

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
DECEMBER 6, 2018 - 7:30 P.M.**

**OPENING STATEMENT:** Mayor Stephen K. Pote called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM and made the following statement. 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 Annual Notice and specific Notice of Special Meeting for the December 6, 2018 meeting to the to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG and a MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD and a MOMENT OF SILNCE for GEORGE H. W BUSH # 41.**

**ROLL CALL:**

Gibbs [ P ] Black [ A ] Nehls [ P ] Mobus [ P ] Sopko [ P ] Alberto [ P ]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, and Administrative Assistant Regina Angelo

**PRESENTATION**

Council President Gibbs called upon Assemblywoman Munoz for a special presentation. Assemblywoman Munoz presented a Legislative Resolution to Mayor Pote honoring his years of service.

There were 55 members of the public present.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

1. Administration & Finance – Councilman Mobus had no report.
2. Police – Police Commissioner Gibbs asked the community to be on the lookout for a missing 48 year-old female.
3. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds – Councilman Nehls reported all the roads listed to be milled and paved were done as of December 5, 2018. He also said pot hole repairs are ongoing and the leaf bag pick up has been completed. He said new banners will be installed on Somerset Street on Friday morning for the season. He also commented that the new electronic sign is up and running.
4. Public Affairs:

Environmental – Councilwoman Alberto said more and more trees are being taken down and not being replaced and many are being removed without a permit. She said there is a tree replacement plan for Bonnie Burn Road and it will be followed. Council President Gibbs said it is critical for our residents to be aware of the tree ordinance we have in place. He discussed the diseases that are effecting our trees and asked our residents to be conscious of taking them down without permits. He said we need to step up an awareness campaign to better inform our residents because if we don't start taking care of our trees now, we will have serious problems in the future.

Recreation – Councilman Mobus said the Committee met and discussed plans and events for 2019, and possible capital improvement projects. He said they need to add funds to the budget to cover janitorial services for activities held at the school, noting that these additional costs will impact our enrollment fees. He also noted that enrollment in many of our programs has been down, and we will have to start looking into combining programs with other towns, as they are experiencing the same. He said the summer camp at Brook Hill has been very popular, with 82 children participating. Councilman Mobus said we are awaiting word from Brook Hill so we can start planning for 2019.

Historical - Councilman Mobus said the next meeting for the Committee is December 12<sup>th</sup>. He said some of the plans for next year include the digitization of documents, and also some members are going to Philadelphia to check on the restoration progress mural. He said we would like to honor Betty Jean Aldrich with a lifetime award, making her second resident to receive this honor. He suggested the responsibility to complete the ordering and placement of the engraved bricks be moved to the Historical Committee and as the current 911 ad-hoc Committee has been dissolved. He said future concerns of the 911 Memorial would be assumed by the Historic Committee, and that the Committee is ready to take this on. Mayor Pote commented he had no problem moving the responsibility over to Historical Committee, and this makes sense as Seth Alexander was on the 911 Committee and is now on Historical.

Board of Health – Mr. Atkins mentioned on behalf of Councilman Black that MiddleBrook is appreciative of the Council action helping them with their insurance coverage for 2019.

5. Fire – Mr. Atkins mentioned on behalf of Councilman Black he had asked for an update on the fire house renovations, as did the Chief and the Chemical Engine President. He said a list of concerns was submitted and responded to by Maser Consulting and this was shared with the Fire leadership.

6. Laws/Ordinances – No report.

**REPORTS - OTHER:**

7. Engineer – Mr. Atkins said Mr. Herits has been very busy with the road work being done in town.

8. Police Chief – No report.

9. Fire Department - Chief Pivnichny thanked Council for action taken at last meeting with moving forward on new apparatus, adding that the fire members are very thankful. He said they are currently conducting an inventory on all of our tools and equipment to evaluate what needs to be purchased to upgrade and operate efficiently and safely. He said at this point in time one applicant is going through the application process.

