

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

**FEBRUARY 18, 2021 | 7:30 P.M.**

*[THIS MEETING WAS 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: *“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 and instructions were posted with the agenda. I welcome everyone to the meeting. 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. 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 ]

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**PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

No one appearing wishing to be heard

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**DISCUSSION**

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Council Member Eisenberg Knegten motioned to open the public hearing for the item below, second by Council President Robinson. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Robinson, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, Hayeck “aye.”

Public Hearing was opened, no one appearing wishing to be heard. Council Member Eisenberg Knegten moved to close the public hearing, second by Council Member Jubin. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Robinson, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, Hayeck “aye.”

Council Member Eisenberg Knegten motioned to adopt the items below, second by Council Member Jubin. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Robinson, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, Hayeck “aye.”

Public Hearing of Ordinance OR 21/02 entitled **“ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 21, STORMWATER CONTROL, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS AND CONTROL.”**

R1: Adoption of Ordinance OR:21/02 – Amending Chapter 21, Stormwater Control

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Council President Robinson moved to accept the items listed below, second by Council Member Hayeck. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Robinson, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, Hayeck “aye.”

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| CERT Meeting Minutes                  | January 26, 2021                           |
| Planning Board Meeting Minutes        | October 20, 2020 &<br>November 16-17, 2020 |
| Police Activity Report                | January 2021                               |
| Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes | November 4, 2020                           |

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #3 - Township of Berkley Heights Planning Board 2/8/21 Notice of Preliminary & Final Site Plan Approval for “Florist Site.” Virtual Public Hearing held February 17, 2021 c: M&C, JD, Pl. Board
- #4 - Watchung PD 2/17/21 Notice to begin process to replace PTC Certified Police Officer. c: M&C, JD

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**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:** Council President Robinson moved to adopt the items listed below, second by Council Member Goodloe. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Robinson, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, Hayeck “aye;” except from item R2, to which Council Member Hayeck “abstain”

- R2: Purchase Orders over \$2,000 – Absolute Fire Protection (FD – Fire Truck Repairs)  
MD Radio Services (Communications Tower)
- R3: Authorizing Raffle License - Mercy Guild Mount St. Mary Academy
- R4: Bill List

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Council Member Martino informed Council Members that he recently sent information on a proposal from the Eagle Scouts and that the Historical Committee is looking to sponsor in connection with the reopening of the Texier House by Memorial Day. Council Member Martino motioned in favor of accepting the proposed project, second by Council President Robinson. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Robinson, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, Hayeck “aye.”

**NON-CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

- R5: Authorizing Release of Performance Surety Bond – 80 Century Lane, Bond #SB0363846

Council Member Eisenberg Knegten moved to adopt the item above, second by Council Member Jubin. Upon roll call, the votes were as follows: Robinson, Goodloe, Eisenberg Knegten, Jubin, Martino, Hayeck “aye.”

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Council Member Eisenberg Knegten asked for some clarity on the dates of the performance bond being released and inquired on the Boroughs typical process to release these items. Borough Engineer Bruce Koch and Attorney Denis Murphy explained the process of releasing performance bonds.

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**PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- 1) Bruce Ruck, Lakeview Avenue, inquired on the Eagle Scout project and recommends that the Borough also consider the upkeep of the project after its completion so that it is not later a burden on the Borough.
- 2) Christine Ead, inquired on when the Council would be providing a status on the ethics breach investigation that took place. Borough Attorney Murphy informed that outside counsel advise it is forthcoming.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the Call of the Chair at 8:05 P.M. The next scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on March 4, 2021 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Edith G. Gil  
Borough Clerk