

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 29, 2022, 7:30 PM

Council President Carroll opened the meeting at 7:30 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

Mr. Carroll requested a moment of silence for Rich Motta, who recently passed away.

2. Roll Call

Mr. Carroll-present
Mrs. Fox-present
Mrs. LaPire-absent

Mr. Connelly-present
Mrs. Slowikowski-present
Mrs. Hamilton-absent

Mayor Iannuzzi-absent

Also present: Borough Attorney, Borough Engineer, Borough Treasurer

3. Mrs. Fox moved to adopt the Agenda, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried.

4. **The Borough Attorney 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 \$8,030,228.52*
6. Resolution approving the appointment of Louis Buonomo as a Special Law Enforcement Officer Class 1 and Anthony Giannico as a Special Law Enforcement Officer Class 2*
7. Resolution approving the hire of Teresa Ferrentino as part-time administrative assistant*
8. Resolution approving the 2021 Audit and Corrective Action Plan*

9. Resolution awarding special counsel services fr Open Public Records Act services to Wendy Quiroga, Esq. of Weiner Law*
10. Resolution awarding contract for Lenox Avenue Roadway Improvement to DLS Contracting, Inc.*
11. Resolution awarding contract for Stewart and Prescott Street Roadway Improvements to American Asphalt & Trucking LLC*
12. Resolution correcting prior Resolution authorizing construction administrative services for Lenox Avenue Roadway Improvements by Collier’s Engineering & Design*
13. Resolution authorizing Collier’s Engineering & Design to prepare corrective action plan for DPW compost facility*
14. Resolution authorizing Collier’s Engineering & Design to design restoration of Davies Arboretum Dam*
15. Resolution authorizing payment #1 to D&L Paving Motion for paving services in connection with Riverside Cooperative 2021 project*
16. Resolution authorizing the Borough Administrator to hire a part-time, temporary Deputy Clerk*
17. Resolution authorizing the renewal of the lease with the Demarest Swim Club*
18. Resolution ratifying the appointment of David McLain as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, replacing Daniel Morrison, term to expire 12/31/2022*
19. Resolution authorizing refund of escrow funds to 44 Ross Avenue LLC and Arthur

Mrs. Slowikowski asked about Item #9; Mr. Paster confirmed this was for OPRA services only, not to exceed \$17,500. Mrs. Slowikowski said the Demarest Swim Club was very happy to receive their lease renewal; Mr. Paster confirmed that there may be some minor changes at the request of the Club; lease is \$1 per year.

Mrs. Fox moved to open the meeting to the public as to Consent Agenda items only, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried. Brian Bernstein (Van Horn St.) noted that no resolutions were provided at the meeting, and he would like a copy of the 2021 Audit Report and Corrective Action Plan; Mrs. Fox confirmed that they would be posted by next week.

Mrs. Fox moved to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried.

Mrs. Fox moved to approve Consent Agenda items 5 through 19, seconded by Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Carroll-yes
Mrs. Fox-yes

Mrs. Slowikowski-yes
Mr. Connelly-yes

New Business – None.

Mayor’s Report – Mr. Carroll conveyed the Mayor’s report. The Mayor announces the appointment of Ronnie Friedman to the Shade Tree Commission, filling the unexpired term of Ted Piltzecker; flu shots will be available at Borough Hall on 10/3; the County is

working extended hours to complete the County Road bridge ASAP; the 9/11 Ceremony will be at the 9/11 Monument at 6:30pm.

Council Committee Reports

Police, Fire, and Public Events: Mr. Carroll reiterated the 9/11 Ceremony details.

Ambulance and Recreation: Mrs. LaPira was absent. No report.

Management, Administrative & Communications: Mr. Connelly reported that the Audit Report has been received, and management aspects of the CAP will be reviewed and implemented.

Finance & Insurance: Mrs. Fox stated that the Audit Report has been reviewed and financial aspects of the CAP will be implemented.

DPW, Public Buildings, Public Utilities & Recycling: Mrs. Hamilton was absent. No report.

Real Estate & Ordinance: Mrs. Slowikowski confirmed that the Ad Hoc Committee will meet on 9/8.

Reports of Borough Officials

Borough Administrator: Mr. Powderley was on vacation. No report.

Borough Attorney: No report.

Borough Engineer: Mr. Zimmermann is working on designing the Davies Arboretum Dam repair and compost site remediation; Woodland Ave. and Stelfox St. paving finished; Donnybrook Dr. drainage issues in process of evaluation; TRA not applicable until next May; 2022 Riverside Cooperative paving will begin shortly.

Borough Treasurer: Mr. Elenio reported that the Audit Report has been delivered; CAP implementation is in process.

Police Chief: Chief Dimitriadis thanked the Council for his appointment. The Chief reported on signage upgrades on Woodland Ave. and Brookside Ave. in response to resident concerns about speeding; also looking at Hardenburgh Ave./County Rd. intersection. Police Department received 19,118 calls for service since the last report, including DMVs, CPR calls, arrests, summonses. All officers participated in active shooter training at NVRHS. The Chief has one item for closed session.

Fire (Deputy) Chief: 22 calls for month; Department assisted at Rockleigh fire and conducted a walk-through of the CRS addition; \$35,000 grant received.

Mr. Connelly moved to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Fox. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Bernstein questioned whether a new LED speed sign on Woodland Ave. is properly placed. Noel Pugh (64 Prospect) expressed concern about speeding on Columbus Rd. during the summer. Stacy Fandanis (48 Woodland Rd.) expressed continuing concerns about speeding on Woodland Rd., saying the Police Dept. did a wonderful job of surveillance but all the new signs are useless; Mr. Carroll noted that traffic signage is within the exclusive purview of the Police Dept., but he will bring the matter up at the next Police Committee meeting. Chris Marty (87 Stewart St.) asked about the Borough employee in danger of losing her job, and Mr. Carroll reminded residents that the Council cannot discuss personnel matters; Mr. Marty asked the Borough to find a way to house or assist the immigrants flowing into NYC; he has an issue with the BA not living in the Borough. Barbara Johnson (56 Woodland Ave.) said there are now lots of signs on Woodland Rd., after 37 years of complaining, but something still needs to be done about the speeding.

No further comments from the public. Mr. Connelly moved to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Fox. All in favor. Carried.

Mr. Carroll has one item for closed session. Mrs. Fox moved to go into closed session, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor. Carried.

No action taken upon reconvening. Meeting adjourned.