

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 25, 2021 7:30 PM

Mayor Iannuzzi opened the meeting at 7:33pm 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-present	Mrs. Kurys-present
Mrs. Fox-absent	Mr. Connelly-present
Mrs. Hamilton-present	Mrs. LaPira-present
Mayor Iannuzzi-present	

Also present: Police Chief, CFO, Borough Engineer, Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk/Coordinator,

3. Mr. Carroll moved to adopt the agenda, second Mrs. Hamilton.

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

Carried.

4. Presentation of Proclamations: Fire Chief John McLoughlin presented proclamations to the employee and volunteers who acted heroically during the storm on September 1, 2021: Jason Gangi, Matt Carey, Matt Mayer, John Matics, Anthony Barbieri and Bob Teunisen. He also commended the entire department for their actions during the storm and commended the Police Department for their actions.

Congressman Gottheimer's representative presented citations to Chief McLoughlin and Firefighters Mayer, Carey, Barbieri, Matics and Teunisen.

The Mayor read citations to these individuals and thanked Chief McLoughlin for his outstanding work as Fire Chief.

The Chief reported that grants have been secured that will allow stipends to be paid to volunteers and presented fire helmets to the Mayor and the Fire Commissioner, Mr. Carroll.

5. **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

6. Resolution approving authorizing claims in the amount of \$6,094,065.93*
7. Resolution approving a tax appeal settlement for 11 Country Club Way*
8. Resolution approving Municipal Alliance grant for 2023*
9. Resolution authorizing HOA affordable funding for 121 Bellaire Drive, Unit A2*
10. Resolution approving the appointment of Susan Colditz as finance/tax clerk*
11. Resolution accepting retirement compensation for Police Chief Bianchi*
12. Resolution appointing Isabelle Meurer as a finance/tax clerk*
13. Resolution adjusting health benefit contributions for the DPW Superintendent*
14. Resolution approving a veteran tax exemption for Anthony Coscarello*
15. Resolution accepting the open space grant from 2019*
16. Resolution authorizing the 2020 LOSAP contribution for the Demarest Fire Department*
17. Resolution authorizing the continued use of public right-of-way for 15/17 Duck Pond Rd.*
18. Motion to approve the 2020 audit*
19. Motion to approve raffles RA21-63 and 21-64 for the Academy of the Holy Angels*
20. Motion approving meeting dates for 2022 (the September date was changed to 9/19 to avoid a holiday)*
21. Motion approving holidays for 2022*
22. Motion to approve the borough clerk to advertise for RFQ's for 2022*

There was no request to remove items from Consent Agenda. Discussion: Mr. Carroll asked about the HOA affordable housing item and was told by the Borough Attorney that this was part of the affordable housing expenditure. Mr. Connelly explained that Susan Colditz comes in about once a week and that Isabelle Meurer will be working on payroll.

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

Mr. Carroll moved to approve Consent Agenda items 6-22, second Mrs. Hamilton
Mr. Carroll-yes Mrs. Kurys-yes
Mr. Connelly-yes Mrs. LaPira-yes
Mrs. Hamilton-yes

Carried.

New Business

Mr. Carroll moved to approve the minutes of September 14, 2021 (JC, DF, BC JK, RL), second Mr. Connelly.

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

Carried.

Mr. Carroll moved to approve the minutes of September 27, 2021 (JC, DF, MH, BC, RL), second Mrs. Hamilton.

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

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: 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. Mr. Carroll moved to open the meeting to the public, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried. Mr. Carroll moved to close the meeting to the public, second Mr. Connelly. Mr. Carroll moved to adopt the ordinance, second Mrs. Hamilton.

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

Carried.

Mr. Carroll introduced #1099-21 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY IMPLEMENTING THE REQUIREMENT OF DIRECT DEPOSIT FOR PAYROLL, second Mrs. Hamilton.

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

Carried.

Mayor's Report Judy Rosenthal was appointed to the Shade Tree Commission. Roads will not be closed for Halloween trick or treating. The Halloween parade is this Saturday at 4:00 followed by a costume contest. The Mayor read a proclamation to Chief of Police, Christopher Bianchi, due to his retirement.

Council Committee Reports

Police, Fire, and Public Events (Mr. Carroll): The bus trip to Radio City will be on 12/10. Only 9 tickets left. He commended the Police for their work during Ida and spoke about the way that Chief Bianchi led during the pandemic. He thanked the Chief and said that he would be missed.

Ambulance and Recreation (Mrs. Kurys): On 10/16 the Ambulance Corps celebrated its 60th anniversary with a party. She spoke about the gratitude for the Corps. Mrs. Kurys thanked the Chief and wished him luck.

Management, Administrative & Communication Committee (Mrs. LaPira): no report. Mr. Carroll thanked the Management Committee for their work.

