

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 27, 2022 7:30 PM

Mayor Iannuzzi opened the meeting at 7:32 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 November 22, 2021.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

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|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. Carroll-present | Mr. Connelly-absent |
| Mrs. Fox-present | Mrs. Slowikowski-present |
| Mrs. Hamilton-present | Mrs. LaPira-present |
| Mayor Iannuzzi-present | |

Also present: Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk, Borough Attorney, Borough Engineer

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

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|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Carroll-yes | Mrs. Slowikowski-yes |
| Mrs. Fox-yes | Mrs. LaPira-yes |
| Mrs. Hamilton-yes | |

Carried.

4. Affordable Housing presentation by Tom Toronto of United Way. Mrs. Slowikowski confirmed that phase 1 is 18 units total, that the engineer was L2A, and that today is to get a general sense of agreement. Mrs. Slowikowski asked and was informed that they have to follow the affirmative marketing plan about who lives in the units. Mr. Carroll complimented United Way's many successful affordable housing projects in the County and State. The Mayor asked Mrs. Slowikowski, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Fox, the Chair of the Planning Board and several members of the public to be on an ad hoc committee to consider all aspects of the Borough's facilities, including affordable housing, and to get back to the Mayor & Council with recommendations

Mr. Carroll moved to open the meeting to the public, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. Carried. Ms. Hayden asked about the front yard, which looked like close to 200 hundred feet. Ms. Brodsky, 79 Stewart, asked how the units translate to need and who is paying for it; Mr. Toronto spoke about programs and grants that could pay for the project. The cost per unit is \$280,000 to \$300,000. Ms. Longest asked about the ingress and egress. Brian Bernstein (Van Horn Street) asked who will help the ad hoc committee figure out the traffic issues. He also asked about the money that was taken from the Open Space fund for 129 Hardenburgh and was told that in the end nothing was taken from the fund. Merrill Lizzi (resident) asked about how people were chosen to live in the units. The Borough Engineer explained that the project still had many levels of approval to go through, including the Planning Board.

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

5. PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1103-22: A BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE RIVERSIDE COOPERATIVE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$415,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$394,250 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF. Mrs. Hamilton moved to open the meeting to the public, second Mr. Carroll, All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Bernstein asked how the roads are selected for inclusion in the ordinance; the Engineer explained that the Engineer and Council work together to determine the need. He asked if they involved any drain work and was told that typically these roads are just a mill and pave. Mr. Bernstein asked about Woodland and the lack of drains near the High School and how it was determined to use Belgian block or not, and the Engineer explained. Gene Amsel brought up an issue on Northwood.

Mr. Carroll moved to close the meeting to the public, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. Carried. Mrs. Fox moved to adopt Ordinance 1103-22, second Mr. Carroll.

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|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Carroll-yes | Mrs. Slowikowski-yes |
| Mrs. Fox-yes | Mrs. LaPira-yes |
| Mrs. Hamilton-yes | |

6. PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 1104-22: A BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS PAVING PROJECTS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,061,306 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$805,706 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF. Mr. Carroll moved to open the meeting to the public, second Mrs. Fox. All in favor. Carried.

Karen Brodsky asked why the bond was being sought after the work was already done. Mrs. Fox explained that this was already paid for and is being reimbursed with the bond.

Mr. Bernstein asked whether the parts of the roads being worked on should be in the ordinance. The ordinance will be amended to specify where the work will be done.

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

Mrs. Fox moved to adopt as amended, second Mr. Carroll.

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|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Carroll-yes | Mrs. Slowikowski-yes |
| Mrs. Fox-yes | Mrs. LaPira-yes |
| Mrs. Hamilton-yes | |

7. PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1105-22: COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 20- FIRE DEPARTMENT; ADDING SECTION 6 AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE AND DISBURSEMENT OF FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT. Mr. Carroll moved to open the meeting to the public, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. Carried.

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

Mr. Carroll moved to adopt the Ordinance, second Mrs. Hamilton.

