

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

MAY 18, 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."*

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 [P] Fischer [P] Marano [P] Abi- Habib [P]

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Jubin read the following proclamations onto the record and provided Members of the Department of Public Works with a special recognition of their labor.

- ❖ Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
- ❖ Building Safety Month
- ❖ National Public Works Week

Mayor Jubin announced that May 23rd is the 97th birthday of Watchung.

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- 1) Vonnie Mott, spoke on behalf of the Garden Club and thanked the Department of Public Works for all of their continued support and assistance and commented that she loved everyone coming together to show support for Arbor Day at the schools.
- 2) Kristie Hartmann, asked for further clarification on some of the payments made by the Borough. She questioned the payment made to BJs regarding the food challenge and inquired on the Phillips Field lease agreement and the expenditure for a pet fountain.

Administrator Damato advised that during COVID the Borough took in donations to purchase food for individuals who were unable to and those funds were used to purchase food and were delivered to the food bank.

- 3) Lynda Goldschein, inquired on an architect being hired to draw up plans for the library. She also commented on the repairs of the electrical box at the library, and asked who was responsible for placing rocks inside the circle. Administrator Damato provided a response.
- 4) Kristie Hartmann, questioned the cost associated with the Best Lake gate repair, payment to Bright View Engineering for Shoprite, and payments made to Appraisal Systems, Inc. Ms. Hartmann questioned if placing the rocks in the circle had to go through Somerset County for approval and

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

MAY 18, 2023

lastly asked why the Borough is paying the new Engineering firm three to four times more than the last firm.

CFO Bill Hance and Administrator Damato explained the specifics of each payment made. Administrator Damato advised the rock project did not have to go through Somerset County and explained that the the rocks were placed specifically in that island because it is the only one without sprinklers therefore vegetation can't grow there effectively.

Councilman Hayeck provided comments relating to the scope of work done this year with the Borough Engineering firm compared to the years prior is incredibly more.

- 5) Phyllis Juetter, expressed her thanks to the Mayor and Council for their decision to renovate the existing Library building and also thanked the Department of Public Works for all their hard work.
- 6) Lynda Goldschein, questioned if Councilman Dahl, as the president of the Little League should be recusing himself from voting on resolutions involving the Little League.

Councilman Hayeck thanked Councilman Dahl for the time and dedication he has put into the Little League and stated he did not derive any personal gains from the work done.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Hayeck commented on the below Ordinance and asked Attorney Sordillo to provide additional comments.

Attorney Sordillo noted that the Planning Board concluded the below Ordinance is not inconsistent with the master plan. He spoke on their recommendation and noted their suggested recommendation was a material change and would cause another reading of the Ordinance. In the interest of time, Council decided to move forward.

Motion to open Public Hearing – Second Reading on below by Hayeck, second by Ead
RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi- Habib [Y]

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE
BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, 2003, CHAPTER 28, LAND DEVELOPMENT,
SECTION 28-401, ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS TO ADD A NEW
SECTION TO ALLOW OUTDOOR DINING AS A PERMITTED ACCESSORY USE
TO FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH**

R1: Authorizing Adoption of Ordinance 23/05 Amending Chapter 28-401 Zoning District Regulations, to Allow Outdoor Dining

No one appearing wishing to speak on this Ordinance.

Councilman Hayeck thanked the Laws and Ordinance Committee, Administrator Damato, the Planning Board, Attorney Sordillo and the Chamber of Commerce for their support and hard work in moving this

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

MAY 18, 2023

Ordinance forward.

R1: Authorizing Adoption of Ordinance 23/05 Amending Chapter 28-401 Zoning District Regulations, to Allow Outdoor Dining

Council President Ead and Mayor Jubin expressed their happiness and are in support of this Ordinance going forward.

Motion to close Public Hearing and adopt above by Hayeck/second by Fischer

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

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Animal Control Solutions Monthly Report	April 2023
Board of Adjustment Meeting Minutes	January 12, 2023
Construction Monthly Report	April 2023
Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes	April 20, 2023
PARSA Meeting Minutes	April 6, 2023
Police Activity Report	April 2023
Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes	March 15, 2023
Traffic and Beautification Meeting Minutes	March 6, 2023

Motion to Accept above by Ead/ second by Abi- Habib

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

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

R2: Designation of Bank Depositories: Investors Bank, Citizens Bank, and NJ ARM

R3: Authorizing Submission of DMHAS Youth Leadership / Municipal Alliance Grant Application

R4: Authorizing Bill List

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/ second by Hayeck

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

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

MAY 18, 2023

NON-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

R5: Authorizing a Shared Services Investment Agreement to Participate in the New Jersey Asset & Rebate Management Program

CFO Bill Hance commented this Resolution provides a different avenue for the Borough to earn more interest on their accounts.

Motion to Adopt above by Fischer/second by Ead

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

R6: Awarding Professional Services Contract to Potter Architects, LLC

Motion to Adopt above by Fischer/second by Ead

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

R7: Authorizing a Field and Facility Permit Application for the Use of the Mobus Field Pavilion to Host Reading Sessions from August 7-11

Motion to adopt above by Abi-Habib/ second by Marano

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

R8: Authorizing Agreement for Lead Grant Assistance Program

Motion to adopt above by Fischer/second by Ead

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

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mayor Jubin stated the hate names and personal attacks on him that occurred two weeks ago will not be tolerated and expects everyone to speak respectfully.

- 1) Lynda Goldschein, questioned if there are any regulations on outside structures regarding the outdoor dining Ordinance, and if Brook Hill is included on the master plan?

Administrator Damato advised the entire Borough of Watchung is in the master plan.

Mayor Jubin commented it is up to the establishment to present their plans that have to comply with planning and zoning requirements.

- 2) Harold Huggins, provided comments relating to the destruction of his property resulting from inadequate storm management due to the drainage on Washington Rock Road. He provided details of the drainage system and stated the erosion has caused two trees to collapse on his property. He mentioned last year the Borough Engineer was out to his property to assess the damages, and he has been expressing his concerns regarding this issue since 2011. He asked for this issue of inadequate storm management to be addressed promptly to prevent future damage.

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

MAY 18, 2023

Administrator Damato suggested the Council have Borough Engineer Jason Cline prepare a report addressing these issues to provide the Council at the next meeting.

R9: Authorizing Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations and Personnel Matters relating to 18 Drift Road and the Borough Clerk

Motion to Adopt above by Ead / second by Marano

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

Mayor and Council entered Executive Session at approximately 8:24 P.M.

Council Member Hayeck stepped out at 9:07 P.M.

Mayor and Council returned to open session at approximately 9:58 P.M.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Upon there being no further business, the meeting ended to the Call of the Chair at 9:59 P.M. The next meeting of the Mayor and Council will be Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regina Angelo
Deputy Borough Clerk

Approved: July 13, 2023