

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

JUNE 15, 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 proclamation onto the record and issued Certificates of Award to all CERT Members present.

❖ Community Emergency Response Team – 10 Year Anniversary

Council President Ead and Council Member Fischer each expressed their appreciation to them. Mayor Jubin recalled upon the events of Hurricane IDA and thanked the Volunteers for their dedication to Watchung.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Marano read a brief biography on Mr. Spatz and then proceeded to move the following.

R1: Authorizing the Appointment of Corey Spatz as Patrol Officer to the Watchung Police Department

Motion to Adopt above by Marano/ second by Fischer

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

R2: Authorizing Appointment of Jennifer E. Agugliaro to the Community Emergency Response Team

Motion to Adopt above by Dahl/ second by Ead

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

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS

Mayor Jubin administered the oath of office to Patrol Officer Corey Spatz, followed by Jennifer Agugliaro’s.

Council Member Marano announced the Board of Education has agreed to front partial cost of the salary for the Student Resource Officer starting in September.

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

JUNE 15, 2023

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- 1) Kristie Hartmann, asked for clarification on specific language used in the proposal for the pickleball, tennis and basketball courts. Ms. Hartmann quoted verbiage from the contract and inquired further on it.

Administrator Damato informed her that the language quoted is standard contract language and explained why in this cause the language doesn't apply. Mr. Damato also explained why it's a better idea to go with the mill and pave option as opposed to just sealing the cracks and recoating the surface and confirmed that one tennis court will be converted into two pickleball courts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion to open Public Hearing – Second Reading on below by Hayeck, second by Abi-Habib

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

**ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A OF THE BOROUGH CODE TO UPDATE
AND AMEND THE RULES OF THE COUNCIL, INCLUDING THE PROCEDURES
FOR THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.**

Public hearing was opened.

Kristie Hartmann appeared before Council and inquired on the striking of “open space” and “general election” under Public Affairs Committee.

Clerk Edith Gil explained the open space was lingering language in the code and general elections by statute fall under the Municipal Clerk .

R3: Authorizing Adoption of Ordinance 23/06 to Amend Appendix A of the Borough's Code

Motion to close Public Hearing and Adopt above by Hayeck, second by Ead

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

Motion to open Public Hearing – Second Reading on below by Hayeck, second by Dahl

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

**ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 12, FIRE PREVENTION, OF THE
CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG**

Public hearing was opened and no one appeared.

R4: Authorizing Adoption of Ordinance 23/07 Amending Ch 12, Fire Prevention, of the Borough's Code

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

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

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

JUNE 15, 2023

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 ORDINANCE NO. 23/02 ADOPTED APRIL 20, 2023
ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 22 ENTITLED “FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS”
TO FURTHER AMEND SECTION 103.1 DESIGNATING A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR**

Public hearing was opened and no one appeared.

R5: Authorizing Adoption of Ordinance 23/08 to Amend Ordinance 23/02 to Clarify Section 103.1,
Designating a Floodplain Administrator

Council President Ead thanked Borough Engineer Jason Cline and the Laws and Ordinance
Committee for their hard work during this process.

Motion to close Public Hearing and Adopt above by Hayeck, second by Abi-Habib

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

Motion to open Public Hearing– Second Reading on below by Fischer, second by Ead

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

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, CH. 5-
12.76 ET SEQ. THEREOF, AND TO, FIX AND DETERMINE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM
SALARIES AND COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES**

R6: Authorizing Adoption of Ordinance 23/10, Establishing a Minimum and Maximum Salary Ordinance

Public hearing was opened and no one appeared.

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

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

Mayor Jubin thanked the Laws and Ordinance Committee and Borough Officials for their work in moving
all of these ordinances along.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Board of Adjustment Meeting Minutes	May 11, 2023
Construction Department Monthly Report	May 2023
Historical Committee Meeting Minutes	April 26, 2023

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

JUNE 15, 2023

Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority Minutes May 4, 2023

Suburban Municipal Joint Insurance Fund Annual Audit 2022 & 2021

#13: Notice of Recreation Coordinator, Administrative Assistant / Linda Monetti Retirement eff. 9/1/23, rec. 6/12/23, cc: M&C, JD

#14: Twp of Berkeley Heights Planning Board, Application of the Connell Company, located at 400 Connell Drive, Public Hearing on June 21, 2023, rec. 6/12/23, cc: M&C, JD

#15: Twp of Berkeley Heights Planning Board, Application of the Connell Company, located at Dog Tree Way and Park Drive, Public Hearing on June 21, 2023, rec. 6/12/23, cc: M&C, JD

Mayor Jubin commented on the retirement of Linda Monetti. He expressed his thanks and appreciation for all her hard work and dedication to the Borough and expressed she will be greatly missed. He also invited Linda to come back and do the ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the pickle-ball court.

Council President Ead also expressed her sadness to see Ms. Monetti go and thanked her for the wonderful events she has put together in Watchung to bring the community together.

Motion to Accept above by Ead/ second by Marano

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

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

R7: Authorizing Purchase Orders over Allowed Threshold – Nielsen Fleet (*PD-2023 Dodge Durango*)
Motorola (*FD- 5 apx radios & accessories*)
Keystone Sports Const. (*tennis & pickleball courts*)

R8: Authorizing the Appointments of Summer Camp Assistant Director and Camp Counselor

R9: Authorizing Shared Services Agreement with the County of Somerset for Use of Street Sweeping
Storage Facility

R10: Authorizing Renewal of Liquor Licenses for 2023- 2024 Term

R11: Authorizing the Bill List

R12: Authorizing the Appointment of Volunteers to the Environmental Commission, Library Advisory
Committee, and the Planning Board

R13: Authorizing Salary Adjustments for Summer Camp Staff Members

Council President Ead expressed her excitement to sign on with Keystone sports.

Mayor Jubin expressed his thanks to the new volunteers appointed to the Environmental, Library and Planning Board.

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

JUNE 15, 2023

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/ second by Dahl

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

NON-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 23/11

OR 23/11: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A STOP SIGN ON CARRAR DRIVE AT THE INTERSECTION OF GLEN EAGLE DRIVE

R14: Introducing OR 23/11, Establishing the Placement of a Stop Sign on Carrar Drive

Council President Ead advised the stop sign request came for public safety reasons from residents living in this area who like to walk.

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/ second by Marano

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

R15: Authorizing the Field and Facility Permit Application for Watchung IDEA to hold a Juneteenth Walk on June 17, 2023

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

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

R19: Authorizing the Appointment of Public Works Seasonal Employee – Joseph Pizzigoni

Council President Ead mentioned she is glad to have summer assistance so that the Department of Public Works can take summer vacation and the extra help makes a big difference.

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/ second by Marano

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

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

- 1) Kristie Hartmann, asked for further clarification on the payment of the dog fountain and questioned the no dogs allowed sign that was in the park.

Administrator Damato clarified that is no ordinance that states dogs are not allowed in the park, but noted dogs in the park are required to be on a leash.

Ms. Hartmann further commented that in 1998 very close friends of hers donated and dedicated the water fountain that was taken down as a memorial to their son. She commented that the town committed to the family that they would maintain the plaque and questioned if the Council was aware of that and if the plaque was saved.

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

JUNE 15, 2023

Administrator Damato clarified that the water fountain was not functionable and the plaque there was saved. He also stated the intent is to have a monument made to remount the plaque installed next to the new fountain. Ms. Hartmann questioned if the family will be notified of this.

Council Member Abi-Habib advised friends of the family have been located and noted the Borough would be contacting the family.

- 2) Jill Jacques, commented on the need for crosswalks painted on Mountain Blvd and Stirling Road. She also questioned the amount of time it takes to order and fill the doggie bags at the dog waste station. She further expressed her concern in regards to the plaque dedicated to the young boy which was removed from the park. Lastly, she noted her disappointment in regards to Council Member Dahl displaying the cross on the dais.

Council President Ead commented on the various plaques and dedications that have been repaired throughout the Borough. She stated Public Works and Borough officials work very hard to try and maintain those items over the years.

Council President Ead commented on the specific type of waste bags the Borough has to use in the park. She mentioned the bags have to have a corn starch base and the Borough is in the process of stock piling to avoid another shortage. She also reminded residents to please only take one bag per animal.

Council Member Abi-Habib stated the plaque mentioned is in Borough possession and there will be a memorial and a rededication to the child. She also stated the child and family have not been forgotten.

R16: Authorizing Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations and Personnel Matters

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 8:19 P.M and returned to open session at approximately 9:19 P.M.

Motion to return to open session by Ead/ second by Fischer

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

R17: Authorizing the Watchung Planning Board to Undertake a Preliminary Investigation for the Redevelopment of Block 70.10/ Lots 5.01, 5.02, 5.03 as a Non-Condensation Redevelopment Area

Motion to Adopt above by Fischer/ second by Abi-Habib

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

R18: Authorizing a Funding Agreement with Capodagli Property Company, LLC/ Meridia, LLC

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/ second by Fischer

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

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

JUNE 15, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Upon there being no further business, the meeting ended to the Call of the Chair at 9:21 P.M. The next meeting of the Mayor and Council will be Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regina Angelo
Deputy Borough Clerk

Approved: August 11, 2023