

**118<sup>th</sup>**  
**REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY**  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**55 JEFFERSON AVENUE**  
**JANUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Borough Clerk Hughes called the 118<sup>th</sup> Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 7:00 PM and 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. FLAG SALUTE AND INVOCATION:**

The Colors were presented by the Westwood Police Reserves Color Guard. The invocation was delivered by Reverend Pranschke.

**3. MAYOR-ELECT:**

Mrs. Hughes announced the receipt of the Certificate of Election for John Birkner, Jr. for the office of Mayor.

John Birkner, Jr. was administered his Oath of Office as Mayor for a four year term by Judge Alan Karch. Term expiring 12/31/15. Mayor Birkner took his seat on the dais.

**4. COUNCILMEMBERS - ELECT:**

Councilmember-Elect Waneck was administered her Oath of Office as Member of the Council for a three year term by Judge Karch. Term expiring 12/31/14. Councilmember Waneck thanked her family and supporters. At the conclusion of her remarks, Councilmember Waneck took her seat on the dais.

Councilmember-Elect Sciara was administered his Oath of Office as Member of the Council for a three year term by Judge Karch. Term expiring 12/31/14. Councilmember Sciara thanked his family and supporters. At the conclusion of his remarks, Councilmember Sciara took his seat on the dais.

At this time Mayor Birkner addressed the public to thank his family and supporters.

**5. ROLL CALL**

Borough Clerk Hughes called the Roll:

Mayor Birkner - present  
Councilmember Grefrath - present  
Councilmember Miller - present  
Councilmember Phayre - present  
Councilmember Quinn - present  
Councilmember Sciara - present  
Councilmember Waneck - present  
Borough Administrator Hoffmann - present  
Borough Clerk Hughes - present

**6. APPOINTMENT/ RE-APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL JUDGE**

**Resolution #12-1: Appointment of Municipal Judge**

Motion: Councilmember Miller Second: Councilmember Phayre  
Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller - Yes  
Councilmember Phayre – Yes Councilmember Quinn - Yes  
Councilmember Sciara – Yes Councilmember Waneck – Yes

---

**7. APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH PROFESSIONALS**

Mayor Birkner entertained motions for the following appointments:

Borough Attorney

**Resolution #12-2: Appointment of Borough Attorney – Russell R. Huntington, Esq.**

Motion: Councilmember Quinn Second: Councilmember Sciara  
Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller - Yes  
Councilmember Phayre – Yes Councilmember Quinn - Yes  
Councilmember Sciara – Yes Councilmember Waneck – Yes

Borough Engineer

**Resolution #12-3: Appointment of Borough Engineer – Boswell Engineering**

Motion: Councilmember Miller Second: Councilmember Phayre  
Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller - Yes  
Councilmember Phayre – Yes Councilmember Quinn - Yes  
Councilmember Sciara – Yes Councilmember Waneck – Yes

Various Borough Professionals

**Resolution #12-4: Appointment of Various Borough Officials**

Motion: Councilmember Waneck Second: Councilmember Quinn  
Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller - Yes  
Councilmember Phayre – Yes Councilmember Quinn - Yes  
Councilmember Sciara – Yes Councilmember Waneck – Yes

<u>Position</u>	<u>Firm</u>	<u>Designee</u>
Borough Auditor	Lerch, Vinci & Higgins	Gary Vinci, RMA
Risk Manager	Burton Agency	Robert Kanwisher
Public Defender		Christopher Leyden, Esq.
Prosecutor		Edward G. Johnson, Esq.
Bond Counsel	Gluck & Walrath, LLP	Christopher Walrath, Esq.
Labor Attorney	Wiss & Bouregy	Raymond Wiss, Esq.
In-Rem Attorney	Pellegrino & Feldstein, LLC	Michael Pellegrino, Esq.
Comm. Appraiser	McNerney & Associates	Robert McNerney
Resid. Appraiser	Appraisal Systems, Inc.	Rick DeGuercio
Consultant	G. Dietrich Preserv. Consult.	Gregory Dietrich

