

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 30, 2020

7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Keith S. Balla called this Special Meeting to order at 7:30 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 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

Robinson [P] Black [P] Goodloe [P] Eisenberg Knegten [P] Jubin [P] Martino [P]

Also present were Administrator James Damato, Attorney Denis Murphy, and Clerk Michelle DeRocco. Also present were Bond Attorney Lisa Gorab and Bryan Morris, Phoenix Advisors.

There were 21 members of the public present.

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PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

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RESOLUTIONS

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Councilman Martino recused himself from this portion of the Agenda, due to a conflict.

Public Hearing of Bond Ordinance OR:20/01 entitled: **“BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF A NEW LIBRARY, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$6,200,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,900,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF”**

Councilman Jubin moved a public hearing be held with a second by Councilman Black and upon Roll Call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, “aye.”

Margaret Ellis, Valley Road, thanked the Council for moving forward with construction of a new Library, as it is the right thing to do.

Catherine Leigh, suggested to the Council that they “bond as they go” through the process, because we won’t over-tax the Borough if the monies are not needed. She said while her husband fully supports a new Library, she personally thinks we need one, however, maybe not one this big.

With no further public wishing to be heard Councilman Jubin closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Eisenberg Knegten made a motion to table Bond Ordinance OR:20/01.

Councilwoman Goodloe explained that after meeting with our Grant Writer, it was brought to our attention that the bond is not required for the Grant Application, and that a Resolution is equally acceptable. Council President Robinson added that a Resolution will take us to where we need to be before we need to bond. Councilman Jubin said the Borough is moving quickly for the Grant Application, and the Administration and Finance Committee had a great meeting on Monday morning with our Professionals and complimented the team for working hard. He thanked the Committee and our Consultants.

Councilman Jubin seconded the motion to table the Bond Ordinance and upon Roll Call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Sopko, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, “aye.”

Councilman Jubin moved the following resolution with a second by Councilwoman Eisenberg Knegten and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, “aye”.

R2: Authorizing Grant Application and Financing for New Library

Councilman Jubin moved the following resolution with a second by Councilwoman Eisenberg Knegten and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, “aye”.

R3: Award of Contract – Financial Consultant Service /Phoenix Advisors, LLC

Councilman Jubin moved the following resolution with a second by Councilwoman Eisenberg Knegten and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, “aye”.

R4: Award of Contract – Grant Writer / Millennium Strategies

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PUBLIC PORTION / GENERAL DISCUSSION

Stephen Pote, former Mayor, Wildwood Terrace, thanked the Council for the collective vote this evening, saying that it sends a message to the residents, and thanked them for their leadership and taking these first steps. In regard to the recently held public forum held, Mr. Pote said only the high-end of the proposed finance was displayed and he feels the residents need to see all possible scenarios.

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Council President Robinson moved the following resolution with a second by Councilwoman Eisenberg Knegten and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, “aye.”

R5:01/30/20SP Executive Session:
Personnel Matters
Contract Negotiations

The Borough Council may take official action on those items discussed in executive session upon completion of the executive session.

Upon return to regular session at 9:46 P.M. all Councilmembers previously present with the exception of Councilmembers Black and Martino, were still in attendance.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 PM to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council to be held at 7:30 PM on Thursday, February 6, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Clerk