

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
MAYOR & COUNCIL RE-ORGANIZATION
MEETING MINUTES**

JANUARY 5, 2023

Deputy Clerk Regina Angelo called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and read the following opening statement.

OPENING 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 2022 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**

The Honorable Donald DiFrancesco Administered the following Oaths of Office.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OFFICE

Ronald Jubin, Ph.D.	Mayor
Paul Fischer	Council Member
Paolo Marano	Council Member

INVOCATION

Reverend Monsignor William Benwell of St. Mary's – Stony Hill Church led the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Hayeck [P] Dahl [P] Ead [P] Fischer [P] Marano [P]

NOMINATION FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Council Member Hayeck nominated Christie B. Ead as Council President, second by Dahl
RC: Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Ead [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y]

RESOLUTION

R1: Authorizing Appointment of Council Member Sonia Abi-Habib to Fill Vacancy

CP Ead motioned to adopt R1, second by Hayeck
RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y]

The Honorable Donald DiFrancesco Administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Sonia Abi-Habib.

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APPOINTMENTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Mayor Jubin appointed the following:

Administration & Finance

Chair: Fischer
Hayeck
Abi-Habib

Fire

Chair: Dahl
Marano
Hayeck

Laws & Ordinances

Chair: Hayeck
Marano
Fischer

Police

Chair: Marano
Abi-Habib
Ead

Public Affairs:

Chair: Abi-Habib
Hayeck
Fischer

Public Works

Chair: Ead
Hayeck
Abi-Habib

Board of Health Liaison:

Environmental & Green Team Liaison:

Historical Committee Liaison:

Library Advisory Committee Liaison:

Municipal Alliance Member:

Planning Board, Class III Member:

Rescue Squad Liaison:

Youth Services Commission Liaison:

Traffic & Beautification

Marano

Abi-Habib

Fischer

Abi-Habib

Marano

Dahl

Hayeck

Dahl

Ead

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CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

- R2: Designation of Official Newspapers – Echoes Sentinel, Courier News, Star Ledger, and TAP into Watchung (Electronic News Source)
- R3: Adoption of Annual Calendar of Meeting Dates
- R4: Designation of Depositories – Investors Bank and Citizens Bank
- R5: Re-establish Petty Cash Funds – Borough Clerk, Police Chief
- R6: Adoption of 2023 Temporary Budget
- R7: Payment of Property Taxes and Establishing Payment Procedures
- R8: Appointment of JIF Commissioner
- R9: Appointment of Fire Chief and Assistant Chief

CP Ead motioned to adopt above, second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y]

OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE AND OFFICE

Mayor Jubin administered the following Oaths of Office:

Matthew King	Rescue Squad Captain
Jeiner Betancourt	Rescue Squad First Lieutenant
Charles Pivnichny	Fire Chief
Albert DeSandolo	Assistant Fire Chief

NON-CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

- R10: Awarding Professional Services Contract – Tax Appeal Attorney, DiFrancesco Bateman Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C.

Councilman Fischer motioned to adopt above, second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y]

- R11: Awarding Professional Services Contract – Prosecutor, DiFrancesco Bateman Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C.

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Councilman Fischer motioned to adopt above, second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y]

R12: Awarding Professional Services Contract – Labor Counsel, Ruderman & Roth, LLC

Councilman Fischer motioned to adopt above, second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y]

R13: Awarding Professional Services Contract - Borough Attorney, DiFrancesco Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C.

