

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 4, 2019**

7:00 PM

MAYOR'S 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 special notice 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

ROLL CALL

Gibbs [A] Black [P] Nehls [P] Sopko [P] Goodloe [P] Eisenberg Knegten [P]

Although not present at Roll Call Council President Gibbs arrived at 7:18 pm.

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, and Deputy Clerk MaryAnn Hance.

There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

PRESENTATION:

William B. Butler, Esq., representing Weldon Materials, Inc. /Re: Truck Traffic Through Scotch Plains

Present for Weldon were William B. Butler, Esq., representing Weldon, and Bob Weldon, President.

Mr. Butler gave an explanation of a proposed plan from the Township of Scotch Plains to divert all truck traffic from Park Avenue to Terrill Road. He explained the potential traffic issues if this plan is put into place, how it will ultimately effect Watchung and Weldon, and he explained how Weldon moves their vehicles out of their business. He said if trucks were no longer able to use the overpass and go onto Park Avenue, they would have to make a left once leaving the quarry in order to proceed onto Route 22 to go to Terrill Road. He said this not only adds time to the route but costs to do so.

Mr. Butler explained the impact for traffic during peak hours specifically Bonnie Burn Road which already is grid-locked during peak hours.

Mr. Butler asked for the Governing Body's support and requested a resolution to the Department of Transportation objecting to this proposal and also another Resolution to request Somerset County to also object to this proposal.

Councilman Black said traffic on Park Avenue is better controlled than if it were diverted to Terrill Road. He also agreed with Mr. Butler that this proposed change would cause major traffic problems for Bonnie Burn Road, especially in light of more housing being erected on Valley Road in Berkeley Heights and the proposed site on Bonnie Burn Road in Watchung.

It was the consensus of the Mayor and Council to support Weldon in objecting to this proposal. Mr. Cruz was instructed to prepare a resolution for consideration at the April 18th Council meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

None

PUBLIC PORTION

No one from the Public desired to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm to the Call of the Chair and to next scheduled Council meeting Thursday April 4, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk