

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 22, 2021 7:30 PM

Mayor Iannuzzi opened the meeting at 7:30 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-present	Mr. Connelly-present
Mrs. Hamilton-present	Mrs. LaPira-present
Mayor Iannuzzi-present	

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

3. Mr. Carrol moved to Adopt the Agenda, second.

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

Carried.

4. **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

5. Resolution approving authorizing claims in the amount of \$ 3,038,678.35*
6. Resolution approving a soil movement application for 36 Highland Avenue*
7. Resolution accepting the 2020 Open Space Grant*
8. Resolution appointing Ricardo Rubio as DPW Laborer Class 1*
9. Resolution authorizing a refund of taxes for 11 Country Club Way*
10. Resolution authorizing to refund and cancel 2021 taxes for 17 Sunset Rd.*
11. Resolution authorizing to cancel 2022 taxes for 17 Sunset Rd.*
12. Resolution approving the employee handbook*
13. Resolution approving the corrective action plan for the 2020 audit*
14. Resolution authorizing the 2020 LOSAP contribution for the Demarest Volunteer Ambulance members*
15. Resolution approving Pamela Laeger as a crossing guard*
16. Motion approving Colliers Engineering proposal for services for NJ DOT 2021 for the design and bid services for Prescott Street and Stewart Street*

There was no request to remove items from Consent Agenda and thus no discussion on items removed from Consent Agenda. Mr. Carroll moved to open the meeting to the Public, second Mr. Connelly. 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 5-16, second Mrs. Hamilton.

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

Carried.

New Business

Mr. Carroll moved to approve the minutes of October 25, 2021 (JC, MH, BC JK, RL), second Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Carroll-yes	Mrs. Kurys- yes
Mrs. Fox- no vote	Mr. Connelly- yes
Mrs. Hamilton- yes	Mrs. LaPira- yes

Carried.

Mayor's Report The Mayor wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving. She reminded all that the Menorah lighting is on November 30 and the Tree lighting December 7.

Council Committee Reports

Police, Fire, and Public Events (Mr. Carroll): Chief Bianchi has retired. There is now a transitional situation, which will be straightened out as soon as possible. The Fire Department has received a grant to pay monthly stipends.

Ambulance and Recreation (Mrs. Kurys): The Rec Committee met with the DAA, Mayor and Mrs. Hamilton about field wellness.

Management, Administrative & Communication Committee (Mrs. LaPira): no report.

Finance & Insurance Committee (Mr. Connelly): 95.7% of taxes have been collected.

DPW, Public Buildings, Public Utilities & Recycling Committee (Mrs. Hamilton): The DPW is in leaf collection. RE: field wellness, mats have been ordered to be put over seeds for the winter to stimulate grass growth. This will be an annual job. The DPW superintendent saved the borough a lot of money.

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

Reports of Borough Officials

Borough Administrator: Emails will transition to .gov on Wednesday 11/24. This email will also go to the elected officials' phones. Mrs. Fox requested that the previous email addresses be forwarded for 60 days. The Borough Administrator agreed. Re: Fuel, the Borough Administrator would like to go to fuel cards for an estimated annual savings of \$8500. Mr. Carroll moved to go to this system, second Mrs. Fox.

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

Carried.

Mrs. DiMartini (Middle School STEM teacher) would like to have a student or two come to the February 28th meeting to present a proposal for LED solar lighting for the DAA bathroom. The Council was open to this date.

Delta Community Support will give a webinar on January 13 about working with people with disabilities. Also in January there will be a class on workplace harassment.

There are different options of plans for the building. Perhaps the current building will be repurposed for Police and Court and a new building be built for the Borough Hall. There are now plans for an option 6. They will be given to the Ordinance and Real Estate Committee.

The Borough Historian is concerned that the budgeted money for a display cabinet is no longer there. She would like the money put in the budget for next year. There are 3 items for Closed Session about Personnel.

Borough Coordinator: The Sine Die and Reorganization meeting will be on January 6 at 6:00 pm. RFQ's went out and will be accepted on December 9.

Borough Attorney: The micro-surfacing resolution will be on the next agenda. At the League Convention, he went to an OPRA seminar. Email address databases are considered public as are dog license records. The Stormwater management seminar was informative. There is a litigation item for Closed Session.

Borough Engineer: The last month has been busy. A progress report was submitted. Highlights include: Deerhill Road has been stabilized and is holding well. Davies Arboretum dam has been temporarily stabilized. The permanent repair proposal is expected next month. The DPW compost site cleanup is still in progress. The Borough was awarded \$190,000 for 2022 road improvement. 2020 road improvement is in progress. Paving will most likely be in the spring. Donnybrook drainage: residential; buy-in was not as robust as hoped. Now the proposal is to do the repair with the current easements. The Zoning Board is a monthly, ongoing involvement. He also discussed and described the Academy Lane dam, which is on private property. The engineers are taking care of it to the best of their ability, with the understanding that repair is necessary. The engineer reported that he is tracking an alternate source of funding.

Borough Treasurer: Fourth quarter collections are very good. The tax sale will be December 6th for 6 properties. Good headway is being made on the backlog of payables. The Mayor reported that there is one more position in Finance to be filled.

Police Chief: Officer in Charge Liam Foley reported on the calls for the last month, the professional development of the department, the Trunk or Treat event and the Ragamuffin parade. He also spoke about the officer who saved someone who was choking. He has a personnel matter for Closed Session.

Fire Chief: Chief McLoughlin spoke about the Safer program.

Ambulance: not present

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

Mr. Djebiyani (4 Academy Lane) stated that there was water coming over the street during the storm. He explained what happened and said that he wanted the engineer or someone to explain why this was happening. The engineer responded and suggested that perhaps the culvert was not maintained and the water from one tributary had nowhere to go. He spoke about the other tributary as well.

Don Turner (72 Glenwood) has lived there for 56 years and had never been flooded before. He spoke about a nearby property that was raised 41 inches. He also said that another nearby property took boulders and filled in a gully and that the water has nowhere to go. Mrs. Fox asked how this happened—is building following approved plans?

Ted Davis (76 Holland) stated that he feels that there is no enforcement of what is going on in the borough and that we need enforcement. The engineer stated that the construction department is the first line of defense and that there are two people in the department. He said that the engineering firm has inspectors who can go out as well. The Mayor stated that perhaps the rules had to be changed so that any wall requires a variance. Ted Davis stated that a lot of things were being done outside of the code that didn't come to the Zoning Board. Mr. Carroll stated that the Code enforcement officer could be called. The Borough Attorney stated that the Construction Official reports directly to the Department of Community Affairs.

Jodi Brenner (16 Duck Pond) and Ray Kang (10 Deerhill Road) (neighbors) spoke about flooding and the easements. Their spouses were with them as well. The Borough Attorney stated that he could have the easements researched. Discussion. The Borough Attorney spoke about the country club's addition to the situation. The residents' engineer may speak with the Borough engineer. One of the residents said that she had been told that this was a county issue and the residents were not allowed to work on it. She stated that someone has to address this. The four residents spoke about the responsibility of the borough to figure out how to make this better. The Borough Attorney spoke about the Mayor and Council's attempt to all work together. Mr. Brenner complimented the DPW Superintendent on his good work and suggested that maybe the DPW could clean up some of the debris.

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

Closed Session: Mr. Carroll moved to go into Closed Session on personnel and litigation issues, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. The meeting went into Closed Session at 9:40 pm. Mr. Carroll moved to close the Closed Session, second Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Closed Session Closed at 10:25 pm.

Adjournment: Mr. Carroll moved to adjourn, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Crosman
Municipal Clerk