

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG  
MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 19, 2022**

*[APPROVED ON JUNE 3, 2022]  
[THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN-PERSON AND BROADCASTED VIA ZOOM]*

**MAYOR’S STATEMENT:** Mayor Balla called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. and stated the following *“This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. 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. Public Comments will be accepted in-person, through zoom or by email to the Borough Clerk. For those joining through Zoom, please note that upon arrival you are automatically muted.”*

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

**ROLL CALL**

Jubin [P] Robinson [P] Martino [P] Hayeck [Absent] Dahl [P] Ead [P]

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor Balla read the following proclamations onto the record:

- ❖ National EMS week

**PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

- 1) Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, discussed her concerns with R14 and questioned if there was a storm management plan in place and asked if the DEP was consulted relating to the flood plains. Administrator Damato and Attorney Sordillo also explained in detail the process for the area being paved.
- 2) Rachael Funcheon, Cedar Road, expressed her concerns with R14, specifically the reason for the paving and asked why the lot could not be left as a gravel lot. She asked that the environmental implications be considered and noted that paving the parking lot in an area so prone to flooding takes us in the wrong direction.

**DISCUSSION**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE:**

Board of Adjustment Special Meeting Minutes  
& Transcripts

March 31, 2022

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Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes	May 5, 2022
Mayor and Council Executive Session Minutes	May 5, 2022
Police Activity Report	April 2022

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #11 – Township of Berkley Heights Planning Board, 5/9/22, re: *Application Seeking Preliminary and Final Site Plan Approval for 100 Connell Drive. Public Hearing Scheduled for May 18, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.* c: M&C, JD, TS
- #12 - Township of Warren, 5/13/22, re: *“Ordinance supplementing and amending Chapter XVI, Zoning, to Include Regulations for Affordable Housing Prior to 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of Affordable Housing Obligations”*, Public Hearing Scheduled for June 16, 2022
- #13 - Letter of Resignation from Lynn Franklin, CERT Member, 5/4/22, c: M&C, JD
- #14 - Letter of Resignation from Henry Kita, Board of Adjustment Member, 5/11/22, c: M&C, JD

Motion to Adopt above by Jubin/Second by Ead

RC: Jubin [Y] Robinson [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Absent] Dahl [Absent] Ead [Y]

**CONSENT RESOLUTIONS**

- ~~\*R1: Authorizing Purchase Orders over \$2,000 – PowerDMS (PD annual subscription)  
Auto Rebuilder (PD repair of car 17)  
Breninger Communications (IP phone system)  
MRC, Inc. (Mobus Playground)  
Rubbercycle, LLC (Mobus Playground Surfacing)  
A&A Industrial, LLC (T&B flagpole)~~
- R2: Authorize Renewal of Towing Licenses - M&W Towing Service, LLC  
Mike’s Towing & Recovery, Inc.  
JVD Towing Service, LLC  
Superior Towing & Transport, LLC  
Benham’s Service & Garage, Inc.  
Somerset Hills Towing  
C&L Towing  
Majestic Towing
- R3: Authorizing Certification 2022-2023 Tax Levy – Watchung School District
- R4: Authorizing Certification 2022-2023 Tax Levy – Watchung Hills Regional High School District
- R5: Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #21-00002 for 45 Hill Hollow Road, Block

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6901/ Lot 7

R6: Authorizing Refund for Overpayment of Summer Camp Registration – Chris Calabrese

R7: Accepting Donation of Adirondack Chairs from The Hartmann Family

R8: Authorizing Bill List

Council Member Martino requested further clarification on R1, purchase order relating to MRC, Inc. Council President Jubin explained that the vendor requested the quotes be submitted separately and mentioned the original resolution authorizing the purchase order is being rescinded.

Council Member Martino also inquired on the purchase order relating to A&A Industrial, LLC. Council Member Ead explained this was a T&B project relating to a flag pole placed at Best Lake. Council Member Martino expressed his concerns relating to the approval of this purchase order. Council Member Robinson questioned why this purchase order did not go before the Administration and Finance Committee and recommended it be pulled off the agenda until further discussion.

Mayor Balla suggested the item be pulled and revisited after further discussion. Council Member Martino expressed his opinion on the importance of having the American Flag on all Borough properties.

