

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**April 19, 2018**

**7:00 P.M.**

**OPENING STATEMENT:** Mayor Stephen K. Pote called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and made the following statement: Under the provisions of N.J.S.A.10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of annual notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG and MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD AND A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR FORMER FIRST LADY BARBARA BUSH.**

**ROLL CALL**

Gibbs [ P ] Black [ A ] Nehls [ P ] Mobus [ P ] Sopko [ P ] Alberto [ P ]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, and Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance.

Although not present at roll call Councilman Black arrived at 7:10 PM.

Prior to the presentation Mayor Pote said it takes a team effort to make things work and while we are acknowledging Julia's achievements it is really a team effort he is sure Councilman Nehls will attest to this since he has been to many games. Mayor Pote wanted to thank the parents as well as those who make a successful career as a basketball player for the last four years.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION/PROCLAMATION**

Honoring Watchung Hills Regional High School Student/Athlete Julia Cunningham.

Councilman Nehls this is a very special night for Watchung, we have probably one of the best basketball players in the State from our own town. He said he is very proud of that and said she has been an inspiration for many girls in the seventh and eighth grades, particularly his daughter. He said he greatly appreciates everything she has done and this is for her tonight.

Councilman Nehls then read the Proclamation and presented it to Julia. (Copy attached)

Councilman Gibbs said he has a 5 ½ year old daughter and cannot think of a better role model for her to look up to. He said she loves sports including gymnastics, and dance and if she turns out as good as Julia at her age he feels his daughter will be pretty successful.

Councilman Nehls then thanked Chris VanVliet, and Coach Kirchofer for all their help in getting this together. As the Mayor said this is a team effort and without their help this proclamation would not have happened and he thanked them for all their help. Councilman Nehls also thanked Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham for their dedication as well.

Mayor Pote said several of the Council as well as he are alumni of Watchung Hills, but he feels pretty special tonight because where Julia is going to college, Princeton University, is his alma mater – class of '84 and she is 2022 and he could not let her leave without a couple of mementoes.

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**RESOLUTIONS**

None

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**PUBLIC PORTION**

Coach Kirchofer said he has said great things about Julia over the past four years but the overwhelming support here this evening speaks tremendously about the type of person Julia is. He said it has been a privilege to have been able to work with her for the last four years in the gym as well as in class where she is an outstanding student. He said she deserves every accolade she has received including this one which is very special and they are looking forward to continuing following her career.

With no one else wishing to speak Mayor Pote congratulated Julia again and wished her the best going forward. He thanked everyone for coming out this evening.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M. to the Call of the Chair and to the next scheduled Council meeting Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

MaryAnn Hance  
Deputy Clerk