

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

APRIL 20, 2023

MAYOR’S STATEMENT: Mayor Ronald Jubin called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M. and stated the following: *“This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. 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. No public comment shall be allowed to be made virtually or accepted in writing and read into the record. All writings received shall be acknowledged and accepted by the Council as regular correspondence. The Borough may broadcast its meetings virtually for public viewing as a courtesy.”*

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD and FOR THE PASSING OF JUDGE LEVINE

ROLL CALL

Ead [P] Hayeck [P] Dahl [Absent] Fischer [P] Marano [P] Abi- Habib [A]

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Jubin read the following proclamation onto the record.

❖ National Garden Month

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- ❖ Watchung Hills Regional High School 2023 Budget Presentation
Elizabeth C. Jewett, Ph.D., Superintendent
Timothy Stys, Business Administrator

Ms. Jewett thanked the Council for allowing them to make a presentation and proceeded to provide an overview of WHRHS, their programs, their students and staff. She also discussed the student and district achievements in the community. Mr. Stys then discussed the school budget summary in detail and spoke on what an improvement program will include. He also discussed the long-term budget projections. He noted that if anyone was interested in additional information, that their website had extensive resources.

Councilman Marano had detailed discussions with Mr. Stys regarding the fair and equitable rate for the cost per student for Watchung residents compared to other towns.

Mayor and Council members thanked Ms. Jewett and Mr. Stys for their detailed presentation and all they do for Watchung.

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- 1) Lynda Goldschein, asked for further clarification on the painting of the club house and questioned its funding source. Ms. Goldschein also mentioned the Borough needed to be more careful with proofreading flyers and materials sent out.

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Administrator Damato commented on the painting of the snack stand at Phillips field and advised the building was in disrepair.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

R1: Determining that the 2023 Budget be Read by Title

Motion to Adopt above by Fischer/ second by Ead

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

Council Member Fischer provided a statement noting the procedures taken of the introduced budget.

Mayor Jubin reminded the public that anyone wishing to speak, was limited to speaking on the borough's budget.

Motion to open public hearing by Fischer, second by Ead

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

Public Hearing and Adoption of 2023 Municipal Budget

[Link to 2023 Budget](#)

No one appeared wishing to speak.

Motion to close the public hearing by Ead, second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

R2: Adoption of 2023 Municipal Budget

Motion to Adopt the 2023 Municipal Budget by Fischer, second by Ead

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

Public Hearing and Adoption of OR 23/02

Motion to open Public Hearing by Ead, second by Dahl

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

OR 23/02: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, 2003, TO REPEAL CHAPTER 22, FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION, IN ITS ENTIRETY AND TO ESTABLISH A NEW CHAPTER 22, "FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS" AND ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS, DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR, AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

R3: Authorizing Adoption of Ordinance 23/02 to Repeal Chapter 22, Flood Damage Prevention and Replace with Chapter 22, Floodplain Management Regulations

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No one appearing wishing to speak on this ordinance

Motion to close Public Hearing by Hayeck, second by Ead

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

Motion to Adopt above by Ead, second by Fischer

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

Public Hearing and Adoption of OR 23/03

Motion to open Public Hearing by Marano, second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

OR 23/03: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, 2003, CHAPTER 3, POLICE DEPARTMENT, TO AMEND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

R4: Authorizing Adoption of Ordinance 23/03 Amending the Organization of the Police Department to Increase the Number of Police Officers

- 1) Lynda Goldschein, expressed her concerns and recollected the initial ordinance adopted in 2022. She suggested that Council go back to the original ordinance with no officer limits.

Mayor Jubin and Council President Ead commented on the background of this ordinance and noted that Council always took the advice and recommendation from the Police Chief and Borough Counsel.

Councilman Hayeck also commented on the adopted budget and explained how it shows the Council's commitment to public safety and the Police Department.

