

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 30, 2020
7:30 P.M.**

(THIS MEETING WAS A VIRTUAL MEETING)

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Keith S. Balla called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and stated the following: 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 Special Meeting Notice 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.

ROLL CALL

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

Although not present at roll call, Council Member Goodloe joined the meeting at 7:31 P.M. Also present were Administrator James J. Damato, Borough Attorney Denis Murphy,

There were 34 members virtually present

Mayor Balla opened the floor for public comment.

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PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No one appearing

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RESOLUTIONS

Council President Robinson moved to adopt the following resolution, second by Council Member Goodloe.

R1: SP Authorizing Lease Agreement with Board of Education – Phillips Field

Motion withdrawn to allow Council Member Martino to motion to move R1 as a discussion item in Executive Session as a matter of contract negotiation, second by Council President Robinson. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, “aye.”

Attorney Murphy clarified that the Council could discuss permissible items, but that no action would be taken during the executive session. Formal action would be done during the public portion of this meeting.

Council President Robinson moved to adopt the following resolution, second by Council Member Goodloe. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, “aye.”

R2: SP Executive Session – Personnel Matters

Council Member Martino asked for an opinion of Attorney Murphy; is there a conflict of interest in Council Member Eisenberg Knegten’s participation in the discussion of the negotiation of Phillips Field since it is Board of Education property and she is a member of the Watchung PTO? Attorney Murphy stated that in his opinion there would be an indirect personal involvement.

Council Member Goodloe moved to amend R2 to include in executive session the lawsuit between Karka and the Borough’s Planning Board, second by Council President Robinson. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, “aye.”

Council Member Eisenberg Knegten stated that she would recuse herself from the discussion of R1 if it made Council Members more comfortable. Council President Robinson, however, mentioned that because there were additional items to be discussed they should discuss those matters

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first and leave the discussion of R1 to the end of this executive session to allow Council Member Eisenberg Knegten to participate.

Council President moved to adopt the following amended resolution. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, “aye.”

R2: SP Executive Session – Personnel Matters, Legal Matters, and Contract Negotiations.

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

Council President motion to return to public session with a second from Council Member Jubin and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, “aye.”

Council President Robinson moved to amend the following resolution, second by Council Member Jubin to change the ending term to December 31, 2020. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Goodloe, Jubin, Martino, “aye.” Eisenberg Knegten, “abstain.”

Council President Robinson moved to adopt R1 as amended, second by Council Member Jubin. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Robinson, Black, Goodloe, Jubin, Martino, “aye.” Eisenberg Knegten, “abstain.”

R1: SP Authorizing Lease Agreement with Board of Education – Phillips Field

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PUBLIC PORTION / GENERAL DISCUSSION

Resident Bruce Rock petitioned the Council to start having the council meetings in person. If schools and other facilities are re-opening, then the Council should consider to allow this.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned to the Call of the Chair at 10:30 P.M. The next regular meeting of the Mayor and Council is scheduled to be held on August 20, 2020 at 7:30 P.M.