10. Rescue Squad – No report.

11. Emergency Management – Mr. Atkins spoke on a recent meeting with the OEM Coordinator and the Mayor, explaining that it was important to get Mayor-elect Balla familiar with the process. He said the OEM Manual should be ready by the end of the year or in January.

12. Attorney – Mr. Cruz said that in regard to the Keep a Library in Watchung vs Watchung litigation, that on tonight’s agenda R10 on the non-consent Agenda is a resolution rescinding and nullifying the resolutions adopted on April 19<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 regarding the library. Mr. Cruz said the attorney for the Keep a Library in Watchung is present tonight and upon R10 being adopted, Mr. Wolfgang Robinson will sign order of dismissal. Mr. Cruz said there was an Executive Session held earlier this evening

13. Clerk – Mrs. DeRocco had no report.

14. Administrator – Mr. Atkins had no report.

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**PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**  
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None

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
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**PRESENTATION:**

Borough Planner Marcia Shiffman was present in the event that there were any questions or clarifications during the following Public Hearings.

Mr. Cruz said he would like to follow the same process as when these ordinances were introduced on April 19<sup>th</sup>. He said a summary of each ordinance are as follows:

Mr. Cruz referred to #42 on the Correspondence section of the Agenda, the Planning Board Review Reports (4) of OR:18/17; OR:18/18; OR:18/19 and OR:18/20 and said these Ordinances have been found not to be inconsistent with the Master Plan, or substantially consistent. The report from the Planning Board did contain four recommendations, in regard to OR:18/20, which he said he will address when that Ordinance is open to the public.

Mr. Cruz provided a summary of each Ordinance as follows:  
OR:18/17 is an amendment to the existing Accessory Apartment Ordinance; OR:18/18 is the adoption of the overlay on Route 22 which is a new Ordinance but has been a part of the Borough’s Housing Element and Fair Share Plan for the past ten years; OR:18/19 is a mandatory municipal set-aside; and OR:18/20 is the Bonnie Burn Road property Redevelopment plan.

Mr. Cruz explained that these four ordinances continue the planning process as it has been going on in Watchung relating to Affordable Housing.

He explained that these ordinances don't grant approval to any development, any development must be approved by the Planning Board upon notice to the adjoining property owners and follow the regular Planning Board process. He said these ordinances implement the settlement agreement approved by Superior Court and this Council. Mr. Cruz also said the Borough planner Marcia Shiffman is here to answer any questions as needed and suggested the Council proceed with the public hearings.

A Public Hearing of Ordinance OR:18/17 entitled: "AN ORDINANCE THAT AMENDS THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG LOW AND MODERATE INCOME ACCESSORY APARTMENT REQUIREMENTS TO PARTIALLY MEET THE BOROUGH'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL OF LOW AND MODERATE INCOME ACCESSORY APARTMENTS INSTEAD OF CONDITIONAL USE APPROVAL AND SETTING FORTH APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURE AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION." was held.

Council President Gibbs moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Sopko, "aye;" Mobus, Alberto "nay."

With no one from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Gibbs closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution, and upon Roll Call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Sopko, "aye;" Mobus, Alberto "nay."

R1: Adoption of Ordinance OR:18/17 – Amend Code / Low and Moderate Income  
Accessory Apartment Requirements

A Public Hearing of Ordinance OR:18/18 entitled: "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER XXVIII, ENTITLED "LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG" TO ESTABLISH A ROUTE 22 AFFORDABLE HOUSING OVERLAY DISTRICT." was held.

Council President Gibbs moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Sopko, "aye." Mobus, Alberto "nay"

With no one from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Gibbs closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution, and upon Roll Call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Sopko, "aye;" Mobus, Alberto "nay."

R2: Adoption of Ordinance OR:18/18 – Amend Code / Affordable Housing Overlay  
District

Public Hearing of Ordinance OR: 18/19 entitled: "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER XXVIII, ENTITLED "LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG" TO ESTABLISH MANDATORY AFFORDABLE HOUSING SET-ASIDE." was held.