---

**8. MAYOR'S DESIGNATION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2012**

Mayor Birkner announced the following Council Committee appointments for 2012:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE CHAIR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>
Finance, Admin. & Cap. Projects	William Phayre	Cynthia Waneck
Fire & Ambulance	John J Sciara	Robert Miller

Police & Emergency Mgt.	Robert Miller	John J Sciara
Land Use	Ingrid Quinn	Peter Grefrath
Public Properties	Cynthia Waneck	William Phayre
Health & Recreation	Peter Grefrath	Ingrid Quinn

**9. SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR 2012**

**Resolution #12-5: Nomination of 2012 Council President: Cynthia Waneck**

Motion: Councilmember Miller Second: Councilmember Sciara

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller - Yes

Councilmember Phayre – Yes Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara – Yes Councilmember Waneck – Abstain

**10. PUBLIC FORUM:**

Motion to open the Public Forum: Councilmember Sciara Second: Councilmember Phayre

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

No member of the public wished to speak.

Motion to close the Public Forum: Councilmember Sciara Second: Councilmember Phayre

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

**11. BUDGET MEETINGS:**

Mayor Birkner announced that the preliminary work has been done on the 2012 Municipal Budget, and a schedule of Budget Meetings will soon be published in the official Borough newspaper and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and Borough website.

**12. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Birkner announced that the Resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda would be enacted with one motion. Copies of all Resolutions were available to any person upon request. Any Councilmember who wished to remove any Resolution(s) to be voted upon had the opportunity to do so at this time and said Resolution(s) would be moved and voted upon separately.

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda Resolutions #12-6 through #12-29:**

Motion: Councilmember Phayre Second: Council President Waneck

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath – Yes Councilmember Miller - Yes

Councilmember Phayre – Yes Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara – Yes Council President Waneck – Yes

**Resolution Titles**

12-6 OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC MEDIA

12-7 TEMPORARY BUDGET

12-8 MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2012

12-9 DEPOSITORIES OF FUNDS

12-10 AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT SIGNATORIES FOR 2012

12-11 FACSIMILE SIGNATURES ON CHECKS

12-12 ESTABLISHMENT OF INT. RATES ON DELINQUENT TAXES & ASSESS.

12-13 ADOPTION OF PETTY CASH & CREDIT CARD POLICIES

- 12-14 ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND
- 12-15 ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND FOR RECREATION
- 12-16 ESTABLISHMENT OF PETTY CASH FUND FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
- 12-17 DEPOSITORY OF ATTENDANCE RECORDS
- 12-18 APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSMENT SEARCH OFFICER
- 12-19 APPOINTMENT OF TAX SEARCH OFFICER
- 12-20 MAGISTRATE'S ORDER DESIGNATING VIOLATIONS CLERK
- 12-21 APPOINTMENT TAX ASSESSOR / ATTORNEY - TAX APPEALS
- 12-22 2012 MUNICIPAL HOLIDAYS
- 12-23 OFFICIAL BOROUGH NEWSPAPERS
- 12-24 \$20.00 CHARGE FOR PAYMENTS MADE WITH INSUFFICIENT FUNDS
- 12-25 \$5.00 CHARGE FOR TAX ACCOUNT REPORTS TO SEARCH COMPANIES
- 12-26 TAX SALE COSTS
- 12-27 CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN 2012
- 12-28 MUTUAL AID – PASCACK VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENTS
- 12-29 RE-APPOINTMENT OF TAX COLLECTOR

**13. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS AND DESIGNATIONS TO VARIOUS MUNICIPAL OFFICES:**

Robert Hoffmann – Affirmative Action Compliance Official, B-MED, B-MEL & JIF Official  
Karen Hughes - Assessment Search Officer, Local Ethics Official  
Denise Holmes - Deputy Borough Clerk  
Letitia Candeloro - Court Administrator  
Rick Woods - Recycling Coordinator, Clean Community Coordinator  
Sharon Blehl - Right-To-Know Coordinator, Bloodborne Pathogens Coordinator  
Stefanie Stokes – Tax Search Officer  
James Gines - Borough Historian

Mayor Birkner invited all appointees to the dais. Judge Alan Karch administered the Oaths of Office.

