BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 18, 2021 | 7:30 P.M.

[THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY FOR ALL PARTIES]

MAYOR'S OPENING STATEMENT: Mayor Keith S. Balla called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M. and stated the following: "This meeting will be held virtually for all parties. Public Comments were accepted by email or through zoom and instructions were provided. I'd like to welcome everyone. 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 the Annual Meeting Notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, the Star Ledger, posted at Borough Hall and on the Borough's website. In order to comply with all NJ Executive Orders and to protect members of the public, this meeting will be held virtually for all parties. Public Comments will be accepted through zoom or by email to the Borough Clerk. For those joining through Zoom, please note that upon arrival you are automatically muted. If you wish to speak during the public portion, you will need to click on the "raise your hand" feature to be recognized. For those joining us through the conference call line, you will need to press *6 to unmute yourself.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and a MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD.

ROLL CALL:

Robinson [P] Goodloe [P] Eisenberg Knegten [P] Jubin [P] Martino [P] Hayeck [P]

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Balla read the following proclamation: National Poison Prevention Week (March 21st - 27th)

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Direct Development

Media Consultant

Representing Direct Development were Matthew Anderson and Deana Gunn, Mr. Anderson shared his screen and made a presentation to all on their proposal submission. Ms. Gunn is also an elected official and understands very well the needs of a municipality in communicating its messages with its residents. Upon the end of the presentation, Council Members took turns making additional inquiries.

Spatial Data Logic

Website Development

Representing Spatial Data Logic were Jack Flood and John Flanagan. Mr. Flood provided an overview of SDL and Mr. Flanagan shared his screen to go over a test website created for Watchung for this presentation. Upon the end of the presentation, Council Members took turns making additional inquiries.

Jaffe Communications

Website Development and Media Consultant

Representing Jaffe Communications, was Jonathan Jaffee. Mr. Jaffee provided an overview of his company and stated that their company is comprised of former Reporters. He gave an overview of a power point presentation on both proposals and at the end, Council Members took turns making additional inquiries.

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No one appearing

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DISCUSSION

2019 Annual Audit

Council Member Martino requested to have a separate special meeting to have the Borough's Auditors and CFO present to the Council on the 2019 audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Balla announced that he would be establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee for the development of plans and restoration of Camp Endeavor looking to create a community garden, Watchung charitable farm and an environmental center for residents and an educational center for students at Bayberry School.

CONSENT AGENDA: Council President Robinson motioned to accept the items listed below, second by Council Member Goodloe.

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Historical Committee Meeting Minutes January 20, 2021

Municipal Council Meeting Minutes January 7th – March 4th, 2021

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #9- Watchung Arts Center 3/3/21 Building Maintenance Issues c: M&C, JD
- #10- Letter of Retirement from Chief Kelly, Police Department 3/11/21 c: M&C, JD

Council Members thanked Chief Kelly for his services and the time dedicated to Watchung and wished him well in his retirement from government.

Council Member Martino inquired on having a motion to allow Public Works Department to solicit proposals for painting of the Arts Center. Council Member Eisenberg Knegten mentioned that this item had recently been discussed at a Public Works Committee meeting and that Mr. Charlie Gunther, Manager of DPW had already been instructed to move forward with soliciting quotes.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: Motion to Adopt by Robinson, second by Goodloe.

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino* [Y] Hayeck [Y]

Council Member Goodloe expressed appreciation for the authorization of R1, specifically the Yoshino Cherry Trees, and encouraged all to stop by and appreciate their beauty once planted.

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R1:	Authorizing Purchase Orders over \$2,000 – MD Radio Services (Communication Tower) Solitude Lake Management (LED Lighting for Lake) Northern Nurseries, Inc. (Yoshino Cherry Trees)
*R2:	Authorizing Return of Escrow Deposits - Various Applicants as Listed on Resolution
	RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino* [Abstain] Hayeck [Y]
R3:	Authorizing Waiving of Delinquent Interest – 305 Ridge Rd, Block 7004/Lot 2
R4:	Authorizing Waiving of Delinquent Interest – 1515 Route 22 West, Block 5703/ Lot 2.02 and 1511 Route 22 West, Block 5703/ Lot 2.01
R5:	Authorizing Waiving of Delinquent Interest – Block 6201/ Lot 2; Block 6403/ Lot 1; Block 6909/ Lot 32; Block 7008/Lot 5; and Block 7302/Lot 16
R6:	Authorizing Waiving of Delinquent Interest – 40 Jared Court, Block 6802 /Lot16
R7:	Authorizing Waiving of Delinquent Interest – 77 Redmont Road, Block 4308/Lot 7
R8:	Authorizing Bill List
NON-	-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:
R9:	Authorizing Extension of Temporary Outdoor Dining
	Motion to Adopt by Eisenberg Knegten/ Second by Goodloe RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]
R10:	Awarding Contract for 2021 Payroll Services – Action Data Services
	Motion to Adopt by Jubin/ Second by Robinson RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]
R11:	Authorizing Agreement with Somerset County – 2021 Recycling Services
	Motion to Adopt by Eisenberg Knegten/ Second by Goodloe RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]
R12:	Governing Body's Certification of Review of the 2019 Annual Audit
R13:	Motion to Adopt by Jubin/ Second by Robinson RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y] Approving the 2019 Corrective Action Plan
	Motion to Adopt by Jubin/ Second by Robinson RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Haveck [Y]

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R14: Authorizing Approval of Borough-Sponsored Events as Recommended by the Recreation Commission

Motion to Adopt by Hayeck/ Second by Jubin

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Abstain] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

R15: Directing the Planning Board to Review Cannabis Legislation

Motion to Adopt by Martino/ Second by Robinson

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

R16: Authorizing Approval of License Agreement with Somerset County

Motion to Adopt by Eisenberg Knegten/ Second by Hayeck

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

R18: Authorizing the Subordination of a Housing Rehabilitation Mortgage Issued by the Borough

Motion to Adopt by Jubin/ Second by Robinson

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

Deb Joren, Stirling Road – Inquired on the delay of the 2019 Audit and inquired on Chief Kelly's departure.
 Ms. Joren also inquired on the Echoes Sentinel March 11th issue which was about the ethics investigate. She inquired on the status of the final report.

Council Member Jubin noted that he originally called for a speedy investigation and asked Attorney Murphy to follow up.

R17: Authorizing Executive Session: Litigation Matters, Personnel Matters, and Contract Negotiations

Motion to Adopt by Robinson/ Second by Jubin

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

Upon return from Executive Session, all members previously present were once again in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon no further business, this meeting ended at 11:45 P.M. to the Call of the Chair. The next meeting of the Mayor and Council is scheduled to be held on April 1, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edith G. Gil Borough Clerk