Council President Gibbs moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Sopko, "aye." Mobus, Alberto "nay"

With no one else from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Gibbs closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution, and upon Roll Call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Sopko, "aye." Mobus, Alberto "nay"

R3: Adoption of Ordinance OR:18/19 – Amend Code / Mandatory Affordable Housing  
Set-Aside

Public Hearing of Ordinance OR: 18/20 entitled: "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A "REDEVELOPMENT PLAN" FOR A NON-CONDEMNATION AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF BLOCK 7402, LOTS 19.01 AND 19.02 AND BLOCK 7403, LOTS 5 AND 10 AND FURTHER IDENTIFIED AS THE "BONNIE BURN ROAD REDEVELOPMENT AREA", AS SHOWN ON THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG TAX MAP IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7." was held.

R4: Adoption of Ordinance OR: 18/20 – Redevelopment Plan / Bonnie Burn Road  
Redevelopment Area

Council President Gibbs moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Sopko, "aye;" Mobus, Alberto "nay."

Attorney Cruz read the four recommendations made by the Planning Board.

- (1) He said the Ordinance should include more clarification as to what is being disturbed. There should be a more concise percentage of the disturbed vs. the undisturbed areas, and of the disturbed area, clarification should be made as to the amount of green space to be maintained.
- (2) The Ordinance should include that the site plan be sent to the Environmental Commission for their review and comment.
- (3) The Ordinance should be amended on page 10 #2 to include: Existing healthy trees in the buffer area shall be retained to the greatest extent possible. During review of the site plan application, the Planning Board may require a combination of evergreens, deciduous, conifer and landscaper materials and/or earth tone fencing in such locations, design and size as necessary to provide year-round screening to minimize off-site views into the greatest degree practicable from adjoining residential properties.
- (4) The Ordinance should include that BNE will be responsible for all costs associated with the qualified administrative agent.

Mr. Cruz explained he has reviewed all of the Planning Boards recommendations and his recommendation is to proceed with the ordinances as drafted and each of these recommendations would be subject of an amendment to the redevelopment plan next year. Mr. Cruz said if the Mayor and Council adopt this Ordinance we will need to enter into a redevelopment agreement.

William Butler, Butler and Butler Law Firm, Westfield, representing Weldon Materials Inc., said Mr. Cruz indicated the report of the Planning Board will be adopted next year by way of amendment .and asked if this would be done Mr. Butler, referring to the proposed 230 units, 46 of them being affordable, asked if there would be any age restrictions, and Mr. Cruz responded no. Mr. Butler asked if there was any idea of the population of this development, and Mr. Cruz explained there is a bedroom mix, as required by the Affordable Housing regulations, and there must be a certain number of 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms, with the remainder being 1 and 2 bedrooms, however, the engineering for this project has not been completed and only conceptual plans. Mr. Butler questioned BNE's intention to hook up into the Berkeley Heights sanitary sewer system and Mr. Cruz responded that any developer who is going to spend the time and money to develop this property will make sure they can contain sewer capacity. Mr. Butler asked if we anticipate more units going up in 2025? Attorney Cruz said in his judgement no because the site would have been fully built.

Mike Devine, Oakwood Road, said he is a resident bordering this proposed development. He said he asked the Council to come and view his property before voting on this plan, and did get a visit from Councilmen Black and Mobus. Mr. Devine referenced a page of the proposed plan which shows this plan was shoehorned into this site. Mr. Devine said he is not comfortable with having a parking lot in his backyard. He asked to push this plan back, not to agree to everything BNE is asking for with a rubber stamp it. He asked that someone come and look at his property, and his neighbor's property.

Councilman Nehls explained that we are just starting at the Planning Board at this time. He said BNE will do their best to comply with resident concerns. He said the Planning Board or the council will not rubber stamp this. The Planning Board will adhere to their regulations.

Mr. Devine said he is hopeful as well but in terms of the language we are passing an Ordinance which does have pre-set buffers. He said there is no wiggle room this way once this Ordinance is passed. Councilman Nehls commented that passing this Ordinance puts this in the Planning Board's hands to work with and discuss these buffers.