**14. APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS**

The appropriate Council Liaison announced the following appointments:

Board of Health

Louise Cue, 3 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/14  
Donna Bott, 3 Yr. Term Expiring 12/31/14  
Sabrina Johnston, 3 Yr. Term Expiring 12/31/14  
Jane Concato, Alt. #1, 2 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/13  
Councilmember Peter Grefrath (Council Liaison)

Recreation Advisory Board

Heidi Catalano, 3 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/14  
Michael Griffin, 3 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/14  
Don Smith, Unexp. Term, Expiring 12/31/12  
John Toale, Alt. #1, Unexp. Term, Expiring 12/31/13  
Councilmember Peter Grefrath (Council Liaison)

Heritage Society

Councilmember Peter Grefrath (Council Liaison)

Historic Commission Board

Peter von Bradsky, Class C, 4 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/15

Donald Rubin, Class C, 4 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/15

David Hohmann, Class B, 4 Yr. Term Expiring 12/31/15

Gregory Dietrich, Class A, Term Expiring 12/31/15

Councilmember Robert Miller (Council Liaison)

Safety Committee - (Annual Appointments)

Darren Blankenbush, Safety Delegate

Sgt. Matt McClutchy, Alternate Delegate

Richard Woods, Member

Linda Aiello, Member

Gary Buchheister, Member

Barbara Constantine, Member

Raymond Herr, Member

Sylvia Kokowski, Member

Denise Holmes, Member

Christine Compesi, Member

Jack Sauer, Member

Martha Urbiel, Member

Robert Hoffmann, Member/Borough Administrator

Local Assistance Board

Michael J. Tozzoli, 4 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/15

Councilmember William Phayre (Council Liaison)

Technology Committee

Councilmember William Phayre (Council Liaison)

Westwood Parking Authority

Matthew Foley, 5 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/16

Councilmember William Phayre (Council Liaison)

Shade Tree Committee

Christopher Leyden, 5 Yr. Term, Exp. 12/31/16

Councilmember Ingrid Quinn (Council Liaison)

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Vernon McKoy, 4 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/15

Eric Oakes, 4 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/15

Matthew Ceplo, Unexp. Term, Alt. #1, Expiring 12/31/12

Guy Hartman, Alt. #2, 2 yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/13

Councilmember Ingrid Quinn (Council Liaison)

Environmental Advisory Committee

Michael Pessolano, 3 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/14  
Yash Risbud, 3 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/14  
Kevin Brennan (Student member, 1 yr. term) Expiring 12/31/12  
Conor Odell (Student member, 1 yr. term) Expiring 12/31/12  
Councilmember John J Sciara (Council Liaison)

Library Board of Trustees

Diana Bedoya, 5 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/16  
Brian Lieberman, 5 Yr. Term, Expiring 12/31/16  
Council President Cynthia Waneck, Mayor's Alternate, Annual Expiring 12/31/12  
Council President Cynthia Waneck (Council Liaison)

Website Committee

Council President Cynthia Waneck (Council Liaison)

Planning Board

William Martin, Class II Annual Appt, Exp. 12/31/12  
Thomas Constantine, Class IV, 4 Yr. Appt, Exp. 12/31/15  
Anne Costello, Alt. 1, 2 Yr. Appt, Exp. 12/31/13  
Councilmember Ingrid Quinn, Class III (Council Liaison)

**15. SWEARING IN OF ALL APPOINTEES**

**Motion to accept all appointees noted above:** Council President Waneck

Second: Councilmember Grefrath

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath – Yes    Councilmember Miller - Yes  
Councilmember Phayre – Yes            Councilmember Quinn - Yes  
Councilmember Sciara – Yes            Councilmember Waneck – Abstain

Mayor Birkner invited all appointees to the dais. Judge Alan Karch administered the Oaths of Office.

