



Borough of Watchung

15 Mountain Boulevard
Watchung, New Jersey 07069

MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, February 17, 2022

7:30 P.M.

MAYOR

Keith S. Balla

COUNCIL

Ronald Jubin, Ph.D.

Wendy Robinson

Pietro Martino

Freddie Hayeck

Curt S. Dahl

Christine B. Ead

James J. Damato
Business Administrator

Edith G. Gil
Borough Clerk

Joseph Sordillo, Esq.
Borough Attorney

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN-PERSON AND BROADCASTED LIVE VIA ZOOM. PUBLIC COMMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED IN-PERSON, THROUGH ZOOM OR VIA EMAIL TO THE BOROUGH CLERK. BELOW ARE INSTRUCTIONS:

To call into the meeting, dial 1 (646) 558-8656. It will prompt you for a meeting ID. Type **99501390087#**. You do not need a participating ID, just press # | To access the meeting using a smart phone or computer, download the free **ZOOM** app. Type in the **meeting ID 99501390087** or click on <https://zoom.us/j/99501390087> **Please enter your full name.** To submit your public comments in writing, please mail them in or send an email **before 6:00 P.M.** by the meeting date to the Borough Clerk at publiccomment@watchungnj.gov

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

FEBRUARY 17, 2022 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR’S STATEMENT: 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 [] Robinson [] Martino [] Hayeck [] Dahl [] Ead []

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

A public portion is held prior to Council action for comments of agenda items only; another public portion is held at the end of the meeting for general discussion.

*Individuals commenting are limited to **3 minutes** per person, and will not be permitted to speak again until everyone has had an opportunity to speak. For those joining us through Zoom, 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 *9 to raise your hand, when prompted press *6 to unmute yourself. If a group is represented by an attorney, the attorney will be given 5 minutes to make the presentation for the group.*

DISCUSSION

- ❖ Memorial Bench and Table

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE: Matters listed within this section have been referred to members of the Borough Council for reading and study, are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Council. If separate discussion is desired, any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by Council action.

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:

Annual Debt Statement	2021
Fire Prevention Monthly Report	January 2022

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

FEBRUARY 17, 2022 - 7:30 P.M.

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #4- Township of Scotch Plains, 2/10/22 re: Notice of Introductions, Ordinance No. 2022-8 “An Ordinance authorizing 475 Terrill Road Redevelopment Plan Consisting of Block 204, Lot 5, and Supplementing and Amending Chapter XXIII, by the Amendment of Subsection 23-3.2 Entitled “Zoning Map”, and by the Addition of New Subsection 23-9.5 Entitled “ 475 Terrill Road Redevelopment Plan (Block 204, Lot 5)” and Ordinance No. 2022-9 “An Ordinance Amending Redevelopment Plan known as Snuffy Pantagis Redevelopment Plan Consisting of Block 803, Lot 1.” c: M&C, JD

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions listed below were submitted to the Governing Body for review and will be adopted by one motion.

- R1: Authorizing Purchase Orders over \$2,000 – Messercola Excavating (*Snow Plowing Services*)
Air Group LLC (*PD- Cooling / Heating System*)
- R2: Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayment – Block 4001 Lot 4 – 22 Schmidt Circle
- R3: Authorizing Bill List
- R4: Authorizing Mayors Wellness Campaign

NON-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

- R5: Authorizing Payment of Fire Stipends 2021
- R6: Authorizing use of Gazebo for Wedding Ceremony on June 25, 2022
- R7: Authorizing Award of Contract for Janitorial Services - ACCSES NJ
- R8: Authorizing the Appt. of P/T Elec. Sub-Code Official – Joseph Marett

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

*Individuals commenting are limited to 3 minutes per person, and will not be permitted to speak again until everyone has had an opportunity to speak. For those joining us through Zoom, 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 *9 to raise your hand, when prompted press *6 to unmute yourself. If a group is represented by an attorney, the attorney will be given 5 minutes to make the presentation for the group.*

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

FEBRUARY 17, 2022 - 7:30 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

R9: Authorizing Executive Session: Contract Negotiations and Anticipated Litigation

The Borough Council may take official action on those items discussed in executive session upon return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R1**

WHEREAS, Section 2-25.13 of the Code of the Borough of Watchung requires that contracts for purchases or services involving more than two thousand dollars be awarded by a resolution of the Mayor and Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that the Purchasing Agent be authorized to issue Purchase Orders as follows:

Vendor: Messercola Excavating, 549 E. 3rd Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060
Item: PW-Snow Plowing Services
Total Price: \$16,185.00
Charged to: 2-01-205-281

Vendor: Air Group LLC, 1 Prince Road, Whippany, NJ 07891
Item: PD – Cooling / Heating System
Total Price: \$9,900.00
Charged to: 2-01-610-202

Ronald Lubin, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 17, 2022
INDEXED: PURCHASING
C: B. HANCE

DRAFT

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R2**

WHEREAS, a tax payment was made by Michael I Birnberg, Esq. for the 1st Quarter 2022 taxes on Block 4001 Lot 4 Qualifier C0022 also known as 22 Schmidt Circle, and

