

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 27, 2021 7:30 PM

Mayor Iannuzzi opened the meeting at 7:35pm 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.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

Mr. Carroll (via phone)-present	Mrs. Kurys-absent
Mrs. Fox (via phone)-present	Mr. Connelly-present
Mrs. Hamilton-present	Mrs. LaPira-present
Mayor Iannuzzi-present	

Also present: Borough Attorney, Borough Engineer

3. Mrs. Hamilton moved to Adopt the Agenda, second Mr. Carroll.

Mr. Carroll (via phone)-yes	Mr. Connelly-yes
Mrs. Fox (via phone)-yes	Mrs. LaPira-yes
Mrs. Hamilton-yes	

Carried.

4. **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

5. Resolution approving authorizing claims in the amount of \$1,921,161.52*
6. Resolution appointing and setting compensation of Chief Financial Officer*

7. Motion to approve engineering services of Colliers for the DPW Compost Facility*

There was no request to remove items from Consent Agenda or discussion. Mrs. Hamilton moved to open the meeting to the Public, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried. Mrs. Hamilton moved to close meeting to Public on Consent Agenda items only, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried.

Mrs. Hamilton moved to approve Consent Agenda items 5-7, second Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Carroll (via phone)-yes	Mr. Connelly-yes
Mrs. Fox (via phone)-yes	Mrs. LaPira-yes
Mrs. Hamilton-yes	

Carried.

New Business

Mrs. Hamilton moved to approve the minutes of August 30, 2021 (JC, MH, JK, BC, RL), second Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Carroll (via phone)-yes	Mr. Connelly-yes
Mrs. Fox (via phone)-no vote	Mrs. LaPira-yes
Mrs. Hamilton-yes	

Carried.

Mrs. Hamilton introduced ORDINANCE 1098-21: AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARIES, WAGES AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, second Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Carroll (via phone)-yes	Mr. Connelly-yes
Mrs. Fox (via phone)-abstain	Mrs. LaPira-yes
Mrs. Hamilton-yes	

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: #1096-21 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A REVISION AND CODIFICATION OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY. Mr. Hamilton moved to adopt the ordinance, second Mr. Connelly. Mrs. Hamilton moved to open the meeting to the public, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried. Mrs. Hamilton moved to close the meeting to the public, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Carroll (via phone)-yes
Mrs. Fox (via phone)-yes
Mrs. Hamilton-yes

Mr. Connelly-yes
Mrs. LaPira-yes

Carried.

Mayor's Report The Mayor spoke about the damage from Ida, the repairs underway and the information that is being shared with the public on the Borough website. FEMA was at the Borough Hall for two days anyone needing to reach FEMA can still reach out to them or to Chief Bianchi who is our OEM representative. Thank you to Jason Gangi, along with the DPW and Fire Department, who helped save those who drove into the space where the bridge had washed away. A more formal thank you will be made at a later date.

Council Committee Reports

Police, Fire, and Public Events: Mr. Carroll welcomed the new administrator, Jim Powderly. He also thanked the first responders and the Police Chief.

Ambulance and Recreation: Mrs. LaPira reported that the Halloween Parade will be on October 30 at 4:00 pm at the Train Station.

Management, Administrative & Communication Committee: Mrs. LaPira reported that Constant Contact will be utilized to share events, emergencies and other news. Shout out to Northern Valley Demarest, which ranked #18 in the Country in Niche.

Finance & Insurance Committee: Mr. Connelly reported that the DAA had called him about the grant for the walking path. The Borough Clerk explained that the woman from the state had requested that everything be sent again because she had been working from home. Welcome to the new CFO. The Mayor reported that the new CFO is also a QPA.

DPW, Public Buildings, Public Utilities & Recycling Committee: Mrs. Hamilton thanked the DPW, as well as the first responders and the Police. The new fee schedule from the Board of Health will be ready in January.

Real Estate & Ordinance Committee: Mr. Fox had no report.

Reports of Borough Officials

Borough Coordinator- no report

Borough Administrator-Thanked the DPW superintendent and the entire DPW for the matter at 129 Lenox and thanked IWS waste services. He had a number of items for closed session.

Borough Attorney-has been working with Colliers on a number of flood-related issues. The Salary Ordinance introduced this evening will allow the employees to receive the salary they are entitled to and the salary resolution to be adopted next month so that the employees can receive their salaries retroactive to the first of the year.

Borough Engineer-A very eventful month with Hurricane Ida: bridges are being stabilized; the dam in the arboretum is being stabilized temporarily, and a permanent solution is being researched. The DEP is satisfied with the temporary solution. The Borough will decide what best permanent solution. A proposal has been submitted for the DPW compost site. The 2022 DOT grant is being awaited. The 2020 unimproved roads preconstruction meeting took place this morning. Donnybrook Manor drainage solution must be decided upon in concert with the borough. Stormwater management continues. Maps are being revised. The Coop work has been deferred to next spring. The other work is mostly completed.

