

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

DECEMBER 19, 2024

MAYOR’S STATEMENT: Mayor Jubin called the meeting at 7:30 P.M. and stated: *“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.”*

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

ROLL CALL

Ead [P] Dahl [P] Fisher [P] Marano [P] Abi-Habib [P] Gibbs [P]

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

❖ Mayor’s Achievement Award presented to Watchung Hills Regional High School Varsity Volleyball

- Emma Jubin
- Chloe Chua
- Danielle Nunn
- Sana Khurana
- Garance Lesegretain

Mayor Jubin acknowledged the Watchung Hills Regional High School Seniors present and spoke of their hard work this past year. Mayor Jubin recalled when Mr. B began the volleyball summer camp in their 8th-grade year and spoke on their growth across the years. All Council Members congratulated them and wished them well on their college endeavors.

❖ Eagle Scout Project by Peter Slingerland

Peter Slingerland, an Eagle Scout Candidate of Troop 73, appeared before the Mayor and Council and presented on his proposed project "Mind Your Line" to install three (3) fishing line receptacles in an effort to reduce environmental waste.

Mayor and Council commended him on his presentation and made some inquiries on the installation process. It was noted that Peter would work with Borough Administrator Damato and the Borough's Department of Public Works on the final installation.

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- No one appearing

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON PUBLIC HEARING & FINAL ADOPTION

Councilman Gibbs moved to open the public hearing on the below, but no one appeared. The public hearing was closed.

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OR 24/19: ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH'S ZONING REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 28, "LAND DEVELOPMENT", TO UPDATE AND AMEND THE REGULATION OF FENCES AND WALLS IN ARTICLE 28-401 & 28-500

Motion to Table the above by Gibbs/ Second by Marano

RC Ead [Y] Dahl [Y] Fisher [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y] Gibbs [Y]

Councilman Gibbs moved to open the public hearing on the below, but no one appeared. The public hearing was closed.

OR 24/20: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 27, RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION, OF THE BOROUGH'S CODE TO UPDATE INSPECTION REGULATIONS

Motion to Adopt the above by Gibbs/ Second by Ead

RC Ead [Y] Dahl [Y] Fisher [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y] Gibbs [Y]

Councilman Gibbs moved to open the public hearing on the below, but no one appeared. The public hearing was closed.

OR 24/21: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3, POLICE DEPARTMENT, OF THE BOROUGH'S CODE TO UPDATE THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WATCHUNG BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Motion to Adopt the above by Gibbs/ Second by Marano

RC Ead [Y] Dahl [Y] Fisher [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y] Gibbs [Y]

Councilman Gibbs moved to open the public hearing on the below, but no one appeared. The public hearing was closed.

OR 24/22: ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6, POLICE REGULATIONS, OF THE BOROUGH'S CODE TO ESTABLISHING RESTRICTED AREAS AT THE WATCHUNG BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Motion to Adopt the above by Gibbs/ Second by Ead

RC Ead [Y] Dahl [Y] Fisher [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y] Gibbs [Y]

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Animal Control Solutions Monthly Report	November 2024
Board of Adjustment Minutes	November 14, 2024
Environmental Commission Minutes	October 28, 2024

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Mayor and Council Minutes December 5, 2024

Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority Minutes November 7, 2024

#27: Memo from Recreation Commission on Travel Basketball Team, recv'd 12/5/24, cc: M&C, JD, JS

Motion to Accept the above by Ead/ Second by Gibbs

RC Ead [Y] Dahl [Y] Fisher [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y] Gibbs [Y]

CONSENT ITEMS

*R1: Authorizing Bill List

R2: Authorizing Tax Lien Redemption for 20 Hyde Circle, Block 6502/ Lot 20

R3: Authorizing Tax Lien Redemption for 14 High Tor Drive, Block 7005/ Lot 1

~~R4: Authorizing Tax Lien Redemption for 35 Scott Drive, Block 1604/ Lot 10~~

This resolution was removed on the floor and was not considered.

R5: Establishing Mayor and Council Meeting Dates for 2025

R6: Supporting Amendment of the Fair Housing Act (FHA) as Proposed by the NJ Institute of Local Government Attorneys (NJILGA)

Motion to Adopt the above by Ead/ Second by Gibbs

RC Ead [Y] Dahl [Y] Fisher [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib* [Y] Gibbs [Y]

*R1: Abi-Habib [Abstain]

NON-CONSENT ITEMS

R7: Endorsing the Watchung Hills Select Boys' Travel Basketball Team

Motion to Adopt the above by Dahl/ Second by Abi-Habib

RC Ead [Y] Dahl [Y] Fisher [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y] Gibbs [Y]

R8: Renewing Shared Services Agreement with Watchung Board of Education for School Resource Officer

Motion to Adopt the above by Marano/ Second by Abi-Habib

RC Ead [Y] Dahl [Y] Fisher [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y] Gibbs [Y]

R9: Awarding a Contract to AAA Facility Solutions, LLC for Janitorial Services for 2025

Motion to Adopt the above by Fischer/ Second by Marano

RC Ead [Y] Dahl [Y] Fisher [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y] Gibbs [Y]

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PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

- No one appearing

R10: ~~Authorizing Executive Session to Discuss Anticipated Litigation~~
This resolution was removed on the floor and was not considered.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon there being no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting adjourned to the Call of the Chair at 8:15 P.M. The Re-Organization meeting of the Mayor and Council will be Monday, January 6, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edith G. Gil
Borough Clerk

Approved: January 16, 2025