Attorney Cruz said the plan provides flexibility for those buffers and encouraged Mr. Devine to approach the Planning Board with his concerns.

Keith Balla (Mayor-Elect), Shawnee Drive, asked if the heights shown in the plan exceed our current height restrictions in other areas.

Marcia Shiffman commented the Ordinance establishes a new way to measure height which is different than the current Ordinance. Attorney Cruz said the height of the building is higher but the plan considers the slope of the property. Mr. Balla said his concern is if he is sitting on the edge of his property looking up if all he will see are large buildings. Mrs. Schiffman replied we are keeping the larger buildings towards the center away from the residents. Mr. Balla also asked about fire safety and access for fire trucks to get in for service. Attorney Cruz replied this is part of the engineering process.

Hans Juette, Elsinore Drive, asked if the new measurement technique will apply to all construction in Watchung. Attorney Cruz said this is a Zoning Ordinance specific to this property only. Mr. Juette said he feels this privilege should be given to every building in Watchung.

Mr. Butler, asked about the environmental impact statement referenced in the redevelopment plan. Attorney Cruz said it is the same as any other would have to have to apply to the Board. Attorney Cruz explained the difference between a Phase 1 and Phase 2 Assessment referenced in the redevelopment plan. Mr. Butler said he appreciates noticing on page 15 the developer taking into consideration the blasting that is performed by Weldon. Mr. Cruz said it is a requirement in the lease to notify tenants that they are across the street from a quarry and blasting will occur there.

With no one else from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Gibbs closed the public hearing and moved the following resolution, and upon Roll Call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Sopko, "aye;" Mobus, Alberto "nay."



Mr. Cruz stated the law requires that a redeveloper be designated. He said this Resolution is consistent with the Local Rehabilitation and Housing law. He stated it is a conditional designation with the condition being a successful negotiation and agreement upon a redeveloper's agreement and a payment in lieu of taxes agreement.

Council President Gibbs moved Resolution R9 with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Sopko "aye;" Mobus, Alberto "nay."

R10: Resolution Rescinding the April 19, 2018 and July 19, 2018 Resolutions Regarding the Library

Councilman Alberto asked for clarification on Resolution R10.

Mr. Cruz explained that part of the litigation was that if the April 19<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup> library resolutions were rescinded they would withdraw the legal issue. He said since April and July the Borough has moved forward with additional things. He recommended rescinding these resolutions. He said it is a reasonable solution for both sides. Councilwoman Alberto asked if by rescinding this the lawsuit is dropped and the library signs posted around town will come down. Mr. Cruz said that issue is up to the people who have posted the signs to address. Mr. Cruz said this is only geared towards the resolutions previously adopted and the litigation matter. Mr. Cruz said if this resolution passes there would be an order of dismissal with prejudice and without cost which means each party will not make a claim against the other for their expenses.

Councilwoman Alberto said she believes the April resolution regarding the library was useful because it motivated the Council to research and design a community center/library. She said the renderings show a space for a modern library and many other options. She added that the location and idea is a gem and she hopes it will continue to be pursued. She said she hopes we can move forward with this idea and pursue private and public partnerships to offset the expense.

Council President Gibbs moved Resolution R10 with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Mobus, Sopko, Alberto "aye"

R11: Authorize 2018 Budget Transfers

Councilman Mobus moved Resolution R11 with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

R12: Payment of Bills

Councilman Mobus moved Resolution R12 with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Mobus, Sopko, Alberto "aye"

Council President Rob Gibbs moved a Resolution (R13) honoring Mayor Steve Pote for his service to the Borough (copy attached.) Councilman Nehls seconded the motion and upon Roll Call the vote was as follows: Gibbs, Nehls, Mobus, Sopko, Alberto "aye."

Mr. Atkins asked if anyone would like to speak about Mayor Pote, Councilman Mobus or Councilwoman Alberto as it is their last meeting.