**16. APPOINTMENT AND SWEARING IN OF POLICE RESERVES**

Mayor Birkner invited the 2012 Police Reservists to the dais to be administered their Oaths of Office.

Mayo Credle, Capt.	Damon Vincenty
John Brobson, Lt.	Ann Keenan
Michael Amoruso, Sgt.	Kenroy Morrison
Michael Gill	Donna Heil
Shawn Yates	Elena Pietrocco
Arnold Luna	Joseph Latino
Shaun Walsh	Brian Considine
Sgt. Matthew McClutchey, Liaison Officer	

**17. OATHS OF OFFICES, AMBULANCE CORPS OFFICIALS**

Mayor Birkner invited Captain Bonnie Costello to the dais to be sworn into office by Judge Karch.

Mayor Birkner invited 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nicole Mohr and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Barbara Constantine to the dais to be administered their Oaths of Office by Judge Karch.

**18. OATHS OF OFFICE, FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS**

Mayor Birkner invited 2012 Fire Chief Jaymee Hodges; Deputy Chief James C. Mawdsley; Sr. Captain James Voorhis; Captain William Haffler; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kevin Woods; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Michael Griffin; 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. Brian Kronewitter; and 4<sup>th</sup> Lt. Nick McGavin to the dais to be administered their Oaths of Office by Judge Karch.

**19. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

**Presentation to Outgoing Fire Chief Christopher Kelley**

Mayor Birkner and Fire Department Liaison Councilmember Sciara presented a certificate to Outgoing Fire Chief Christopher Kelley. Chief Kelley was the Westwood Fire Chief for 2011. Chief Kelley addressed the audience.

**Presentation to Robert Murin, Police Reserves**

Mayor Birkner, Police Liaison Councilmember Miller and Captain Credle made a presentation to Robert Murin, who is leaving the Police Reserves after 12 years.

**Volunteer Emergency Services Hall of Fame**

Mayor Birkner and Councilmember Sciara presented certificates to Thomas Voorhis, Volunteer Fire Department, which was accepted by Ex-Chief Kelley; and Nicole Mohr, Volunteer Ambulance Corps., which was accepted by Lt. Mohr and Constantine. Mayor Birkner and Councilmember Miller presented the plaque to Brian Considine, Police Reserves, which was accepted by his parents.

Each of these recipients was nominated by their peers in recognition of outstanding service.

**20. MAYOR'S REMARKS**

Text of the Mayor's speech is attached.

**21. BENEDICTION**

Rev. Pranschke gave the Benediction.

**22. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to Adjourn: Councilmember Sciara Second: Councilmember Miller

Voice Vote: All those present vote in the affirmative. The time was 8:18 PM.

Attest:

*(signed) Karen Hughes*

Karen Hughes, RMC

Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk

**Text of Mayor Birkner's Speech Delivered at the  
Annual Reorganization Meeting, January 3, 2012**

I think that the Councilmembers will be happy to see that I do not have a stack of papers in front of me right now. When I told them that I had 17 pages of remarks for the conclusion of the meeting tonight they said, "You know, you're really not gonna, are ya?" I was.

I just do want to close out the first four years that I've had the privilege to serve the Borough of Westwood. To say that it was an enriching experience would be a slight because this was without question the most remarkable four years that I have had in my life. I have learned so much, I have gained so much from each of these talented individuals that I have the opportunity to work with day in and day out. The people that I have met in the Borough of Westwood, the residents that I have had the opportunity to come across and interact with, to serve in some way, shape or form, has been a completely enriching experience.

