

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2021 7:30 PM

Mayor Iannuzzi opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with the following announcement: The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey have been satisfied by the inclusion of the date, time and place of this regular meeting in the annual schedule and notice of regular meetings of this Governing Body. Such annual schedule and notice of regular meetings is posted at Borough Hall, was mailed to the Record and Star Ledger and was filed with the Borough Clerk of Demarest on January 19, 2021. This meeting will be held via means of communication equipment. The dial in number is 978-990-5000, access code is 353193#.

1. Roll Call

Mr. Carroll-present	Mr. Connelly-present
Mrs. Fox-present	Mrs. Kurys-present
Mrs. Hamilton-present	Mrs. LaPira-present
Mayor Iannuzzi-present	

Also present: Borough Clerk, Police Chief, Borough Attorney, Borough Engineer

2. Mr. Carroll moved to Adopt the Agenda, second Mrs. Fox.

Mr. Carroll-yes	Mr. Connelly-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes	Mrs. Kurys-yes
Mrs. Hamilton-yes	Mrs. LaPira-yes

Carried.

3. **The Borough Clerk read the following: Review of Consent Agenda Items:**

All items with an asterisk are considered to be non-controversial by the Council and will be approved by one motion. There may be further discussion prior to the vote upon request of a member of the public or a Council member. Also, any item may be removed for further discussion or for roll call vote in which case the item will be removed and considered in its normal sequence as part of the general order of business.

Resolutions

4. Resolution approving authorizing claims in the amount of \$3,781,804.31*
5. Resolution approving budget transfers in the amount of \$24,500.00*
6. Resolution approving the cash management plan*

7. Resolution approving Mutual Aid for the Police Department*
8. Resolution approving mutual aid for the Fire Department*
9. Resolution approving mutual aid for the Ambulance Corps*
10. Resolution approving soil movement application for 73 Ross Avenue*
11. Resolution approving soil movement application for 17 Eric Place*
12. Resolution approving the tax appeal settlement for 14 Duck Pond Rd.*
13. Resolution approving Special Class II officers*
14. Resolution approving the appointment of James Berlamino as a DPW Laborer*
15. Resolution approving salary for Christopher Bianchi, Police Chief*
16. Motion approving E. Carter Corriston as the Borough Prosecutor*
17. Motion approving Louis De Angelis as the Borough Public Defender*
18. Motion approving DeCotiis Fitzpatrick as Special Counsel*
19. Motion approving Maser Consulting as Borough Planner*
20. Motion approving Holy Angels tuition raffle #RA21-58*
21. Motion approving Holy Angels merchandise raffle #RA21-59*
22. Motion approving Holy Angels 50/50 raffle #RA21-60*

There was no request to remove items from Consent Agenda, but MR. Connelly asked for clarification, which he received.

Mr. Carroll moved to open the meeting to the Public, second Mrs. Fox. All in favor. Carried. Mr. Carroll moved to close meeting to Public on Consent Agenda items only, second Mr. Fox. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Carroll moved to approve Consent Agenda items 4-22, second Mrs. Fox.

Mr. Carroll-yes	Mr. Connelly-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes	Mrs. Kurys-yes
Mrs. Hamilton-yes	Mrs. LaPira-yes

Carried.

New Business

Mr. Carroll moved to approve minutes of Sine Die Meeting (JC, DF, MH, JK, RL), second Mrs. Hamilton.

Mr. Carroll-yes	Mr. Connelly-abstain
Mrs. Fox-yes	Mrs. Kurys-yes
Mrs. Hamilton-yes	Mrs. LaPira-yes

Carried.

Mrs. Hamilton moved to approve the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of January 4, 2021 (JC, DF, MH, JK, RL), second Mrs. Fox.

Mr. Carroll-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes
Mrs. Hamilton-yes

Mr. Connelly-abstain
Mrs. Kurys-yes
Mrs. LaPira-yes

Carried.

Mrs. Hamilton moved to approve the closed session minutes of July 27, 2020 (all present), second Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Carroll-yes
Mrs. Fox-abstain
Mrs. Hamilton-yes

Mr. Connelly-yes
Mrs. Kurys-yes
Mrs. LaPira-yes

Carried.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor announced that Mr. Galli has joined the Library Board to replace Ann Robbins. He will be the new treasurer for the library as well. There is now a call center for vaccines to help people by phone. She extended wishes to stay well, stay safe and when possible stay home.

