

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 15, 2020 - 6:30 P.M.**

*(THIS MEETING WAS A VIRTUAL MEETING)*

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT:** Mayor Keith S. Balla called the meeting to order at 6:31 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 Special Virtual 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 [ A ] Goodloe [ P ] Eisenberg Knegten [ P ] Jubin [ P ] Martino [ P ]

Also present were Administrator James Damato, Attorney Denis Murphy, Clerk Michelle DeRocco and CFO Bill Hance.

There were 14 members logged-on virtually.

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**DISCUSSION / COVID-19 UPDATES**

Mayor Balla said he would like to give an update in regards to the Office of Emergency Management. With regard to OEM, he said there was a large donation of different food and supplies. He said one family reached back through the Register Ready notification that went out and they were contacted by OEM. He also said requests were submitted to the County and the State because long term care facilities are in desperate need of COVID test kits. He stated the forms are being finalized for the spontaneous volunteers and arrangements were made with the local food establishments regarding a designated time the volunteers are able to pick up food for residents in need. The volunteers will have to fill out five different forms along with getting a Police background check and ID card issued to them as part of the process.

Administrator Damato said today there are two new cases in Watchung for a total of 49 total cases however there are no new deaths to report. Mayor Balla asked if there was any update through the County call today. Administrator Damato stated the County recorded 85 new cases for a total of 1527 cases and 105 deaths. He also said they have 143 people pre-registered for the testing center at Raritan Valley Community College. Administrator Damato said the statewide total of unemployment claims that have been processed so far are 560,000. He said Congressman Malinowski mentioned the stimulus checks should be showing up this week in everyone's mailboxes. He said that Doctor Reddy mentioned in conjunction with her report that people shouldn't talk in terms of flattening the curve because they are anticipating a little spike in the numbers as a result of the increased testing. According to Dr.Reddy we have not flattened the curve as of yet and should still be observing universal precautions and practicing social distancing. Administrator Damato said Governor Murphy has not sent out any new Executive Orders but there has been a lot of new legislation passed. He said he has already sent this information to the Council but if anyone from the public is interested he can send out a list and a description of all of the bills that were signed into law today.

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**PUBLIC PORTION**

No one from the Public desired to be heard.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M. to the Call of the Chair. The next Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council is scheduled to be Virtually held on April 17, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. and the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 7:30 P.M., also Virtual.

Mayor Balla encouraged residents to continue adhere to the Safe Distancing Practices and stay at home orders until such time that we are beyond this pandemic.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regina Angelo, RMC  
Deputy Clerk