To go through what we went through in 2011 really makes you happy that it's 2012, that's for sure. Because 2011 was probably the most challenging year that Westwood has seen in quite a long time, certainly as long as I have been around. It was through the efforts of our residents, and through the efforts of our volunteers that we pulled through together, averting what really could have been catastrophic events. Our volunteers came through time and time again. Every time they were called there were never any questions, their responses were virtuously instantaneous. Instances of neighbors helping neighbors, businesses helping businesses in troubled times, in difficulties: fire, floods, earthquakes, snowstorms in October. About the only thing we didn't have to deal with was locusts. (Someone shushed from the audience). Is there an entomologist in the group?

Westwood has been through a lot in 2011, and yet together we have pulled our town together to show why Westwood is the premier place to live in Bergen County. Westwood is a remarkable community, and everywhere I go people say "Oh, you're the Mayor in Westwood, I love your town." "I love your downtown." "Oh, your DPW does such a great job, the town is always so clean." "My father had to be taken to the hospital and the people in the ambulance were wonderful." Or, "Wow, what happened at the Iron Horse, how did that building not burn down? Your Fire Department must be really amazing." Or, "You know, my grandmother was involved in a traffic accident and I want to tell you how wonderful the Police Officers were that responded to the scene."

And truly it is. Those are the higher profile people that are out there every day and make Westwood work. They're the face of Westwood. Our Police Reserves are out there. I see them directing traffic at church, keeping the churchgoers safe on Sunday mornings. I see them at different community events helping to make sure there is order and crowd control. We see all the volunteers who are our recreation groups, our Shade Tree Commission, our Board of Health Department, every commission, the Historical Preservation Commission, the Environmental Commission, all the work that gets done on a day-in and day-out basis by all these dedicated volunteers who do it because they love the town they live in. And it shows. It shows when you drive into Westwood, what a wonderful, wonderful community this is.

We have a lot going on for 2012. We have a lot to look forward to in 2012. Right now we have a beautiful brand new park that is complete and is open. People are out there using it every single day and I'm so proud that I no longer have to say that it's a pile of dirt with grass seed on it. It really is a magnificent facility. I'm really looking forward to the connection to Pascack Brook

County Park that is currently under construction. This will open up about 110 acres of active and passive recreation area for residents of all ages, from children in strollers to octogenarians seeking to get some extra exercise in the beautiful park-like setting in a safe environment.

Obviously I'm very, very happy that we're now on the verge of seeing our hospital reopen. After 4 years of battles, struggles, meetings, constant letters, trips to Trenton, trips with legislators across the state, the work that this Governing Body has banded together to do, to see that the hospital opened up, to bring the residents together. The residents that came out, in an amazing, overwhelming outpouring of support to get that hospital reopened. And we're right there. We've got the State Department of Health and Senior Services' staff recommendation to reopen that hospital. We've got the New Jersey State Department of Health Planning Board recommendation to reopen that hospital. Right now we're just waiting on the Commission of the State Department of Health and Senior Services. And all indications are that she will heed the advice and recommendations of those other two components and we will see our hospital open, pretty much it could be any day now. Now, I'll tell you this, the folks at Hackensack are chomping at the bit. Because the day that the Commissioner comes out and grants the approval for the reopening and the award of the Certificate of Need, you will see more hard hats and construction equipment going through Old Hook Road than you ever have before. They are ready to go to completely tear into that place and get that hospital open in 2012. That is their goal and that is our goal. We're going to see it through and make it happen and I know that I'm really excited about it.

Again, I'd like to thank all the residents of the Borough of Westwood for putting their faith in me, putting their trust in me to serve as your Mayor. I'd like to again thank the members of the Governing Body for working with me and being there to challenge me and make me a better Mayor. I'd like to thank the Borough staff. I can't thank you enough, everyone that works for our town. We hear a lot, when you turn on the TV and read the newspapers you hear a lot about public employees. But I've got to tell you something, our public employees serve the Borough of Westwood admirably, and they serve and they do so with dignity and honor. It's my pleasure and my honor to serve with you. Thank you very much and God bless you.