Motion to close Public Hearing and Adopt above by Marano, second by Fischer

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

Public Hearing and Adoption of OR 23/04

Motion to open Public Hearing by Hayeck, second by Dahl

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

OR 23/04: ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE VII OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, ENTITLED "FEES FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES" TO UPDATE AND INCORPORATE THE BOROUGH'S RECREATIONAL FEES

R5: Authorizing Adoption of Ordinance 23/04 Amending Chapter 2 to Update and Incorporate the Borough's Recreation Fees

No one appearing.

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Motion to close Public Hearing by Hayeck, second by Ead

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

Motion to Adopt above by Hayeck, second by Ead

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Animal Control Solutions Monthly Report	March 2023
Engineers Monthly Status Report	March 2023
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes	October 20, 2022 March 16, 2023
Mayor and Council Executive Session Minutes	March 16, 2023 April 6, 2023
PARSA Monthly Meeting Minutes	March 2, 2023
Police Activity Report	March 2023

Motion to Accept above by Ead/ second by Dahl

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

- R6: Authorizing Purchase Orders over Allowed Threshold – *PuroClean Disaster Response (PD building)*
S.E. Rose Trucking & Excavating, Inc (Phillips bridge)
CSM (PD equipment)
Atlantic Tactical (PD equipment)
Fun Services (Recreation)
Coban Tech (PD equipment)
- R7: Recognizing New Jersey Local Government Week April 16 - 22
- R8: Appointment of Pierce Jubin to Recreation Commission
- R9: Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #21-00003 by Evolve Bank & Trust on Block 7403
Lot 2, 1121 Johnston Drive

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- R10: Requesting Authorization from NJ Division of Local Government Services to Establish Dedication By Rider for the Borough of Watchung Fire Department Penalty Moneys
- R11: Requesting Authorization from NJ Division of Local Government Services to Establish Dedication By Rider for the Borough of Watchung's Ness Property Cleanup Fund Donations
- R12: Requesting Authorization from NJ Division of Local Government Services to Establish Dedication By Rider for Borough of Watchung's Police Federal Forfeiture Funds
- R13: Requesting Authorization from NJ Division of Local Government Services to Establish Dedication By Rider for Borough of Watchung's Police Forfeiture Funds
- R14: Requesting Authorization from NJ Division of Local Government Services to Establish Dedication By Rider for the Borough of Watchung's Sidewalk Fund Donations
- R15: Requesting Authorization from NJ Division of Local Government Services to Establish Dedication By Rider for the Borough of Watchung's Tree Fund Donations
- R16: Authorizing Borough Attorney to File Tax Appeals and Petitions on Behalf of the Borough for 2023
- R17: Authorizing Bill List
- R18: Authorizing Submission of a Strategic Plan for the Watchung Hills Regional Municipal Alliance Grant for Fiscal Year 2024

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/ second by Marano

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

NON-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

- R19: Waiving Borough Permit Application Fees for PTO Events Held in 2023

Motion to Adopt above by Fischer/ second by Ead

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

- R20: Authorizing Contract to Remington & Vernick Engineers for Contract Administration and Construction Observation Services for the FY 2023 NJDOT Municipal Aid Improvements to Various Roadways

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/ Second by Marano

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

- 1) Lynda Goldschein, commented that R18 on the agenda should be listed as an Alternate appointment and questioned the adoption of the minutes from October 20, 2022 listed on the agenda.

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Clerk Edith Gil advised Resolution R18 did state alternate appointment and explained the minutes were done but were never formerly placed on an agenda which is the proper procedure before they are uploaded to the website.

R21: Authorizing Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matters & Contract Negotiations

Motion to Adopt above by Ead / second by Dahl

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

Mayor and Council entered Executive Session at approximately 8:28 P.M. and returned to open session at approximately 9:23 P.M.

Motion to return to Open Session by Ead / second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Absent]

ADJOURNMENT

Upon there being no further business, the meeting ended to the Call of the Chair at 9:25 P.M. The next meeting of the Mayor and Council will be Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regina Angelo
Deputy Borough Clerk

Approved: May 18, 2023