

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 24, 2021 7:30 PM

Mayor Iannuzzi opened the meeting at 7:34 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 in person and also via ZOOM which is also posted on the Demarest website, demarestnj.org.

1. Roll Call

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

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

Mr. Carroll-yes	Mrs. Kurys-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes	Mr. Connolly-yes
Mrs. LaPira-yes	

3. Pledge of Allegiance

~~4. Roll Call~~

~~5. Adoption of Agenda~~

6. Kevin Dunshee spoke about community solar power and the new regulations of the state. The arrangements are month to month, and everyone gets a discount. Mr. Dunshee is a real estate developer and came to the meeting to make the governing body aware.

7. **The 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

- 8. Resolution approving authorizing claims in the amount of \$4,029,343.63*
- 9. Resolution approving the renewal of the Alpine Country Club liquor license*
- 10. Resolution approving a soil movement application for 375 Hillside Avenue*
- 11. Resolution approving a soil movement application for 47 Woodland Road*
- 12. Resolution approving a soil movement application for 44 Ross Avenue*
- 13. Resolution approving a tax appeal for 63 Donnybrook Drive*
- 14. Resolution approving a tax appeal for 20 Academy Lane*
- 15. Resolution authorizing the Borough to prepare and mail estimated tax bills*
- 16. Resolution authorizing the Fire Department to auction off the rescue truck*

There was no request to remove items from Consent Agenda or discussion on items removed from Consent Agenda. The Borough Attorney explained that the resolution for item 16 will be completed in the near future. Mr. Carroll moved to open the meeting to the Public, second Mrs. Fox. All in favor. Carried. Mrs. Fox moved to close the meeting to the Public on Consent Agenda items only, second Mrs. Kurys. All in favor. Carried. Mr. Carroll moved to approve Consent Agenda items 8-16, second Mrs. Fox.

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

Carried.

New Business

Mr. Carroll moved to approve the minutes of April 26, 2021 (JC, DF, MH, JK, BC, RL), second Mr. Connelly.

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

Carried.

Mr. Carroll introduced ORDINANCE NO. 1090-21: BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, CALENDAR YEAR 2021 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK, second Mr. Connelly.

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

Carried.

Mr. Carroll introduced ORDINANCE NO. 1091-21: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED EXCAVATIONS AND OPENINGS OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, second Mrs. Fox. Mr. Paster explained his motivation for this ordinance.

Mr. Carroll-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes
Mr. Connelly-yes

Mrs. Kurys-yes
Mrs. LaPira-yes

Carried.

Mr. Carroll introduced ORDINANCE NO. 1092-21: AN ORDINANCE FOR OPTING OUT OF CANNABIS RETAIL COMMERCE, second Mrs. Fox. Mr. Paster explained his motivation for this ordinance and that it pertains to bulk commercial retail.

Mr. Carroll-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes
Mr. Connelly-yes

Mrs. Kurys-yes
Mrs. LaPira-yes

Carried.

Mrs. Fox moved to adopt the Resolution approving the Introduction of the 2021 Budget of the Borough of Demarest, second Mr. Connelly. Mr. Connelly explained that the average assessed home is \$820,000. He thanked all of the employees and everyone for their work.

Mr. Carroll-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes
Mr. Connelly-yes

Mrs. Kurys-yes
Mrs. LaPira-yes

Carried.

Mrs. Fox moved to adopt the Resolution approving the utilization of three-year average method to calculate the maximum miscellaneous revenues, second Mrs. LaPira.

Mr. Carroll-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes
Mr. Connelly-yes

Mrs. Kurys-yes
Mrs. LaPira-yes

Carried.

Mayor's Report There have been no new COVID cases in the Borough since May 12. Everyone is encouraged to be vaccinated. There will be a Memorial Day observance at 10:00 am on May 31. The Police, Girl Scouts, Ray Di Pietro, and the High School Band will all participate. A search is underway to cover the work of the retiring CFO, Phil Moore.

Council Committee Reports

Police, Fire, and Public Events (Mr. Carroll): Shoutouts to two new police officers who found a missing Rockland County woman in Demarest. Flowers and decorations are needed around the borough hall.

Ambulance and Recreation (Mrs. Kurys): Rec camp is almost full. The concert series is happening. There will be a hotdog truck.

Management, Administrative & Communication Committee (Mrs. LaPira): Marti Francis is now a fulltime employee and will be working to communicate better with our residents.

Finance & Insurance Committee (Mr. Connelly): Already covered.

DPW, Public Buildings, Public Utilities & Recycling Committee (Mrs. Hamilton): Mr. Carroll reported for Mrs. Hamilton that the DPW is going above and beyond with projects.

Real Estate & Ordinance Committee (Mrs. Fox): no report

Reports of Borough Officials

Borough Coordinator: The Ecode is done; we are just waiting for the final approval of the new limiting schedule by the Construction Official. The reports from the Construction and Health departments were read into the record. There is a personnel litigation issue for Closed Session.

Borough Attorney: The Developers Agreement for the affordable housing is in process. An ordinance for vacant storefronts is underway.

Borough Engineer: Discussions about the Donnybrook drainage have been ongoing. The stormwater annual report is finished. Some work is still needed on the plan. The Riverside Cooperative paving preconstruction meeting has taken place. There is a meeting scheduled with the DEP for the compost pile at the DPW. Re the Duane Lane extension: there was a preconstruction meeting in March, but no action has taken place yet. The Mayor stated that clearing has taken place. The 2022 DOT grant applications are due July 1.

Mrs. Fox asked about the sallyport, which will be discussed in Closed Session.

Borough Treasurer: no report

Police Chief: May is bicycle safety month. The Chief read the calls and training into the record.

Fire Chief: 105 calls so far. The County has given new communication equipment that will free Demarest from the Closter system. Everyone will get a new pager if the budget is approved. On Memorial Day everyone is invited back to the Fire House for a presentation. The Fire Department will take part of the car show on June 6. The department is applying for two grants. The safer grant is intended to get people into the department and encourage them to stay. Carl Pavlik is now the Assistant Chief. Mr. Paster asked about the siren and referred to the fact that people are complaining about the sirens, especially now that people are home. Discussion. Mr. Carroll suggested that the Attorney review the agreement from 1977 and report back.

Ambulance (not present)

Mr. Carroll moved to open the Meeting to the Public, second Mrs. Fox. All in favor. Carried. Mrs. Fox moved to close the meeting to the public, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Carroll moved to go into Closed Session for possible litigation, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Meeting went into Closed Session at 8:39 pm.

Mr. Carroll moved to close Closed Session with the possibility of coming back, second Mrs. Fox. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Carroll moved to adjourn, second Mrs. Fox. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Crosman
Borough Clerk Coordinator