

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

JUNE 23, 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 Special 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 [P] Dahl [P] Ead [P]

PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- 1) Lynda Goldschein, submitted written public comments regarding the bid proposal for the Texier House Patio.
- 2) Lynda Goldschein, submitted written public comments regarding using Borough funds to pay for the damaged sprinklers.
- 3) Stella Couchells, submitted written public comments regarding the Council authorizing additional funds to put up another flag and flagpole in Watchung.

Mayor Balla asked Administrator Damato to respond to the above comment made in regards to the Borough using funds to fix County property. Administrator Damato clarified that the County will fix the damaged sprinklers.

DISCUSSION

❖ **Flag Poles on Borough Properties**

Council Member Ead discussed in detail how the additional Flag pole idea with placement on the East side of Best Lake surfaced through the Traffic and Beautification Committee. She also mentioned the Traffic and Beautification Committee always stays within their budget and explained where the money would come from to fund this project.

Council Member Martino agrees with the additional flagpole idea but feels a better location would be on the West side of Best Lake.

Council Member Hayeck and Council President Jubin expressed their agreement with Traffic

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and Beautification Committees recommendation of placing the additional Flagpole on the East side of Best Lake.

Council Member Robinson expressed her opinion on the additional flagpole. Mayor Balla noted he preferred to see the flagpole located on the West side of Best Lake near the Library to avoid any DEP restrictions.

❖ Relocation of Mobus Field

Mayor Balla discussed other potential locations for Mobus Playground. He is in favor of moving the playground away from the brook to prevent it from getting flooded by water, logs and debris. He suggested moving the playground to the outfield of the existing baseball field and recommends two Bocce Ball courts and a sand volleyball court. Council President Jubin expressed his agreement with the Mayor's suggestions.

Councilmember Robinson questioned if there has been written correspondence between FEMA and the Borough regarding the playground renovation process. OEM Coordinator, Carolyn Solon explained in detail the FEMA reimbursement process. Further discussion relating to the FEMA process and the playground location were discussed in detail amongst Council Members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

Board of Adjustment Meeting Minutes	May 12, 2022
Building Department Monthly Report	May 2022
Mayor and Council Executive Session Minutes	June 2, 2022
Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority Meeting Minutes	May 5, 2022
Police Activity Report	May 2022

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

#16 – Township of Scotch Plains, 6/2/22, re: *Ordinance 2022-14 Amending the Current Cannabis Zoning, Public Hearing Scheduled for June 21, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.* c: M&C, JD, TS

Motion to Adopt above by Jubin/Second by Robinson

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

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CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

- R1: Authorizing Purchase Orders over \$2,000 - Urban Air-Avenel (*Recreation summer camp trip*)
Taylor Rental (*Summer camp tent*)
*S.E. Rose Trucking (*Emergency road repair*)
Pacific Lawn Sprinklers (*repair of sprinkler system*)
Sage Landscape Contractors (*Texier House walkway*)
*America the Beautiful Flags & Flagpoles (*flagpoles*)
- R2: Authorizing Clerk to Issue Raffle License – Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Mid-Atlantic
- R3: Authorizing Renewal of Liquor Licenses for 2022 – 2023 Term
- R4: Authorizing Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #21-00001 by Fig Cust FIGNJ19LLC Sec Pty
on Block 4901 Lot 3, 438 Watchung Avenue
- R5: Authorizing Field and Facility Permit Application for use of Pavilion – August 23 and 24, 2022
- R6: Authorizing Bill List

Motion to Adopt above by Jubin/Second by Ead

RC: Jubin [Y] Robinson [Abstain] Martino [Abstain] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Ead [Y]
*R1 Robinson [Abstain] Martino [Abstain]

NON-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

- R7: Authorizing Appointment of Camp Counselors for 2022 Summer Camp

Motion to Adopt above by Jubin/ Second by Dahl

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

- R8: Authorizing Memorandum of Agreement between the Borough and the PBA Local #193

Motion to Adopt above by Robinson/ Second by Jubin

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

- R9: Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for J.A. Alexander, Inc. for FY 2020 & FY 2021 Roadway Improvement Project

Administrator Damato clarified in detail what a Change Order is and why it was needed for this specific project.

Motion to Adopt above by Ead/ Second by Dahl

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

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OR 22/06 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG CH. 5-12.76 ET SEQ. THEREOF, AND TO, FIX AND DETERMINE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES AND COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES.”

R10: Introducing OR 22/06 Establishing Min / Max Salary Ordinance

Motion to Adopt above by Jubin/ Second by Hayeck

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

R11: Authorizing Field and Facility Permit Application for Use of Mobus Field – Watchung IDEA Committee for Juneteenth Celebration on June 18, 2022

Motion to Adopt above by Hayeck/ Second by Ead

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

PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Tracy DiFrancesco, Templar Drive, asked if FEMA was called within the first few months after Mobus Playground was destroyed. Administrator Damato advised FEMA requested the Borough submit a letter of intent in early October. OEM Coordinator, Carolyn Solon explained in detail the FEMA application for reimbursement process. Administrator Damato advised the first on-site inspection with FEMA occurred on March 25th. Ms. DiFrancesco asked Council Member Robinson to explain her position in regards to the playground renovations if the Borough did not receive reimbursement from FEMA. Council Member Robinson noted that Administrator Damato addressed her concerns in regards to the process that was followed.
2. Bruce Ruck, Lakeview Avenue, applauded the Council for their continuation of the hybrid meeting schedule. He suggested the Council put money aside in the budget for the upkeep of Borough improvements. He expressed some health concerns regarding the possibility of adding a sand volleyball court in Watchung.

Mayor Balla expressed his apologies regarding the recent Council Meeting date changes.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon there being no further business before Council the meeting ended at 8:45 P.M. to the Call of the Chair. The next meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regina Angelo
Deputy Clerk
Approved July 14, 2022