\*Motion to Remove R1 from Consent Agenda by Jubin/ Second by Ead

RC: Jubin [Y] Robinson [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Absent] Dahl [Y] Ead [Y]

Motion to Adopt R2 through R8 by Jubin/ Second by Ead

RC: Jubin [Y] Robinson [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Absent] Dahl [Y] Ead [Y]

**NON-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS**

\*R1: Authorizing Purchase Orders over \$2,000 – PowerDMS (PD annual subscription)  
Auto Rebuilder (PD repair of car 17)  
Breninger Communications (IP phone system)  
MRC, Inc. (Mobus Playground)  
Rubbercycle, LLC (Mobus Playground Surfacing)

Motion to Amend above to remove A&A Industrial, LLC by Jubin / Second by Ead

RC: Jubin [Y] Robinson [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Absent] Dahl [Y] Ead [Y]

Motion to Adopt as Amended by Jubin / Second by Ead

RC: Jubin [Y] Robinson [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Absent] Dahl [Y] Ead [Y]

R9: Authorizing Agreement with Round Top Swim & Tennis Club, Inc.

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/Second by Jubin

RC: Jubin [Y] Robinson [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Absent] Dahl [Y] Ead [Y]

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R10: Authorizing Appointment of Part-Time Assistant to Building Department – Abigail Ann Marsh

Motion to Adopt above by Jubin/Second by Ead

RC: Jubin [Y] Robinson [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Absent] Dahl [Y] Ead [Y]

R11: Authorizing Final Payment of Accumulated Benefits – Danielle Gaebele

Motion to Adopt above by Jubin/Second by Ead

RC: Jubin [Y] Robinson [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Absent] Dahl [Y] Ead [Y]

R12: Authorizing Appointment of Temporary Part-Time Tax Clerk – Danielle Gaebele

Motion to Adopt above by Jubin/Second by Ead

RC: Jubin [Y] Robinson [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Absent] Dahl [Y] Ead [Y]

R13: Rescinding Purchase Order #22-00498 at Request of Vendor

Motion to Adopt above by Jubin/Second by Robinson

RC: Jubin [Y] Robinson [Y] Martino [Y] Hayeck [Absent] Dahl [Y] Ead [Y]

R14: Accepting Donation of Paving of Borough Parking Lot from The Bisignano Family

Council Member Martino recused himself and noted a pending investigation. Council President Jubin expressed his appreciation to the Bisignano family and spoke on the urgency of approving R14. When asked, Engineer Mustafa from RVE, addressed the permit by rule explanation.

Council Member Ead expressed her thanks to all the families who volunteer and give their service, time and donations to the Borough.

Administrator Damato discussed in detail the process of raising the elevation in a flood plain. Council Member Robinson expressed her environmental concerns with approving the resolution as well as her disappointment with the resolution being a last-minute addition to the agenda.

Mayor Balla asked Mustafa from RVE to address the environmental issues that could affect our Borough stream in regards to run off water and the asphalt. Mustafa explained in detail possible solutions to this issue.

Council President Jubin suggested having the Laws and Ordinance or the Police Committee look into passing restrictions on limiting access to heavy trucks parking in Borough parking lots.

Mayor Balla expressed the importance that our Engineering firm makes sure the Borough has the best possible prevention from oil going into the brook.

Motion to Adopt above by Jubin/ Second by Dahl

RC: Jubin [Y] Robinson [N] Martino [Abstain] Hayeck [Absent] Dahl [Y] Ead [Y]

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**PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION**

1. Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, requested an update on the Camp Endeavor property. Mayor Balla advised he worked with CFO Bill Hance to make edits to the survey and once completed the survey was distributed to all Council Members. Administrator Damato clarified the process on filing Mr. Bisignano's application before the Board of Adjustment. Ms. Goldschein also questioned Administrator Damato regarding the Certificate of Occupancy given to the property.
2. Paolo Marano, Sunlit Drive, questioned if the walking path near the library was part of Mr. Bisignano's paving donation. He expressed his thanks to the Mayor and Council for all the wonderful Borough improvements.
3. Catherine Leigh, Guinard Drive, expressed her difficulty with using the new Borough website and also questioned why she needs to include her personal email address when logging in to participate in the zoom meeting. Clerk Gil advised she will look into this issue.
4. Bruce Ruck, Lakeview Avenue, commented that the zoom feature requesting an email address for logging in and has always been in effect.
5. Scott Otto, stated on behalf of the Bisignano family they will work with the Borough Engineer and the Traffic and Beautification Committee to put in hay bales and also install a rain garden to help protect our brook from any pollutants.

Council Member Robinson reminded residents that cat licenses expire at the end of the month.

6. Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, asked for clarification regarding the Traffic and Beautification budget.

Mayor Balla encouraged everyone to attend the Community Picnic on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and the Memorial Day Remembrance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon there being no further business before Council the meeting ended at 8:48 P.M. to the Call of the Chair. The next meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regina Angelo  
Deputy Clerk