Councilman Fischer motioned to adopt above, second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y]

R14: Awarding Professional Services Contract – Professional Engineers, Remington & Vernick Engineers

Councilman Fischer motioned to adopt above, second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y]

R15: Awarding Professional Services Contract – Bond Counsel, McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC

Councilman Fischer motioned to adopt above, second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y]

R16: Awarding Professional Services Contract – Auditor, Suplee, Clooney & Company

Councilman Fischer motioned to adopt above, second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y]

R17: Awarding Professional Services Contract – IT Consultant, Marmic Associates

Councilman Fischer motioned to adopt above, second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y]

R18: Awarding Professional Services Contract – Risk Manager, Meeker Sharkey & Hurley

Councilman Fischer motioned to adopt above, second by Hayeck

RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y]

R19: Appointments of Volunteers to Boards, Committees, Commissions

Councilman Fischer motioned to adopt above, second by Ead

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RC: Ead [Y] Hayeck [Y] Dahl [Y] Fischer [Y] Marano [Y] Abi-Habib [Y]

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE SERVICES

Mayor Jubin and Council recognized the following employees:

10 Years: Robert Tucker, Fire Department

5 Years: Jonathan Christian, Fire Department
Joanne Bowden, Construction Code Department
Leonard W. Young, Construction Code Department
Elvia Horsfall, Finance Department
Regina Angelo, Administration/ Clerk's Office

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor Jubin proceeded to state his appreciation and gratitude for having been chosen to serve as Mayor. He thanked those in attendance and noted he hoped that they would come out to future meetings too. He proceeded to speak on the three C's of success. Communication, Collaboration, and Celebration; Mayor Jubin spoke on the communication efforts taken during the last few years in an effort to increase communication with residents. He noted that Mayor's office hours would soon resume and spoke on the collaboration efforts of all the volunteers of the various committees. Lastly, he touched upon the need to celebrate efforts and accomplishments of the various improvements the borough has done. He concluded by thanking all those that improve and make Watchung a better place and noted that he would ensure this would continue.

COUNCIL'S ADDRESS

Council President Ead thanked all for attending the meeting and commented on the accomplishments of 2022. She looks forward to working with this Council and to continue with the strong work ethic she has carried as Council President to help move Watchung along.

Council Member Hayeck congratulated all the newly elected officials and those in attendance and noted Mayor's Pote and Balla in attendance. He spoke of the accomplishments of 2022 and noted that 2023 would be another great year with much work and focus to be done on the library, pickleball courts in Mobus Field and would work to ensure that the tax rate would remain the same.

Council Member Fisher thanked Mayor Pote and Balla for their service and noted he was humbled for being elected. He noted he has been in Watchung for over 20 years and decided to run to ensure that someone like his son would want to stay in Watchung and raise his family. Councilman Fisher thanked all the first responders for their service; he noted that the bible used for his oath, was the same bible that his mother's parents provided to his dad long ago and he noted just how proud he felt to have his son hold that today. He concluded by stating that he would do his best to represent Watchung and to have it keep being the great community it is and thanked the community for their trust.

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Council Member Marano thanked all in attendance, congratulated his colleagues, and thanked his family for their support. He thanked all the volunteers and noted he always found satisfaction in the service of others and noted he was there to serve others. He thanked the community for having trusted him to serve a and advised that his decisions would always be for the betterment of the borough.

Council Member Dahl stated that growing up in Linden, all he saw was getting to Clark, his grandfather came from Europe and didn't speak the language, his mother worked as a school bus driver and he reminisced that they would drive from Westfield and their last stop was Watchung, and he was just amazed with it. He noted that they were all there to do a better job and that he always taught his children, if you're going to do something, do it right, and that is what he is set to do.

Council Member Abi-Habib congratulated Mayor Jubin, Council President Ead, and the newly elected members. She stated she was fortunate for working alongside a group of dedicated individuals and proceeded to provide some background for those that did not know her. Her family moved here about 4 years ago and noted she had over 20 years of public and non-profit experience. She concluded that she looked forward to working together to move Watchung along and committed to making it a better place.

PUBLIC PORTION

No one appearing

BENEDICTION –

Reverend Monsignor William Benwell, St. Mary's – Stony Hill Church led the benediction.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon there being no further business before Council the meeting ended at 7:29 P.M. to the Call of the Chair. The next meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on January 19, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edith G. Gil
Borough Clerk
Approved: January 19, 2023