Borough Treasurer-no report

Police Chief-Chief Bianchi's report highlighted the work during Hurricane Ida. He spoke about all of those affected and thanked the Mayor and Council, FEMA representatives, Bergen County Communications, special thanks to the DPW and Fire Department, as well as the Borough Engineer and Attorney, all who assisted, the Red Cross. Officer DelGreco worked on a phishing scam and was able to recover over \$32,000 in cryptocurrency for a resident. He outlined the other calls attended to this month. The Chief described training undertaken by officers, as well as new policies and procedures. He explained that he had an item for Closed Session. The Mayor encouraged people to get in touch with the Police Department when they have problems.

Fire Chief-not at the meeting

Ambulance-not at the meeting

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

Jodi Brenner (16 Duck Pond Road) thanked the Mayor and Council, DPW, and Police Department for their response to the storm. She asked for assistance in figuring out how to make the necessary repairs because of the damage to the dam. She wondered if the pond would be dredged. Discussion. Ms. Brenner wondered if it could be declared an emergency. The attorney spoke about the necessary DEP signoff for anything to be done in/near streams. Also, because some of it came from the Alpine Country Club, they may have to do some work. There is a need to look at maps and see what's public or private. The attorney suggested that she retain an engineer. The Mayor has three engineers as suggestions that have no conflict of interest. The town has made an emergency declaration. It could probably be amended to include her property.

Linda Cetta (247 Hardenburgh Avenue and Shade Tree Commission chair) spoke about the cemetery on Everett and Bogert. Residents have complained about how it looks. A few people took a look. Linda Cetta shared pictures. One of the landscape companies that the Shade Tree Commission works with offered to cut down all of the arborvitae for free and the DPW is amenable to pulling out stumps during the winter, she believes. Shade Tree Commission could donate trees from next year's budget. Then the cemetery could be beautified. The Mayor suggested Shade Tree might need a little more money in their budget. The Mayor also stated that the DPW added a sidewalk around the Library.

Howard Rifkind (350 County Road) asked about a neighbor who had a number of trees cut down that appear to be in the Nature Center, and there is now a big hole; the area has not been cleaned up either. He wants the area to be dealt with. The Mayor asked him to privately give her the address so that it can be investigated. He also stated that his area of County Road is very dark and wondered if the Police Department could patrol the area. The Mayor suggested speaking to the Police Chief. The Meyers' house (Arthur Court) will be taken down. It is now empty except for the new owner's car. There will be a lot of dust; can anything be done to make them spray water to keep the dust. The attorney stated that his house was sprayed when it was demolished. Discussion. On Arthur Court, the utilities were put underground. There is now a cable failure. There is some kind of backup. 811 couldn't find the utilities. The Mayor suggested that this is an O&R situation. She said that she has a contact at O&R and will contact her to find the easements. Finally, there is a lot of dog waste. Most people don't control their dogs. The Mayor voiced her wish that everyone would be responsible. There is a fine for not picking up after your pet. Mr. Rifkind wishes there were a curb your dog. The attorney believes the ordinance is currently curb and clean up after. Mrs. LaPira stated that she believes there is a rabies clinic in November.

Marianne Clarke (Glenwood) stated that she was given permission to store historical material in the railroad station. There is now junk there that needs to be cleaned out so that she can get to the historical material. She can't get to things. She was not able to locate something that the library needed. Also, she is looking for the bell so that she can use it to discuss Demarest history with groups. The trolley for the bell is at the train station. She believes the bell is at the DPW, but she cannot reach anyone there. Within the last couple of weeks, two historically significant houses (that were not designated) have been demolished. There are other houses that are significant and are in danger. The Mayor stated that she feels that the cleanup and finding of the bell should be fairly easy and asked that they be given a couple of weeks.

Karen Turner (72 Glenwood) had a question about 32 Cypress Place, a new construction that will be beautiful but is built about 5 feet above grade. She asked where all of the water is supposed to go. She thanked everyone who responded so nicely to Ida. She also said that during the second, smaller storm the water was coming right down from Cypress to her property. She said that they stayed in a hotel for a few days. Going forward, she wonders about the effect of these grade changes. She stays awake worrying about the rain. Discussion. The attorney asked her to wait until the house is completed and see what happens and suggested that she contact the technical assistant in the Building

Department to see whether variances were needed. The engineer stated that an engineer was sent to 32 Cypress and did not see anything that varied significantly from the design plans. Also, there is a fair bit of mess during the actual construction. You may need to wait until the construction is done to see what actually happens when everything has been done. Drainage is being monitored. If things have been made worse then the owner/builder has to remedy it.

Mrs. Hamilton moved to Close the meeting to the Public, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried.

Mrs. Hamilton moved to go into Closed Session, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Mrs. Hamilton moved to close Closed Session, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried.

Motion to start regular session by Mrs. Hamilton seconded by Mr. Connelly. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Connelly. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Crosman
Borough Clerk/Coordinator