

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 30, 2023, 7:30 PM

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 3, 2023.

Pledge of Allegiance

All Council people and Borough Attorney recognize the passing of long-time resident and Crossing Guard Ms. Banino

Roll Call:

1. Present: Mayor Bernstein, Councilwoman Slowikowski, Councilwoman Fox, Councilwoman, Hamilton, Councilwoman, Councilwoman LaPira, Councilman Marks, Councilman Jiang, Borough Attorney
2. Mayor Bernstein presented a Certificate of Commendation Honoring Former Mayor Richard D. Schooler, from the Bergen County Board of County Commissioners.
3. Adoption of Agenda introduced by Council person Slowikowski, Second by Council person Jiang, all were in favor.
4. Review 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 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.

Consent Agenda Resolutions

5. Resolution approving Lee Campbell as temporary Borough Clerk
6. Resolution approving Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force
7. Resolution approving soil movement application 42 Duane Lane
8. Resolution approving soil movement application 605 Piermont Road
9. Resolution approving Raffles application Academy of Holy Angels
10. Resolution approving stipend for Planning and Zoning Board Secretary

Introduced Council person Fox Second Council person Hamilton.

Mayor Bernstein calls for a Motion to Open to the Public for questions and comments on the Consent Agenda.

Howard Rifdkin requests an update on the Mutual Aid and Rapid deployment. Roberta Hoag requests the correction of her last name be noted. Ray Cywinski congratulates former Mayor Schooler. Mr. Cywinski requested the amount for stipends. Correction on CFO from a 5-year contract to 4-year contract.

Mayor Bernstein Calls for Motion to Close to the Public on Consent Agenda.

Introduced by Council person Hamilton Second by Council person Fox. Andrea Slowikoski was present at the November 28, 2022, meeting.

Resolutions

11. Resolution #14-23 Appointed Borough Appraiser 2023-Associated Appraisals Motion to open to the Public Introduce by Council person Fox, Second by Council person Slowikoski. Motion to close Council person Hamilton, Second by Council person Slowikoski.
12. Resolution # 20-23 Appointed Borough Planner for 2023- Colliers Engineering Motion to open to the Public Introduced by Council person Fox, Second by Council person Slowikowski. Motion to close Introduced by Council person Hamilton, Second by Council person Slowikowski
13. Resolution # 21-23 Appointed Borough Grant Writer for 2023-Colliers Engineering Motion to open to the Public Introduced by Council person Hamilton Second by Council Person Slowikoski, Motion to close Council person Hamilton, Second by Council person Slowikowski.
14. Resolution # 22-23 Establish Teresa Ferentino for part time to full time employment Motion to open to the Public Council person Fox, Second Council person Hamilton. Motion to close Council person Hamilton, Second Council person Slowikowski.
15. Resolution #27-23 Appointing Part time Technical Assistant Construction Department- Cloletti Motion to open to the Public Council person Hamilton Second by Council person Slowikowski, Motion to close Council person Fox, Second by Council person Hamilton.
16. Resolution #28-23 Appointing Part time Technical Assistant Construction Department- Green Motion to open to the Public Council person Hamilton Second by Council person Slowikowski, Motion to close Council person Fox, Second by Council person Hamilton.

17. Resolution#30-23 Appoint Borough Prosecutor Schweager Motion to open to the Public Introduced by Council person Hamilton Second by Council person Slowikowski, Motion to close Council person Hamilton, Second by Council person Slowikowski.

New Business

1. Motion to approve November 28, 2022 , December 19, 2022, and December 30, 2022 Introduced by Council person Fox Second by Council person Hamilton.
2. Resolution approving the bills list, Council did not receive in time.
3. Mayor Bernstein calls for a Motion to give approval to the Mayor to sign the Professional Agreement between the Borough of Demarest and the law firm of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs LLC as Special Labor Attorney: Tabled
4. Mayor Bernstein calls for a Motion to approve the hire of a fulltime BA.

Appointments

Mayor Bernstein reappoints the following Environmental members.

1. Jessica Wang term expiration -2025
2. Theodore Alevrontas term expiration -2025
3. James Chang Term expiration – 2024

Ordinance on Introduction

1. Ordinance #1117-23 An Ordinance governing the registration and maintenance of vacant property. Introduced by Council Person Fox, Second by Council person Hamilton
2. Ordinance # 1118-23 an Ordinance Amending and modifying article II establishment of division: Responsibilities of Personnel, S 40-5 Department Positions: Rank and Seniority of the Demarest Borough Code, Introduced by Council person Jiang, Second by council person Slowikowsky.

Reports

Mayor Bernstein: A lot of new faces. The Council continues to work on the budget. Thanks the officials and will be continuing to make changes for a positive future. Mayor Bernstein announces The Nature Center's event of "How to boil down syrup" on February 11, 2023.

Borough Attorney talks about BA and answers Mr. Phews question as why the Borough needs on the CFO not being in the office to answer questions, stating the CFO is part

Borough Engineer Looking at drainage, roads, parks, capital improvement plan. He recommends donation and grant funded projects.

Borough Treasurer talks about the state of health care was increased \$138,000.00, waste disposal increase 100%, and working hard to manage the budget.

Police Chief Compliant with annual training and radar details.

Fire Chief 341 calls last year 25 call in January 2023, applied for grant to purchase washer and dryer. Members are compliant with training. Budget meeting was successful. Recognition of new member LaPira.

Open to the Public

John Cuomo suggests to justify increases, temporary employees, no minutes are posted for April 2022, email addresses should be recorded for every resident, and the website needs updating. Howard Rifdtkin requested an update on Susan Crosman. The determination will be decided by a third party and cannot be discussed. Complains about the amount of road salt being used by the DPW. What is the cost of the Middle School addition. More policing on his block. Ray Cywinski questioned who the certified recycling coordinator is- at this time there is not one. Who is signing tonnage reports? IWS is picking up the Christmas trees as apposed to DPW. DPW has been picking up the Christmas Trees. Mr. Cywinski was also concerned the compost area, which is more costly, carting the leaves out or fixing the compost pile. DEP will not allow the area to be any bigger and it needs to be corrected before going forward. Resident from 151 County Road reports flooding going through the yard. Will meet with Colliers to discuss. Barbara Johnson thanks Mayor Bernstein and Property Maintenance Official Mr. Faulborn for their response to a builder on Woodland Rd. Lynn Paulison would like the upkeep for vacant properties to be addressed on a more serious level. Marion Hayden compliments the work that Teresa Ferentino is doing. Resident at 48 Woodland Rd. agrees with having a BA, Speed tracker was not moved from her property for a year. Requesting traffic study for Woodland Rd. during school hours.

Meeting closed to the Public. Introduced Council person Fox, Second Council person Hamilton at 10:30pm

Respectfully Submitted

Lee Campbell

