

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**June 26, 2023**

This meeting was called to order at 7:32 at the Council Chambers of the Borough of Demarest, 118 Serpentine Rd. Demarest, NJ.

Mayor Bernstein read the compliance statement and then invited all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Also Present:** Deena Rosendahl, Borough Attorney  
Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator

**Resolution Number 92-23: Waiver of Reading the 2023 Municipal Budget in Full**

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski to approve the resolution and seconded by Councilmember Jiang

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Public Hearing on the 2023 Municipal Budget**

A motion was made by Councilmember Hamilton and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to open the public hearing on the 2023 Municipal Budget

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mayor Bernstein asked if anyone present wishes to comment on the 2023 Municipal Budget

No one present came forward with any questions or comments on the budget.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Jiang.

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

**Resolution Number 94-23: Resolution to Amend the 2023 Budget**

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski to approve the resolution and seconded by Councilmember Jiang

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

Mayor Bernstein noted that the public hearing on the budget amendment will be held July 10, 2024, at 7:30 pm.

**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

A motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance 1120-23 was made by and seconded Councilman Jiang and seconded by Council President Slowikowski.

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

No one present came forward with any questions or comments on the adoption of the ordinance.

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Jiang to close the public hearing.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to adopt the ordinance with notice of final passage to be published in the Bergen Record.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Ordinance No. 1121-23**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 163 – TREES**

A motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance 1121-23 was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Linda Cetta, chair of the Shade Tree Commission, came forward to thank the Mayor and Council for their work on their ordinance and speak in favor of the ordinance.

Councilmember Hamilton thanked Councilmember Fox for her work on the ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to close the public hearing and adopt the ordinance with notice of final passage to be published in the Bergen Record.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Mayor then thanked Councilmember Fox for her extensive work on the ordinance and Councilmember Fox thanked the Shade Tree Commission for their efforts.

**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 Jiang to open the public hearing on the ordinance.

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

No one present came forward with any questions or comments on the adoption of the ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jiang and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to close the public hearing and adopt the ordinance with notice of final passage to be published in the Bergen Record.

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

**Consent Agenda**

Resolution No. 95-23	Liquor License Renewals
Resolution No. 96-23	FY24 Municipal Aid/NJDOT Application
Resolution No. 97-23	Approving Administrative Agent for 127 Hardenburgh
Resolution No. 98-23	Approval of Bills List

With no members asking for a resolution to be removed from the consent agenda, and no abstentions asked for, a motion was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to approve the consent agenda.

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

Mayor Bernstein thanked Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Fox and Councilmember Jiang for their work as the finance committee on the 2023 budget.

A motion was made by Councilmember LaPira and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to open the meeting to the public.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

There being no public wishing to speak, a motion was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Jiang to close the meeting to the public.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Mayor noted that there were no items for closed session and asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Jiang to adjourn.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Falkenstern  
Borough Administrator, for the Acting Borough Clerk