

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
AUGUST 15, 2023 MINUTES
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
101 Washington Avenue
6:15 pm Closed Session/8:00 pm Public Session**

1. Opening of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Arroyo at 6:15 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 Greco – Present
Councilmember Hodges – Present
Council President Montana – Absent
Borough Attorney Kool - Present
Borough Administrator Ayer – Absent
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 #23-228: Executive Closed Session

Motion to Approve Resolution #23-228 at 6:23pm: 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 – Absent

- a) Court Personnel Matter (#8 Personnel)
- b) Property Management (#5 Real Property, #7 Attorney Client Privilege)

4. Reopen the Meeting: Councilmember Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Collins
Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative. The time was 8:07 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 – Absent / Borough Administrator Ayer - Absent / 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: July 18, 2023 Closed and Public Session Minutes; August 9, 2023 Special Work and Closed Meeting Minutes
Councilmember Dell made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, Closed and Public Session, and

the August 9, 2023 Special Work and Closed Meeting Minutes
Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

8. Engineer's Report:

A. Engineer's Biweekly Report

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

9. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor's Report

Mayor Arroyo had no report.

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 mailed on August 20th and will be due September 15th. The rates are available online on the website. Mayor Arroyo stated that the County was late issuing the tax rate which put everyone behind.

The Historic Preservation Commission meeting for Thursday is cancelled due to a lack of urgent matters and scheduling.

Councilmember Dell attended the Zoning Board Meeting for Councilman Montana on Monday, August 7th. The Carver Avenue application was postponed at the request of the applicant. This will now be discussed at the regularly scheduled September 18th meeting. The applicant may request a special meeting for this application, if so, that will be discussed on Sept 18th.

Councilmember Dell was privileged to attend Congressman Gottheimer's Hometown Hero's Ceremony at which Westwood Residents Fran Yates, Mary Ceratti, Lauren Letizia and Roseann Ciarlante were recognized, the latter two for Celebrate Westwood. They each received a certificate along with one for Celebrate Westwood.

Councilmember Dell reported that the Mayor and Council will once again, flex their ribbon cutting muscles this Friday at Bon at 6:00 PM. The owners will be making a donation to Westwood Cares.

2) Fire and Ambulance: AG

Councilmember Greco reports that the Fire Department is happy to be getting the generator and training is going well. The Fire Department will also be having a band at the firehouse from 6pm-10pm during WestwoodFest.

The Ambulance Corps is still waiting on the contract from the hospital for services.

3) Health and Hospital: CH

Councilmember Hodges reported on the following:

Health Department

No meeting July/August-we have received reports from Northwest

- 1) Blood Pressure Clinic Sept 12
- 2) Flu Clinic is planned for Sept 26th-at Westwood House and will be open to the public.
- 3) Rabies clinic will be November 4th.
- 4) Health dept and Fire Prevention dept participated in a workshop hosted by Celebrate Westwood Businesses were invited to learn about the process of obtaining temporary food licenses and what the inspections consist of. They had several businesses participate.
- 5) Lantern Fly Grant was received.

Parking update

- 1) A new PEO was hired and is currently being trained. The plan is for him to fill in the later in the day hours and be a second PEO on Sat.
- 2) PU inherited the police vehicle at no cost and are happy to have working AC.
- 3) We received a small check from Blink for EV Charge use. \$106. All documentation has been submitted to PSE&G and we are waiting on finalization.
- 4) Meters in the Fairview lot have been converted to Employee Parking where authorized.
- 5) Painting the meters are about 50% completed.
- 6) New Hangtags were ordered and received and will be distributed. The cost will be \$5.
- 7) Next PU meeting will be Sept 26th

4) Land Use: CM

Council President Montana absent/no report.

5) Police and OEM: EC

Councilmember Collins acknowledged Officer Neuberger for Operation Deep Blue Journey which is a 225 mile sea kayak expedition starting in New Jersey and ending at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Operation Deep Blues mission each year is to ensure our heroes are never forgotten.

The Borough received a \$15,000 grant for Lantern Flies which Shade Tree is working on using.

6) Public Works and Recreation: RB

Councilmember Bicocchi states the Public Works Department has been painting lines downtown.

Recreation has Movies in the Park, camp ended and was very successful with Pre-School right around the corner.

D) Attorney's Report

Borough Attorney Kool stated that he received a letter in regards to the property at 150 Tillman. The property is currently a school for individuals with disabilities. The owners are looking to sell the property but during the sale process they realized there was an encroachment. The owners are asking the municipality to vacate, sell or otherwise allow. Asking for authorization to prepare resolution for license agreement which will allow them to clear the Title, and give the Borough time to determine if we want to sell it or not. The Consensus of the Council is to allow. Mr. Kool will prepare a resolution for the next meeting.

