

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST
Municipal Building
Regular Meeting May 22, 2023
7:30 PM

This meeting was called to order at 7:32 at the above time and place.

Mayor Bernstein invited all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Berstein, Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember LaPira, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Jiang

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Hamilton

Also Present: Deena Rosendahl, Borough Attorney
Lee Campbell, Acing Borough Clerk
John McLoughlin, Fire Chief
Anthony Dimitriadis, Police Chief

Mayor Berstein read the compliance statement as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975 Chapter 231

Resolution 81-23 Recognizing Medical Service Week May 21 through May 27, 2023, A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski second by Councilmember LaPira. Mayor Berstein thanked the Ambulance Corps. Members for their outstanding work. Mayor Berstein opened it to the public to speak on behalf of the Ambulance Corps. Andrew Woods, 1 Hight St. spoke of the amount of training the Ambulance Corps. is partaking in.

Budget Introduction: Mayor Berstein introduced the 2023 Budget.

Amendment Consent: Ordinance 79-23 amendment adding D & L Paving, Inc., 675 Franklin Ave. Nutley, NJ.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Berstein read the items on the consent agenda.

Mayor Berstein asks if any member would like to have any resolution removed from the consent agenda and voted separately. Hearing no one, Mayor Berstein asks if any member would like to abstain from voting on any resolution on the consent agenda. Hearing no one, Mayor Berstein asks for motion to accept the consent agenda (with any abstentions noted)

Consent Agenda:

Resolution No. 72-23 Soil Moving Approval for 379 Hillside Ave.

Resolution No. 73-23 Approving Release of Escrow

Resolution No. 74-23 Authorizing New Agreement with CDBG 2024-2026

Resolution No. 75-23 Authorizing Execution of Agreement with CDBG 2024-2026

Resolution No. 76-23 Soil Moving Approval 7 Central Ave.

Resolution No. 77-23 Approving Issuance of Estimated Tax Bills

Resolution No. 78-23 Authorizing Tax Refund 67 Mountainview

Resolution No. 79-23 Award of Contract Riverside Coop 2023

Resolution No. 80-23 Approval of Bills List

A motion made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Marks to approve consent agenda.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember LaPira, Councilmember Jiang

Nays: None

Absent Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Hamilton

Minutes for Approval:

May 10, 2023, Work Session, tabled.

Reports:

Councilmember Jiang, Police and Fire, Memorial Day Parade is May 29, 2023, start at the library at 9:15 AM

Councilmember LaPira, Ambulance and Rec. The air conditioner in the Ambulance building needs repairs in the amount of \$600.00. Councilmember LaPira will contact Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator. Five summer concerts are booked for this summer. Summer Recreation sign ups are low.

Councilmember Marks, Constant Contact has over 350 people signed up for communications. The new Borough website will have more user-friendly features. The DAA along with Vikings FC Soccer would like to see if a turf field can be installed in the swamp area of the field. Ordinance to revamp the Shade Tree Ordinance is being researched.

Council President Slowikowski, Budget to be heard and voted on in June. The Air Committee recognizes air traffic, studies on safety and noise complaint are of concern. Council President Slowikowski will attend Tenak meeting in late July. A suggestion to include on the Borough Website the link for air traffic control complaints.

Police:

Chief Dimitriadis reports two motor vehicles have been reported stolen last weekend. The intruders are breaking into homes and stealing the Fobs. Police will send out a Nixel reminding

residents to lock cars. From 4/25/2023 to May 21, 2023, 609 Calls were dispatched to Demarest P.O. Solman is nominated for an award for multiple DWI stops. P.O Cho will be working with a group called hero's and cool kids. May 12, 2023, a man was convicted for 25 plus years for a crime on a minor. Lt. Fowley retired as Officer in Charge on May 1, 2023. Members of the DPD will be participating in the Torch Run for Special Olympics. 1st grade children visited the Borough Departments on a class trip.

Mayor Berstein thanked Lt. Fowley for his years of service and dedication.

Fire:

Chief McLoughlin reports Engine #1 is repaired and back in the Fire Department. 180 names were read at a conference for NY, NJ of fire fighters ho have lost theirs lives in the past year. The Borough should consider adopting a resolution of a mutual aid agreement. The benefit is this will ensure coverage when traveling to other towns on calls.

Ambulance:

Roberta Hoag reports the Ambulance Corps would like to be more involved in the activities of the Borough such as class trips by grammar school students when visiting the Borough Departments.

Open to the Public:

Council President Slowikowski moved to open, Councilmember Marks 2nd.

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Lapira, Councilmember Jiang

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Hamilton

Mr. Jim Carol questioned in the last new letter regarding a statement saying the past lack of financial planning, Mr. Carol would like an explanation. Mayor Berstein explained that when he took over office there were such things that were outdated like police vests and safety equipment that needed to be replaced and other issues that needed to be addressed. Mr. Carol stated that items were sold to purchase new equipment for the fire department such as fire equipment to purchase a new fire truck.

Mr. Noel Pugh, 64 Prospect St. Is concerned with the number of trees being removed by builders and would like this investigated. A study of the elevation and the drainage was supposed to be conducted on Donnybrook Ave. according to former Mayor Iannuzzi. Mr. Pugh later found out that his residence was not part of that study. Mayor Berstein will contact the Borough Engineers. Mr. Phew stated his disappointment regarding the DPW Liaison not overseeing the leaf compost from when the superintendent of DPW was employed.

Ms. Roberta Hoag, 28 Blanche Ave. Reminding the Mayor and Council there is a ceremony by the Fire House after the parade. She will post on Facebook. The Ambulance Corps is having a fundraiser at Tri Vally Restaurant in Cresskill. 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the Ambulance Corps. Of Demarest. The fund raiser will take place on Tuesdays for the month of June and On September 9, 2023, Chipotle in Closter will be having the same fundraiser for the

Ambulance Corps. Ms. Hoag would like information shared regarding the Torch run for the Special Olympics.

Motion To Close Open Session:

Council President Slowikowski made the motion Councilmember Jiang 2nd.

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember LaPira, Councilmember Marks

Nayes: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Council Member Hamilton.

Motion To Go Into Closed Session No Action:

Council President Slowikowski then made the motion Councilmember Jiang 2nd. 8:40 PM

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember LaPira, Councilmember Marks.

Nayes: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Council Member Hamilton.

Motion To Close:

Council President Slowikowski made the motion Councilmember Marks 2nd.

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember LaPira, Councilmember Marks.

Nayes: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Council Member Hamilton.

Motion Adjourn Mayor and Council Meeting:

Council President Slowikowski made the motion Councilmember Marks 2nd. 9:22 PM

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember LaPira, Councilmember Marks.

Nayes: None

Absent: Councilmember Fox, Council Member Hamilton.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Campbell, Acting Borough Clerk