Finance & Insurance Committee (Mr. Connelly): No report. Mr. Connelly thanked the Chief.

DPW, Public Buildings, Public Utilities & Recycling Committee (Mrs. Hamilton): Leaf season has started; thank you to the DPW for the sidewalk at the Library and thank you to the Chief. One item for Closed Session.

Real Estate & Ordinance Committee (Mrs. Fox): Not present.

Reports of Borough Officials

Borough Coordinator: Early voting has started in several nearby towns. One item for Closed Session

Borough Administrator: The email service have moved to the nj.org domain. Application has been made for .gov. This has been accepted and is in review. JIF has a cyber risk security program. Demarest qualifies in the Tier 1 group. He outlined some steps to move us to Tier 2. A new computer will be purchased for the prospective Finance Office employee. Bridget DiMartini (Demarest Middle School STEM teacher) would like her students to make a presentation about a 0 energy project—maybe a solar tube installation at the DAA? Perhaps they can present in December or January.

Mary Ann Clarke has concerns about the construction debris and other materials in the "Archive Room" at the Railroad Depot. She would like it to be designated solely for archives. The Mayor and Mr. Carroll spoke about the desire to have the railroad depot used by the community and how to couple that with the storage of archives. The Mayor asked the DPW/Public Buildings Committee to look at the situation. Mr. Carroll said that a discussion would have to be had.

He spoke to the Labor Attorney about workplace harassment training and training for workers with disabilities.

The electric vehicle is out of service due to a recall.

Owen Fox pointed out to the Borough Administrator that the shed is falling apart. The Borough Administrator would like to buy a more sturdy one. Two Closed Session items.

Borough Attorney: Interfacing with the Administrator on various issues in Borough Hall. The Finance Office is smoothing out. He echoed the sentiments on the first responders, stated that it was a pleasure to work with Chief Bianchi and wished him well.

Borough Engineer: Some items discussed: The Deerhill Bridge has been stabilized; the Davies Arboretum dam has been temporarily stabilized. The reconstruction of the County Road bridge has been awarded to another firm by the County. The Davies Arboretum Dam project should possibly be put in as a 2022 Capital Improvement project. The DPW compost site is being worked on. Work is also being done to find a location to store the 2021 leaves. DOT: Word should come within the next month for the 2022 grant. Borough Tax Maps and Donnybrook Manor are being worked on.

Borough Treasurer: The CFO reported that the tax bills were sent out about a week and a half ago and were late due to a delay from the County. Good progress is being made. Best Practices are due November 1. We should be in good shape. The 2021 Audit Corrective Action Plan will be submitted next month. He thanked everyone for their help and support over the last month.

Police Chief: Chief Bianchi thanked everyone on the Mayor and Council for their help and support over the last three years and his whole career. He compared his career to the Super Bowl and called everyone his team. He spoke about his relationships with the Fire Department, Ambulance Corps and DPW.

Fire Chief: Chief McLoughlin spoke about the busy year and his work with the Police Chief and the benefit of learning from each other.

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

Ken Kruger (10 Drury Lane) spoke about the change in topography of the road when it was last paved and stated that now when it rains his garage floods. The information he

received from an OPRA request shows that the topography was changed. He asked for help. The Mayor and Borough Attorney spoke about the help that was offered and refused. Entrance to the property was denied. The Mayor stated that there was no drainage there in the first place. Mr. Kruger left abruptly. The Mayor wished that he had allowed them to try what they suggested. She is sorry that he is experiencing flooding.

Lynn Paulison (Lois) followed up on the Environmental Commission. She is concerned about the lack of meetings and wanted a status update on the Facebook page. She suggested looking at the Hillsdale EC Facebook Page. She also spoke about concerns about who is monitoring compliance with ordinances. She stated that the Chair of the Zoning Board had concerns. The Mayor stated that she will reach out to the Chair.

Noel Pugh (64 Prospect): He spoke about the material that was put along the property. He stated that it bypasses the seepage pit. The Mayor stated that she believed that he had been directed to the engineer the last time he presented. He wanted to make sure everyone received his letter from June 28th. He did not hear back. The Mayor spoke about the flooding in the Borough and how it slowed things down. She stated that she was sorry he has been waiting but that the Borough will respond to him. He asked about the process. He spoke about concerns that builders tap into sewer systems and a beautiful tree at 63 Prospect that was not protected.

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

Mr. Carroll received a letter from the Valley Program and said that he would ask the Borough clerk to distribute it.

Closed Session: Mr. Carroll moved to go into Closed Session, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Meeting went into Closed Session at 8:50 pm. Mr. Carroll moved to close the Closed Session, second Mr. Connelly.

Adjournment: Mr. Carroll moved to adjourn, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Crosman
Borough Clerk/Coordinator