

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

MARCH 18, 2021 | 7:30 P.M.

DISCUSSION

❖ 2019 Annual Audit

Council Member Martino requested to have a separate special meeting to have the Borough's Auditors and CFO present to the Council on the 2019 audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Balla announced that he would be establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee for the development of plans and restoration of Camp Endeavor looking to create a community garden, Watchung charitable farm and an environmental center for residents and an educational center for students at Bayberry School.

CONSENT AGENDA: Council President Robinson motioned to accept the items listed below, second by Council Member Goodloe.

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Historical Committee Meeting Minutes	January 20, 2021
Municipal Council Meeting Minutes	January 7 th – March 4 th , 2021

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

#9- Watchung Arts Center 3/3/21 Building Maintenance Issues c: M&C, JD

#10- Letter of Retirement from Chief Kelly, Police Department 3/11/21 c: M&C, JD

Council Members thanked Chief Kelly for his services and the time dedicated to Watchung and wished him well in his retirement from government.

Council Member Martino inquired on having a motion to allow Public Works Department to solicit proposals for painting of the Arts Center. Council Member Eisenberg Knegten mentioned that this item had recently been discussed at a Public Works Committee meeting and that Mr. Charlie Gunther, Manager of DPW had already been instructed to move forward with soliciting quotes.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: Motion to Adopt by Robinson, second by Goodloe.

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino* [Y] Hayeck [Y]

Council Member Goodloe expressed appreciation for the authorization of R1, specifically the Yoshino Cherry Trees, and encouraged all to stop by and appreciate their beauty once planted.

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- R1: Authorizing Purchase Orders over \$2,000 – MD Radio Services (Communication Tower)
Solitude Lake Management (LED Lighting for Lake)
Northern Nurseries, Inc. (Yoshino Cherry Trees)
- *R2: Authorizing Return of Escrow Deposits – Various Applicants as Listed on Resolution
RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino* [Abstain] Hayeck [Y]
- R3: Authorizing Waiving of Delinquent Interest – 305 Ridge Rd, Block 7004/Lot 2
- R4: Authorizing Waiving of Delinquent Interest – 1515 Route 22 West, Block 5703/ Lot 2.02 and
1511 Route 22 West, Block 5703/ Lot 2.01
- R5: Authorizing Waiving of Delinquent Interest – Block 6201/ Lot 2; Block 6403/ Lot 1;
Block 6909/ Lot 32; Block 7008/Lot 5; and Block 7302/Lot 16
- R6: Authorizing Waiving of Delinquent Interest – 40 Jared Court, Block 6802 /Lot16
- R7: Authorizing Waiving of Delinquent Interest – 77 Redmont Road, Block 4308/Lot 7
- R8: Authorizing Bill List
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NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- R9: Authorizing Extension of Temporary Outdoor Dining
Motion to Adopt by Eisenberg Knegten/ Second by Goodloe
RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]
- R10: Awarding Contract for 2021 Payroll Services – Action Data Services
Motion to Adopt by Jubin/ Second by Robinson
RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]
- R11: Authorizing Agreement with Somerset County – 2021 Recycling Services
Motion to Adopt by Eisenberg Knegten/ Second by Goodloe
RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]
- R12: Governing Body’s Certification of Review of the 2019 Annual Audit
Motion to Adopt by Jubin/ Second by Robinson
RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]
- R13: Approving the 2019 Corrective Action Plan
Motion to Adopt by Jubin/ Second by Robinson
RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

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R14: Authorizing Approval of Borough-Sponsored Events as Recommended by the Recreation Commission

Motion to Adopt by Hayeck/ Second by Jubin

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Abstain] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

R15: Directing the Planning Board to Review Cannabis Legislation

Motion to Adopt by Martino/ Second by Robinson

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

R16: Authorizing Approval of License Agreement with Somerset County

Motion to Adopt by Eisenberg Knegten/ Second by Hayeck

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

R18: Authorizing the Subordination of a Housing Rehabilitation Mortgage Issued by the Borough

Motion to Adopt by Jubin/ Second by Robinson

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

- 1) Deb Joren, Stirling Road – Inquired on the delay of the 2019 Audit and inquired on Chief Kelly’s departure. Ms. Joren also inquired on the Echoes Sentinel March 11th issue which was about the ethics investigate. She inquired on the status of the final report.

Council Member Jubin noted that he originally called for a speedy investigation and asked Attorney Murphy to follow up.

R17: Authorizing Executive Session: Litigation Matters, Personnel Matters, and Contract Negotiations

Motion to Adopt by Robinson/ Second by Jubin

RC: Robinson [Y] Goodloe [Y] Eisenberg Knegten [Y] Jubin [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Y]

Upon return from Executive Session, all members previously present were once again in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon no further business, this meeting ended at 11:45 P.M. to the Call of the Chair. The next meeting of the Mayor and Council is scheduled to be held on April 1, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edith G. Gil
Borough Clerk