

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

**MEETING Minutes  
August 14, 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 invited all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Absent:** Councilmember Hamilton

**Also Present:** Paul Kaufman, for the Borough Attorney  
Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator

**Ordinance (Introduction):**

**Ordinance No. 1123-23**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST AND APPROPRIATING \$1,125,000 THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,068,750 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE THE SAME

A motion to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1123-23 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on August 28, 2023.

A motion to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1123-23 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on August 28, 2023, was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Jiang.

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

**Nays:**

**Absent:** Councilmember Hamilton

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**Ordinance No. 1125-23**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING SECTION 3(b) OF ORDINANCE NO. 1087-20 OF THE BOROUGH FINALLY ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 21, 2020, PROVIDING FOR

VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST AND APPROPRIATING \$9,615,000 THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$9,134,250 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE THE SAME

A motion to introduce on first reading by title Ordinance No. 1125-23 and it published in the Bergen Record with notice of Public Hearing to be held on August 28, 2023, was made by Council President Slowikowski and seconded by Councilmember Jiang.

**Roll Call:**

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

Nays:

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

**Ordinance No. 1124-23**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND MODIFYING PART II: GENERAL LEGISLATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DEMAREST BOROUGH CODE

Mayor Bernstein removed the introduction of the ordinance to review possible changes to the language.

**Ordinance Public Hearing (Adoption): (none)**

**Work Session Discussion Items:**

Engineering Report

Nick Chelius of Colliers Engineering reviewed the engineering report. Mr. Chelius reported that most pressing issue is the outstanding NJDEP issue at the Borough's compost site. He stated that the DEP will not review a concept plan, thus Colliers will prepare a complete corrective action plan for submission by the end of August.

NJLM Attendance / Expenses

Mayor Bernstein asked that the Borough consider adopting a policy to only pay for NJLM expenses for governing body members that will be sitting in the upcoming year. A discussion ensued about whether current members whose terms will end in December of the year of the conference either by virtue of an electoral loss or their decision not to run for another term, should be eligible to have their expenses paid by the Borough for the conference. Council President Slowikowski made a motion to adopt the policy, the motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks.

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

Nays: Councilmember Fox

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Abstention: Councilmember LaPira

The motion was passed for the Borough to pay expenses for elected officials that will be seated in the coming year and not for members who's terms end before the coming calendar year.

Letter from Mr. Pugh

Ms. Falkenstern acknowledged correspondence from resident Noel Pugh thanking the building department staff for addressing an issue raised at the last Council meeting.

### **Consent Agenda**

Councilmember Fox asked to remove Resolution 114-23 from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

Resolution No. 108-23	Authorizing Participation in ESCNJ Coop Pricing
Resolution No. 109-23	Approving Soil Moving 14 Robin Rd.
Resolution No. 110-23	Authorize Payment 2023 Riverside Coop
Resolution No. 111-23	2023 Salary Resolution
Resolution No. 112-23	Authorizing Agreement with Crossing Guard Services
Resolution No. 113-23	Endorsing Demarest FD Policy of Dual Dispatch with Haworth
Resolution No. 115-23	Appointing Phoenix Advisors

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Marks to accept the consent agenda.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Abstention: None

#### **Resolution No. 114-23**      Approving Appointment and Contract of Public Works Manager

Councilmember Fox stated that she would like a provision added to the contract to allow for the carryover of sick days for use in case of prolonged illness. The days would have no monetary value.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Marks to accept the consent agenda.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Abstention: None

**Approval of Minutes:**

August 9, 2022, Special Meeting  
March 13, 2023 Work Session  
June 26, 2023 Regular Meeting  
July 10, 2023 Regular Meeting  
July 24, 2023 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve: Council President Slowikowski  
Second: Councilmember Jiang

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

**Meeting Open to the Public**

**Noel Pugh**  
**64 Prospect**

Mr. Pugh thanked the building department, Kevin Burnette and Dot Haight for their quick response to an issue he raised.

He then commented on seepage pits and septic tanks and asked about Sunday work. He was told to report work in non-permitted hours to the police and that the Borough Engineer is responsible for septic tank inspections.

Anita Gatto  
43 Highland

Ms. Gatto expressed a desire for the Borough to provide senior services and programming and was told that the Borough is working on those improvements and that in the meantime Closter welcomes Demarest at their senior functions.

Mary Ann Clarke  
28 Glenwood

Ms. Clark stated that she had an alarm company come to change the lock on the cabinet that contains historical materials in the train station. Ms. Clark asked the Borough to consider locking the room which contains that cabinet as she believes it should not be accessed by anyone.

Roberta Hoag  
28 Blanch Ave

Ms. Hoag pointed out a type on a resolution and addressed Ms. Gatto in regard to Demarest Seniors attendance being welcomed by the Closter seniors.

#### Closed Session

Councilmember Fox made a motion to approve Resolution No.2023-011 to convene into closed session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jiang and approved by all present on a voice vote.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:21 pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fox and seconded by Council President Slowikowski to approve Resolution No. 116-23 to approve a Phase I environmental study at 561-563 Piermont Rd. not to exceed \$4,000.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Councilmember Hamilton

Abstention: None

Council member Fox then asked for an update on a proposal discussed at an early meeting to exchange the “Hogland Property” for another property to free it from the encumbrance of open space. She was told that the Borough is waiting for some information from the engineers to continue.

The issue of pond dredging was discussed, and Councilmember Fox stated that she believes the Borough did a process called “microtaking” 5-7 years ago that was effective at cleaning up the pond without the necessity of a full dredging. The Borough Administrator said she would speak to an engineer and check the Borough records to see if that would be an option.

Councilmember Marks made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Slowikowski, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by all present and the meeting was therefore adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie Falkenstern*, in the absence of the Borough Clerk

Approved 8/28/23