Council Committee Reports

Police, Fire, and Public Events: Mr. Carroll thanked his committee for work on the Police Chief contract negotiations. The PBA contract has also been completed and will be sent to the Borough Hall tomorrow. The Fire Department budget has been received and will sent out for input. Thanks to the committee. The Mayor thanked the committee.

Ambulance and Recreation: No report, but Mrs. Kurys expressed her happiness and gratitude for the Chief.

Management, Administrative & Communication Committee: No report, but Mrs. LaPira expressed her gratitude as well.

Finance & Insurance Committee: Mr. Connelly expressed positive feelings for the Police Department and the committee.

DPW, Public Buildings, Public Utilities & Recycling Committee: Mrs. Hamilton reported that the DPW superintendent has ordered new Leash Your Dog signs. She also asked if it would be possible to print the next newsletter in the hopes of reaching more seniors who may not have computers. The Mayor stated that we can certainly add people to the list of people who have the newsletter mailed. Mrs. Hamilton asked how people can be told that this is an option. The Mayor suggested adding this information to the end-of-year mailing. Mrs. Fox suggested sending out a postcard.

Real Estate & Ordinance Committee: Mrs. Fox reported that she has a Zoom call tomorrow night with the Shade Tree Commission to review the new ordinance.

Reports of Borough Officials – all reports received are on file in the borough clerk's office.

The Police Chief thanked the Mayor, Committee, and Council for their support. He also thanked his department for their flexibility and dedication during a rough start of the year. A Swiftreach call has gone out to the seniors about the vaccine. Thanks so Susan Crosman and Lee Campbell for their assistance. The Chief spoke about the Use of Force report and policy. The Police Department will undergo training. There are other policies in the process of being revised. Everyone in the department was offered the vaccine; it was not mandatory. The first shot was two weeks ago; the second will be in February. The Fire Department was offered this as well. Re house numbers: This has gone in the newsletter, and there will be a social media campaign. The chief reviewed the calls received by the department this month. Mr. Connelly asked whether there was a time in the past at which house numbers were put on the curb. Mr. Carroll and Mayor Iannuzzi remembered that they were painted on. The Borough Attorney asked what the department was doing about cannabis possession. The Chief replied that the department is acting with discretion, as requested by the attorney general. The court prosecutor has been advised as to how to proceed until the statute is enacted.

The Borough Engineer reported on several projects including work with the DPW and PSE & G on the paving project, an upcoming meeting with the DEP on composting, and options for drainage on Donnybrook. The Engineer will send the report to the Mayor and Council. The attorney asked whether that is a final report and asked that Council members keep this information confidential. The Engineer asked that the signed version will be circulated to the Mayor and Council.

The Borough Clerk/coordinator reported that she is working on getting internet into the Council chambers. Also, a company will scan all of the construction files in the DPW building for \$82,000. This money will have to be paid by the Borough but will be reimbursed by the CARES act.

The Police Chief and the Borough Attorney will share their guidance on cannabis responses.

The Attorney reported that the condemnation of the bank property at 129 Hardenburgh is complete. He received a call from a reporter from The Record. There is a tax appeal issue for Closed Session concerning the Alpine Country Club.

Mrs. Hamilton asked that the Mayor and Council consider hanging a flag for Gay Pride month in June. Several other communities in Bergen County already do so. Mr. Carroll seconded the idea. The Attorney stated that the Mayor can make the decision by

executive action. The Mayor stated that with Council support she will. No Council members objected.

Mr. Carroll moved to Open the meeting to the Public, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried.

Lynn Paulison (15 Lois) asked what is being done with the bank property. The Mayor responded that it was purchased as part of the downtown redevelopment. Ms. Paulison also suggested putting artwork into vacant storefront windows. The Mayor stated that an ordinance is in the works requiring landlords to beautify the windows of empty storefronts.

Mr. Connelly thanked Mrs. Crosman and stated that he found the revised agenda.

Mr. Carroll moved to close the meeting to the public, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Carroll moved to go into Closed Session, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried. Council members hung up and called the number that had been emailed to them this afternoon.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Crosman
Borough Clerk Coordinator