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|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Carroll-yes | Mrs. Slowikowski-yes |
| Mrs. Fox-yes | Mrs. LaPira-yes |
| Mrs. Hamilton-yes | |

8. INTRODUCTION OF BOND ORDINANCE 1106-22: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$802,500 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$402,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF. Mr. Carroll moved to introduce the ordinance, second Mrs. Hamilton.

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|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Carroll-yes | Mrs. Slowikowski-yes |
| Mrs. Fox-yes | Mrs. LaPira-yes |
| Mrs. Hamilton-yes | |

What had been listed as Number 9 on the original Agenda was removed.

9. INTRODUCTION OF BOND ORDINANCE NO. 1107-22: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$55,000 THEREFOR AND

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$52,250 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

10. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1108-22: AMENDING CHAPTER 166-VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, SECTION 6-ALL-NIGHT PARKING, TO: PERMIT AND REGULATE ALL-NIGHT ON-STREET PARKING. Mrs. Fox moved to introduce, second Mrs. Hamilton.

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

Mrs. Slowikowski-yes
Mrs. LaPira-yes

Carried.

11. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1109-22: AMENDING PART II – GENERAL LEGISLATION, SO AS TO: ADD CHAPTER 143-SHORT TERM RENTAL OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES. Mrs. Fox moved to introduce, second Mrs. Hamilton. Mrs. LaPira confirmed that this is for rentals of less than 90 days.

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

Mrs. Slowikowski-yes
Mrs. LaPira-yes

Carried.

12. **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

- 13. Resolution approving authorizing claims in the amount of \$ 2,296,905.95*
- 14. Resolution approving the appointment of Andrew Anavim and Connor Owens to police officers*
- 15. Resolution approving the appointment of William Carbajal as a Special Officer Class 1*
- 16. Resolution approving the renewal of the Demarest Liquor/aka Xplor Wine liquor license *
- 17. Resolution approving the insertion of a line item into the budget for the 2022 Clean Communities Grant*
- 18. Resolution endorsing an amendment to the interlocal services of Northern Valley and Riverside Cooperative*
- 19. Resolution awarding special counsel services to Wendy Rubenstein, Esq. with Weiner Law Firm*

- 20. Resolution approving a soil movement application for 46 Duane Lane*
- 21. Resolution approving a soil movement application for 141 Pine Terrace*
- 22. Resolution approving the release of escrows*
- 23. Resolution authorizing donation of radio equipment to Norwood Fire Department*
- 24. Resolution authorizing additional emergency appropriation for Tropical Storm Ida temporary repairs not to exceed One hundred thousand dollars*

Mrs. Slowikowski asked for an explanation of item 18 and received it.

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

Mr. Bernstein asked about costs related to Item 18 and was told that the High School would cover any costs they incurred. He asked about Item 24 appropriations. The administrator stated that the Borough was hoping to recover 90% of costs from FEMA.

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

Mr. Carroll moved to approve Consent Agenda items 13-24, second Mrs. Hamilton.

Mr. Carroll-yes

Mrs. Slowikowski-yes

Mrs. Fox-yes

Mrs. LaPira-yes

Mrs. Hamilton-yes

New Business - NONE

Mayor's Report The Mayor encouraged everyone to enjoy the concerts and said that Summer Rec starts today. There has been some prep work done on the County Road culvert.

Council Committee Reports

Police, Fire, and Public Events: Mr. Carroll gave an update on the calls for the Police Department. Also the officers underwent a lot of training this month. Mrs. Fox read an email from a resident thanking Detective DelGreco for his help.

Ambulance and Recreation: Mrs. LaPira gave an update on Summer Rec. She asked the Council's permission to work with the Summer Rec to allow for Petty Cash. The Recreation Commission should be able to have its own. The Demarest Library is hosting a jazz night. Demarest Day is 9/17; rain date 9/18.

Management, Administrative & Communication Committee: no report

Finance & Insurance Committee: no report

DPW, Public Buildings, Public Utilities & Recycling Committee: no report but thanks to the DPW for the Memorial Day parade

Real Estate & Ordinance Committee: Mrs. Slowikowski spoke about the new ordinances.