Council President Gibbs said Dave's father would be immensely proud of him for all his accomplishments. He said his family has been in this town for so long and from day one he had willingness to jump into fire and do his absolute best. He said it has been a pleasure to serve with him. He said he has always felt the light shining from above on him. He said Councilwoman Alberto always governed from her heart, with integrity and according to her principles. He said she had passion, and governed from her heart and principles, and never backed down, and that is the true hallmark of a governing official. He said she always served with honesty and integrity and that she should never be disappointed in any votes that she made.

Councilman Nehls thanked the Mayor and said he appreciated his guidance, intelligence and dedication to the town. He said to Councilman Mobus that his father would be proud of him, and that he has been an asset to this town. He said his guidance on the Finance Committee has helped the town get to a better place. He said Councilwoman Alberto has provided the Council with the energy it has been missing. He said her ideas have been wonderful, and her work as been exemplary and that he appreciates everything for this town.

Councilman Sopko said it has been an honor and privilege to serve under Mayor Pote. He said the Mayor has always shown him patience through his learning curve. He also thanked Councilman Mobus for giving him the confidence he needed when he began his journey as a Councilman. He said it has been great working with Maria, he will miss her energy and ideas.

Attorney Cruz pointed out that there is a very similar characteristic between the Mayor, Councilwoman Alberto and Councilman Mobus, which is that they all put him to the task, they ask the tough questions and made me give you the answers that you needed to hear, and as a lawyer he said he appreciated that.

Clerk Michelle DeRocco commented that she didn't get to know Maria well until she became a Councilperson and all she'd like to say to people is that if you don't like Maria, it is because they never gave themselves a chance to get to know her. She said she has worked closely with Maria on a few projects and said she is a "superwoman" and a woman who is super. She said her visits always lit up our office and that we will miss her stories, her sense of humor, and her smile. Mrs. DeRocco said she is honored and privileged to have known Councilman Mobus and his family for over fifteen years. She said no one says "Watchung" like Dave does, Watchung is in his blood and heart and he has been deeply embedded in the ultimate good of the entire Borough. She thanked Dave for always taking the time to listen, and listen with an open heart. She said thanked him on behalf of the staff and said she knows he will stay involved and hopes he continues to follow through on the many visions he had for Watchung. Mrs. DeRocco she has worked with the Mayor for the past 14 years, and always found it amazing that as a single dad, a Vice President of a large company, and still be so "hands-on" as first a Council member and then as Mayor. She said she still remembers when he used to bring Jenny to all of his meetings, and she would sit quietly with a book and read, and that encouragement is probably the reason she a great teacher today. She said Mayors are authorized to perform marriage ceremonies, and Mayor Pote never turned down an opportunity to perform this service, but unlike others, he always took the time out to meet the couple and make sure that they were serious about their commitment. Mrs. DeRocco said she thinks the word commitment is very important to him as she has seen him committed to every issue he has believed in. She said she knows the decision not to seek re-election was a hard one, and she understands his reasons. She thanked him for all of the support and encouragement he has given to her.

Administrator Atkins commented that Councilwoman Alberto has a great eye for aesthetics. He said she can improve the appearance of anything. He also said the best way to describe Councilwoman Alberto in a few words is dedicated, determined, diligent and dynamic. He said Councilwoman Alberto never stopped trying to strive for the best. Mr. Atkins said the Mobus family is Watchung and Watchung is the Mobus family. He spoke about Councilman Mobus not only being his boss but a friend. He thanked the Pote family for allowing Steve to serve the Borough. He also mentioned Steve being a Watchung graduate and how much he loves the town. He said the Mayor is kind and gracious, and talked about his passion for the Library. He said Steve taught him a lot of being a parent, as he watched him raise his daughter Jenny. Mr. Atkins said it has been a wonderful experience to work with Councilman Mobus, Councilwoman Alberto and Mayor Pote.

