

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

APRIL 15, 2021 | 7:30 P.M.

[THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY FOR ALL PARTIES]

MAYOR'S OPENING STATEMENT: Mayor Keith S. Balla called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M. 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 Annual Meeting Notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, the Star Ledger, posted at Borough Hall and on the Borough’s website. In order to comply with all NJ Executive Orders and to protect members of the public, this meeting will be held virtually for all parties. Public Comments will be accepted through zoom or by email to the Borough Clerk. For those joining through Zoom, please note that upon arrival you are automatically muted. If you wish to speak during public portion, you will need to click on the “raise your hand” feature. For those joining us through the conference call line, you will need to press *6 to unmute yourself.*”

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and a MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD.

ROLL CALL:

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

❖ Budget Presentation by Watchung Board of Education

Representing the Watchung Board of Education was Superintendent George Alexis and School Business Administrator, Richard Pepe. Mr. Alexis gave a brief introduction of how they arrived at their budget figures and reviewed their accomplishments despite the current challenges. He proceeded to introduce Mr. Pepe, who reviewed the financial details of the budget.

❖ Budget Presentation by Watchung Hills Regional High School

Representing Watchung Hills was Acting Superintendent Beth Scheiderman and School Business Administrator Mr. Timothy Stys. Ms. Scheiderman reviewed the schools’ accomplishments and challenges during the pandemic year and introduced Mr. Stys. Administrator Stys proceeded to review the schools proposed budget and the increases to the budget.

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- 1) Hannah Balla – Stated she was pleased to see item R11 on this agenda and spoke in full support of this item.
- 2) Lynda Goldschein submitted the following written comment:
I would like to request that R11 on tonight's agenda be removed until the public has a chance to find out what is going on at Camp Endeavor. I started the topic in July 2018. That is why you got letters from Green Acres and you closed the area with a paper sign. Now Watchung residents have had no input on what to do with the property and you are already awarding a contract to have a Community Garden installed. What happened to our "transparency in government?"
- 3) Margaret Ellis – gave remarks on behalf of the Watchung Library Advisory Board (WLAB) regarding the Borough’s round 2 library grant application. The WLAB recommends soliciting letters of

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support from community organizations and prominent members in town. The WLAB has already begun this process and they are hopeful that this will increase the borough's score.

DISCUSSION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Hearing of Ordinance OR 21/03 entitled “**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**”

R1: Adoption of Ordinance OR:21/03 – Cap Bank

Motion to open public hearing by Jubin/ second by Goodloe

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

No one appearing for public comment.

Motion to close public hearing and adopt the below/ second by Robinson

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

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to Adopt the following by Robinson/ second by Jubin

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

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Board of Adjustment Meeting Minutes	January 14, 2021
Building Department Monthly Activity	March 2021
CERT Meeting Minutes	March 23, 2021
Library Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes	January 27, 2021
Police Activity Monthly Report	March 2021

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #13- New Jersey American Water Company, Inc. 4/5/21 Petition for Approval to Change level of its Purchased Water Adjustment Clause and Purchased Wastewater Treatment Clause, Virtual Public Hearing scheduled for 4/27/21 c: M&C, JD
- #14- Letter of Resignation from Shannon Long 4/1/21 c: M&C, JD, BOH
- #15- Public Notice of Ordinance #21-01 Adopted by North Plainfield 4/13/21 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22 OF NORTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH CODE, ENTITLED “STORMWATER CONTROL OF THE NORTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH CODE” c: M&C, JD
- #16- Letter of Retirement from Joseph B. Marretta 4/14/21 c: M&C, JD

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

Motion to Adopt the following by Robinson/ second by Eisenberg Knegten

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

R2: Authorizing Purchase Orders over \$2,000 – Sparta Discount Tire, Inc. (WPD – Tires & Tubes)

R3: Certifying Compliance with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1961”

R4: Authorizing Self-Examination – 2021 Municipal Budget

R5: Bill List

NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

R6: Awarding Professional Services Contract for Website Redevelopment – Jaffe Communications

Motion to Table the above by Jubin/ second by Goodloe

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

CM Jubin expressed that he had recently received some information that made him decide to table this for now, pending further discussions. CM Goodloe and Eisenberg Knegten spoke in support of CM Jubin’s motion, but urged the Council to make a decision on a different vendor tonight.

R7: Awarding Professional Services Contract for Media and Public Information Consultant – Jaffe Communications

Motion to Adopt the above by Jubin/ second by Robinson

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

CM Jubin expressed some concerns on this matter after speaking with several residents who brought forth their concerns. He noted that he moved to adopt this item in order to bring forth a discussion on the matter, but cannot justify spending this amount at this time. Council Members Hayeck, Eisenberg Knegten and Goodloe offered similar comments and likewise, could not justify spending this amount. Council President Robinson spoke of the benefits of having a Media and Public Information Consultant and spending some funds towards community outreach, even if later it could be done inhouse.

R8: Recognizing William P. Kelly, III for His Years of Service

Motion to Adopt the above by Jubin/ second by Goodloe

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

R10: Authorizing Extension of Temporary Outdoor Dining

Motion to Adopt the above by Eisenberg Knegten/ second by Goodloe

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

R11: Awarding Contract to CME Associates for Camp Endeavor Community Gardens

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Motion to Adopt the above by Martino, upon there being no second, motion failed.

Motion to amend this resolution to authorize a site survey by CME by Robinson, upon there being no second, motion failed.

Motion to Table the above by Martino, second by Robinson

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

CM Eisenberg Knegten motioned to authorize a resolution awarding the contract to SDL on the website redesign/ second by Goodloe, who later withdrew her second. Motion failed.

Borough Administrator requested clarification on the original motion and CM's Hayeck and Jubin provide comment; Mayor Balla suggested this be deferred back to Administration & Finance Committee.

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

- 1) Christine Ead, Washington Drive, spoke on the contracts for website redesign and Media and Public Information Consultant. She noted it was hard to understand how a town the size of Watchung could benefit from a PR firm.
- 2) Lynda Goldschein, spoke on the written comment she submitted earlier. She thanked Council President Robinson for notifying her of the meeting and expressed her annoyance on the Camp Endeavor project and the contract that was originally being awarded. She asked to be included in the Ad-Hoc Committee.
- 3) Virginia Hartmann, spoke on the Watchung Library Advisory Board's efforts in obtaining letters of support from partners in the community. She read a letter written by Monsignor Benwell in support of the library.

Council Member Goodloe motioned to approve the Watchung PTO's field and facility permit application in conjunction with the Boroughs' Spring Fling event/ second by Martino.

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

R9: Authorizing Executive Session: Personnel Matters, Matters Involving Attorney-Client Privilege

Motion to Adopt the above by Robinson/ second by Jubin

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

Upon return from executive session at approximately 10:16 P.M., Council Members previously present were once again in attendance.

Motion to return to open session by Jubin/second by Goodloe

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

R12: Authorizing the Appointment of Acting Police Chief – Andrew Hart

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Motion to Adopt the above by Robinson/ second by Jubin

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

R13: Authorizing the Appointment of Police Patrol Officers – Callelo, Jr., Krum, Blayne, and Breese

Motion to Adopt the above by Robinson/ second by Jubin

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

ADJOURNMENT

Upon no further business, the meeting ended at 10:24 P.M. to the Call of the Chair. The next meeting of the Mayor and Council is a Special Meeting scheduled to be held on April 22, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edith G. Gil
Borough Clerk