E) Administrator / Clerk's Report

Borough Clerk Hughes reviewed small road projects. All agreed with the recommendation of putting in the 2024 Budget and asked Councilmember Collins to have the Police Department deploy speed signs.

11. Agenda/Public Forum:

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

No one spoke.

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

12. Ordinances for Introduction/Adoption

Ordinances for Introduction

Ordinances for Adoption

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" having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #23-23 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 Hodges Second: Councilmember Biccocchi

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

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” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Bicocchi 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 Bicocchi 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 #23-24 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 Bicocchi Second: Councilmember Hodges

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

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”” having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Mayor Arroyo asked our Consultant to review the locations for the 5G Poles. Paul Roe explained preselected locations not based on definite project but preemptive.

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

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

Public Comments:

Maud Guilfoyle - Resident wrote a letter stating her concerns about 5G movin into Westwood and the possible health concerns that it might also bring. The resident would like to know the recourse to change the course of action if necessary if the 5G imposes a health risk.

Consultant and Mayor Arroyo stated that the question is a valid one, but the data is not there yet to give an absolute answer.

Motion to close the public hearing: Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #23-25 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 – Yes
 Councilmember Dell – Yes Councilmember Greco – Yes
 Councilmember Hodges – Yes Council President Montana – Absent

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” 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 Bilocchi 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 #23-26 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 Bilocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Bilocchi - Yes

Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Dell – Yes

Councilmember Greco – Yes

Councilmember Hodges – Yes

Council President Montana – Absent

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 - 229: Bills List and Statement of Cash
- b) Resolution #23 - 230: Chapter 159 – Clean Communities Grant
- c) Resolution #23 - 231: Chapter 159 – Spotted Lantern Fly Chemical Control Grant
- d) Resolution #23 - 232: Chapter 159 – National Opioid Settlement
- e) Resolution #23 - 233: Authorize Hiring of Solar Consultant
- f) Resolution #23 - 234: Authorizing Receipt of Bids for Pistol Range Remediation Project
- g) Resolution #23 - 235: Authorizing Hiring Process for Crossing Guards
- h) Resolution #23 - 236: Authorizing Borough Administrator to Sign Lease Agreement for Police Vehicle
- i) Resolution #23 - 237: Authorizing Purchase of Generator for Fire Department Ladder Truck
- j) Resolution #23 - 238: Fire Department Matters of Personnel
- k) Resolution #23 - 239: Approval of Request to Consume Alcoholic Beverages On Public Property for a Birthday Celebration
- l) Resolution #23 - 240: Authorizing Repair and Topdressing of Berkeley Fields
- m) Resolution #23 - 241: Authorizing Annual Contract for Website Services

Motion to Add Resolution “n” “23-242” to the Consent Agenda: Resolution “Authorizing Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages on Public Property for Westwood Fire Department Event at 93 Center Avenue” Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Bilocchi

Roll Call: Councilmember Bilocchi – Yes

Councilmember Collins – Yes

Councilmember Dell – Yes

Councilmember Greco – Yes

Councilmember Hodges – Yes

Council President Montana – Absent

Motion to Add Resolution “o” “23-243” to the Consent Agenda: Resolution “Appointment of Municipal Judge to Fulfill Unexpired Term” 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 – Absent

Motion to Add Resolution “p” “23-244” to the Consent Agenda: Resolution “Payment for Annual CAIR Fee” 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 – Absent

Motion to Add Resolution “q” “23-245” to the Consent Agenda: Resolution “Awarding Contract Exempt From Public Bidding for Special Counsel” Councilmember Dell Second: Councilmember Bicocchi

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

Motion to Approve Resolutions #23-229 through #23-245: 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 - Absent

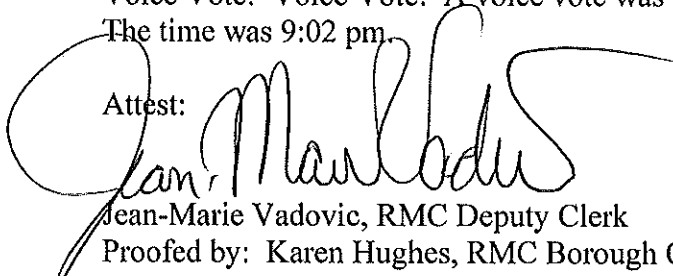
16. Adjournment:

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 9:02 pm.

Attest:



Jean-Marie Vadovic, RMC Deputy Clerk

Proofed by: Karen Hughes, RMC Borough Clerk