WHEREAS, the taxes were also paid by the mortgage company.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the amount of said payment be made per the details listed below:

Block 4001 Lot 4 Qualifier C0022

22 Schmidt Circle Watchung, New Jersey 07069

Payment made to:

Michael I Birnberg, Esq

10 Blue Wolf Trail

Watchung, New Jersey 07069

Amount: \$2,257.67

Ronald Jubin, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 17, 2022
INDEX: FINANCE-MISC.
C: B. HANCE, D. GAEBELE

RESOLUTION: R3

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, that the Borough Treasurer be, and is hereby directed to pay bills in the amount of \$2,582,914.37 per the attached bill list. The expenditures can be broken down into the following categories:

Affordable Housing Trust	\$	-
Animal Control	\$	103.80
Capital Fund	\$	16,797.04
Developer's Escrow	\$	8,975.00
Other Escrow	\$	4,421.32
Watchung Board of Education Taxes	\$	1,024,190.00
Watchung Hills Regional High School Taxes	\$	596,529.00
Current Fund	\$	931,898.21
Total Expenditures:	\$	2,582,914.37

Ronald Jubin

Wendy Robinson

Pietro Martino

Freddie Hayeck

Christine Ead

Cort Dahl

William J. Hance, CFO

Keith Balla, Mayor

James Damato, Administrator

Date: February 17, 2022
Index: Finance
C: Finance

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R4**

WHEREAS, across New Jersey, communities are facing a rise in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, it has been widely reported that physical activity levels have been decreasing and obesity rates are increasing; and

WHEREAS, local leaders are looking for ways to promote active living, healthy eating, and overall wellness in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors Wellness Campaign seeks to work with all members of the Borough to shape healthier lifestyles for men, women and children in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Borough can work towards the goal of healthier citizens and potentially lower health care costs by championing practices and programs that promote active healthy living; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors Wellness Campaign will work to implement a program of education and activities to combat obesity and promote community involvement in the Borough of Watchung.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, New Jersey, to ask that all residents of this community join us in supporting the Mayors Wellness Campaign; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the residents of the Borough of Watchung to participate in the Mayors Wellness Campaign activities to promote exercise and a healthy lifestyle.

Ronald Jubin, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2022
INDEX: MISC, BOH
C:

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R5**

WHEREAS, the Watchung Volunteer Fire Department has submitted the roster of firefighters eligible for a stipend for the year 2021; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally approve the stipend amounts; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer certifies that funds are available in the 2021 budget.

Chief Financial Officer

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to pay the Volunteer Fire Department stipends per the attached listing totaling \$42,000.00.

Curt Dahl, Council Member

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 17, 2022
INDEX: PURCHASING, FIRE
C: B. HANCE

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R6**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Watchung has received a Field and Permit application for the use of the Gazebo for a Wedding Ceremony at Watchung Lake filed by Ernst Celestin, a non-resident; and

WHEREAS, the application on file is deemed a complete application and the Recreation Coordinator hereby recommends the approval of the Gazebo for use on Saturday, June 25 2022.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that the Gazebo at Watchung Lake may be rented out to Ernst Celestin, a non-resident of Watchung in the amount of \$100.00 for use on June 25, 2022 for the intended use listed on the application on file with the Borough.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all approvals are contingent upon having a Certificate of Insurance and payment of all applicable fees.

Freddie Hayeck, Council Member

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2022
INDEX: RECREATION
C: LM

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R7**

WHEREAS, Watchung is in need of janitorial services for the municipal buildings; and

WHEREAS, a proposal was obtained from ACCSES NJ under State Contract T-1480 77110 for these services; and

WHEREAS, the proposal has been reviewed and determined to be the best option for the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available for this contract in the Buildings & Grounds municipal budget.

Chief Financial Officer

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung that Watchung be authorized to enter into a contract with ACCSES NJ for janitorial services three days a week at the Police Station, Library and Municipal Building for a cost of \$52,775.34 from March 7, 2022 thru March 6, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ACCSES NJ be authorized to do an initial cleaning of these buildings for a cost of \$2,358.00 and any additional cleaning services could be done for a cost of \$32.75 per hour.

Ronald Jubin, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 17, 2022
INDEX: PURCHASING, AWARDS, MISC
C: B. HANCE

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R8**

WHEREAS, there is a need to hire a temporary sub-code official to fill in when the regular sub-code official is out.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that **Joseph Maretta** be hired as the **Temporary P/T Electrical Sub-Code Official** at an hourly rate of \$45.11 per hour, effective February 14, 2022.

Ronald Jubin, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 17, 2022
INDEX: APPOINTMENTS
C: FINANCE

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R9**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(1-9) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of the closed session of February 17, 2022.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

Contract Negotiations and
Anticipated Litigation

3. Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.
4. The Borough Council may take official action on those items discussed in executive session upon completion of the executive session.

Ronald Jubin, Council President

Keith S. Balla, Mayor

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 17, 2022
INDEX: MISC.
C: