

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

AUGUST 10, 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

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.

- ❖ National Wellness Month
- ❖ 50th Anniversary of the 1973 Flood
- ❖ Andrew Hart, Retired Police Chief
- ❖ Certificate of Recognition – Linda Monetti, Retiring Recreation Coordinator

Mayor and Councilmembers each provided comments on their personal experiences with Ms. Monetti and thanked her for all her time and dedication to Watchung. They also wished her much happiness in her retirement and all her future endeavors.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

Mayor Jubin administered the oath of office to Police Chief, Scott E. Anderle.

Mayor and Councilmembers expressed their well wishes to Chief Anderle and congratulated him on his new position.

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Councilman Hayeck provided comments relating to his letter of resignation submitted. He advised he is moving out of state to take a new job and pursue part time law school. He commented on what a difficult choice this was for him to make especially since public service is so important to him and the love for serving Watchung residents. He also expressed what an incredible asset Councilwoman Abi- Habib has been in such a short time on Council. Councilman Hayeck also thanked the residents of Watchung for giving him the opportunity to serve them as well as thanking his colleagues and all the administrative staff. He acknowledged the Republican party for all their support as well as

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Governor DiFrancesco for acting as a mentor figure throughout this process and last but not least Councilman Hayeck thanked his family for all their encouragement and support.

Tracy DiFrancesco, wished Councilman Hayeck all the best and thanked him for all his hard work and dedication to Watchung.

John Abi-Habib, commented that Councilman Hayeck's commitment to Watchung and the way he has engaged the youth is a real inspiration to Watchung residents. He thanked him for all he has done for the community.

Janine Riedinger, wished Councilman Hayeck the best of luck with school and thanked him for his dedication to Watchung.

Mayor and Council Members stated how wonderful it has been to work along side Councilman Hayeck and wish him the best of luck with all his future endeavors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

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

**OR 23/12: An Ordinance Further Amending OR 23/10, To Fix and Determine
Minimum and Maximum Salaries and Compensation to be Paid to Certain Employees**

Public hearing was opened.

No one appearing to speak.

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

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:

Board of Adjustment Meeting Minutes	June 8, 2023
Building/ Construction Monthly Report	July 2023
Green Team Advisory Committee	June 28, 2023
Library Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes	May 17, 2023

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Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2023

Police Department Activity Report

July 2023

#17: Letter of Resignation from Councilman Hayeck effective August 10, 2023; Recv'd 8/7/23,
cc: M&C, JD, JS

Motion to Accept above by Ead, second by Fischer

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

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

R1: Authorizing POs over Allowed Threshold – ASL Group, LLC (*Island Landscaping*)
Draeger, Inc (*PD - Alcotest system*)
Flock Group, Inc (*PD – 5 license plate readers & install.*)
CMS Construction Inc (*Sidewalk improvements*)
Round Top Swim & Tennis Club (*camp registrations*)
C&V Paving Contractors - (*paving of Mobus Field lot*)

R2: Authorizing Extension of Tax Grace Period for the Third Quarter Tax Payment of 2023

R3: Authorizing a Contract for 2023 Payroll Services with Action Data Services in an Amount Not to Exceed \$20,000.00

R4: Authorizing Participation in the LEAP Implementation Grant Application with Somerset County to Support Implementation of Shared Services

R5: Amending Previously Authorized Shared Services Agreement with Somerset County for a Street Sweeping Storage Facility

R6: Authorizing Appointment of Anthony Terrezza to the Board of Adjustment

R7: Authorizing Bill List

R8: Authorizing Final Payout of Accumulated Benefits for Andrew Hart

R9: Authorizing Field and Facility Permit Application for Flag Raising in Honor of Ukraine Independence

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

R10: Re-Appointing and Authorizing an Employment Contract with James Damato as Borough Administrator

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Councilmembers expressed their gratitude for Mr. Damato's complete devotion to the Borough. Mayor Jubin stated what an honor it is to have someone with such talent, professionalism and experience leading Watchung.

Administrator Damato thanked Mayor and Councilmembers for their continued trust and confidence in him and stated how wonderful it is working with a forward thinking and results oriented Mayor and Council.

Motion to Adopt above by Fischer/ second by Ead

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

R11: Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the Watchung Board of Education for the Provision of a School Resource Officer

Council President Ead and Councilman Dahl expressed their support with moving this resolution forward. Mayor Jubin thanked the Watchung Board of Education for also being in support of this agreement.

Motion to Adopt above by Marano/ second by Dahl

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

R12: Authorizing the Appointment and Salary Adjustment of Recreation Coordinator, Damaris Quiñones-Gray

Councilmembers congratulated Ms. Quiñones-Gray and expressed their excitement to work with her in this new position.

Mayor Jubin also congratulated Ms. Quiñones-Gray and stated she is a wonderful woman and expressed his feelings on how she will excel in this role as Recreation Coordinator.

Motion to Adopt above by Fischer/ second by Ead

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

R13: Authorizing the Salary Adjustment of Elvia Horsfall

Mayor Jubin and Council President Ead expressed their thanks to Elvia for all her hard work and dedication to the Borough.

Motion to Adopt above by Fischer/ second by Ead

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

R14: Authorizing the Re-Appointment of Robert LaCosta as Construction Official

Mayor Jubin and Council President Ead thanked Mr. LaCosta for his hard work and dedication to Watchung.

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Motion to Adopt above by Fischer/ second by Dahl

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

R15: Authorizing the Contract Expansion of Remington Vernick Engineers for the Rehabilitation of the Borough Bridge Library

Council President Ead expressed her thanks to everyone who helped move this project forward.

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/ second by Hayeck

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

R16: Authorizing a 3-Year Lease Agreement for Phillips Field with the Watchung Board of Education

Council President Ead expressed her thanks to everyone involved working together on this agreement.

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/ second by Dahl

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

R17: Authorizing a Revocable License Agreement for a Portion of 60 Sequoia Drive, Block 6908/ Lot 22

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/ second by Dahl

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

INTRODUCED ORDINANCE

OR 23/13: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING LAND EXCHANGE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-16 IN CONNECTION WITH THE PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED MOU WITH MAHA AT WATCHUNG, LLC

Councilman Hayeck expressed he is in full support of this Ordinance.

Motion to Introduce and Adopt above by Ead/ second by Hayeck

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

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

- 1) Robert Berlant, provided comments on the property he owns next to the Brook Hill Swim Club. He stated he has a unique piece of property to the west of the swim club that is landlocked. He also spoke on behalf of his neighbor, Jeff Beckerman whose property is also landlocked. He explained to the west of their property is free acres and he has tried to obtain an easement to become part of their community but has been unsuccessful. He asked the Council to consider adding their two additional parcels in regards to the rezoning of the Brook Hill Swim Club

R18: Authorizing Executive Session to Discuss Contract Negotiations and Attorney-Client Privilege Matters

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/ second by Marano

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Mayor and Council entered Executive Session at approximately 8:34 P.M and returned to open session at approximately 9:26 P.M.

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

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 9:27 P.M. The next meeting of the Mayor and Council will be Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regina Angelo
Deputy Borough Clerk

Approved: October 5, 2023