Reports of Borough Officials

Borough Administrator: FEMA—visited the damaged areas; a meeting will be set up with Bergen County; DPW Building—there is a lot of erosion, and the Tenakill Brook will be restored. The dam at the Davies Arboretum needs restoration. There was trouble on the website over the past few days; it has been resolved. The DPW foreman is doing an outstanding job. There are DEP issues. The administrator is working on overdue reports. The DPW foreman is installing reflective material on the back of the trucks. There are HVAC issues in the buildings. There are problems with the phones. The installation of the storm pipe is completed but not yet jetted. The DAA building has been vandalized. A purchase order has been issued for a legal transcript. There are a couple of items for closed session.

Borough Attorney: no report

Borough Engineer: Working on the Davies Arboretum dam; DPW compost site—hope to have a DEP response by late July. Lenox Ave, they are still waiting for authorization to proceed. Prescott/Stewart was bid at the same time as Lenox. Woodland/Stelfox—they are getting a lot of calls. There is a utility pole tied to a tree with a guy wire. The tree needs to come down. Nothing can be done until word comes from the utility company. Donnybrook design is underway. Tax maps are on target. 2021 Riverside Coop is all but done. The DOT 2022 grant has been submitted He is trying to get a Safe Roads to Schools grant. Open Space grant will have news in November.

Borough Treasurer: not present

Police Chief: not present

Fire Chief: Mr. Pavlik said that there was a new Junior member. They are interviewing for a new member.

Ambulance: not present

Mr. Carroll moved to open the Meeting to the Public, second Mrs. Hamilton. All in favor. Carried

Mr. Amsel (Northwood Ave) spoke about lead paint in rentals. There is a \$1,000 fine per day.

A resident asked about the overnight parking changes and asked that Meadow be looked at. She also asked about 48 Meadow and 95 County coming before the Planning Board. She wants to help seniors with doctor's appointment; Mr. Carroll suggested calling the County which has a free transportation service.

Dmitri Fandanis asked about the resolution hiring police officers. It was explained that the two appointments will be full officers, not class II's.

Lynn Paulison (15 Lois) asked for an update on the passive recreation project; no response re grant yet. She asked about the bank and was told by the Administrator that the borough was ready to occupy the building once the phone system was resolved. She asked what would be spent on the restoration of the building and was told probably \$13,000 on necessary repairs. Finally, she asked about the vandalism at the DAA building and was told that the police were called to do a report this afternoon. The Mayor and Council is considering security cameras.

A resident asked about a senior van and was told by Mr. Carroll that a survey (from 5-6 years ago) of seniors revealed no interest in a senior van for the town.

Stacy Fantanis (Woodland Road) asked what the process is for appointing a new Police Chief; Mr. Carroll said that it is in the works. She asked what the intention was of replacing Officer Luna with another female officer, and was told that it would happen when someone came forward that met the qualifications.

Mr. Bernstein asked about the Fire Department boat; the Administrator said he understood it was part of a mutual aid agreement. Mr. Bernstein asked about the compost issue; the Engineer explained that the Borough had to develop of plan for remediation. Mr. Bernstein asked whether the Mayor and Council had asked what portion of the \$105,000 spent was for the leaves ad whether any steps were being taken to replace the individual in the Borough Hall that had been terminated. The Administrator said that the work was being done and that he was trying to hire a part-time person. Mr. Bernstein asked about the Closed Session item relating to personnel and wanted to ensure that the wall that was meant to be between the Administrator and the Police Department remained intact. He asked when the potential police officers would be hired and was told by Mr. Carroll that they would be hired in time for the Academy.

Barbara Johnson (Woodland Road) spoke about the fact that she has complained about speeding for 36 years.

Deb Longest brought up getting a ring or motion-sensor alert for the DAA building.

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

Closed Session was called.; Mayor Iannuzzi dismissed the Borough Clerk from attending the closed session.

Adjournment from the regular meeting was at 10:12 PM.