through #23-223: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Collins

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

16. Adjournment:

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Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council
July 18, 2023

Motion to Adjourn: Councilmember Biccocchi **Second:** Councilmember Dell
Voice Vote: Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.
The time was 9:01 pm.

Attest:


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