Mayor Pote said he feels very grateful to have been the Mayor of Watchung and there is a lot he can say about the accomplishments of this Council and the accomplishments of the volunteers. He said progress was made on Affordable Housing, the Library, and the deer, and there is certainly much more that can be done, but time passes and there are new administrations and he hoped for continuity. He said he appreciates all that went into the Resolution, and that all of that success is because of those who helped, because it really does take a village, but said the one area he would like to be remembered for was having a Council who was concerned about making sure our residents were safe, after going through some of the major storms. He said the improvements that were made, after Hurricane Sandy, and Riley and Quinn, says the most about this Council. He said the steps that were taken to improve safety – making sure procedures were in place, reconstructing the Fire House, improved communications in terms of email and social media, and very importantly, the new electronic sign. He explained the sign was very important – it was expensive and a lot of research went into it but it is important not just for daily messages but when we have an emergency, that sign will be invaluable. Mayor Pote said the sign is symbolic of the hard work by this Council confirms that the safety of our people is paramount. He said there are other issues that are important to him and he will be on the other side of the dais to bring them up but safety is important and he said he wants to be sure that we continue keep it a priority. He thanked his family for their advice and counsel, and their consistency, and for their devil's advocacy. He said he had two mentors, Dr. Bruce McCumber and Tom Franklin, who got him involved. He said two other people who he trusted and could go to for advice were Assemblyman Jon Bramnick and Senator Don DiFrancesco, he said they really helped him out when he needed it. He said he'd like to thank his Council, and said that things don't get done by one, as Bill Nehls always reminded him – it takes 4 votes, but the accomplishments over the last 6 years really show. Mayor Pote thanked his Council for their time and effort and said he knows personally how much time they have put in and he really appreciates it. He thanked his legal Counsel, Al Cruz, saying we needed the best in the business and we have him right here. He thanked Tom Herits, Bob Burns, MaryAnn Hance and Regina, all of the emergency services. He wanted to thank Chief Joe Cina for getting us through some tough times and also another Watchung guy, Gary Greves who really loves this town and will be retiring soon. Mayor Pote said when he became Mayor 6 years ago under the worst of circumstances, there was a safe send-off and hopefully there will be a safe landing at the end of this month and that was because of Administrator Tom Atkins, Clerk Michelle DeRocco and CFO Bill Hance. He thanked them for always being there for him and for all of their advice and leadership, and have been calm and consistent, and for always thinking of the residents. To Tom and Michelle, he said he will miss their conversations but feels they will be friends for life. Mayor Pote said relied on Tom and his expertise is incredible. He said he feels Watchung is well poised and is excited for what is ahead. He said he wants the new people to be successful. He said his advise to Keith and the Council is that sometimes we need to invest appropriately, and sometimes we have to invest substantially into our infrastructure in order to stay competitive with other towns, and said to look

around at other towns, as they understand the power that comes with putting money into infrastructure. He asked the council to always think that aspect through. He said it has been an honor to serve the Borough of Watchung for 6 years as Mayor and 14 years all together, and said he feels like he provided a bridge from the past to the future. He said he always believed the residents should come first and thanked them for their support. He wished all a happy holiday season and said God bless all of you.

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**PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION**  
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Tom Franklin, Wildwood Terrace, extended his best wishes to Councilman Mobus and Councilwoman Alberto. He said people on the council don't always agree on everything but members of the Council should always do what they think is best. He also extended his best wishes to the newcomers. He mentioned there will be many challenges for the new council ahead. He commented it was an absolute pleasure working with him.

Diddy Addario, Rock Avenue, said she knows better than most people as a widow of a former Mayor and Councilman what it takes to serve as a leader of a community and she thanked the Mayor and Council for their service. She thanked Mayor Pote for all his support throughout the years. She said it has been a pleasure to work with Councilman Mobus on the Historical Committee.

Phyllis Juette, Elsinore Drive, said she is pleased the Council listened to the voices of the people. She thanked them for following their hearts and minds and kept a library in Watchung.

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**ADJOURNMENT**  
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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 P.M. to the Call of the Chair. Mayor Pote noted the meeting scheduled for December 20, 2018 was cancelled and the next meeting will be the Re-Organization meeting scheduled for 6:00 P.M. on January 3, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Angelo, RMC  
Administrative Assistant