

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST
Work Session**

**MEETING MINUTES
June 12, 2023
7:30 PM**

At 7:30 pm Mayor Bernstein read the compliance statement and invited all present to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Bernstein, Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember LaPira, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Jiang

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Also Present: Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator
Deena Rosendahl, Borough Attorney
Nick Chelius, Borough Engineer
Carol O'Brien, Borough Engineer

Ordinance (Introduction):

Ordinance No. 1121-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 163 – TREES

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to introduce ordinance 1121-23.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Mayor Bernstein asks if anyone wishes to be heard concerning the introduction of this ordinance.

Noel Pugh
64 Prospect

Mr. Pugh wants to ensure that the ordinance protects the Borough from clear cutting and doesn't allow adding to drainage issues.

Councilmember Fox made a motion to pass this Ordinance on the first reading by title and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on June 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council President Slowikowski.

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember LaPira, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Jiang
Nays: None
Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Ordinance No. 1122-23

AN ORDINANCE TO FIX THE SALARIES, WAGES AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE YEAR 2023.

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Fox to introduce ordinance 1122-23.

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember LaPira, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Jiang
Nays: None
Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Council President Andrea Slowikowski made a motion to pass this Ordinance on the first reading by title and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on June 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox.

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember LaPira, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Jiang
Nays: None
Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Ordinance Public Hearing (Adoption):

Ordinance No. 1120-2023

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND MODIFYING CHAPTER 40 POLICE DEPARTMENT, §40-3 DEFINITIONS; WORD USAGE AND §40-37 DEPARTMENT DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEMAREST BOROUGH CODE

Mayor Bernstein announced that the adoption and public hearing of this ordinance will be held on June 26, 2023, as a change to the definition of Appropriate Authority will change from the original introduction to a committee of the Borough Administrator, Police Commissioner and Management Committee Chair.

Council President Andrea Slowikowski made a motion to reintroduce this Ordinance on the first reading by title and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on June 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jiang.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Roll Call:

Resolution No. 82-23 Appointment of CDBG Representatives for FY 2023

The council chose David Jiang as its representative to the CDBG committee, with Councilmember Fox as the alternate.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Jiang to approve the resolution.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Resolution No. 87-23 Reappointment of Borough Tax Assessor-Jason Laliker

The Council will delay the vote on the resolution following a discussion in Closed Session.

Work Session Discussion Items:

Carl O'Brien reviewed the engineering report and provided an update on the Corrective Action Plan.

Administrator Falkenstern reported that there is an ongoing issue in the Borough with the planting and cultivating of Bamboo and its encroachment on neighboring properties. Councilmember LaPira stated that she has record of an ordinance that was adopted to address the issue in 2017 and will provide the information to Ms. Falkenstern.

Consent Agenda:

- | | |
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| Resolution No. 83-23 | Mutual Aid Agreement with County |
| Resolution No. 84-23 | Endorsing United Way Funding Application |
| Resolution No. 85-23 | Endorsing State Bill S379/A5402 |
| Resolution No. 86-23 | Appointing Grant Writer – Bruno Associates, Inc. |

Resolution No. 88-23 Adopting Affordability Manuals
Resolution No. 89-23 Appointing Administrative Agent
Resolution No. 90-23 Appointing Accessory Apartment Administrator
Resolution No. 91-23 Accepting Youth Leadership Grant

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the items on the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to approve the consent agenda.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Approval of Minutes:

May 22, 2023, Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to approve the minutes.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Open to Public

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Jiang and approved by all to open the meeting to the public.

Noel Pugh
64 Prospect

Mr. Pugh restated his concerns about drainage on Donnybrook Dr.

Roberta Hoag
28 Blanch Ave

Ms. Hoag stated that she believes unpaved roads are a safety concern and asked the Borough to consider paving them.

Resolution No. 2023-009 Closed Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Marks and approved to adjourn to closed session to discuss Personnel and Litigation. It was noted that action will be taken when the meeting returns to open session.

The Council returned to open session at 9:02 pm.

Resolution No. 87-23 Reappointment of Borough Tax Assessor-Jason Laliker

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Marks to approve Resolution 87-23 to reappoint Jason Laliker as Borough Tax Assessor.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Resolution No. 93-23 Approval of Settlement Agreement and Discipline for Employee #1310.

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded Councilmember Fox by to approve Resolution 93-23.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski, seconded by Councilmember Jiang and approved by all to adjourn. The meeting was therefore adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Falkenstern
Borough Administrator