

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST**

WORK SESSION MINUTES

July 10, 2023

7:30 PM

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 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: Taylor Wood, for the Borough Attorney
Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator
Nick Chelius, Borough Engineer

Public Hearing on the 2023 Municipal Budget Amendment introduced by resolution 94-23 on June 26, 2023

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

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 budget amendment.

A motion to close the public hearing 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

Resolution Number 93-23: Self Examination of the 2023 Budget

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

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

Resolution Number 99-23: Adoption of the 2023 Budget as Amended

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 thanked the finance committee, the Borough Administrator and the finance staff for their efforts on the 2023 budget.

Consent Agenda

- Resolution No. 100-23 Authorizing Drainage Improvements – Pine Terrace
- Resolution No. 101-23 Authorizing Colliers Design/Bidding – Madison Ave.

With no members asking for a resolution to be removed from the consent agenda, and no abstentions asked for, a motion was made by Councilmember Fox 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

Discussion:

Nick Chelius reviewed the monthly engineer report.

At the conclusion of the report, councilmember Marks asked about future paving. The Borough Engineer and Borough Administrator explained that both the engineer and the DPW keep running lists of road conditions and priorities for paving and that when budget decisions are made for paving programs those lists are used to make recommendation to the Council.

Councilmember Fox asked how much money was received in a past passive park grant. Mr. Chelius answered that the grant is for just over \$46K. Councilmember Fox asked how long we had to use that money. Mr. Chelius stated that they were not yet under time pressure and that if the Borough wants to change the scope, they can do that. Councilmember Fox then asked about the ADA door installation at Borough Hall. The Borough Administrator stated that the last update from the contract was that the work would be completed mid-July.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hamilton and seconded by Councilmember Fox 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 member Fox and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton 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 stated that he would like to adjourn to closed session to discuss two items related to litigation.

Councilmember LaPira stated before the meeting was adjourned to closed session that the Summer Concert Series begins this week.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to adjourn to a closed session.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Borough Administrator noted that no action will be taken when the Council returns to open session.

The public meeting resumed at 8:06 pm.

Councilmember LaPira relayed a question from the library board concerning their appropriation. A discussion ensued about how the proper appropriation should be

calculated. Councilmember LaPira will report to the library that the adjustment will be forwarded.

Mayor Bernstein informed the Council that a Borough tree fell into the pool property and the DPW will be cleaning it up with the help of a tree company if needed. Additionally, the Borough Administrator will coordinate an inspection of the health of the trees in the area near the pool and the removal of a stump on the Borough Hall property.

Councilmember Marks stated that he will coordinate with the DPW and Denny Wiggers to replace gravel near the train tracks.

Mayor Bernstein stated that Mr. Wiggers will also be making and donating a stone bench to be placed near the train station as well as providing pricing for chess tables to add to the park area.

Councilmember LaPira noted that coordination needs to be done for summer recreation expenses because the employees have to put out money. The Borough Administrator told Councilmember LaPira that her reimbursement is being processed and that she will work with finance and the camp director before the 2024 camp to improve the process.

The Borough Administrator told the council that a local college senior will be interning for the rest of the summer in the finance office to help get things caught up.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to adjourn the meeting.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Falkenstern
Borough Administrator, for the Acting Borough Clerk